



HM Prison & Probation Service

**Celebration of
Wildlife and People**

2020

Contents

6 Foreword
Jo Farrar and Andy Mills

8 Introduction
Our celebration in 2020

11 A word from our sponsors
The Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals
and Catholic Concern for Animals

12 2019 Wildlife Awards
A Review

**17 Celebration of Wildlife
and People 2020**

18 HMP Thorn Cross
Project Pond Revive

24 HMP Wealstun
Wildlife Pond

26 HMP Wealstun
Beekeeping

28 HMP Channings Wood
Conservation Focused Approach

30 HMP Hatfield
A wildlife haven for all to enjoy

32 HMP & YOI Hull
Bees Behind Bars

34 HMP Onley
Protecting the natural wildlife
John Muir Award
Orchard restoration project

38 HMP Stafford
THE CH:ANGE PROJECT
(Creating Hope: Agriculture, Nature, Gardens, Environment)

40 HMP Warren Hill
Bee keeping and ecology across the establishment

42 HMP Deerbolt
Greenest Prison Vision

46 HMP Dartmoor
Dartmoor Gone Wild

50 HMP Liverpool
GOOP & Beekeeping

**54 Wales CRC - Cardiff and Vale
of Glamorgan**
Llandough Orchard
Cathays Cemetery – Cardiff

English and Welsh Versions

62 HMP & YOI Portland
Wildlife Creation

64 Kent, Surrey and Sussex CRC Redhill
Loveworks Allotments

66 HMP Springhill
Making a raised bed using the 'Hügelkultur technique'

68 HMP Foston Hall
Bumblebee conservation areas

76 HMP Haverigg
The Park

87 HMP Doncaster
All Creatures Great + Small

89 HMP Huntercombe
Pollinating the fruit orchard

90 The Verne
Hedgehogs and Home

92 HMP Whitemoor
Bug Wing and our surrounding nature reserve

96 HMP Kirkham
Wild about Wildlife

100 Celebration of Sustainability

103 Recognising Wider Sustainability
Further awards in 2021

104 HMP Send
Breakwater tank improvements

105 HMP Brixton
Single-use plastic removal

106 HMP Deerbolt
Greenest Prison Vision

108 HMP Prescoed and HMP The Verne
Water saving measures needs inserted
on contents page

110 HMP Manchester
Waste management unit refurbishment

112 HMP Ranby
Boot disinfecting station

113 HMP Hindley
Food waste bin cleaning solution

115 Meet the Teams Involved
Who we are and how we can help

116 In partnership with ...

118 Editors Comments
Thanks and acknowledgments



Foreword

Jo Farrar

HMPPS Chief Executive



It gives me great pleasure to introduce and welcome you to the HMPPS Celebration of Wildlife and People 2020. Our HMPPS print shops and probation service users have designed, drafted, printed and distributed this book during various lockdown restrictions, and you have done a fantastic job – thank you.

This publication evolved when it became apparent that the 12th annual HMPPS Wildlife Awards could not go ahead due to Covid-19 restrictions and concerns. This update not only shares good practice in protecting our natural environment: it's also an opportunity to demonstrate that working with our contractors, local communities and expert partners is fundamental in education and rehabilitation.

During this past year, where efforts to maintain physical and mental health have become a particular

priority for both staff and residents, I am struck by the exceptional value this work provides. Every individual involved has my admiration. In addition to improving our establishments for wildlife, we are enriching lives and working together to make our sites safe, decent and environmentally sustainable. This is evident in the many personal examples and experiences described in this publication.

Looking to 2021 and beyond, the Prison Education, Employment and Industries Group will co-ordinate efforts to identify good practice, opportunities for improvement and to strengthen, scale up and develop new green initiatives, working with internal and external stakeholders. In collaboration with the MoJ Sustainability Team we will take steps toward a greener prison estate and we will look to play our part in wider Government initiatives. For example in 2021/22 we will be putting arrangements in place to grow 100,000 trees, using funds secured from Defra. We want to work together to improve wellbeing, build skills, develop environmental literacy, and create employment options for those in our care.

I'm confident that as we do this, we will contribute to a more robust and beneficial service, alongside protecting our environment, and looking after our people. I am very much looking forward to the results and I hope you enjoy reading this celebration.

Jo

Andy Mills

Chief Property Officer and Senior Sustainability Champion



Like Jo, I am incredibly proud to showcase the work of everyone involved in the HMPPS Celebration of Wildlife and People 2020.

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for maintaining one of the largest and most diverse estates in Government, and how we do this has never been more important.

Land management for species and habitats is already a legal obligation of course; but the true value of nature (be it towards fresh air, temperature regulation, flood resilience or our mental health), is only just beginning to be fully recognised in what we do. As an organisation, we want to ensure biodiversity thrives in our woodlands, wetlands, grasslands and everywhere in between - delivered effectively to maximise all of the associated benefits.

The annual Wildlife Awards have historically celebrated the stories of individuals and wildlife that we don't often hear about, alongside hearing perspectives of staff and residents involved. Past winners include HMP Hewell with their resident-made bird hide for shared-experience visits; in 2018 it was HMP Whatton with their swift conservation and wild flower meadow; and in 2017 it was HMP Kirkham with their rare breed Hebridean sheep.

This collection of case studies show that, in addition to operational priorities, each and every establishment can support further wildlife and contribute more to sustainability. We need to be ambitious in this work if we want an estate resilient for the future.

The new Environment Bill, Greening Government Commitments, and 25 Year Environment Plan will increasingly feature in our strategic plans for the estate, and I am proud that the MoJ has the potential to be a flagship department in showcasing innovation and investment. I am excited that the long-running Awards will be expanding to also recognise examples of waste, water and energy best practice – and I wholeheartedly welcome all efforts.

Thank you to the teams who have worked to create this yearbook in an unprecedented year, and it is a great gesture of positivity. I look forward to working with you in 2021!

Andy

Introduction

Our celebration in 2020

Hello from the Sustainability and Land-Based Activity teams!

To staff, partners, residents, service users, friends and sponsors.

Although we are structured in very separate areas of the business (Sustainability in MoJ Estates Directorate, and LBA in HMPPS Education, Employment & Industries group), we work together very closely. The annual Wildlife Awards has been a long-standing event in our calendars to look forward to, and last year we had a wonderful day, hosted by the winning prison HMP Hewell Grange, celebrating the individuals and projects that have worked with wildlife.

As 2020 progressed, it became apparent due to the Covid-19 pandemic, that the Wildlife Awards could not go ahead face-to-face as in previous years. Every week we were buoyed by comments of you enjoying and appreciating green spaces and the ecology within, reminding us how valuable nature is to our physical and mental health. We've really appreciated the photographs and the emails that have kept us in touch with your projects and the network of enthusiasm across the estate and the wider community. Please keep sending us your pictures and stories of sustainability initiatives through out the year, especially whilst it is hard for us to come and see you.

So the HMPPS Celebration of Wildlife and People publication was created, and we think you'll agree, it's a fantastic and positive way to

remember 2020. We are extremely grateful to our long-standing sponsors, ASWA and CCA, who have continued their support throughout.

What you see in the pages that follow are projects, case studies and experiences, expressed from the perspective of the individuals involved and the value that they've provided. It is a great testament to your work during this most difficult of years.

As the C-word dominates the news (that's climate), it's a good time to remind ourselves that the Ministry of Justice, HMPPS and all public bodies, have legal obligations to conserve and enhance wildlife on their holdings (along with wider sustainability principles around waste, energy and water). The services our natural world provide us need safeguarding for the future, and so it is our aim to go further and be ambitious – both at a site level and across the processes and principles of the organisation. We want all establishments to have an orchard and a wildlife pond. We are aiming to scale up the current ecology across the estate: by planting more native trees, preserving our soil, altering grass-management regimes to let wild flowers grow and encouraging bee-friendly gardening. We recognise the multiple benefits that this can offer – education, sustainable food production, land based employability skills, reduced costs, and personal development such as mindfulness, wellbeing and confidence - and we are very happy to support you.

With all best wishes and looking forward to next spring,

Paul Cooper
LBA Sector Lead

Anna Bright
MoJ Principal Ecologist





A word from our sponsors

The Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals
and Catholic Concern for Animals

The Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals and Catholic Concern for Animals greatly value their association with the HMPPS Wildlife Awards. We see it as a way of protecting invaluable habitat for wildlife and also for encouraging interaction between human beings and the natural world.

Each year, when we visit the winning sites, we are always both impressed and moved by the amount of work and dedication that goes into the projects.

There has never been a more critical time to protect our wildlife and the habitats on which they depend. Sometimes as individuals we can feel powerless but when a number of us come together in a common purpose we can achieve a great deal. The havens that are provided for wildlife in the grounds of Her Majesty's Prisons in this country represent important habitat. We at ASWA and CCA believe that encouraging others to care for our countryside and to take an interest in wildlife is very valuable which is why we continue to support this project. It has

been proven in many studies that spending time outside in the countryside is good for our mental health. Those who enjoy gardening, birdwatching or walking all know this.

2020 was a particularly challenging year for all of us. It is almost certain that the outbreak of Covid-19 originated from markets where wildlife were being kept in both inhumane and insanitary conditions. It is essential that we learn the painful lesson that the abuse of the natural world can have devastating consequences for humanity. The threat posed to the world by climate change is urgent and we must change how we live if we are to ensure the future of the generations who come after us. All projects that teach a new respect for the natural world are therefore of utmost importance.

Due to Covid-19, we have not been able to hold the awards in the same way but we are so grateful for the work that is continuing and we hope that we will be able to visit a winning site again soon.



Revd Sam Chandler
Honorary Secretary ASWA



Chris Fegan
Chief Executive CCA



2019 Wildlife Awards

A review

HMP Hewell

Winner - Open / Semi-Open



Roy Jones, the Horticultural Instructor at HMP Hewell, and his team of dedicated inmates both in the open prison and the closed site used some novel recycling skills to create some fantastic features, such as bug boxes, hedgehog houses, barn owl boxes, tawny owl boxes, and bat boxes; and they even turned an old root store into a bat cave! All were placed around the Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI) to encourage wildlife. Additionally, they built a mobile bird hide on the back of an old tractor trailer that can be moved around the lake to enable bird surveying. It's made from recycled fence rails, and has a living wild flower roof. The plans and construction for this were created by one prisoner. Its purpose is not just as a place to watch wildlife, but as a place for families to visit and enjoy a shared experience together.

Their community engagement work has continued, they have partnered with 2 local

schools and provided them with bug boxes, hedgehog boxes and some wildflower seeds; encouraging the children to take an interest at an early age in wildlife.



HMP Doncaster

Winner - Closed / High

In 2019, in addition to the hedgehog project, the team of 10 prisoners and 2 staff members created a natural wildlife pond within the prison walls to attract lots of invertebrates (for example pond skaters, lesser boatmen, diving beetles and live daphne), butterflies, bees and birds. The staff also introduced tadpoles, newts and frog spawn to the pond to further increase its diversity. This new area is adorned with bug hotels and bird feeders. There is a bog area, a decked seating area, and a beautiful sculpture; which doubles up as a huge insect hotel – all made by prisoners from recycled material.

The successful hedgehog project is still running in partnership with the 'Warts n All Sanctuary'; and continues to provide a permanent home for disabled hedgehogs in a near-natural habitat, also nurturing baby orphaned hedgehogs, until they are big and strong enough to be released back into the wild.



Parc Cwm Darren CRC

Winner - Community / Outreach

Parc Cwm Darran is a 1000-acre country park set in the Darran Valley. It has a variety of habitats including woodland, grassland and wetlands. Due to the size of the Parc they rely heavily on the support of Community Payback - both via supervised group projects and individual placements to support the park rangers.

The work of Community Payback includes hedgerow planting, dry stone walling, creation of habitat piles, fitting bug and bird boxes, cutting grasslands and maintenance of boardwalks to allow for children to partake in pond dipping. Cutting of meadows improves habitat and increase butterflies, particularly the rare pearl border fritillary butterfly. All work carried out considers conservation of the natural environment and the welfare of animals that use the Parc.



2019 Wildlife Awards

A review

HMP Lindholme - Eco Blitz Highly Commended - Open / Semi-Open

There is lots of good going on here... The team are working with a local hedgehog sanctuary re-homing hedgehogs within the establishment, as well as making hedgehog houses (all of which are occupied). They have adopted two Guinea Pigs (called Howie and Dave) from the local RSPCA, made and erected swift and bat boxes, making a barn owl box to be erected on a pole, and constructed a wildlife pond.

