



BEEES

& OTHER POLLINATORS

QUARTERLY

THE MAGAZINE FOR PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT NATURE

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Spot the difference
tips on how to develop your
Bee ID skills

Trees for Bees

10 flowering trees that your garden pollinators will love

John Lewis-Stempel

Exclusive: the nature writer's wild childhood

Wildlife Gardening

Are you picking the *wrong* seeds to sow this spring?

PLUS Photography, politics, propolis... and dandelions!



Blooming amazing #3

No flowery round-up is complete without a mention of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. This year's event majors on natural, wild garden designs. There's even a beaver habitat by *Rewilding Britain* - a real indication that gardening for wildlife is the way forward.

Look out for **Joe Perkins' 'Meta Garden'** (above), highlighting the amazing relationship between soil, fungi and plants in woodlands. From May 24-28. See www.rhs.org.uk.

LYRICAL WAX

They may look like real flowers, but unbelievably these are sculptures, made from beeswax.

It's the work of botanical artist Annette Marie Townsend, formerly Scientific Artist at the National Museum, Wales. Daisies, pyramidal orchids, bluebells, clover and other flowers celebrate our love of nature and hint too at her



previous experience in preserving and documenting scientific specimens.

Many of her extraordinary models are on permanent display at the National Museum, Cardiff or you can see her work at the Eye of the Collector exhibition, May 12-14 at 2, Temple Place, London WC2. www.eyeofthecollector.com for tickets.

See more at www.annettemarietownsend.com.

Did you know...?

A study of **400,000** records* of 406 UK flowering plants spanning **250 years** reveals plants are flowering **4 weeks** earlier than in 1986

*Nature's Calendar, 1753 - 2019.

THE BIG PLANT!

Communities in Cumbria are aiming to dig in 15,000+ pollinator friendly plants in one great planting week.

More than 100 groups are being armed with wildflower plants - mostly grown by Cumbria Wildlife Trust - to grow in community allotments and school fields, parks and nature reserves. Help get north and north-west Cumbria buzzing at The Big Plant, May 1-8. www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/getcumbriabuzzing

NATURE vs NURTURE

A person's love of nature is in large part down to their genes, according to the first study of its kind. While upbringing has the most significant influence on our love of wildlife, genes are not far behind - accounting for 46 per cent of our 'nature orientation'. The findings were based on studies of 1,153 pairs of UK twins, carried out in Singapore. "It provides the first evidence for a genetic component to both our predispositions towards nature and our tendency to visit natural spaces," said a spokeswoman.



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