



Wild About Barrow

June 2021

It's summer! Days are long, the sun shining and nature is changing and growing at pace. After the earlier burst of yellow there are now more white flowers adorning our village.

However, this is not how animals such as insects see the world. With their ultraviolet receptors, flowers very rarely appear white. In fact, insects' ability to see a wider spectrum may have influenced the evolution of flower colour. Unseen by our eyes, petals have markings like a runway guiding insects to the nectar and pollen.

Tens of thousands of different plants are imported each year for the horticultural industry. Unfortunately some plants and animals hitch a ride as seeds or eggs in compost or other means and are not so welcome as they grow vigorously and have no natural predators. One such plant can be found at the end of Grassmere under a cherry tree and by the wall. It is the three-cornered garlic, *Allium triquetrum*.



Three-cornered garlic, *Allium triquetrum*

Although very attractive, it grows in very dense stands and smothers our native spring flowers like primroses and violets. It occupies mainly southern parts of the UK, mainly within 50 miles of the coast but with global warming it is sure to spread. It is an offence to plant or otherwise cause this species to grow in the wild.

On a happier note, the common daisy is very beneficial to us. It contains several chemicals which inhibit fungal infections in humans and has an acid that is effective against Dutch Elm disease.

No Mow May Celebration

We have no less than two celebration galleries in Nature Notes this month thanks to villagers who took part in the No Mow May campaign. It is fascinating to see what will

grow and visit your garden. But more than that climate change is already having a major effect on our wildlife. The results of Plantlife's survey 'Every Flower Counts' reveals the severe impact the drought of May 2020 had on wildflowers. This, of course, affects insect and bird populations too. For more information look at Plantlife's website:

<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/about-us/news/how-to-mow-your-lawn-for-wildlife>

To discover the effect of not mowing on your garden's nectar score visit:

<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/everflowercounts/>

Whether you mowed your lawn or not it's a good starting point to see how you could improve this. And there's no need to start mowing once May is over! You could give your lawn, or at least strip of it, to nature and watch the insects and butterflies arrive.



2 Beaumanor Road



82 Beaumanor Road

15 Ennerdale Road

30 Holbourne Close

This is what a few residents had to say after letting their lawns grow:

Nicola at 2 Beaumanor Road said "It's cool! There are really colourful flowers growing that I didn't know were there."

Liz, who has grown her front garden over May, commented, "I've really enjoyed watching the wildflowers grow."

Alice and Luke of 82 Beaumont Road said, "There're lots of lovely wildflowers."

"It's quite nice to see the speedwells come up," said Aiden of 30 Holbourne Close.

So why don't you join them and discover what can happen to your lawn. We'd love to see your pictures too. Email them to: wildaboutbarrow@gmail.com

Wild Celebration

Here is some wildlife seen around the village recently. What have you seen? Send your pictures to wildaboutbarrow@gmail.com for inclusion next month. There's no need to identify, we'll try to do that. Just tell us where you saw it so we can look first hand.



Yellow corydalis
Pseudofumaria lutea



Garlic mustard
Alliaria petiolata



Ivy-leaved toadflax
Cymbalaria muralis



Ribwort plantain
Plantago lanceolata



White dead-nettle
Lamium album



Daisy
Bellis perennis

June

What to see/hear

June

1. **Enjoy the gloriously frothy white hedgerows of cow parsley.** These stunners can be seen flowering along hedgerows from April to May. Traditionally it was used to treat a variety of ailments but was sometimes called Mother Die to frighten young children and so prevent them from picking it's poisonous relative, hemlock.
2. **Take in the scent of elderflowers** found along the canal walk from Bridge Street towards the Navy.

What to do

June

1. **Plant a range of different flower shapes**, for example daisy, bell, round or flat umbels like cow parsley and tubular like foxgloves. This will allow a range of different insects to take nectar through their variously shaped mouth parts. *Anthemis tinctoria* is a pretty yellow daisy that flowers profusely and attracts a wide range of insects, especially small solitary bees where as *Inula* has small florets which are mainly used as a nectar source by butterflies such as the Speckled Wood.
2. **Garden Wildlife Week is from 31st May – 6th June** so check out activities to do and discover what you share your garden with at:
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/nature-on-your-doorstep/>
3. Sign up for The Wildlife Trusts' **30 days wild** campaign running from 1 – 30 June 2021 at: <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/30-days-wild-2021-sign-your-pack>. We'd love to know what you did – let us know and send your photos for inclusion next month.

Think global: Act local