When it re-opened at the end of 2018 as a Cat C prison some substantial changes happened. Fully staffed, the Bio Pond was stripped, pump filters cleaned in and then both re-filled with water. It looks so good many staff still ask if the bio pond is new!



HMP The Verne Highly Commended - Closed / High Security

In 2013 HMP The Verne closed as a Cat C Male Prison and re-opened its doors as an Immigration Removal Centre. The Gardens suffered immensely. In 2017 the Centre again closed its doors for almost a year and staff sent on detached duty. The grounds were left and the ponds were overgrown with reeds.



Michelle Glover (Horticultural Instructor) applied for lottery funded 'Grow Wild' seeds for the bio area. These have now been sown to encourage wild butterflies and bees etc.

They installed a recycled bench to encourage staff and prisoners to sit by the pond and take time out, a Zen area that the prison has never had. New wild flower beds have been introduced and handmade insect identity boards put up to educate staff and prisoners. Everything is on a creative budget, using old wood pallets to build planters and picket fences. They even rescued an old hidden bird table.

Their aim is to simply encourage more butterflies, birds and wild flowers into the area

whilst at the same time, to make staff STOP and LOOK! Which Michelle is proud to say, is already happening.

To hear a prisoner say, "I've never done anything like this before" and then smile because he has planted some wild flowers, sown seeds or fed a duck by hand, is Michelle's biggest reward. The men are taught simple life skills, from using lawn mowers, strimmers, to simple weeding and taking care of rescue animals. They enjoy the freedom to design areas they can call their own and they even get a City & Guilds qualification to use upon their release.

The team at The Verne teach respect and gardening. The rewards are the smiles from prisoners, staff and Governors, thanking the gardens team for the transformation they have achieved.

Michelle says "I love it when prisoners question a bird song they've heard and if I know the bird? I have achieved my job!".

KSS Littlehampton CRC Highly Commended - Community / Outreach

Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company have been working in partnership with the National Trust for the last 12 years. They have completed eight miles of repair to a medieval embankment wall which is highly thought of within the community and the National Trust.

Walls are important habitats, offering food, shelter and nesting sites to a wide range of species. It is also essential to maintain the craft of walling. Dry walls are a particularly valuable habitat for insects and spiders. Larger creatures such as toads, frogs, lizards and adders use walls as winter homes as well as hunting grounds.

Their service users often find that this project although physically demanding is very rewarding. For some service users this can be the first stage in gaining self-esteem and self-worth through being able to learn a new skill.

In 2019 they embarked on a mass hedge planting project. The plants were donated by Hedgerow England and the National Trust project groups from Unpaid Work have been planting these hedgerows. At the end of this project they planted 14000 mixed hedgerow plants!



National Trust

Celebration of Wildlife and People 2020



Stock Image



HMP Thorn Cross

Cat D

Project Pond Revive



“Pond Revive” is a project that was in the pipe line since October 2019 when we decided it was a good idea to re-look at our ponds, wetland and conservation area in order to encourage wildlife. The project involved cleaning up the ponds, the adjacent wetlands and the long grass area to help repopulate it with wildlife, fauna and flora. Our conservation area is home to a large diversity of species some of which are protected like the Great Crested Newts.

Spring is a wonderful time for our establishment because we have the privilege to witness first-hand the cogs of Mother Nature in motion.

Whilst warmer temperatures and longer day light hours see the return of some migrating birds like the Canadian Goose and the Grey Heron, we're very lucky to enjoy the presence of more residential species who live in our conservation area permanently like Moorhens, Coots, Mallards and Reed Buntings.

Over the past few months we've been working on reviving our ponds by cleaning them of debris and

litter, reducing some of the invasive vegetation that had taken over and introducing more native aquatic plants. We planted Hornworts algae to oxygenate the ponds, Nymphaea's (pond lilies) and Stratiote's (water solders) to create shelter for fish, newts, molluscs and small crustaceans

In summer we'll follow up this project with a pond dipping session to identify the different species and catalogue them and compare them with what we had previously to see if we can notice a difference or an increase in population and diversity.

The project involved a group of six offenders. Originally, we planned for more prisoners but given the current Covid-19 circumstances and safe distancing we had to reduce our regime.

Both prisoners and staff were very excited about this project, it was something different, something interesting, something they've never done before. One of our offenders couldn't wait to get into their waders and get in the water to plant the aquatics.

This project gave all prisoners involved the opportunity to understand our ecosystem, to respect the natural environment, to raise awareness of what kind of wild life we have here and how-to safe guard it and protect it. This also helped our prisoners with their mental health by giving them a purpose and offering them a sense of achievement.

I want to thank my staff: Colin Lord, Jon Spencer and Michael Grace for their enthusiasm, their efforts in working on this project and collaborating with our prisoners by giving them this wonderful opportunity.

I also would like to express my thanks to Mr Sydney Williams for volunteering in getting in the pond when it was still cold. The waders kept him dry, but it was still pretty cold in that water.

Alex and the Land Based Activities team have made significant developments within the department over the last 6 months. It is excellent to see so many men not only developing skills but also experiencing wider benefits in their mental health and future employment prospects. I would like to thank Alex and the team for their hard work, dedication and positive support of our men.

**Daniel Cooper
Governor**



HMP Thorn Cross

Cat D

Growing program and preserving conservation

This year we have been working on a number of seasonal projects that involved different areas of our establishment. The purpose of these projects was aesthetics, to improve the look of the prison, to improve the conservation area and to create new habitats for our wildlife and to increase our growing programme to supply our kitchens with fresh vegetables.

This year we've been planting new saplings in the conservation area to build up the woodland. This project helped our men to learn the names of the trees, how to plant them, stake them and catalogue them. They learned the importance of planting the right trees in the right area because of the soil, the orientation, the symbiosis with other species and the eco-system they can help to create.

When spring came, we introduced a new growing programme to increase our production of fresh fruit and veg for the kitchens. The program included the setting up of a new and more environmentally friendly irrigation system utilising rain water and re-pumping it back into the green houses. This year we were able to harvest some of the biggest crops we've ever grown. We also ventured into growing more exotic fruits like figs, melons and grapes with some fantastic results.

All and all I can say that despite all the challenges this year has been a very good one so far. We hope next year will be even better

We've had around 12 men working on these projects throughout. The benefit of having our men involved in these projects was to give them some life skills experiences, offer them something they could sink their teeth into that would help build up their confidence and develop a sense of achievement whilst improving our men's mental health.

It's amazing to see some success stories as a result of having our men involved in these projects. One of our lads described the experience as brilliant opportunity for when he's released as he found it so constructive that he has decided to pursue this career and start his own business.

Alex Boscarino
LBA Manager



Pigeon nest. We noticed this whilst pruning some vegetation behind one of the units. We stopped working around that area as soon as we saw that chicks were still in there.

No birds were harmed during this operation, the birds eventually flew the nest.



Week old baby ducklings. it's wonderful to see mother and chicks walking around the establishment, it makes the place very animal friendly.



Pond Revive project helped to increase the aquatic flora which then helped to create more habitat for different pond species.



The lockdown caused some disruption in the DHL canteen supplies including getting hold of eggs. We decided it was a good idea to get chickens to be able to provide our men with fresh eggs. We now have 150 Lowmann Brown hens that provide us with fresh free range eggs that prisoners can purchase from our shop.



The chickens are free to roam around the large enclosure we have set up for them and feed on fresh grass. Our lads also were able to build some wooden perches and the birds love climbing on them.



The chickens are given a various diet which includes broccoli leaves from our crops, fresh grass, laying pellets, mixed corn and apples from the orchard. The chickens also love to scratch in the soil looking for bugs and worms.



Our broccoli and cabbage was of record size!

Tomatoes and peppers are some of the successful crops we've been growing for a number of years.



This year we've tried to grow some more exotic fruits like honeydew melons, grapes and figs.



HMP Wealstun Cat C

Wildlife Pond

At HMP Wealstun we are fortunate enough to be surrounded by green space which is well maintained by the establishment's Gardens department. The team are also responsible for maintaining the two wildlife ponds which are located in the main grounds of the establishment.

One of the Horticultural Instructors William Smith has developed a keen interest in maintaining the pond and his enthusiasm for the project has been shared by a number of men who form part of the Gardens work party.

A number of men help to maintain the pond and whilst all of the prisoners have shared their appreciation in relation to the calming effect that this area and work has, one prisoner in particular (Mr Scott Gibson) really benefitted from the distraction that this area provides from every day prison life. Scott is serving a life sentence which he openly admits has a negative effect on his mental health and consequently can present some challenging behaviour at times; however, following a period of sustained good behaviour Scott was given an opportunity to join the Gardens work party and the improvement in his overall attitude and behaviour was clearly evident. Scott really appreciated the additional 'freedom' of working outdoors and felt as though he had made real progress being able to work in a trusted job role.

William developed a good working relationship and rapport with Scott and encouraged Scott's interest in wildlife, in particular the fish pond. He also assisted William with another project designed to create natural habitats for a variety of wildlife by

transforming some disused ground at the back of our Interventions Unit into a wildflower meadow. The old turf taken from this patch of ground was also used to make a natural insect home on site. Scott felt like he had a renewed purpose and that he was doing something purposeful and has been kind enough to provide a personal account of his time working in Gardens and his involvement in maintaining the pond.

"From 2016 to 2019, I Scott Gibson enjoyed working with staff Will Smith, Dan Marsden & Paul Thompson along with the lads and many others over the years in Workshop 5. We did many jobs around HMP Wealstun from litter picking to making and growing things at Workshop 25 as that's where they grow fruit and vegetables such as tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers. They also do other things like making bird boxes and hanging baskets. At the time a course for Horticulture Level 1 & 2 was taking place which I did and passed.

My favourite place was the pond, to me it was so peaceful and calm, very therapeutic. I really enjoyed keeping it clean and tidy for everyone to see, maintaining the pond was no easy task, cleaning filters, discarding weeds, feeding the fish, I could sit and watch them for hours.

There's a lot going on at Wealstun if one cares to observe, Red Kites soaring, Kestrels hovering, Magpies stealing, Crows, Owls and that's only in the air, all in all the Garden party is a very special job!!"

Scott isn't working with Gardens team at present, however he is eager to re-join the team once the current Covid-19 restrictions allow this to happen.

The Gardens team at HMP Wealstun would like to nominate Mr Anthony Grant who has worked extremely hard since joining the team at the end of April 2020 as a Keyworker during the Covid-19 pandemic. Prior to joining Gardens Mr Grant was employed as a Peer Mentor working with the Safer Custody department and despite Mr Grants' limited prior knowledge or experience of gardening, he has developed a keen interest in all aspects of the role and his efforts have contributed to a significant improvement in the overall appearance of the Gardens complex.

Mr Grant wrote the following poem which we believe is very fitting and worthy of publishing via this celebration event.

Wildlife at Wealstun

So many woods and fields when you look around, and in them lots of wildlife waiting to be found.

There are red kites in the skies, hovering high over ground, scanning for food below them on which they can swoop down.

All the different birds that I'm sure you'd see, not to mention butterflies and the honey bee.

There are frogs in ponds and herons around this place, foxes, moles and mice and pigeons that do race.

If all of these animals' interest you, then try looking for them the next time you pass through.

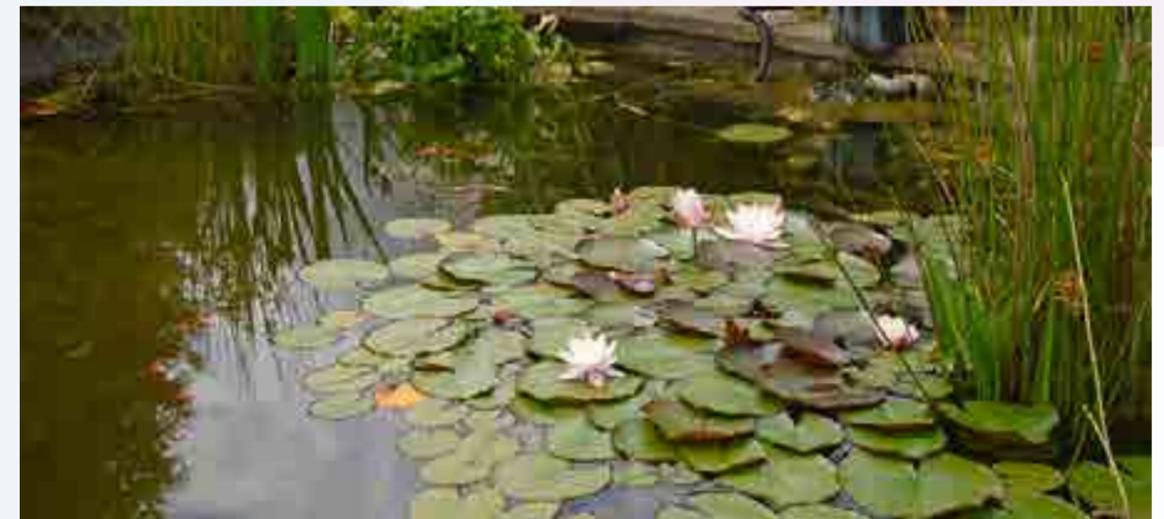
We are immensely proud in creating green space stress reducing environments as part of our Rehabilitative Culture for the men and staff to enjoy.

