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Business Supporters Newsletter: May 2026

Dear All

We're delighted to welcome the following companies last month as business supporters of the AIPP: Henderson Group, Lorg Media, CarriageWorks (Hooke McDonald), Masterlink Logistics Ltd., Toyota Logistics Services Ireland Ltd., Mossmore Facilities and Casey ESG Advisory.

May 2026's newsletter highlights include:

- To spot this month - **keep an eye out for the Red Mason bee**
- **Welcome to No Mow May! #FoodNotWeeds**
- Mark World Bee Day: **Do a FIT Count in May on Buttercups**
- To do this month: **No land, no problem - consider local community sponsorship**
- **Visit in June: Skerries Wild Bee Festival 2026**
- Guest blog: **Tracking Dalkey's Bumblebees**
- Join the celebration: **100 Tales of Hope for World Bee Day**
- **Pollinator noticeboard: May 2026** - come and chat to us at Bloom 2026!
And review key nature accelerator initiatives through [Business for Biodiversity \(BFBI\)](#) (with KPMG/Deloitte), and initiatives through [BITCI](#) and [BITCI NI](#).

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is a voluntary framework bringing together different sectors across the island of Ireland to create a landscape where pollinators can survive and thrive. Its implementation is coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

TO SPOT THIS MONTH: keep an eye out for the Red Mason Bee

This is another of our more distinctive solitary bees – look out for rounded abdomen with orange hairs. This species is commonly found in gardens and will nest in existing cavities – usually loose masonry or bee boxes. It is estimated that just one of these females can do the pollination work of over a hundred honey bees!

Can you help us find more new populations?



SUBMIT your solitary bee sightings

Welcome to No Mow May! #FoodNotWeeds

No Mow May is an annual campaign started by Plantlife in the UK asking everyone, including our businesses, to put away the lawnmower during the month of May to help native wildflowers and grasses

grow and feed our pollinators.

Native Irish wildflowers like Dandelions, Clover, and Birds-foot trefoil provide the best source of pollen and nectar for our hungry wild pollinators. By mowing less and lifting the cuttings on business sites and in our gardens, we can give these important flowers a chance to appear naturally – no seeds needed!

But May is just the start. Mowing less all summer is one of the best things you can do to help pollinators. So why not start your low-mow summer and keep it going with Let it Bloom June and Help them Fly July? And remember many of these flowers are #FoodNotWeeds.



Ashy Mining Bee

#NoMow May

Don't mow, let it grow
Join the buzz to save the bees

www.pollinators.ie

Pic: Lill Dunne




DISCOVER MORE: [No Mow May](#)

Mark World Bee Day: do a FIT Count in May on Buttercups

Flower-Insect-Timed Counts (FIT Counts) are a quick and easy survey via App that involves watching a 50cm x 50cm patch of flowers for 10 minutes and counting how many insects visit.

You can try it on your business site or in your garden and anyone can get involved.

In May, it's especially useful to carry out FIT Counts on Buttercup one of our 15 target flowers.

You can carry out a FIT Count anywhere, and on any flower - but where you can please do use one of our 15 target flowers.

Why not carry out a FIT Count for World Bee Day on the 20th of May and for National Biodiversity Week (Friday 15th – Sunday 24th of May)!

The App is available for Ireland and the UK and allows you to carry out a FIT Count and upload the results in one go.

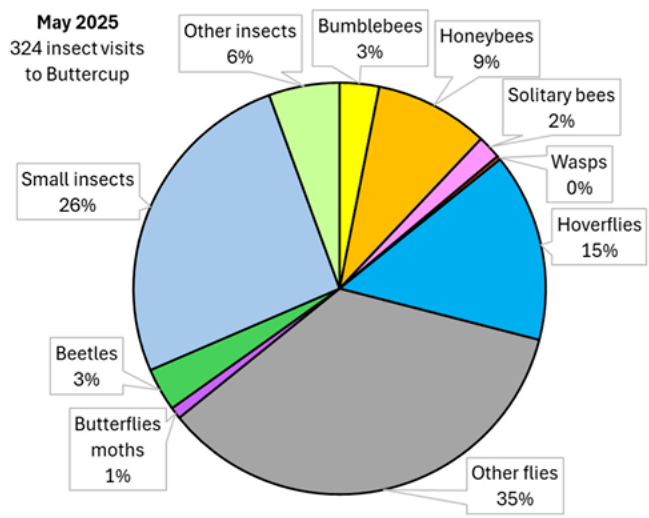
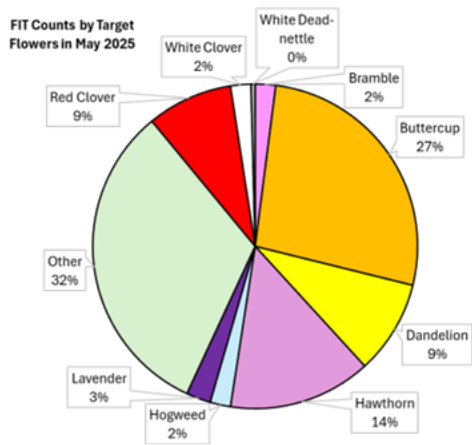
In 2025, 1,323 validated FIT Counts were submitted by 235 different volunteers.

