



Gardening for wildlife

Spelthorne Council is the first Council in Surrey to have agreed a local Biodiversity Plan.

This means that it is committed to enhance the variety of plants and animals (biodiversity) in the Borough. Species for special action in the Borough include song thrushes and stag beetles.

You too, can do your bit to help preserve and encourage all kinds of wildlife in the garden. Try out the following:

- keep feeding the birds – seeds, berries and nuts are excellent, whether in a feeder or on a shrub
- if you keep a cat, make sure it has a bell to warn the birds off
- small birds like hiding in thick climbing plants like honeysuckle or clematis
- plant a buddleia – known as a butterfly bush, in a warm sunny spot
- create a water garden up to 10cm depth is good – if you are short of space, use an old basin and fill with a few rocks
- not all insects are pests, for example, lacewings, ladybirds and hover flies all like eating aphids - get to know a few of them
- provide some dead wood which is a home to insects and beetles
- don't over tidy! You never know what's sheltering under that pile of leaves
- compost – it helps your plants grow and provides food and shelter for many small creatures
- composting reduces what you send to landfill – about a third of the food that we buy ends up in the bin, so buy less and compost the rest:
 - aim for 50% green and 50% brown
 - green includes vegetable peelings and soft vegetation
 - brown includes cardboard, leaves and egg boxes
 - you can also add vacuum cleaner dust, coffee grounds, tea bags and egg shells
- don't add meat scraps unless you have a green cone or a green johanna – they attract rats
- Get a compost bin – Spelthorne residents get a discount – go to www.recyclenow.com/compost or call **0845 077 0757**

INFO:

Cynthia Bendickson,
Biodiversity Officer, on
01784 446319 or e-mail
c.bendickson@spelthorne.gov.uk



Keep your eye out for our forthcoming calendar, which will give you some wildlife gardening reminders in a handy format.

