

# Pollinators Paradise

by Allington Hill, Coopers Wood and Field Community Group in Bridport, England, United Kingdom

Project Facebook Allingtonhill @allington\_hillbillies



To purchase native Snowdrops, Wood Anemone, Wild Daffodil bulbs, plants and seeds suitable for wooded areas.

✓ We did it

On 5th June 2023 we successfully raised £3,510 with 41 supporters in 42 days

# £3,510

Over the last decade the Allington Hillbillies volunteer to look after a 14 acre site leased by Allington Parish Council. A large part of the area is being developed as a flower meadow, for the benefit of wildlife and the local community. It provides pollen and nectar from late April until August. With warmer days in late winter, pollinators have limited foraging opportunities and often die from starvation.

Our project is to introduce more early spring Woodland flora. Native Snowdrops, Daffodils, Wood Anemones and primroses will be planted throughout Cooper's Wood, providing pollen and nectar from early February to late April.

The money raised will allow us to purchase a large quantity of bulbs, plants and seeds. People from the local community will be invited to plant the flowering plants in the Woodland.

This will enhance our on going project to improve the diversity of the Woodland. Many flowering trees have been introduced after felling those with Ash Die Back. The area is used as an outdoor class room to teach all ages about nature.

The Walk, Talk and Afternoon Tea was the first promotional event, on Thursday 13 July.



## The main aims of the project.

Enhance and protect habitats for all pollinators.

Education.

Open public events led by experts.

Community workshops



## Walk, Talk and afternoon tea event.

**Rob Powell** from Hogchester Meadows.

**Max Cantrell**, Expert in entomology.

**Nick Gray**, Dorset Wildlife Trust.

**Ian Rees**, Dorset Area Natural Beauty.

## Pollinators Paradise Project

Improving the local habitat.

Introducing a diverse range of early flowering plants for pollinators.

Cooper's Wood and Field.



## Early flowering native plants



Snowdrops

Normally flowers in January and February

Visited by bees and other insects on a particularly warm winter days.

Traditionally, snowdrops were used to treat headaches and as a painkiller. In modern medicine a compound in the bulb has been used to develop a dementia treatment.



Primrose

They can bloom as early as late December and flower until May.

Primroses are common and widespread across Britain and Ireland. They are found in woods, at the base of hedgerows and in grasslands. The flowers provide a nectar source for pollinators like brimstone and small tortoiseshell butterflies.



Celandine

They flower between January and April.

Lesser celandine loves damp woodland paths and tracks, as well as stream banks and ditches. You can also spot it growing in gardens, meadows and shady hedgerows. As one of the first flowers to appear after winter, they provide an important nectar source for queen bumblebees and other pollinators emerging from hibernation.



Wild Daffodil

Flower as early as January through to the end of March.

Once common in Wales and the South West of England

Heavily picked for market in the Victorian times and went in to decline.

Important food source for long tongued bees and pollinators.



Dandelion

Flowers from early January through to late May and beyond.

Under rated plant, which all parts are edible.

Important food source for all pollinators.

Will produce new flowers if picked or mown.



Wood Anemone

Flowers March to May.

Hoverflies are thought to favour this plant and to be significant in pollinating the species.

Often an indicator of Ancient Woodland.

Also can be found in Hedgerows and meadows.

## Yellow Rattle.

Yellow Rattle is a vital plant when creating a wild flower meadow (or even a wild flower verge!)

It is an annual that thrives in grasslands, living a semi-parasitic life by feeding off the nutrients in the roots of nearby grasses. For this reason, it was once seen as an indicator of poor grassland by farmers, but is now often used to turn improved grassland back to meadow - by feeding off the vigorous grasses, it eventually allows more delicate, traditional species to push their way through.

When the flowers of yellow-rattle fade, the brown calyxes (containing the sepals) in which the tiny seeds ripen can be seen and heard - they give a distinctive 'rattle', hence the common name.



### Yellow Rattle seed collected by the Allington Hillbillies, supports the group and many new meadow projects across Dorset, including Dorset road verges since 2017.



**SOLD 2023**  
**4 kilos of Yellow Rattle to Dorset Council**  
**1 kilo private landowner**

Due to good crops of Yellow Rattle seed prices are lower than last year.

#### Our prices 2023 prices

25 grams £10      50 grams £18      100 grams £30      250 grams £70

500 grams £130    1000 grams £240    ( Internet prices average £290.) **SOLD OUT**

#### 2022 prices.

25 grams £12    50 grams £20    100 grams £35    250 grams £ 80.    500 grams £155.    1000 grams £300.