Developing and increasing exposure to green reduces the risk for developing mental illness by promoting positive well-being to reduce the impact of mental illness.

The green space we have created at HMP Wealstun clearly provides health benefits across our population. It can encourage exercise, provide spaces for socialising, decrease noise and air pollution.

The relaxing areas provided by the Farms and Gardens team are enjoyed by all, with the men immensely proud of the little piece of sanctuary and respites for all to enjoy.

**Diane Lewis
Governor**



HMP Wealstun Cat C

Beekeeping

In 2017 the Governor asked the Gardens team to start a beekeeping project. None of the team had ever kept bees in the past so one member of the team (Paul Thomson) volunteered to complete a basic beekeeping course and lead on the project. One hive was procured and built initially and located in an area adjacent to the Gardens complex (between the internal and external fence line).

Over the course of the next two years we expanded the number of hives and by the end of 2019 we had four hives. I'm delighted to be able to report that this year we have harvested 58 jars of honey from our bees with hopefully more to come later in the year as we now have 6 hives in various stages of development. Each year the honey is sold to members of staff and the public via the pop-up Farm Shop which operates from the Visitors Centre and this year all 58 jars sold within just a few days.

From the start of the project one member of the Gardens work party (Mr David Webster) approached staff to express his interest in the bees, David was a great help and was involved in setting up the first two hives. Also David featured in our 2019 prisoner case study booklet.



HMP Channings Wood Cat C

Conservation Focused Approach

At HMP Channings Wood we have been putting conservation as a priority to the new projects undertaken in the grounds.

New beds were dug over in the winter. One bed has been turned into a stumpery/rockery with ferns and another has involved large boulders with grasses. Both beds have been planted up with plants that will attract pollinating insects and the stumpery/rockery will provide habitat for fungi, beetles and amphibians.

Two areas that are normally planted up with bedding have been sown with wildflower mixes. One with a bee and pollinator mix and the other with tall sunflowers and annuals for birds and insects.



A new Rugosa rose hedge has been planted, this will attract birds, moths and other pollinators. Areas of grass around trees, banks and slopes have been identified to leave long, introduce wildflowers with linking wildlife corridors.

Two sites have been identified and need clearance with Security so that we can develop them into wildlife ponds, wet areas, wildflower areas, winter seed borders and wildlife habitats. This would benefit not only wildlife but prisoner and staff wellbeing.

Offenders have been involved in all the work undertaken in the garden. Because of the recent events only some offenders are still working in essential areas. Gardening staff are maintaining the grounds and making plans for future work. Areas that have been completed by staff are to be used as an example to show offenders an interest in what can be done.

When offenders are working in the grounds, they are given the opportunity to develop their practical and social skills alongside working by sustainable practices. It is hoped by them being outside working towards new projects that involve wildlife that they get a greater sense of achievement and build self-confidence.

Offenders can also be fully involved in wildlife surveys, this would give them knowledge of the species as well as monitoring the success/progress of the projects.



We are at the start of liaising with the Devon Wildlife Trust for guidance on habitat creation and woodland management. I am also in contact with the MoJ Ecology team for help with the wildlife pond areas and hopefully a site visit. Wildlife surveys will be undertaken alongside RSPB's bird and butterfly counts.

Wildlife and conservation projects are very much in its infancy here at HMP Channings Wood however the Land Based Activities Team have started some excellent work as identified above. This has been largely driven by our conservation lead Mark Swetman ably supported by the people in custody and his colleagues.

HMP Channings Wood is a geographically large site which naturally brings its own challenges.

Our residents employed in land-based activities will be provided with species identification guides to enable them to

identify butterflies, insects and birds to enable us to monitor the wildlife year on year. In addition to this we will be mounting new nesting boxes to further encourage local habitation.

The benefits in terms of physical and mental for both those we employ in land-based activities and those who enjoy the end product are countless. This conjoined with the employment and educational opportunities all help address the reducing re-offending pathways which key to enabling prisoner to lead normal lives in custody and on release.

Governor HMP Channings Wood



HMP Hatfield Cat D

A wildlife haven for all to enjoy

The area has been developed by staff from the Gardens department after a sewerage works was demolished in 2017, leaving a void at the far reaches of the establishment's estate.

Staff and the men have been busy building features, putting up nest boxes and setting out seating areas over the past 6 months and their hard work is starting to come to fruition, particularly now that the local wildlife has begun to inhabit the area. The bird song is deafening at times and as it is so far from any main road, it is an area many people like to take time out to enjoy.

The area has been developed by our 2 Horticultural Instructors, Mick and Rod. Collectively, they have worked in the prison service for over 50 years! Both have a passion for wildlife, and they have studied on the HMPPS Biodiversity course.

They are keen to pass on their knowledge to the lads. They do struggle to devote time to the project, in and around their regular duties, which are numerous but nonetheless, they always seem to 'pinch' a few hours here and there to take some men into the area.

As we are aware, the prison environment is a challenging one for the men in terms of 'life on the unit' and for the staff at their



workplace. There are moments when our staff and the men alike need some quiet time, away from the stresses and rigours of every day life and at Hatfield, there is no better place to relax, reflect and ponder life than at the wildlife haven.

Wildlife is therapeutic. More and more people are living their lives indoors. We do not get to spend enough time in our natural surroundings because often, there is nowhere nearby that is easily accessible. Those that have the least access to nature also have the worst levels of physical health and mental wellbeing.

Seeing birds, walking through green spaces filled with wild flowers, and being amongst



nature is proven to reduce stress, fatigue, anxiety and depression and sadly, in the case of the prisoners, many have suffered from these afflictions in the past.

Governor HMP Hatfield



HMP & YOI Hull Cat B

Bees Behind Bars

As always with our operations at HMP & YOI Hull, we try to be as environmentally friendly as possible across the site, to encourage wildlife and thrive here. Since last year, we now have 2 beehives on our site, and deliver practical beekeeping to members of our team via a local beekeeping group (Beverley Beekeeping Association) as well as linking up with the British Beekeeping Association (BBKA) to give the team the opportunity to study and gain an industry recognised qualification.



As part of this, we have continued for the 3rd year now to stop using herbicides as a weed control method and have planted numerous wild flower meadows and insect hotels across the site to attract wildlife here into our gardens.

In addition to “Bees Behind Bars” we carried on rehoming ex commercial hens via our friends at the Fresh Start for Hens project. We have 36 hens enjoying a happy and productive life on our site.

We continue to spread the positive messages of wildlife to a wider audience via our Twitter page - @hull gardens, where our audience continues to steadily grow. Some of our more successful tweets have reached audiences of tens of thousands, as there is a great interest in prison horticulture via our numerous projects, prisoner guest blogs and photos.

All of our site and community projects are run with members of the team in mind, linking the work towards vocational training via an Individual Learning Plan (ILP). The courses we offer are Level 1 & 2 in Practical Horticulture Skills – which have many units covering wildlife promotion. And the BBKA correspondence course.

We have 22 prisoners employed on our team at Hull gardens, but with some of our past external projects we have involved prisoners from other work areas to become involved. We have a real team effect between the gardens and the industries group here at HMP & YOI Hull.



In recent years, we have teamed up with various other organisations on wildlife promotions, such as Kew Gardens “Wild About Gardens” projects, the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Hull & East Yorkshire Swift Conservation project and a local caravan manufacturer on an area wide schools project.

I am immensely proud of the work and achievements of Dave, Steve and the men on the Gardens & Wildlife team and I'm also impressed that, despite winning national and regional competitions, they seek to continually improve the range and scope of our internal areas.

The addition of bees and hens (which new prisoners and visitors to a large Victorian prison

simply do not expect to see) has added to our brilliant custodial environment to the benefit of all who live in, work at and visit the prison. It really is a truism that a pleasant working & living environment supports a sense of wellbeing, something brought into stark focus through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Establishing and developing a wide network of community contacts, to enhance their own skills set and prisoners, continues to be a real strength and, in turn, a benefit to all at Hull.

**Tony Oliver
Governor**



During lockdown, we were blessed to be in the company of a female mallard duck who nested in our pond in HMP Onley. Every year she returns to breed which causes problems for us as when she attempts to navigate to the canal via our parade ground, the ducklings are exposed, putting them in danger. She started off with 12 and caused quite a stir whilst parading them through the grounds of the jail. The prisoners were excited to see such activity and sparked a lot of interest in regard to learning more about the wildlife around us. Officers had to rescue several of them out of a drain which was a great team effort, and escort them off the premises where they had more chance of finding shelter near the canal.

We were also delighted to discover 3 bee orchids around our grounds in places where they have never been seen before. They certainly added colour around the grounds and were a great teaching and learning point to passing by staff.

The Bee Orchid gets its name from its main pollinator - a species of bee - which is thought to have driven the evolution of the flowers. To attract the bees that will pollinate the plant, it has flowers that mimic their appearance. Drawing them in with the promise of love, the bees attempt a mating. As they land on the velvet-textured lip of the flower, the pollen is transferred and the poor bee is left frustrated. Sadly, the right species of bee doesn't occur in the UK, so Bee Orchids are self-pollinated here. Look out for their diminutive flower spikes on dry, chalk and limestone grasslands from June to July.



The Horticulture team at HMP Onley have worked incredibly hard since the workshop opened in early March 2019. They have created and carried out their own flowerbed designs, especially in the butterfly garden, in which each individual received an Explorer certificate for the John Muir Award, building on from the Discovery award they gained the previous year. The aim of the award was to make the grounds more pleasant for staff and prisoners, to add colour and shape to the grounds and to attract butterflies and other wildlife. During the rainy days, the lads have carried out in-depth research in the library regarding the surrounding wildlife and plants and what techniques can be used to attract more butterflies. They now have good knowledge of insects, butterflies and nectar plants. Some of their work is shown here. They have also learnt about John Muir himself who was a very influential wildlife conservationist and through this work, the Horticulture team has an awareness of responsibility for wild places. The men now have a great appreciation of nature, urban green spaces and wild landscapes. They have also learnt how to use gardening tools and machinery which they have never used before, as well as working on their leadership, team work and communication skills

The prisoners involved consisted of 7 lads of a mixed background, primarily of a BAME background with Christianity, Catholic and Muslim as practising faiths.



This has been a really good joint project that has considerably improved the area and the wildlife diversity whilst also providing useful skills and experience for the men involved.

**Matthew Tilt
Governor**

HMP Onley Cat C

Orchard restoration project

At HMP Onley we have an existing orchard, at one time in excess of 270 fruit trees, currently there are 130 trees on the site.

We are in partnership with the charity Conservation Foundation who are providing advice in restorative orchard maintenance and care as well as training for staff and residents.

Key staff members have been recently trained in techniques of orchard management by an external orchard expert who was brought into HMP Onley to pass on skills to inmates who express a high level of interest in learning about horticulture and food manufacturing skills. By pruning the apple trees and cutting away rootstock, he taught us how to prune effectively and what to look for if a tree is diseased. It's now a matter of waiting for the seasons to change to see if they fruit but he is confident they will do now as some are starting to bud already. Further to this, we are in the process of inviting staff from other existing establishments with orchards to Onley to be involved in learning and pass on any restorative skills/tips to their own staff and inmate work parties.

Wildlife on site: Ladybirds are evident as well as other invertebrates including crickets. Honey bees and solitary bees. Butterflies including Red Admirals are observed and anecdotal evidence of Cinnabar Moths in residence due the prevalence of Ragwort.

Going forward, Andy the expert proposes planting 20 new trees in the orchard and to include on-site training of the staff on how to plant a tree correctly to ensure they're good health and growth.

Laura Mavers Horticultural Instructor



THE
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION

HMP Stafford Cat C

THE CH:ANGE PROJECT (Creating Hope: Agriculture, Nature, Gardens, Environment)

HMP Stafford introduced the CH:ANGE project over a year ago now. We have successfully made a number of improvements for staff and prisoners. In particular, we have introduced bees and goats into the establishment.