- The average number of insects per FIT Count was 9.
- The most common insect group recorded were 'other flies' followed by hoverflies then bumblebees.
- Gardens were the most common habitat in which FIT Counts were carried out last year.
- Visit the FIT Count website to download the newsletter and see the full results of the scheme from 2025.

Pollinator monitoring: Flower-Insect Timed Counts (FIT Counts)
<https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/fit-counts/>
 Watch a 50cm x 50cm patch of flowers for 10 minutes and count how many insects visit. This scheme runs from April until September.

MAY Target Flower for May 2025: **Buttercups and hawthorn**

May 2025
 Total number of FIT Counts 246
 Average Insects/FIT Counts 8.59



Based on the 2025 data, small insects and other flies were the most common visitors to Buttercups in May

READ MORE about FIT Counts

Download FIT Count App for Android from Google Play

Download FIT Count App for Apple (iPhone/iPad) app from the App store

TO DO THIS MONTH: No land, no problem - consider local community biodiversity sponsorship

When sponsoring pollinator-biodiversity related initiatives within your local community endeavour to elicit an All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) evidence-based biodiversity action.

There are simple steps your business can consider as part of the decision-making process including identifying a suitable sponsorship channel such as a local Tidy Towns group, a local sports or GAA Green Club or through organisations such as Biodiversity in Schools. Or sponsor a specific rare species project related to the Great Yellow Bumblebee or the Large Carder Bee.

You can guide the sponsor recipient to:

- (i) Identify and take a suitable AIPP action using the specific AIPP guideline
- (ii) Map on Actions for Pollinators GIS and then
- (iii) Track if the action is working through Flower-Insect-Timed Counts.

Sponsorship considerations should also include the following:

- Always retain existing biodiversity areas e.g., Avoid removing a meadow to plant native trees. A meadow is a habitat in its own right, and,
- Ensure ongoing pollinator-friendly management and maintenance of habitats is considered.



AIPP Sponsorship for pollinators

Skerries Wild Bee Festival 2026

The much-loved Skerries Wild Bee Festival returns for its fifth year, on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th June at Skerries Mills.

This year's festival programme includes a fantastic line-up of speakers, guided walks and hands-on activities, with something for everyone from curious beginners and families to gardeners, nature lovers and pollinator enthusiasts.

Throughout the weekend, visitors can enjoy sessions including Naomi Lavelle's Family Pollinator Science Workshop, Sarah Larragy on RestPoll and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, Brian Seales' Plant Walk in Skerries Mills Wildflower Meadow, Kate Harrington's Basic Bumblebee Identification Workshop, Charlie Heasman's talk on the weird and wonderful interactions of plants and pollinators, and a Birdwatch Ireland Bird Walk with Cathal Copeland.

There will also be face painting, arts and crafts stalls, storytelling and family-friendly activities.

