



BEE HEALTHY IN OXFORDSHIRE

Three Oxfordshire GP surgeries creating Bee Healthy gardens in October

Three GP practices will plant special gardens for bumblebees this month as part of the Bee Healthy Project. Staff, patients and local volunteers have been preparing the ground and will come together to plant out a wonderful range of plants rich in nectar and pollen to provide welcoming gardens for people and bees.

The planting events will be at the following locations:

- **St Bartholomew's Medical Centre in East Oxford, 11.30am on Wednesday 16 October**
- **Windrush Medical Practice in Witney, 10.00am on Saturday 19 October**
- **Summertown Health centre in North Oxford, 10.00am on Saturday 26 October**
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Craig Blackwell and Roselle Chapman, the project's ecologists, say gardeners can support bees and other insect pollinators by choosing plant species rich in nectar and pollen which will flower from March when the queen bees emerge, through to October. The surgery planting schemes will include around 15 plant species, including summer-flowering herbs such as marjoram, hyssop and catmint. Plants have been purchased from local nurseries that give an assurance they have not been treated with neonicotinoids, insecticides that can pose a high risk to bees.

The scheme is the brainchild of local ecologist Craig Blackwell who ran a successful Bee Healthy project at Chipping Norton Health Centre. Bee Healthy project is a partnership between the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE), Wild Oxfordshire and the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare. It has been funded by TOE and the Postcode Local Trust, a grant giving charity funded entirely by players of People's Postcode Lottery, and by Smiths of Bletchington.



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