The honey bees arrived in May 2019. We have two hives and last year produced around 50 pounds of honey. The first crop has just been taken for this year, producing 35 pounds. Four prisoners have trained in bee keeping, one of whom has taken this up since leaving custody. The honey is supplied in one of two size jars; the smaller jars are given by the Governor to visitors and the larger jars are sold to staff and others to help maintain this project. A number of

staff have taken an interest in the bees and have started to train other staff.

In addition, Stafford now has two pygmy goats (Ollie and Stan). The goats have their own dedicated area (previously the regional dog kennel!) to roam about in and prisoners have made appropriate furniture for them to play on. The goats have been a huge success. Both staff and prisoners visit them and have found this to be a very relaxing environment. In fact, this area is well used by staff who take prisoners there to sit and relax following the delivery of sad news. It is a calming area and has been very well received by everyone, including visitors who ask to visit Ollie and Stan! Now they've been joined by some rescue chickens, kindly provided by HMP Foston Hall, thankfully all seem to be getting on well together



Outdoor areas have seen the arrival of additional benches so staff and prisoners can sit and have some relaxation time. We have also utilised



items such as old filing cabinets and turned them into flower beds. Every area has had our attention and it's a huge pleasure to show to visitors.

Last year, prisoners contributed – through the Residents Council – towards improving the visiting area, which involved bringing some of the outdoors inside, with flower pots decorating this area. This transformed quite a bland area to something much more pleasing.

Prisoners are involved heavily in the CH:ANGE project. They participate in looking after the bees and goats. There is also a garden party at Stafford, with eight or more prisoners helping to improve the outdoors. Prisoners in the garden party take huge pride in their work and feel a real sense of achievement.

HMP Stafford works closely with the local community and encourages all visitors to take a walk around the establishment to see the beautiful outdoors (as well as the indoors). Last year saw a visit by family and friends of staff who all reported positively on the efforts made by everyone to make Stafford a pleasant environment. In addition to those employed by HMPPS, we have had visits from the Lord Lieutenant and Mayor of Stafford. The bee hives were supplied by the Staffordshire Beekeeping Society, who still provide support for our local beekeepers, and have included an article

on the project in their newsletter. We will also be selling the honey in the foyer of the local Council building.

The CH:ANGE project has enabled a renewed focus on the use of nature and wildlife within the establishment. As well as the fabulous gardens, we now have agriculture, with edible plants grown to supply our visits canteen, a range of livestock, very happy bees producing honey, and a whole range of habitat across the prison. This makes a huge difference to the lives of those that live and work here, and is a big part of our rehabilitative culture, creating a positive space for change and building hope of a positive future. The therapeutic and wellbeing elements of nature are well documented, and it would be a wonderful endorsement of this and of the work going on at Stafford to gain recognition as part of the celebration of wildlife and people. Stafford may not have large gardens or outside spaces and farmland, but we have made fantastic use of the space we have to create a beautiful and positive environment.

Governor HMP Stafford



HMP Warren Hill Cat C

Beekeeping and ecology across the establishment

Across our entire establishment, all departments, residents and colleagues are invested in creating wild spaces for our native wildlife.

This started as small isolated pockets driven by our Raptor project, an instructor and Horticultural Instructor along with their wildlife friendly residents. We planted a wildflower meadow of around ¼ acre and this has attracted insects and pollinators, which in turn attracted frog, toads and smooth newts. The meadow is frequented by many song birds including seed eating finches, we even have a resident kestrel that feeds on the voles that live under the meadow!



Our shared appreciation for wildlife led to the creation of “bug hotels” bird boxes, bat boxes and an owl box that houses tawny owls (or jackdaws) whichever nests first. These bug hotels are all across the establishment, housing lace wings and many species of bee. As well as these hotels, we have various small ponds that allow these animals to drink, bathe and breed. We have noted damselfly and dragonfly larvae alongside great diving beetles and more common insects.

As mentioned in the novel name of the project, the meadows and planting within our grounds are hugely beneficial to the welfare of our smallest official residents – honey bees. Our bees live in managed hives within our therapeutic community gardens, as well as at our education department and whilst they work pollinating plants and trees in Hollesley, they provide wonderful life lessons and employment to a lucky group of men.

Over 40 residents are involved in the upkeep of our wild areas, they keep all of the bee hives and provide specialist care through the training they have had here. The gardens party maintain the meadows, cutting back the meadows and replanting wildflowers annually.

Residents in the woodwork shop have a unique perspective in being able to see their hives built, inhabited with bees and then see/eat the honey that is made.

We have a multi faith centre garden that is used for mindfulness and outside faith gatherings including pagan worship and Ramadan meals (pre pandemic). This garden is full of wildlife and these aid in the wellness and mindfulness sessions, it really is a tranquil environment.

We work in partnership with Shelby's Café who sell jars of honey and honeycomb; the funds are invested back in to buying fruit trees, seeds and beekeeping equipment. We also work in partnership with PSPI and our woodwork shop who make bee hives and the huge array of animal houses mentioned earlier.

HMP Warren Hill prides itself on working closely with nature through our residents and staff. As described, there are many examples of how this is achieved. Our productivity through keeping bees and growing produce is available to our community, and the wider community where we sell honey and vegetables. The money made is reinvested in our nature/garden work. All that are involved in our projects are passionate about wildlife, preservation, and education. All of which links to wellbeing and mindfulness which further supports our community. We are very proud of our contribution to nature, and wildlife. I fully endorse and support our work with nature.

**Governor
HMP Warren Hill**



HMP Deerbolt

Cat C

Greenest Priston Vision

HMP & YOI Deerbolt has formally committed to improving its environmental impact across all areas. We call this project our 'Greenest Prison Vision.' We aim to improve biodiversity, reduce energy consumption, reduce waste and find more sustainable ways of working plus develop educational outcomes for both staff and the young men in our care.

The industries team have played a central role in launching this project, and it has now expanded to a prison wide approach. An example of some of the projects we are delivering:

- Pond refurbishment project: Instructor Tony Stephenson has taken the lead in refurbishing a pond at the back of the administration department which has not been maintained for a number of years. The new pump was purchased by the Ecology team. Tony and his team of young men have planned the entire project, including, installing a new liner, removing excessive trees and foliage, refurbishing the seating area including laying new flags. This has been a truly joint project, with everyone contributing their ideas. The entire team are proud of their efforts and have future plans to further improve the area by creating a reed bed and also a gravel filtration system, which will increase habitat areas for biodiversity.
- External Area clean up: Joint project with Amey colleagues, this problem had been created over a number of years. A number

of managers decided to take action and combine resources to clear the area. We aim to create a micro wildlife habitat by planting small trees, wildflowers and using the red metal cages as bug hotels.

- Internal micro-habitat areas; The Gardens team have identified areas within the establishment which were previously just grassed areas. They noted that oyster catchers (RSPB amber watch list), used a particular area to roost. In order to give them a helping hand, they cordoned off an area, placed some rocks, small hedges and trees to provide additional cover. The area was used as a nesting site by oyster catchers rearing three chicks this summer. We aim to identify other areas across the prison and install nesting boxes to provide additional nesting options. The nesting boxes have been manufactured by the young men, using recycled materials where possible.
- Barnard Castle floral display: HMP & YOI Deerbolt have secured the contract to provide planted up floral displays within the town centre. The young men in our care grow and prepare the plants and then staff plant up when ready. We have received significant praise from the local community and council for this work, which is passed on to the young men and helps to create relevance and demonstrate and outcome of commercial quality. The flower displays also create additional supplies for the pollinators who frequent the town centre.





HMP Deerbolt

Greenest Prison Vision - Contd



The young men in our care are involved in all of the projects listed above. They play an integral part in delivering these successful outcomes and actively contribute to ideas to improve. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, work party numbers have been restricted, however this has provided the opportunity for instructors to develop positive relationships with the individuals.

The young men are extremely proud of their achievements and regularly ask for photographs to be taken of their work, so that they can record in their employment training portfolios.

We have a number of developing relationships with wildlife focused organisations and have recently been awarded the HMPS Innovation Award to transform our visitor centre into a community wildlife engagement hub, we hope to provide further details as this project is implemented, we will be working with Durham University Ecology Department and also Durham Bat Group.

We have a close working relationship with Barnard Castle Town Council.

Our vision is to be seen internally, regionally, and nationally as a green prison. We want staff to be proud of that fact and help contribute to making it a reality. The greenest prison vision has delivered significant benefits for our prison, and we are keen to implement positive projects during this challenging

time. We are very clear, that although this vision is very aspirational, we know we have a lot of improvements to make and we are only at the start of this journey, however, we are certainly heading in the right direction, the project has my and the SLT's full support.

**Andy Hudson
Governor**



HMP Dartmoor Cat C

Dartmoor Gone Wild

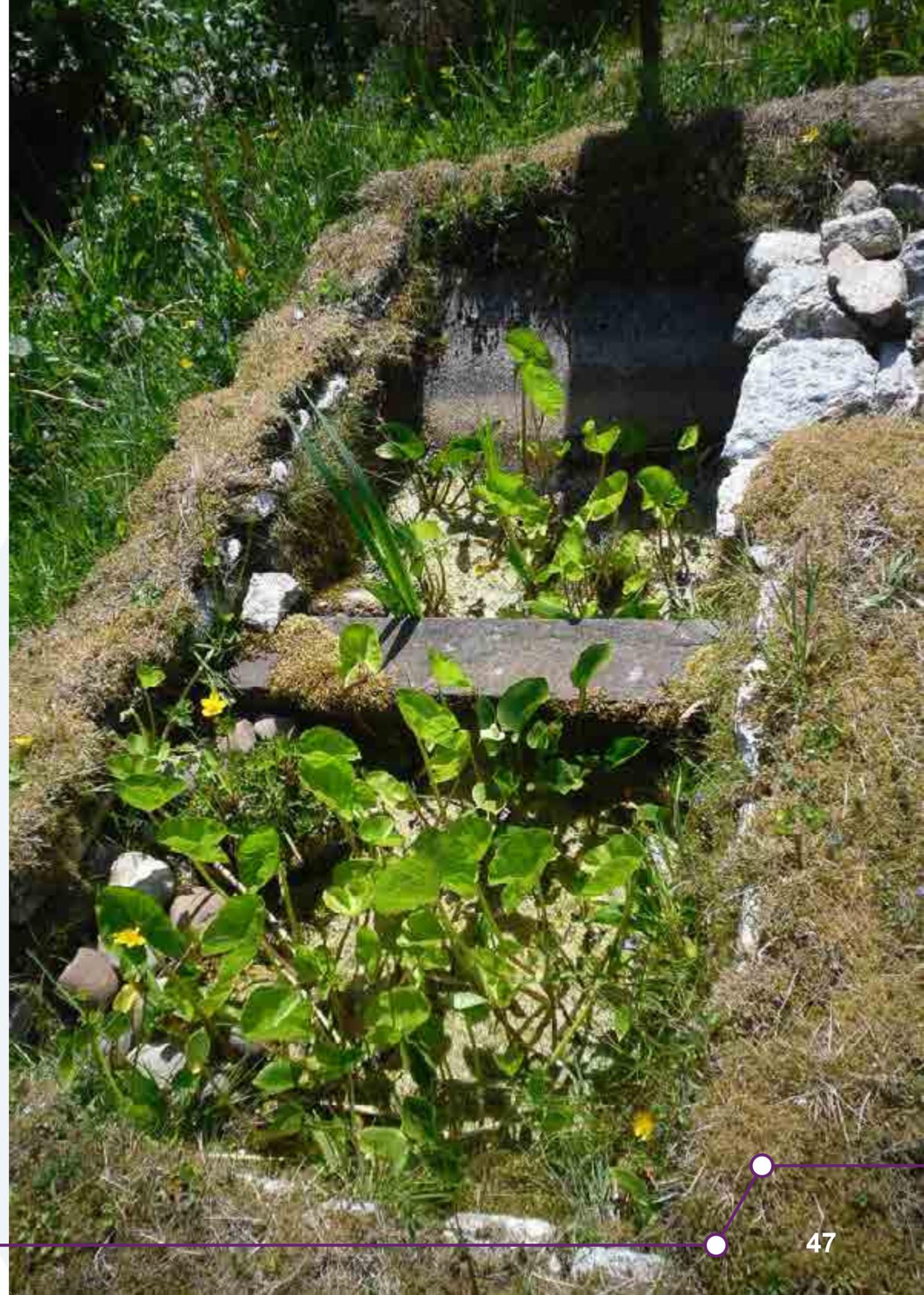
Three years ago, we started redeveloping an unused area of waste ground, sandwiched between main stores and the gym. We recycled scrap metal and cleared rubbish. We uncovered 2 old settling pools and stocked them with aquatic plants. Diversity, a workshop run for our retired and elderly prisoners, made bird boxes conforming to British Trust for Ornithology specifications and these were erected here and across the prison grounds. Old rotten logs were used to create habitat log piles. The grass has been allowed to grow and various bee friendly plants have been able to naturalise. Wild flower seed from the Big Lottery Fund was spread on thin subsoil. This has enabled the creation of a small but functional habitat solely for the endemic wildlife. The area is accessible to staff and enhanced prisoners. We have slowly encouraged wild flowers in this area and the greatest achievement being an Early Purple Orchid. Various prisoners from diversity, concrete, joinery and carpentry workshops have worked on the products created in the wildlife area, and the Groundworks team have collectively worked to get everything in place. Since 2015, we have started rewilding certain areas of the prison and have so far got the following wild flowers in these different areas:

