

## Make your own butterfly garden

You could copy some of the features here to attract insects to your garden. Don't make the garden too tidy - insects like undisturbed places to hide, especially in winter and don't enrich the soil. Choose wildflowers and traditional cottage garden flowers to provide nectar for as much of the year as possible. Avoid double flowered varieties and annuals. See the back page of this leaflet for useful sources of further information.

Butterfly food plants: thistles, honesty, garlic mustard, bramble, holly, ivy, dock sorrel, cuckoo flower, buckthorn, blackthorn, nettles (in the sun), bird's-foot trefoil, nasturtium and violets. Moth food plants include comfrey and vipers bugloss.

## Other features to attract wildlife

A **wildlife tower** made of recycled pallets nailed together and filled with sheeps' wool, straw, rolled corrugated paper in plastic tubes, broken pots, and egg boxes to provide homes for overwintering insects such as lacewings and ladybirds, and rotten wood to attract larvae of wood-boring beetles and fungi. Bamboo canes will provide nesting holes for pollinators such as *Osmia*, the solitary bee. Stones and ventilation bricks will provide additional hiding places. The sedum-planted roof will help retain water to maintain a damp dark habitat for insects of all sorts. Near the wildlife tower, climbing ivy will provide more insect hiding places, nectar and food for caterpillars.

More cover for wildlife such as bumble bees, centipedes and woodlice can be provided in **piles of stones, wood, nooks and crannies in a wall, and a compost heap** (layers of grass, leaves and weeds, regularly mixed).

## St Mary and St John Churchyard Project

The whole churchyard site is now being managed for wildlife and as an accessible green space for the people of East Oxford to enjoy. We welcome everyone, and hope you will help us keep the churchyard litter-free and wildlife-friendly.

If you would like to join other volunteers in helping us maintain the churchyard, contact Ruth Conway: [ruthconway@abelian.net](mailto:ruthconway@abelian.net)

Working sessions are normally  
Weds 5.30-7.30 pm (summer)  
Sats 2.00-4.00 pm.

*For further information  
see the display boards in the  
churchyard, or visit the website:  
[www.ssmjchurchyard.org.uk](http://www.ssmjchurchyard.org.uk)*

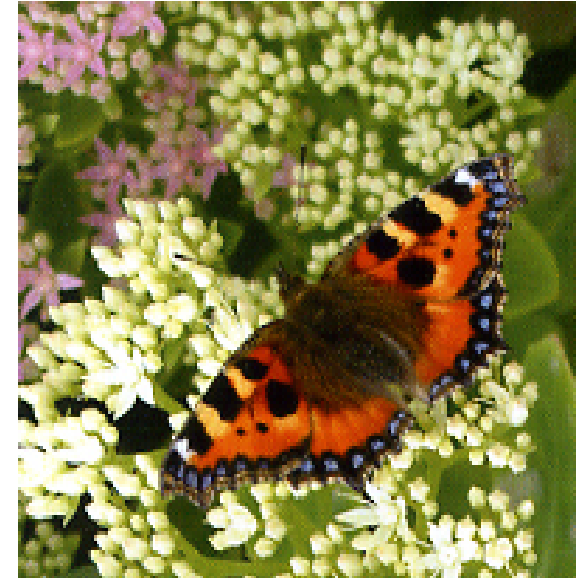
### Other sources of information

- Butterfly conservation website: [www.butterfly-conservation.org](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org)
- *Wildlife Gardening for Everyone.* ed. M.Tait; RHS/The Wildlife Trusts.
- *Red Mason Bee*, C.O'Toole.
- *Garden Beetles*, D.Mann and C.O'Toole; Osmia Publications. Website: [www.oxbeeco.com](http://www.oxbeeco.com)
- [www.nationalmothnight.info](http://www.nationalmothnight.info)

*Front cover photo: Tortoiseshell butterfly*

***No weed killers, insecticides or fertilizers were used in the preparation of the churchyard site.***

## St Mary and St John Churchyard



## The Butterfly Garden

***Turning a neglected site into a productive wildlife habitat***

## Making it happen

In autumn 2007 a group of local volunteers involved in restoring the St Mary and St John churchyard, designed and laid out a butterfly garden in a derelict corner of the site.