Skerries Annual Wild Bee Festival

Skerries Mills
Saturday & Sunday
13th - 14th June 2026

daa

Skerries Mills

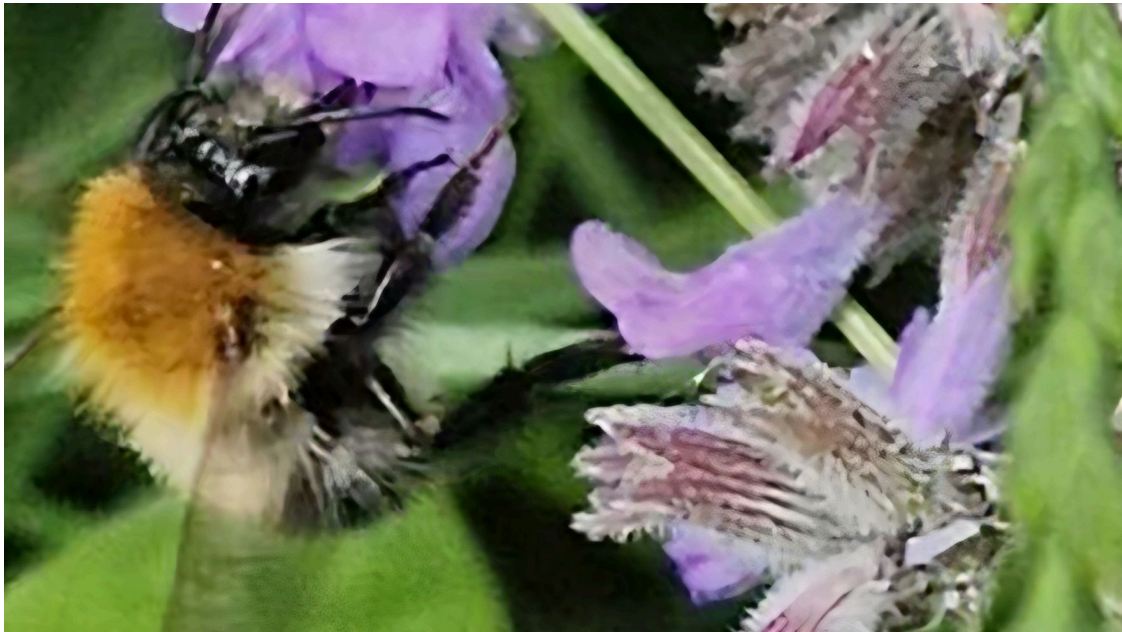
Skerries Mills Community Garden

Eventbrite: [Skerries Wild Bee Festival](#)

Guest blog: Tracking Dalkey's Bumblebees

Every year, volunteers walk a set 1-2km route once a month between March and October, recording sightings of our eight most common bumblebees. This provides vital baseline data that is used to assess the impact of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

In this guest blog, Fiona Treacy of Dalkey Tidy Towns tells us how the community have tracked local bumblebees through the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme, and how these important pollinators are bouncing back thanks to their efforts to help nature thrive.



READ: 'Tracking Dalkey's Bumblebees'

Join the celebration: 100 Tales of Hope for World Bee Day

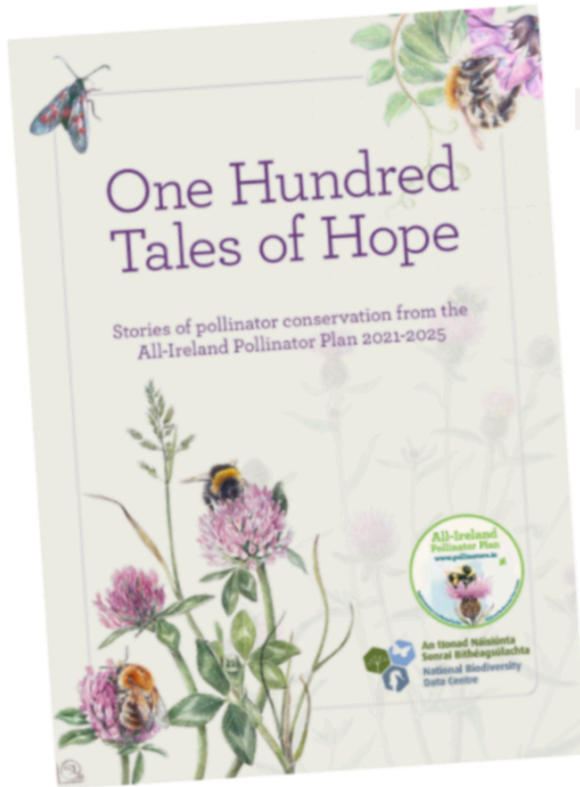
To celebrate World Bee Day on the 20th May, the National Biodiversity Data Centre is releasing a new free booklet shining a spotlight on 100 good news stories of pollinator conservation from across the island of Ireland.

100 Tales of Hope: Stories from the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 celebrates the hard work of local communities, farmers, councils, gardeners, schools and businesses, who have transformed their land to help wild bees during the most recent phase of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

The stories in this booklet provide vital inspiration in a time of biodiversity crisis and serve as an important reminder that even in the face of pollinator declines, there are many reasons to hope.

With beautiful illustrations by artist Shevaun Doherty, the 'tales of hope' represent people across society, from all sectors and with many different backgrounds, all coming together behind a shared goal to create a landscape where pollinators can survive and thrive.

100 Tales of Hope: Stories from the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 will be published on pollinators.ie/news on 20th May 2026.



Communities



Community meadows in Abbeyleix

Abbeyleix Tidy Towns in Co. Laois run several creative initiatives for encouraging local meadows. The Lawn Art competition runs every year during No Mow May, when residents are invited to let their grass grow and mow shapes in their main meadows. Beautiful patterns and shapes have sprung up around the town as a result of this competition, including butterflies, spirals and Celtic crosses. But their efforts aren't limited to May; Abbeyleix is home to stunning short and long-flowering meadows, including the fields beside St Michael & All Angels Church in Ireland where orchids have appeared thanks to reduced mowing. The Tidy Towns group has also piloted a meadow management scheme, where residents are encouraged to choose a patch of grass to mow less, and the Tidy Towns provides expert advice and a cutting and grass removal service.



www.pollinators.ie

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Available from pollinators.ie 'Latest News' on 20th May

POLLINATOR NOTICEBOARD: May 2026

RESOURCES - BLOGS - WEBINARS - EVENTS etc.