Wildlife area: *Daisy, Sorrel, Meadow grass, Silverweed, Willowherb, Dandelion, Common couch Goats beard, Buttercup, Chamomile, Selfheal, Snow in summer, Marsh marigold, Hairy bittercress.* **Old Chapel:** *Common*

corncockle, Corn marigold, Common poppy, Cornflower, Vipers bugloss, Garden loosestrife, Red campion, Meadow buttercup, Common knapweed, Hedge bedstraw, Ribwort plantain, Common yarrow.
Main pond: *Buttercup, Daisy, Intermediate periwinkle, Common hawkweed, Germander speedwell, Common dandelion, Aster, Broadleaf plantain.*

Nearly 5 years on we have a guardian of the site, the oldest prisoner on my party who is a lifer and a Buddhist. He is grateful for the trust, solitude and healing powers of the natural environment. He potters at his own pace sorting out the rotten log piles, tidying up and observing the wildlife. This is his account of the wildlife area:

"I have always been a worker and prefer heavy work to keep fit. I've had my ups and downs and since my recall I was very sad and deeply depressed. When I got to HMP Dartmoor I thought I was doomed, I was angry a lot, not with others but with myself, I didn't make any friends until I got a job with the Groundworks team. I love working on the team, I sat my exam for Horticulture that I passed and got my 1st Certificate in horticulture. I am now working in the wildlife area, I love it, I am happy and contented, I work with a good bunch of lads, but I am mostly in the wildlife area, beats all the medication! I would love to see more wildlife in the wildlife area, such as slow worms, lizards, grass snakes, frogs,





HMP Dartmoor

Dartmoor Gone Wild - contd

newts and bird life if possible. I've learnt for the first time to trust people and I've made a few friends. I wouldn't change my job or boss for all the tea in china. When I do get out again, I've learnt how to grow plants, flowers and trees and as a result, how to look after myself. Most of this change in learning has been built on trust in people and my boss. I couldn't have come this far without, the trust in others and my job. So, I am now happy, relaxed and contented. The only thing left is to get my release". (By FP)

various workshops and many prisoners including our veterans and retired/older men who assisted for example by building bird boxes and the hives. The honey yield has doubled over the last 2 years in great part, due to the introduction of the wildflowers and ponds; its taste reflects these and the moors, and our honey quickly sells out when available in our museum shop. It is a great eco project offering scope for learning to our prisoners whilst bringing our community closer together in its aim to re-wild HMP Dartmoor.

The Dartmoor Gone Wild project has added to our environment through its success in 're-wilding' our unused open spaces. It has brought purpose to these previously forgotten areas enabling insect and wildlife to flourish, in doing so, it has boosted Dartmoor's efforts to support the survival of our hives containing Cornish Black Bees. In collaboration with Help the Heroes, HMS Drake and Buckfast Abbey who supplied our bees and provided advice/training, we simultaneously began our apiary adventure with our Dartmoor Gone Wild project to provide the flora necessary for honey bees. It has seen our hives grow from one to four and our open spaces, conveniently situated around the hives and the honey bee flight paths, blossom with a variety of nectar-giving plants. Of course, re-wilding Dartmoor rapidly expanded to include other insects, birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. It has been a delight to see natural collaboration and interest between the Groundwork Team,

Governor HMP Dartmoor



HMP Liverpool Cat B/C

GOOP & Beekeeping

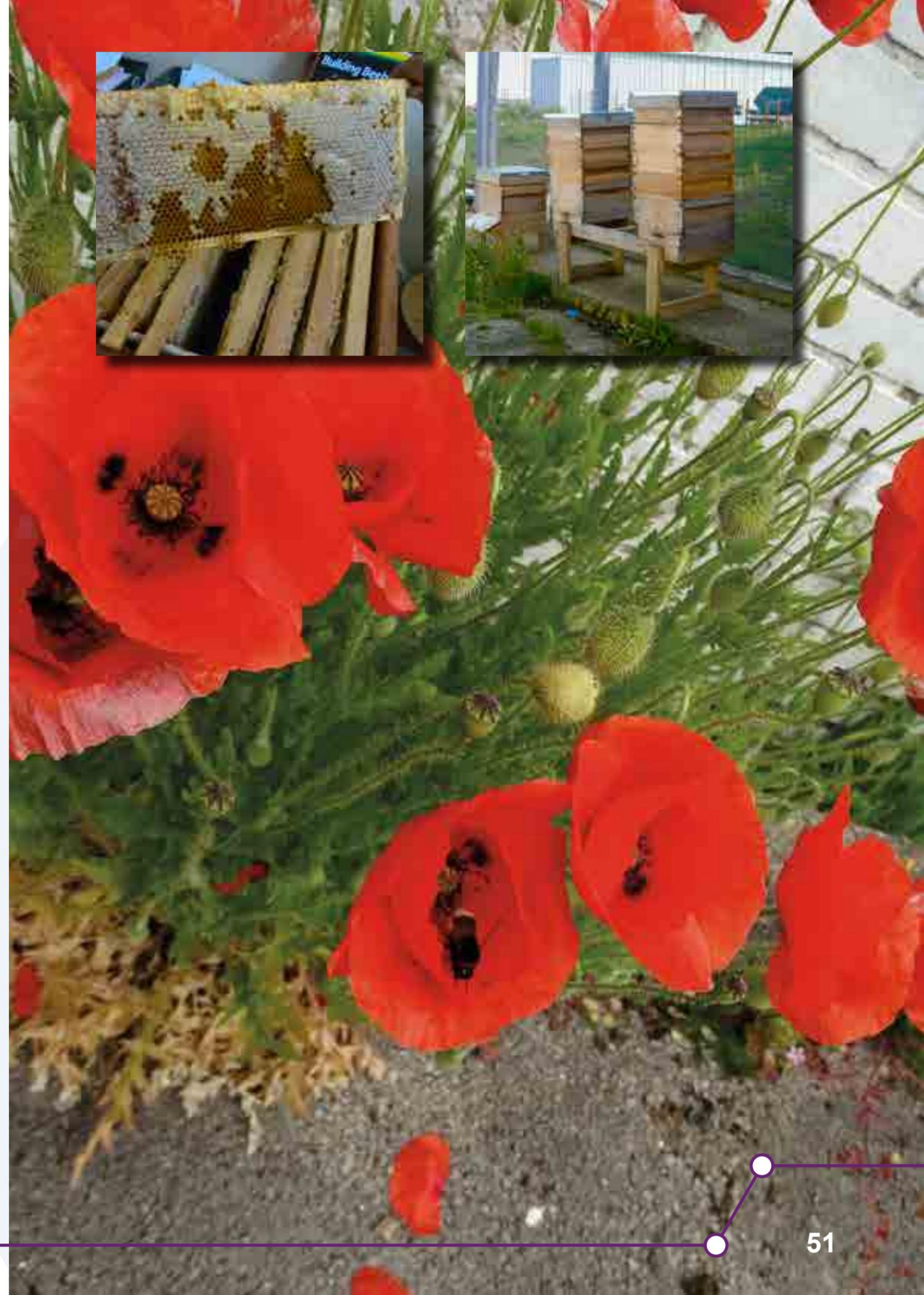
There are currently 3.5 Horticultural Instructors who are responsible for the running of GOOP at HMP Liverpool. GOOP (Greener on the Outside of Prisons) is an initiative within the north west to get more prisoners engaged with horticulture and wildlife as a way of engaging with a process, learning in a relaxed and supportive way and gaining new skills that could not only improve mental health but also lead to employment opportunities on release.

Anyone can refer men to access GOOP. Referred men are seen by the activity officers and then risk assessed. Once cleared they attend the relevant session. Men are encouraged to attend work or education as well when they are deemed fit to do so, the idea being that GOOP acts as a support to engage the most complex men into a normal regime with adaptive support measures. Two of the staff are training to be beekeepers and there are now 4 active bee hives located at Liverpool. These are currently busy producing honey and hopefully we will be able to extract honey later in the year for the second time.

Staff from around the establishment have also benefitted from GOOP. Staff regularly attend the greenhouse as 'time out' and help with activities. Men openly admit that GOOP sessions improve their mental health as well as giving them time with staff to engage in general conversation about things other than prison issues.

We have a timetable to allow all men in need

to access the greenhouse during the week. All men will be considered and, if risk assessed with potential security concerns, a plan to try to work towards reducing risk is started with all involved. The sessions allow men to attend the greenhouse and learn a little about horticulture in a relaxed and supportive environment. No formal learning takes place and men can choose to do little or more if they choose. The sessions are ideal for breaking down barriers between staff and prisoners who have a long history of poor behaviour.





HMP Liverpool

GOOP & Beekeeping - contd

Below are some quotes from men that attend the sessions.

"I like coming to the greenhouse because it helps my depression."

"I like coming to GOOP because I like the process of watching things grow, plantation, watering and growing of plants."

"I like coming to the greenhouse because it is therapeutic and love gardening."

The project is run as part of the original GOOP initiative. Networking events between north west prisons take place to discuss best practice and share ideas and resources where possible. We engage with our internal partners such as Healthcare to identify men who would benefit from engaging with this project.

The unavoidable consequence of prison is that it makes access to the normal, day-to-day activities, which many of us take for granted much more difficult. If the present pandemic has brought anything into sharp focus it is the value of having access to open spaces. It might be a lesson many of us have re-learned over the last weeks. But not the GOOP team. They already knew this.

What they quietly do in the background is allow men to have some space to just be. To get their hands dirty in the soil. To nurture

and grow - and I mean this both literally and metaphorically.

If the Prison Service is about change, and I genuinely believe that it is, then the work of the Liverpool GOOP team embodies us at our best and it is richly deserving of recognition outside of the walls of HMP Liverpool.

Mark Livingston
Governor



Wales CRC

Community Payback

Llandough Orchard

Our Orchard is set in 7 acres of semi-rural pasture land on the grounds of a community hospital. It is an ecological community health park where wildlife, plants and people benefit through positive human and environment interactions.

Funded via the Cardiff and Vale Health Charity, with volunteers from local communities, and support from Natural Resources Wales and Community Payback teams, this project is an ongoing partnership which is in its 3rd year.

In keeping with bio-diversity, when completed it will have beehive area, bug hotel, heritage area and fruit trees. The Orchard areas will allow patients to be taken out of the clinical environment and enjoy fresh air and natural light which can assist with recovery.

The project is being developed in phases and includes a semi-natural planted area which has

been set aside for the protection of plants and wildlife, wildflower meadows and a bee sanctuary. As part of the enjoyment for patients, their visitors and the community it will also have a wetland meadow, heritage meadow and a sculpture trail.

Our Orchard will also benefit children in the local area as it could potentially be used for them to visit as part of their 'forest school' learning within the curriculum.

This year, in 2020 our work has involved laying natural wood chip paths in the woodland area which have been made from trees felled at site, creating natural path edging with twigs fallen from the woodland trees and strimming paths amongst the meadow grass to allow for access to the memorial trees that have been planted at site.

We can have up to 7 service users at site on any one day.

Service users learn skills such as gardening, clearance of vegetation, strimming, natural path creation, tree and plant identification and care, as well as the importance of working in all weathers to get the job done.

We also deliver learning opportunities such as workbooks accredited by Agored Cymru – we have worked in partnership with Adult Learning Wales to create 2 workbooks that can be used here – 'Wildlife in the Community' and 'Gardening'. These can be delivered to service users at site and supported by supervisor observations.

The NHS and Natural Resources Wales are two of our local community partnerships we closely work with.

A recent comment from beneficiaries about work carried out on site:

'Did a brilliant job, and it's really made a difference to be able to access the dedication trees. It has enabled me to contact one of the individuals with an update on his tree, as he really wanted to visit/pay their respects, but it was a bit of a challenge getting across site.'

