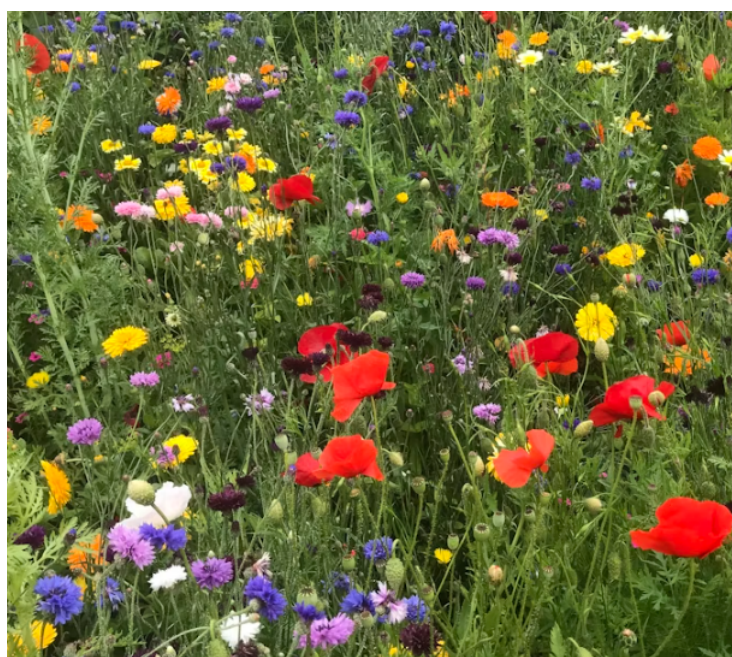


## What's in our beds and planters?

### Annual wildflowers

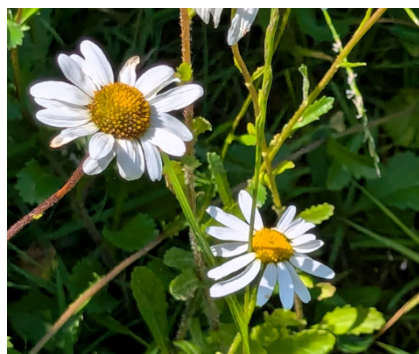
To create immediate colour this year, Blooming Westgate working party members and volunteers have grown annual wildflowers from seeds. These are now blooming in our beds and planters. Look out for:

- Poppies
- Cornflowers
- Corn marigolds
- Corncockle
- Corn Chamomile



### Perennial wildflowers

For enduring blooms, we have purchased a range of perennial plants and plug plants. Many of these won't flower until next year but will then bloom year after year.



#### **Oxeye Daisy\*** (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)

- **Appearance:** Large, classic daisy flowers with bright white petals and rich yellow centres.
- **Value to pollinators:** The wide, open flower heads act as landing pads for bees and hoverflies.
- **Fun Fact:** Often called 'Moon Daisy' because the luminous white flowers seem to glow in the evening.



### Field Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*)

- **Appearance:** Pale, lavender-blue pincushion-like flower heads swaying on tall, slender stems.
- **Value to pollinators:** An absolute magnet for butterflies and long-tongued bees.
- **Fun Fact:** The name comes from 'scabies' because medieval herbalists used it to treat skin conditions and itching.



### Viper's Bugloss\* (*Echium vulgare*)

- **Appearance:** Dramatic spikes of bright violet-blue, bell-shaped flowers with protruding red stamens.
- **Value to pollinators:** One of the best nectar sources in the UK, loved by bumblebees and the rare painted lady butterfly.
- **Fun Fact:** The spotted stem resembles a snake's skin, and the seed nuts look like a viper's head.



### Musk Mallow\* (*Malva moschata*)

- **Appearance:** Delicate, large rose-pink petals with notched edges and a subtle, musky fragrance.
- **Value to pollinators:** Provides abundant pollen for specialized solitary bees and acts as a food plant for caterpillars.
- **Fun Fact:** The leaves and flowers are completely edible and have a mild, pleasant flavour.



### Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*)

- **Appearance:** Clusters of woolly, yellow pea-like flowers tucked into soft, hairy cushions.
- **Value to pollinators:** This is the **only** food plant for the caterpillar of the Small Blue, the UK's smallest butterfly.
- **Fun Fact:** Its Latin species name *vulneraria* means 'wound healer', a reference to its historical use to treat cuts.



### **Meadow Cranesbill (*Geranium pratense*)**

- **Appearance:** Lovely violet-blue flowers with delicate, dark veins etched into the petals.
- **Value to pollinators:** Highly attractive to honeybees and bumblebees, which feed on its high-quality nectar.
- **Fun Fact:** It gets its name from its long, pointed seed pods, which look exactly like a crane's beak.



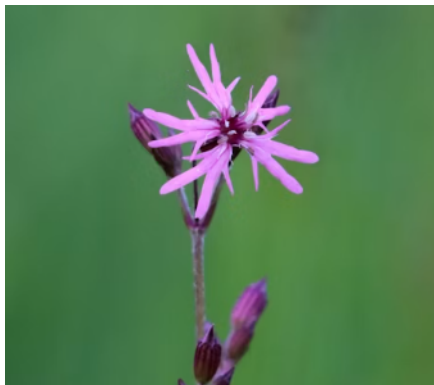
### **Red Campion (*Silene dioica*)**

- **Appearance:** Vibrant, rose-pink flowers with five deeply notched petals that brighten shady spots.
- **Value to pollinators:** Essential spring food for early bumblebees, while moths visit them for nectar at night.
- **Fun Fact:** In folklore, red campion flowers are fiercely guarded by fairies to protect their honey stores.



### **Birdsfoot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*)**

- **Appearance:** Sunny yellow and orange flowers often nicknamed "Eggs and Bacon" due to their colour shading.
- **Value to pollinators:** Supports over 130 species of insects, making it a critical powerhouse for local biodiversity.
- **Fun Fact:** The name comes from its seed pods, which branch out to look exactly like a bird's foot.



### **Ragged Robin (*Silene flos-cuculi*)**

- **Appearance:** Striking, deep pink flowers with deeply frayed, ragged petals that look like tattered ribbons.
- **Value to pollinators:** Highly favoured by butterflies and long-tongued bees who can reach the deep nectar tubes.
- **Fun Fact:** Its Latin name *flos-cuculi* means "flower of the cuckoo," as it blooms just as the first cuckoos arrive.

*\*Flowering this year*