Plans were developed with local help and technical advice on the construction of paths, trellis, compost heaps and wildlife tower, and on the choice of plants suitable for the site and attractive to butterflies, moths, their caterpillars, and other insects.

Funds for tools and materials, plants, expert advice, training and educational materials, were received from a Big Lottery BBC 'Breathing Places' grant and from Oxford City Council.

## Working together

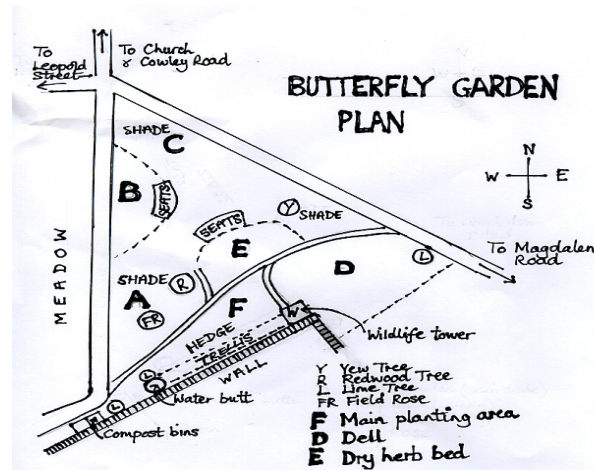
Members of the local church community and the neighbourhood generously gave their time as well as donating plants. Many people worked together to clear the site, put in the plants, and maintain the area, including a team of people from Community Payback, Co-op staff, Brookes University students, Boundary Brook volunteers, Tesco Training Managers, and a small team of regular local volunteers.

## The plants

Plants were selected which have flowers rich in nectar throughout the year to attract butterflies and moths, and others that provide food for caterpillars and seasonal interest and colour eg evergreens in winter. The plants are mainly wild flowers sourced locally, though some exotics have been included for their nectar or colour, or to provide microhabitats for insects eg climbers and a closely planted hedge. Other plants provide ground cover to prevent unwanted weeds eg bugle (deep blue with dark foliage), dead nettle (purple and white), forget-me-not (blue and pink in spring), creeping jenny (yellow bells in summer), campanula (blue in summer), bird's-foot trefoil (yellow), periwinkle (white or blue flowers in the hedge), and prostrate thyme.

## Construction work and planting

After removing masses of rubbish, and rough digging, paths were marked out, taking account of existing routes across the site, ease of access, and safety. Planting took account of sunny and shady areas, well drained soil and heavy clay. Plants have been grouped - bees and butterflies prefer clumps of the same flower.



## Look out for ...

The Dell (D) A damper area for tall plants, where they won't be damaged by passers-by and can be looked at from above, eg buddleia, foxglove (pink), evening primrose (yellow), monkshood (purple), red valerian and michaelmas daisies (blue). Teasel and tall thistles provide resting places for dragonflies.

Low hedges of lavender and rosemary are nectar-rich for insects (especially bees and butterflies), and make an attractive edge to the planting areas.

Climbing plants on a trellis and a hedge along the wall provide attractive nectar, colour, and shelter in the winter for insects eg clematis, ivy, honeysuckle, hop, nasturtium, jasmine, sweet brier and dog rose, myrtle, cotoneaster and butchers broom.

A rocky area for plants that flourish in a dry environment, and for beetles and woodlice under the stones.

Shady areas under the lime tree (L), and the redwood (R) and near the water butt, where aconites, bluebells and primroses grow in spring and foxgloves, campanula and the field rose (FR) provide nectar in summer. In other shady areas snowdrops (C), daisies (B) forget-me-not and sweet rocket (A) provide early flowers.

In the main planting area (F) you'll find alliums (purple balls of flowers), thyme, marjoram, lavender, knapweed (purple), scabious, *Verbena bonariensis* (a tall non-native with purple heads), pelargonium (pink), geranium (blue), ox-eye daisies and feverfew.

A dry herb bed (E) under the redwood where you will see dry-tolerant herbs like lavender, thyme, rhue, marjoram, rosemary, and hyssop.

### Things to do

Watch carefully to see which kinds of insects go to which flowers, and look at the way butterflies get nectar out of the flower.  
Visit in the evening to look for moths.  
What colour are the flowers they feed from?  
Help monitor the butterflies by recording what you see and when (time of day and date).