Another important project for us which we are keen to showcase. The positive effect of the Orchard is clear in its support for maintaining wildlife in the area and also the impact on patients recovering in hospital. It was no surprise that Amy Rees, Director General of Probation and Wales requested a viewing of the project last year and commented positively on the work being done there. I too, am very proud of the work undertaken and positive impact on Service Users carrying out their unpaid work.

David Bebb
Assistant Chief Probation
Officer and Head of Community
Punishment Wales



CRC Cymru

Perllan Llandochau

Gwneud lawn yn y Gymuned

Mae ein Perllan wedi'i lleoli mewn 7 acer o dir pori lled wledig ar dir ysbyty cymunedol. Mae'n barc iechyd cymunedol ecolegol lle mae bywyd gwyllt, planhigion a phobl yn elwa trwy ryngweithio cadarnhaol rhwng pobl a'r amgylchedd.

Wedi'i ariannu trwy Elusen Iechyd Caerdydd a'r Fro, gyda gwirfoddolwyr o gymunedau lleol, a chefnogaeth gan Adnoddau Naturiol Cymru a thimau Gwneud lawn yn y Gymuned, mae'r prosiect hwn yn bartneriaeth barhaus sydd yn ei thrydedd blwyddyn.

Yn unol â bio-amrywiaeth, pan fydd wedi'i gwblhau, bydd yn y berllan gychod gwenyn, tŷ pryfed, ardal dreftadaeth a choed ffrwythau. Bydd ardaloedd y Berllan yn caniatáu i gleifion gael eu tynnu allan o'r amgylchedd clinigol a mwynhau awyr iach a golau naturiol a all gynorthwyo gydag adferiad.

Mae'r prosiect yn cael ei ddatblygu fesul cam ac mae'n cynnwys ardal blannu led-naturiol sydd wedi'i neilltuo ar gyfer amddiffyn planhigion a bywyd gwyllt, dolydd blodau gwyllt a noddfa i wenyn. Er mwynhad i gleifion, ymwelwyr a'r gymuned, bydd yma weirglodd o dir gwlyb, gweirglodd dreftadaeth a llwybr cerfluniau hefyd.

Bydd Ein Perllan hefyd o fudd i blant yn yr ardal leol gan y gellid ei ddefnyddio fel rhan o'u dysgu 'ysgol yn y goedwig' o fewn y cwricwlwm. Eleni, yn 2020 mae ein gwaith wedi cynnwys gosod llwybrau o sglodion coed naturiol yn ardal y coetir sydd wedi'u cynhyrchu o goed a gwypwyd ar y safle, creu ymylon llwybr naturiol gyda brigau wedi syrthio o'r coed a strimio llwybrau drwy laswellt y ddôl i ganiatáu mynediad at coed coffa sydd wedi'u plannu ar y safle.

Gallwn gael hyd at 7 defnyddiwr gwasanaeth ar y safle ar unrhyw ddiwrnod.



Mae defnyddwyr gwasanaeth yn dysgu sgiliau fel garddio, clirio llystyfiant, strimio, creu llwybrau naturiol, adnabod a gofalu am goed a phlanhigion, yn ogystal â phwysigrwydd gweithio ym mhob tywydd i gyflawni'r swydd. Rydym hefyd yn cyflwyno cyfleoedd dysgu fel llyfrau gwaith sydd wedi'u hachredu gan Agored Cymru - rydym wedi gweithio mewn partneriaeth ag Dysgu Oedolion Cymru i greu 2 lyfr gwaith y gellir eu defnyddio yma - 'Bywyd Gwyllt yn y Gymuned' a 'Garddio'. Gellir cyflwyno'r rhain i ddefnyddwyr gwasanaeth ar y safle a'u cefnogi gan sylwadau goruchwylwyr.

Sylw diweddar am waith a wnaed ar y safle:

'Gwaith gwych, ac mae wedi gwneud gwahaniaeth go iawn i allu mynd at y coed coffa. Mae wedi fy ngalluogi i gysylltu ag un o'r unigolion gyda diweddiariad ar ei goeden, gan ei fod wir eisiau ymweld, ond roedd yn dipyn o her mynd drwy'r safle.'

Mae'r GIG ac Adnoddau Naturiol Cymru yn ddwy o'n partneriaethau cymunedol lleol yr ydym ni gweithio'n agos gyda hwy.

Sylwadau'r Llywodraethwr, y Rheolwr neu swyddog cyfatebol

Prosiect pwysig arall i ni yr ydym yn awyddus i'w dynnu sylw ato. Mae effaith gadarnhaol y Berllan yn amlwg yn ei chefnogaeth i gynnal bywyd gwyllt yn yr ardal a hefyd yr effaith ar gleifion sy'n gwella yn yr ysbyty. Nid oedd yn syndod bod Amy Rees, Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol y Gwasanaeth Prawf yng Nghymru wedi gofyn am weld y prosiect y llynedd a gwneud sylwadau cadarnhaol ar y gwaith sy'n cael ei wneud yno. Rwyf hefyd yn falch iawn o'r gwaith a wnaed a'r effaith gadarnhaol ar Ddefnyddwyr Gwasanaeth sy'n cyflawni eu gwaith di-dâl.

David Bebb
Prif Swyddog Prawf Cynorthwyol
a Phennaeth Cosbau Cymunedol
Cymru



Wales CRC

Community Payback

Cathays Cemetery - Cardiff

Cathays Cemetery opened in 1859, where there have been approx. 224,000 burials since this time. The cemetery is a haven for wildlife as well as being valued for its historical legacy. At 110 acres it is the third largest cemetery in the UK. The council have designated the cemetery a 'Site of Importance for Nature Conservation.'

Wales Probation Service have a long-term partnership with Cardiff Council's Bereavement Services' team and 2 full time staff members work at the cemetery with some additional support from a further 2 team member as and when required. We also commenced individual placements across the Cemetery sites in 2019 which has enabled service users to work alongside the council team, learn new skills such



as horticulture and grave preparation, and work through their hours on an intensive basis of up to 5 days per week.

Work at site carried out by Community Payback and service users focuses heavily on the conservation area, but also includes clearing graves for family to visit where they have become overgrown.

Cathays has a tree-trail that includes deciduous and evergreen trees to include a very tall 'Monkey Puzzle' and a 'Magnolia Grandiflora' which is one of the largest I have come across with giant blossoms. The trees and shrubs provide food and shelter for a wide range of birds, mammals and insects. In addition, the mature trees absorb both air and noise pollution.

Community Payback support the conservation area's cyclical grass cutting so we leave areas to grow and this encourages and protects wildlife such as songbirds, butterflies, insects and slowworms. Wildflowers grow in abundance and are not only a beautiful sight to behold, but also a much-needed food source for the resident wildlife.

Our work in partnership with the Bereavement Service and alongside the 'Friends of Cathays' group has enabled the site to maintain its 'Green Flag' status which it has had since 2009.

Using our own workshop in Cardiff we have taken wood felled from site and used this to make bird baths, wooden reindeer and snowmen statues



that have benefited both the Cemetery by being brought back to site or donated to local charities. In our workshop we make bat boxes and various sized bird houses to encourage nesting and keep birds and bats safe, warm and dry when making this site their home.

In partnership with the council team our continued and future focus is on ensuring that this site continues to improve with more wildflower areas, regular conservation work, and also increasing and improving the bug and insect hotels and hideouts across the site.

We can have up to 14 service users at site on any one day.

As it is a cemetery it can encourage service users to consider questions about faith and the cycle of life.

Service users learn skills such as gardening, clearance of vegetation, strimming and hedge trimming, horticulture and the importance of working in all weathers to get the job done.

We also deliver learning opportunities such as workbooks accredited by Agored Cymru – traditionally we have used the 'Maintenance of Strimmer's and Mowers' Workbook due to the high amount of this work carried out at Cathays, however, we have recently expanded the offer to include a 'Wildlife in the Community' workbook which was developed 'in-house' to reflect the amount of work our service users do that is of benefit to wildlife.

A service user recently finishing his Unpaid Work at the Cemetery during our COVID Recovery Plan commented :-

"I think it is amazing the work they do. It was good for my mind as it kept me occupied and motivated me to now want to get a job as I realise keeping occupied it important for my mental health. I also think that the service that this provides to the local community is excellent"

Two services users have had placements at the Cemetery and the work they carried out and their hard-working attitudes has led to them obtaining employment with Cardiff Council.

It is heartening to know that our relationship here is so positive and that we can have such an impact on wildlife in the area as well as assisting people who are tending to the graves of lost ones. The Service Users are taught essential skills, not only in groundworks, but the importance of maintaining a healthy eco-system. This is such an important project for the team, and long may these relationships continue.

David Bebb
Assistant Chief Probation Officer and Head of Community Punishment Wales



Mynwent Cathays – Caerdydd

Agorodd Mynwent Cathays ym 1859, a bu oddeutu 224,000 claddedigaeth ers hynny. Mae'r fynwent yn hafan i fywyd gwyllt ac yn cael ei gwerthfawrogi am ei hetifeddiaeth hanesyddol. A hithau'n 110 acer, hi yw'r drydedd fynwent fwyaf yn y DU. Mae'r cyngor wedi dynodi'r fynwent yn 'Safle o Bwysigrwydd ar gyfer Cadwraeth Natur.'

Mae gan Wasanaeth Prawf Cymru bartneriaeth hirdymor gyda thîm Gwasanaethau Profedigaeth Cyngor Caerdydd ac mae 2 aelod o staff amser llawn yn gweithio yn y fynwent gyda rhywfaint o gefnogaeth ychwanegol gan 2 aelod arall o'r tîm yn ôl yr angen. Fe wnaethom hefyd gychwyn gwaith unigol ar leoliad yn y Fynwent yn 2019 sydd wedi galluogi defnyddwyr gwasanaeth i weithio ochr yn ochr â thîm y cyngor, dysgu sgiliau newydd fel garddwriaeth a pharatoi beddau, a gweithio trwy eu horiau ar sail ddwys o hyd at 5 diwrnod yr wythnos.



Mae gwaith ar y safle a wneir gan Gwneud lawn yn y Gymuned a defnyddwyr gwasanaeth yn canolbwyntio'n bennaf ar yr ardal gadwraeth, ond mae hefyd yn cynnwys clirio beddau i'r teulu ymweld â nhw lle maent chwyn wedi cael rhwydd hnt i dyfu.

Mae gan Cathays lwybr coed sy'n cynnwys coed collddail a bythwyrdd, yn cynnwys coeden Monkey Puzzle dal iawn a Magnolia Grandiflora sy'n un o'r rhai mwyaf i mi ddod ar ei draws gyda blodau enfawr. Mae'r coed a'r llwyni yn darparu bwyd a lloches i ystod eang o adar, mamaliaid a phryfed. Yn ogystal, mae'r coed aeddfed yn amsugno llygredd aer a sŵn.

Mae Gwneud lawn yn y Gymuned yn cefnogi'r drefn gylchdro o dorri glaswellt yn yr ardal gadwraeth felly rydyn ni'n gadael ardaloedd i dyfu ac mae hyn yn annog ac yn amddiffyn bywyd gwyllt fel adar, gloynnod byw, pryfed a phryfed genwair. Mae blodau gwyllt yn doreithiog yma ac maent yn hardd i'w gweld ac hefyd yn ffynhonnell fwyd angenrheidiol ar gyfer y bywyd gwyllt.

Mae ein gwaith mewn partneriaeth gyda'r Gwasanaeth Profedigaeth ac ochr yn ochr â'r grŵp 'Cyfeillion Cathays' wedi galluogi'r safle i gynnal ei statws 'Baner Werdd' y mae wedi'i gael ers 2009.

Gan ddefnyddio ein gweithdy ein hunain yng Nghaerdydd rydym wedi mynd â choed a gwmpwyd o'r safle ac wedi defnyddio'r coed i wneud baddonau adar, cerfluniau ceirw pren



a dynion eira sydd wedi eu cludo yn ôl i'r safle neu eu rhoi i elusennau lleol. Yn ein gweithdy rydym yn gwneud blychau ystumod a thai adar o faint amrywiol i annog nythu a chadw adar ac ystumod yn ddiogel, yn gynnes ac yn sych a'u hannog i wneud y safle hwn yn gartref iddynt. Mewn partneriaeth â thîm y cyngor rydym yn canolbwyntio'n barhaus ar sicrhau bod y sale hwn yn parhau i wella gyda mwy o ardaloedd blodau gwyllt, gwaith cadwraeth rheolaidd, a chynyddu a gwella'r tai a'r cuddfannau pryfed ar hyd a lled y safle.