- Come and chat to the AIPP team at [Bloom 2026](#) (Phoenix Park, Dublin) on the National Biodiversity Data Centre stand opposite the Sustainability Stage.
- [Discover some beautiful 'Meadow Magic' with Louth students.](#)

WHERE TO START ON YOUR POLLINATOR-BIODIVERSITY JOURNEY?

- START with the Checklist on [Page 34 Businesses: actions to help pollinators.](#)
- Review your Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) on [Action for Biodiversity.](#)
- Engage with your local [Biodiversity Officer.](#)
- Discover which business neighbours are delivering [Actions for Pollinators.](#)

HOW TO COMMUNICATE/ENGAGE

- Align communications with the [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Key Campaigns & Messages.](#)
- Sign up to the [AIPP business supporters monthly newsletter.](#)
- Connect through socials - Insta [@allirelandpollinatorplan.](#)
- Provide [Learning for pollinators](#) to colleagues.
- Nominate a Biodiversity Champion and/ or create a Green Team.
- Engage your [value chain with AIPP evidence-based actions.](#)
- Identify AIPP pollinator-friendly [procurement \(tendering/specifying\) and sponsorship.](#)

POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

- **Maintenance:** [Native hedgerows](#), [Reduced mowing/ meadows](#) and verges (and remember to lift the cuttings), [Nesting habitat.](#) Check out specific guidelines for [Business/technology parks](#), [Solar](#)

[Farms](#), [Wind Farms](#), and [Healthcare sites](#).

- **Planting:** [Top Ten Guide](#), [Pollinator-friendly planting Code](#), [Orchards](#), [Planting/Management on New Construction Developments](#) (a Cluid guide) - endorsed by the AIPP.
- Create *thematic* places for pollinators - sensory, herb, rain or moon garden/planter as part of a [biodiversity walking trail](#).
- **Working with public sector/ local authorities/ semi states?** [Review the Biodiversity Duty Reporting Guidance for Public Bodies](#)

TRACK - MEASURE - MONITOR: MAP EARLY, MAP OFTEN

- [Score your business site](#) (Checklist Page 34) on pollinator-biodiversity-friendly actions.
- Run a [Biodiversity Maps](#) report for your site.
- Log [Actions for Pollinators \(GIS\)](#) to layer data for your site over time.
- [Track and measure what's happening to pollinators on your site](#) in a scientifically robust manner e.g., Friday FIT Counts (easy-level App) and Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme (mid-level).
- Track healthy meadow indicators: [Track/record rare bee orchids on your site](#).
- Manage invasive species via [www.invasives.ie](#)

CONNECT WITH NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVES - ESG | CSR/VSME | TOWARDS NATURE-POSITIVE

- Join [Business for Biodiversity \(BFBI\)](#) (and KPMG/Deloitte) to explore approaches to nature-positive (CSR/VSME) through the FREE [#Discovery Track of the Nature Strategy Accelerator Programme](#). Progressive tracks available [#Action](#) [#Strategy](#) & [#Evolution](#) with in-person workshops, peer learning and expert guidance. Contact Dr Maria Fitzpatrick manager@businessforbiodiversity.ie, BFBI's Executive Director.
- **Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI)** - explore [Accelerate - The Business Pact for Climate and Nature](#) and [BITCI's Business Working Responsibly Mark](#) ("The Mark") Ireland's Environmental, Economic, Social and Governance (EESG) standard, verified by the [National Standards Authority of Ireland](#). Contact Cillian McMahon CMcMahon@bitc.ie
- **Business in the Community NI (BITC)** - explore [BITC's Business and Biodiversity Charter](#) Contact Traci.Adams@bitcni.org.uk

POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY CONSIDERATIONS

Why your business should consider an:

- [ALTERNATIVE action to sowing a wildflower seed mix after earthworks - Page 10](#) - choose a fine-leaved grass mix and then reduced-mowing and lift the cuttings.
- [ALTERNATIVE action to honeybee hives](#).
- [ALTERNATIVE action to sowing/gifting wildflower seed mixes](#). Think carefully by reading [Dr Noeleen Smyth's article on the issues with wildflower seed mixes](#).
- ALTERNATIVE GIFTS include a [Bumblebee poster](#), [herb packets](#) (Page 12), [sunflower seeds](#) (Page 27), [bulbs](#) (Page 11), OR choose from the [TOP TEN guide of pollinator-friendly plants for different situations](#).

Invite colleagues, your Biodiversity Champion, and your Green Team to sign up to the AIPP free monthly newsletter



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