

## Braunston Village Gardens Association Wild About Gardens



*The RHS and The Wildlife  
Trusts – encouraging wildlife  
into your garden*

Did you know that hedgehogs are as endangered as tigers and could disappear within 15 to 20 years?

This was a prickly subject for the audience at the recent BVGA talk but we were provided with ideas for how we can make improvements in Braunston. In the village we have many groups whose activities already support wildlife corridors and improve the connections of the Living Landscape; BVGA, Jetty Field Ass., Canal Society, Playing Field Ass., Farmers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Braunston Cubs, Parish Council, PCC churchyard, Allotment holders, Braunston School and Pre-school, businesses, pubs, cafes, The Marina, landowners and, of course gardeners. But could we do more?

The BVGA is affiliated to the **The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS)**. They say, “Over the past 50 years we've seen declines in two thirds of the UK's plant and animal species, for a range of reasons, including loss of habitat. Many of our once regular garden visitors –hedgehogs, house sparrows and common frogs, for example – are becoming much less common.

**But together we can make a difference!** Our gardens and green spaces have tremendous potential to support wildlife – join our campaign to turn the UK's estimated 24 million gardens into a network of mini nature reserves”. Follow the link <https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/wild-about-gardens>

Our speaker, Paul Wyer, from **The Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust** suggested that we could increase the **biodiversity in Braunston** with these ideas.

- Create more **habitats** to encourage more insects, including beetles and caterpillars, hedgehogs' favourite food.
- Help to develop a **Braunston Hedgehog Highway** by ensuring there is a hole in your fences the size of a CD case.
- Leave an area of leaves for nesting and to encourage more insects. Ladybirds love huddling together in hollow stems.
- Grow flowers to increase the **wildlife corridors** of front gardens as well as back gardens.
- Increase the number of **ponds and water** in gardens, with routes out for wildlife. Then add it to the **pond map** on the Wild About Gardening website. There is at least one showing for Braunston.
- Keep an **untidy area**. This will provide wildlife some security from predators as well as being a useful food source. Brambles are particularly good.
- The Wildlife Trust invite you to "Join our campaign for a **Wilder Future**". Follow the link <https://www.wildlifebcn.org/news/badger-ratty-mole-and-toad-strike-out-wilder-future>

As Braunston residents are all automatically members of the BVGA we would love to hear about the things you are doing to be

### **WILD ABOUT GARDENS**

**The negative impacts of Climate Change on the wildlife means that we need to act now.**

Send some photographs and we will post them on the BVGA page of the Braunston website or go straight to the Bugle and post them there.

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