

# Friends of the Honey Bee Newsletter

Vol. 3 Winter Term 2024



## Hello and Welcome

Welcome to a new term and a new year! It's **2024** and there are so many exciting things for you to learn about pollinators and the environment in the coming months.

It may be cold and gloomy outside for a few more weeks but hidden away out of sight, our amazing insects are already beginning preparations for the spring and summer ahead. That's definitely something to look forward to!



In this FOHB newsletter we welcome more **new FOHB members** joining the family and we share new ideas for projects you can try this term. A big '**thank you**' to everyone who sent in their stories and pictures to share.

You can also check out our '**Bees in the Curriculum**' teaching resource for work and fact sheets you can use in school.

In readiness for the changing seasons, we are once again sharing information about how you can help in the fight against the **ASIAN HORNET**



Don't forget to email your news and updates to:  
[schools.officer@bbka.org.uk](mailto:schools.officer@bbka.org.uk)



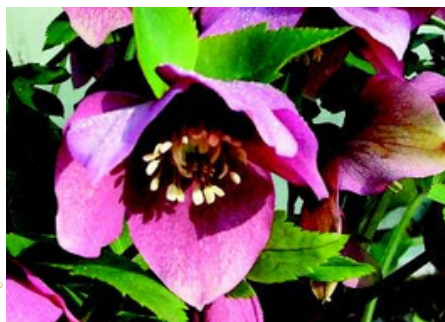
Winter-flowering Crocus are good for early pollinators

## January to March

The ground is cold and summer seems far away but in the undergrowth and bug hotels, in old logs, leaf mould and earth burrows, millions of tiny creatures are waiting to emerge, to hunt for precious nectar and pollen.

Insect pollinators, like the **Buff-tailed bumblebee queens**, will benefit if you planted nectar or pollen-rich plants like winter honeysuckle or clematis. Or perhaps you have **early crocus, hellebore** or **snowdrops** ready to emerge in your garden?

They will help.



**Hellebore** is also known as 'stinking hellebore' (*Helleborus foetidus*) but bees love it!

## Cardboard Insect Winter Activity



Why not create your own adorable or creepy or colourful cardboard insects this term, using one of the step-by-step guides from the BBKA Learning Activities page? Click the link [here](#) and get started making **cardboard insects**. See how many different cardboard critter creations you can create in your class today!



## A Warm Welcome to our newest FOHB members

We have had so many new members join the Friends of the Honey Bee recently that we simply cannot list everyone by name! But **we welcome you all very, very warmly** and are so pleased that you all care about the environment and learning about our wonderful pollinators. Just like us, they come in different shapes and sizes. You can **proudly tell everyone you are Friends of the Honey Bee** - and tell them all the wonderful things you are learning about bees and other insects.

# Friends of the Honey Bee Updates



## And Inspirations

**The Asian Hornet is increasingly BAD NEWS for UK pollinators and we need your help. We've added another Asian Hornet Bulletin this term, to help you identify this pollinator predator!**

### ~ Bury C of E Primary ~

Students attending Bury Primary school sent in so many inspiring projects for us to choose from and we're using one of them to inspire you in this newsletter! Thank you, Bury!

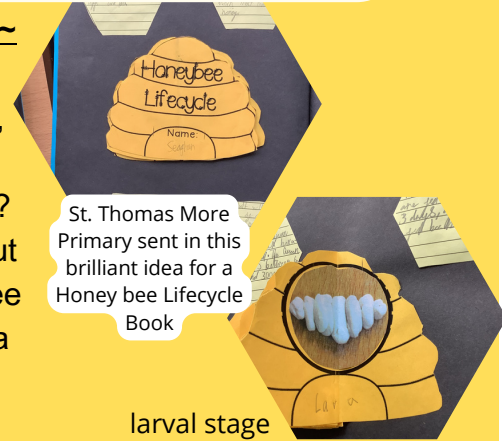
They have also been involved in creating and protecting a school meadow, which includes beautiful bee orchids growing wild on the chalk downland, and helped improve the environment by planting elm trees and participating in their local Heathland Management Project. Phew! - we're exhausted just reading about it all.



Could you plant a tree to help the environment, like Bury Primary?

### ~ Honey Bee Lifecycle Book ~

Why not 'bee' inspired by St. Thomas More Primary School, who sent in pictures of this awesome project they created? Make your own, and learn about the different stages of honey bee development, from egg to larva to pupa to adult!



larval stage

### ~ Annan Bee Club ~

At Annan Bee Club, students achieved amazing results working with Annan Academy, the Easter Bush Science Outreach Centre (EBSOC) and Science & Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA). In an inspiring 2-year project, the Bee Club studied effects of **pollinator-friendly planting** on health and nutrition of the school's & local hives.

Their project encouraged planting schemes, closely monitored hives and bee health, analysed honey and pollens, and tested colonies for Nosema.

Their results will be presented at a young beekeepers' conference at the Roslin Institute.

Well done, Annan Bee Club!



### ~ Bee Floor Book ~

Bury pupils sent in images of their giant **Bee Floor Book**. Wow!

You can make one too - and fill it with memories and experiences from your own incredible journey learning about pollinators and the environment. You will need a large scrap book and photos and drawings of your projects, trips and memories.

Pupils analysed pollens, honey, and bees for their studies on the impact of plants on the nutrition and health of pollinators (Annan Bee Club)

# ASIAN HORNET



**THE ASIAN HORNET IS A HIGHLY AGGRESSIVE PREDATOR WHICH POSES A SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO HONEY BEES AND OTHER POLLINATORS IN THE UK.**

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

**LEARN HOW TO IDENTIFY ASIAN HORNETS  
KNOW HOW TO REPORT ANY SIGHTINGS  
SPREAD THE WORD - TELL YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS**



- **DARK ABDOMEN WITH WIDE ORANGE STRIPE ON 4TH SEGMENT**
- **YELLOW TIPS TO LEGS**
- **HEAD BLACK WITH ORANGE FACE**
- **THORAX BLACK & VELVETY**

**TAKE A PHOTO IF IT IS SAFE TO DO SO  
REPORT VIA THE **ASIAN HORNET WATCH APP**  
OR BY EMAIL TO: **ALERTNONNATIVE@CEH.AC.UK****

## SEE IT! SNAP IT! SEND IT!

**FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE  
ON THE BBKA WEBSITE**