Gallwn gael hyd at 14 o ddefnyddwyr gwasanaeth ar y safle ar unrhyw ddiwrnod.

Gan ei bod yn fynwent gall annog defnyddwyr gwasanaeth i ystyried cwestiynau am ffydd a chylch bywyd.

Mae defnyddwyr gwasanaeth yn dysgu sgiliau fel garddio, clirio llystyfiant, strimio a thocio gwrychoedd, garddwriaeth a phwysigrwydd gweithio ym mhob tywydd i gyflawni'r swydd.

Rydym hefyd yn darparu cyfleoedd dysgu fel llyfrau gwaith sydd wedi'u hachredu gan Agored Cymru - yn draddodiadol rydym wedi defnyddio llyfr ar gynnal a chadw peiriannau torri gwellt oherwydd swm y gwaith a wneir yn Cathays, fodd bynnag, rydym wedi ehangu'r cynnig yn ddiweddar i gynnwys llyfr gwaith ar fywyd gwyllt yn y gymuned a ddatblygwyd yn fewnol i adlewyrchu faint o'r gwaith y mae ein defnyddwyr gwasanaeth yn ei wneud sydd o fudd i fywyd gwyllt.

Meddai defnyddiwr gwasanaeth a orffennodd ei Waith Di-dâl yn y Fynwent yn ystod ein Cynllun Adferiad COVID yn ddiweddar: -

"Rwy'n credu bod y gwaith maen nhw'n ei wneud yn anhygoel. Roedd yn llesol i fy ysbryd gan ei fod yn fy nghadw'n brysur ac mae wedi fy ysgogi i nawr i gael swydd gan fy mod yn sylweddoli bod cadw'n brysur yn bwysig i fy iechyd meddwl. Credaf hefyd fod y gwasanaeth y mae hyn yn ei ddarparu i'r gymuned leol yn rhagorol "

Mae dau ddefnyddiwr gwasanaeth wedi cael lle yn y fynwent ac mae'r gwaith a wnaethant a'u hagwedd weithgar wedi arwain at gael gwaith gyda Chyngor Caerdydd.

Sylwadau'r Llywodraethwr, y Rheolwr neu swyddog cyfatebol

Mae'n galonogol gwybod bod ein perthynas yma mor gadarnhaol ac y gallwn gael cymaint o effaith ar fywyd gwyllt yn yr ardal ynghyd â chynorthwyo pobl sy'n gofalu am at feddau'r ymadawedig. Addysgir sgiliau hanfodol i'r Defnyddwyr Gwasanaeth, nid yn unig mewn gwaith caib a rhaw, ond pwysigrwydd cynnal eco-system iach hefyd. Mae hwn yn brosiect mor bwysig i'r tîm, a hir y parhau y berthynas hon.

**David Bebb
Prif Swyddog Prawf Cynorthwyol
a Phennaeth Cosbau Cymunedol
Cymru**



HMP & YOI Portland Cat C

Wildlife Creation

HMP & YOI Portland is located on the Isle of Portland such endeavours to manage its estate sympathetically towards the surrounding Site of Special Scientific Interest (Isle of Portland SSSI), the local community and the important wildlife, specifically migrating birds and local endemic populations of lichens, fungi, reptiles and amphibians.

The Portland estate covers a vast area both inside the prison walls but also in the form of the Governors Gardens located at the front of the prison and the Stadium - a former quarry that is now used as a sports pitch surrounded with trees and wildlife, specifically owls and bats in the quarry walls.

Over the last year despite the COVID pandemic we have pushed to support our wildlife in a number of ways, including the creation of ponds, the introduction of a variety bird boxes and feeders, reptile friendly areas, bug houses, log piles and wild flower areas.

The successful results of these projects are evident by the increase in wildlife found in and around the establishment.

Due to the constraints of being a closed establishment, offenders are only permitted to work within the prison grounds. The gardens party consists of 10 offenders from a variety of backgrounds. The group work together and support each other in everything they do. Often

this consists of planning and implementing improvements to the grounds to create a more aesthetically pleasing environment. One objective with regard to recruitment of prisoners to the project is to provide learning opportunities to those with more complex needs who were excluded from other learning programmes due to their risk levels or behavioural issues.

The Governors Gardens outside the establishment are maintained by the prisons garden staff, community payback offenders and Expia, a charity that runs both the prison farm shop and the Jailhouse Café. These projects include growing and selling a vast array of fruit and vegetables grown on site as well as the sale of crafts such as wooden wildlife boxes and furniture made by offenders.

I am immensely proud of the work that has been carried out both inside the prison and the surrounding areas. This work has been recognised by numerous organisations, most recently The Butler Trust. The partnership working between prison, probation and the charity Expia has seen outside areas transformed, creating natural habitats for wildlife and also a pleasant environment for both prisoners and staff.

**Industries Manager
HMP Portland**



Kent, Surrey and Sussex CRC Redhill

Loveworks Allotments

Community Payback

These public allotments - working with Loveworks charity, grow vegetables and fruit for Merstham Hub. This is a local centre, which cook the produce and turn it into healthy meals for the homeless and low-income families. This enables them to eat properly at a reduced rate or at no cost at all. The allotments are run by the local council and benefit the community which allows community payback to work alongside Loveworks.

There are up to 10 service users at any time, and they come from a wide range of cultures, faiths and religions.

We work with anyone sentenced at court and therefore our population is diverse with various protected characteristics. We work with service users presenting a range of abilities including no previous work skills and no knowledge of gardening; as well as those with experience. This generates a wide spectrum of understanding about gardening, wildlife and economics.



At the start of the project we discussed present issues that are arising all over the world involving climate change, poverty and the sustainable production of affordable produce. We put together a plan of what everybody wanted to achieve out of the project in respect of providing food for the Loveworks charity and to also enhance and boost the biodiversity of the plot that we have taken on, so that we take care of the nature around us. The service users will be educated in growing and maintaining the vegetable and fruit allotments with conservation underpinning the whole project so that they learn about the local flora and fauna and so they can go forth and carry it on for their own futures and hopefully pass their new knowledge onto others. The service users will also learn how to prepare and cook the food they produce and learn about the importance of a healthy fresh diet and the nutritional benefits of the fruit and vegetables.

To boost the biodiversity of the area we plan on installing bird and bug houses. Not using

pesticides but using different methods to stop the birds and insects from attacking the produce such as netting, pots on sticks and a scarecrow and growing wild flowers amongst other ideas.



We have a couple of guys that have never, in over 20 years of life had anything to do with the production of fruit and vegetables and are participating in a very enthusiastic manner. They have shown excitement in sowing seeds, planting small winter vegetables such as cauliflower, sprouts and cabbage and planting bulbs for spring flowers. They have teamed up with a couple of other service users who have a wealth of knowledge in gardening as they worked with a gardening company for years and are educating them.

Working in partnership with Loveworks to deliver the project, in turn they work with Merstham Hub to use the produce we will grow

This project has been significant in many ways. Not only does it offer the means to deliver food for the community in a sustainable way.

It was also significant in allowing service users to undertake meaningful work during the Covid-19 period. As well as producing produce that can be used, our plans also include supporting biodiversity which will be an additional benefit to the environment and the local community. The service users are showing great concern about the produce they are involved in growing; it is a wonderful project indeed, one we are very proud of.

**Bernii Langridge
Operational Manager (Community
Payback Surrey)**



HMP Springhill

Cat D

Making a raised bed using the 'Hügelkultur technique'

This is the creation of a large raised bed using old recycled materials and creating a planting area using the Hügelkultur method.

Firstly, re-use old corrugated metal sheets that form the borders of the raised bed, and slot into a four cornered wooden post. These wooden posts are again recycled pieces, cut offs from larger pieces of wood used for other projects. This creates a large and deep bed which is ideal for using the Hügelkultur technique to fill at little to no cost.



The Hügelkultur technique is a method to build up a bed by layering different organic materials. First using pieces of rotten old wood, old tree stumps and larger branches to layer the across the bottom. We have also used old broken paving slabs to mix with the wood. You do this to create an area that can hold large amounts of water and develop an ecosphere that allows for healthy soil, microbes, fungi, insects and worms

to thrive. Then you begin to layer soil on top of this and then an organic fertiliser. In our case using chicken & duck droppings. The layering continues with more soil and a rich compost to top it off. The rotten wood decays over time which helps to prevent the soil from compacting which can have a positive impact on the bed for years. The decay also provides nutrients to plants and insects.

This low-tech method creates an active soil that feeds plants, fights off bad destructive insects and prevents disease.

We have also incorporated a rain water feeding system for this trial which is fed from water collected from the adjacent polytunnels. As we increase the amount of these beds, we will expand the water collections to keep it as environmentally friendly as possible.

We had residents from the farms & gardens department work with others from the waste management team to plan and construct the bed itself.

Throughout the process they have learnt why it's important to recycle material and the creation of a small ecosystem that provides life to insects and life to crops. This also includes an explanation as to why insects are so important; stronger plant growth, food for other animals, controlling of other insects and that insects recycle plant material. This bed can then be

used going forward by colleagues to teach the basics of growing healthy plants.



Sam Corbyn-Manning is a new member of the team that has brought this project to life with his own enthusiasm to learn.

He has used his own personal time to research different growing techniques and put together this project plan ensuring that he has brought the team into the idea as well. He has actively passed this knowledge onto the Residents, who



now seem to be quite territorial of their little project which has been great to see.

I am delighted to see how the team have researched and implemented this innovative technique which makes great use of existing materials and is sensitive to local ecology. There have been a number of local initiatives introduced this year which have engaged residents in the outdoors and wildlife, almost exclusively driven by the dedication and commitment of the small team who oversee this work. It is great to learn more about sustainable ecology and ways of working but is also just as important to educate staff and residents in new learning. It would be great to see this initiative scaled up if successful and hopefully we can share our experiences with other prisons in the future.

Becky Hayward
Governor



HMP Foston Hall Women & YOI

Bumblebee conservation areas

Staff and prisoners at HMP Foston Hall have joined forces with The Bumblebee Conservation Trust (BBCT) to ensure the Derbyshire prison is a thriving environment for Bumblebees and other wildlife.

A visit occurred on 9th April 2019 by Sally Cuckney – BBCT Project Manager (Pollinating the Peak), Rhodri Green - BBCT Community Engagement Officer (Pollinating the Peak), Sinead Lynch - BBCT Senior Conservation Officer and Dr Phil Thomas, MoJ Ecology (now retired).

The team toured the site offering advice and recommendations to the Horticulture Team and the prisoner working party.

The Bumblebee Conservation Trust was established because of serious concerns about the 'plight of the bumblebee'.

In the last 80 years our bumblebee populations have crashed. Two species have become nationally extinct and several others have declined dramatically.

Bumblebees are familiar and much-loved insects that pollinate our crops and wildflowers, so people are rightly worried.

The purpose of the collaboration was to:

- Enhance the understanding of bumblebee ecology and conservation;
- Increase the quality and quantity of

bumblebee habitat;

- Inspire and enable a diverse range of people to take action for bumblebees;
- Be an effective and sustainable organisation.

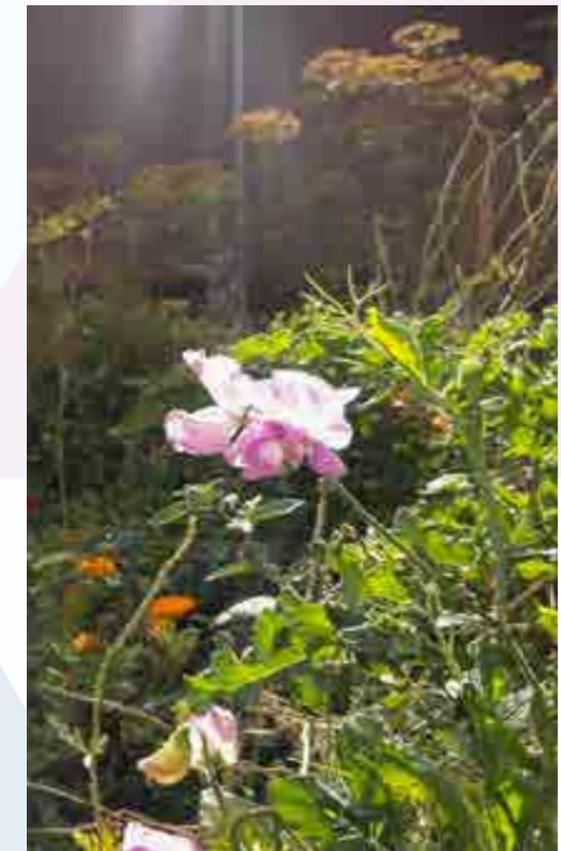
HMP Foston Hall, is already providing some excellent habitat for bumblebees and other wildlife and so the aim of the visit was to suggest areas where habitat can be improved and make suggestions for a longer forage season and provide additional nesting sites specifically for bumblebees.

