



GIVING FLOWERS

CONNECTING PEOPLE



NEWSLETTER

OUR MISSION



TO GROW FLOWERS LOCALLY, ORGANICALLY AND SUSTAINABLY, TO HELP INCREASE FOOD SOURCES FOR INSECTS AND POLLINATORS.



TO CUT AND GIFT FRESHLY CREATED BOUQUETS OF FLOWERS TO PEOPLE IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY WHO MIGHT WELCOME THEM



TO INCREASE, ENCOURAGE AND ENABLE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY VIA THE GIVING OF FRESHLY CREATED FLOWER BOUQUETS

Welcome to our first newsletter! We are intending to produce one every couple of months or so to keep people updated on the progress of the *Giving Flowers* initiative. We do hope it will be an informative, and an enjoyable read, and help connect people with the ideas and vision behind the project.



We are a very small, growing initiative with evolving ideas as to how might help connect people and increase habitats for plants and insects at the same time. If you would like to join us, whether growing, sharing or cutting flowers, making up bouquets and/or gifting them we would love to hear from you. We can be contacted via our website www.givingflowers.uk or scan the QR code.

OUR FIRST DELIVERY

After many months of composting, sowing, planting, nurturing and staking, June brought the beginning of a wonderful flower harvest in our small garden. With the sweet pea crop in stunning abundance they formed the key element of our first bouquet and those that followed for the month of June. The crop is now beginning to set seed as we move into July with Cosmos 'Purity', Ammi majus and Buddleia taking over as the central focus of our bouquets.



SINCE THE BEGINNING OF JUNE WE HAVE CREATED, AND GIFTED, NEARLY 40 BOUQUETS, GROWN AND CUT FROM THE GARDEN AND ALLOTMENT



WE HAVE DELIVERED BOUQUETS TO PEOPLE IN THE DORKING AREA INCLUDING OUR LOCAL NURSING HOME AND AS GIFTS FOR PEOPLE TO PICK UP AT OUR TRAIN STATION.

INSECTS

One of our key hopes, as the *Giving Flowers* initiative develops, is to increase the availability of food sources for insects in the garden and raise the level of pollination. At the core of this mission is the growing and nurturing of flowering plants that can be shared with insects, and people.

In our own observations of the garden, plants that have been particularly attractive to insects so far this year have included: Alliums, Digitalis (Foxgloves), Papaver (Oriental Poppy), Verbena bonariensis, Buddleia, Fennel to name a few. For more ideas visit:

www.wild-spaces.co.uk



BIG BUTTERFLY COUNT

We have recently been enjoying taking part in the Big Butterfly Count. This is a nationwide citizen science annual survey run by the Butterfly Conservation charity. They have produced an excellent app to help with identification, as well as identification charts on their website. We counted 6 butterflies in a 15 minute period. We plan to carry out the count each year which will help nationally to monitor the populations of these ethereal insects and help us evaluate the impact of our planting on numbers in our own garden.

Much of the butterfly population in the UK has been under serious threat in recent years



leading the Butterfly Conservation charity to declare, last year, a 'Butterfly Emergency' after the 2024 count showed a significant fall in the number of butterflies recorded. The charity is encouraging as many people as possible to take part this year in the count that runs from the 18th July until the 10th August, and to create more wild spaces in our gardens where butterflies can thrive. For more information <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/>

CONNECTING PEOPLE

We are always looking at more ways to utilise the gift of flowers as a friendly, and welcoming means to help more people feel connected within the Dorking community. If you have any ideas for how we might achieve this please do not hesitate to contact us www.givingflowers.uk