The initial site visit in April 2019 identified four areas (three of which, neglected) we were going to concentrate on. We turned these areas into a haven for wildlife with a heavy emphasis on supporting invertebrates.

We set up two wild flower gardens with a huge variety of Bumblebee friendly flora to maximise the areas effectiveness. One area behind our mental health department which can now be used to help those who are struggling. The other inside HMP Foston Hall original walled garden.

We then also set up a wild flower meadow area complete with an orchard, where there used to be only short unused grassland - sowing this with meadow flowers and allowing the grass and clover to grow out.

Finally, we already have a wildlife sanctuary at Foston, so we expanded this for the fourth area, theming this area on buddleia (or butterfly)



HMP Foston Hall

Bumblebee conservation areas - contd

bushes as well as extending several lavender borders and building several “wildlife stacks” from reclaimed materials to encourage whatever invertebrates we can.

During our site visit, the BBCT ran a workshop on identifying all bees (which involved safety capturing several), specifically concentrating on the “big eight” species and what to do to improve your area for them, what you can do locally to help nationally. The day was extremely successful with several of our offenders becoming champions for bumblebees and even started to teach their wing staff when they returned to their respective wings!

We work closely with the Derby branch of the RSPCA, as we have rehomed several of their animals and also care for many of their rescue cases all year round. We received a special invite to their last AGM meeting to do a presentation on the benefits to our offenders and the animals respectively.

We also work closely with the donkey sanctuary and have been named honorary trustees as we have adopted three of their donkeys over the years.

In addition, we work with the BBCT and are trying to set up several more site visits and workshops with them throughout the year

We currently link up with People Plus and previously Milton Keynes college who have used

Foston Animal sanctuary to regularly deliver an Animal Care qualification. This has led to future employment and voluntary work upon release in the animal care field keeping them in purposeful activity within the community. We believe this initial period upon release is critical for rehabilitation.

We link up with Job Centre Plus to network and help our offenders gain future employment within the agricultural, equine and wildlife fields.

The animal sanctuary and bumble bee conservation area are regularly used and appreciated by the mental health team and our patients. Animals can trigger the release of endorphins, a feel-good neurotransmitter which gives a calming effect and boosts the level of serotonin, a chemical linked with happiness and well-being.

The bumble bee conservation area encourages patients to have conversations with their key worker. This can be helpful in promoting social interaction and breaking down barriers, emotionally and in a social context. By directing their attention towards another living thing, a patient's focus is drawn away from their own difficulties and, for a while, they can distance themselves from their distress and then begin talking about their own issues and consider ways forward.

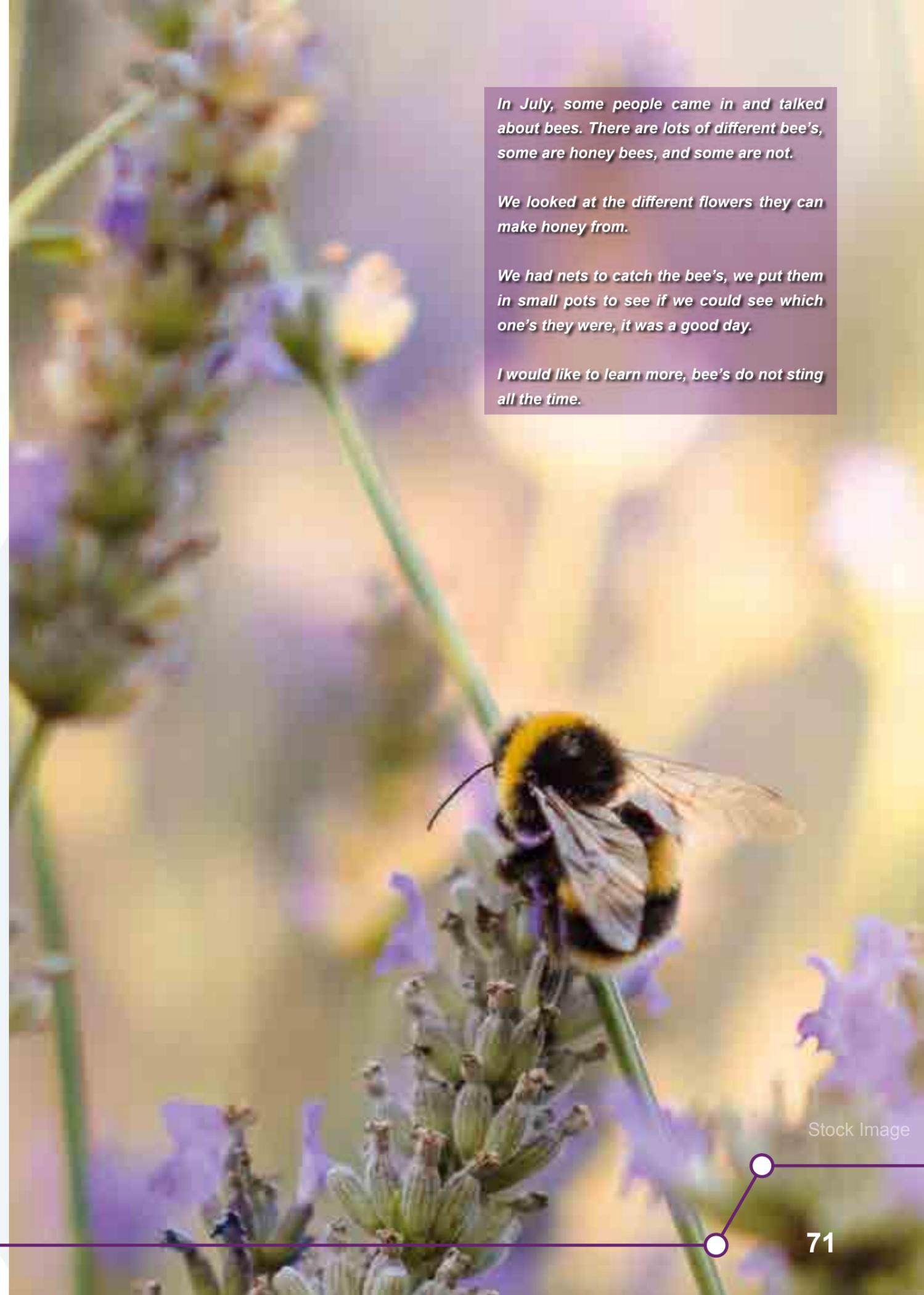
Bumble bees are rare social insects that live in colonies. The queen bee, drones and

In July, some people came in and talked about bees. There are lots of different bee's, some are honey bees, and some are not.

We looked at the different flowers they can make honey from.

We had nets to catch the bee's, we put them in small pots to see if we could see which one's they were, it was a good day.

I would like to learn more, bee's do not sting all the time.



Stock Image



Stock Image

HMP Foston Hall

Bumblebee conservation areas - contd



worker bees all have specific tasks to help support the colony. We speak to our patients about the characteristics of a bumble bee which helps to emphasise the importance of a community, working together and strengthening support networks.

**The Mental Health Team
HMP Foston Hall**

I just wanted to write a note to say thank you for advice and support with setting up my own Bee conservation area in my garden.

I had bought a new house with a large garden that once was a meadow before a housing development was built. I wanted to encourage Bees and Butterflies to my garden as I know how important they are for the environment.

I was inspired by the Bee Conservation area at HMP Foston Hall and took your advice with planting and the types of plants that attract Bees. My garden is coming on nicely and I have started to notice, not only bees but other birds coming to enjoy the plants. I also enjoy their visits to my garden.

Your advice was excellent, keep up the good work with the Bees.

Thank you.
Kind regards
Lisa”

**DC 3415 Lisa Blackburn
Derbyshire Police**

“WOW! I am so impressed with your planting it looks amazing. What a brilliant job you and the other staff and the prisoners have done. I hope you are sharing your good work with the other prisons as feel they could learn a lot from how you have done things. You have created a real haven for bumblebees and I am really excited to see it come to fruition.”

“Thank you again for taking such positive action to help bumblebees, your prison gardens and grounds are a wonderful example of what can be achieved. I really hope that at some point we will be allowed to visit you again soon so please do keep in touch.

Take care
Sally”

**Sally Cuckney
Project Manager – Pollinating the Peak**

“As part of our pastoral work with women, we often take time out in the grounds which we find to be a very therapeutic environment where they can talk freely away from wings. We use the animal sanctuary for various reasons, to distract, to give a little joy (women love feeding the donkeys polo mints) and to provoke conversations with people who are not opening up. Sometimes the act of just doing something different really helps. Getting back to nature and to an environment which is all about caring for others is both soothing and thought provoking. Women often start talking about pets and children which leads

on to matters with which they are struggling. Without the animal sanctuary as a focus in the prison, I feel HMPS Foston Hall would be a much poorer place for the women and all of those like us that are here to support them.”

**Anne Halliday
Managing Chaplain**

The Bumblebee Conservation area is a fantastic example of a collaborative partnership established to support and raise awareness of the ongoing plight of the bumblebee. In our environment this has enhanced the understanding of the women in our care and has had a positive impact on both their wellbeing and mental health, which is extremely important in this setting.

The work done with our partner teams and locally to identify suitable areas for his project within the prison has been both intuitive and practical, making the best use of the fantastic grounds that we have.

I believe the testimonials contained within this submission reflect the impact this has had not just on our residents but on all stakeholders, who visit the prison.

I am very proud of the work done on this project and ‘lifts’ me every time I come to work!

Thank you!

**Nicky Hargreaves
Interim Governor**



HMP Foston Hall

Bumblebee conservation areas - contd

Impact statement

I attended the Bumble Bee Conservation day here at Foston Hall last year. It was truly one of the best days I've had in the last few years. It started with a slide show, it was very informative, it showed us lots of different species and what they were called. Then we were given a net and a specimen pot so we could catch them. We were shown what to do and then went off in supervised groups.

Once we had caught a bee one of the conservationists told us which species it was, then we let it go. The main thing I learnt was that there is only one honey bee that collects, and it's not the big fat one that I think everyone believes is the honey bee. I would love for them to come into Foston again. Because of this we now have a couple of bee conservation areas around the prison with plants that bees like.

Impact statement – SAW

The bubble bee conservation came into Foston Hall and a group of girls attended the day, the information they gave us was remarkable, all the girls learnt about the different types of bumble bees and how they interact with each other and what flowers are the best to plant to encourage the bumble bee population.

We were given sample pots and a net to catch and watch the behaviour of each bumble bee. Due to this visit the staff in Gardens have put aside land just for a bumble bees conservation area to encourage bumble bee's also the flowers planted make a beautiful sight.

We all got a poster of each bumble bee and a list of plants which can be planted in the conservation area.

The feed back from the girls was amazing.

Impact statement – SB

Last July we had some people come into the prison from the Bee Conservation Society, they took us round the grounds looking at different flowers, looking at different bees. We caught some in pots with magnifying bottoms so we could have a good look at them, I didn't realise how many different sorts of bees we have in this country. After this we went into the big field and had a look and caught some more bees, you could see the pollen they had on their legs. I really enjoyed doing what we did, we went in the classroom afterwards and they gave us a talk on how the life cycle of the Honey bee lives, we asked loads of questions. It would be really good if we could do it again when everything gets back to normality. Bees are in danger of dying out so we've got to do everything we can to protect them, they are very precious.

I find bees very fascinating and learned things about them I didn't know. We need them for vital foods as they pollinate flowers etc to help the food chain, they also help in medicines, ingredients and honey.



Stock Image

HMP Haverigg Cat C

The Park

Within the outer fence line of HMP Haverigg there is a field, approximately 12 acres, that has been used as a potato field in the past.

For many years the 'potato field' had become overgrown and difficult to manage.

Given that Haverigg changed prison category in December 2019, becoming an open prison, attention turned to what we could use the area for in the future.

This led to suggestions of a Park and away we went...

Work to date - Sunflower walk – We created a nature walk, lined with sunflower plants. This nature trail takes you through the area of the field designated as a nature reserve.

Bird Watchers Hide (Twitchers Retreat) - Halfway through the nature trail there is a bird hide. This is a recycled cattle carriage that has been adapted and fitted with seating and fixed

binocular points. The trailer has numerous books and posters relevant to bird watching.

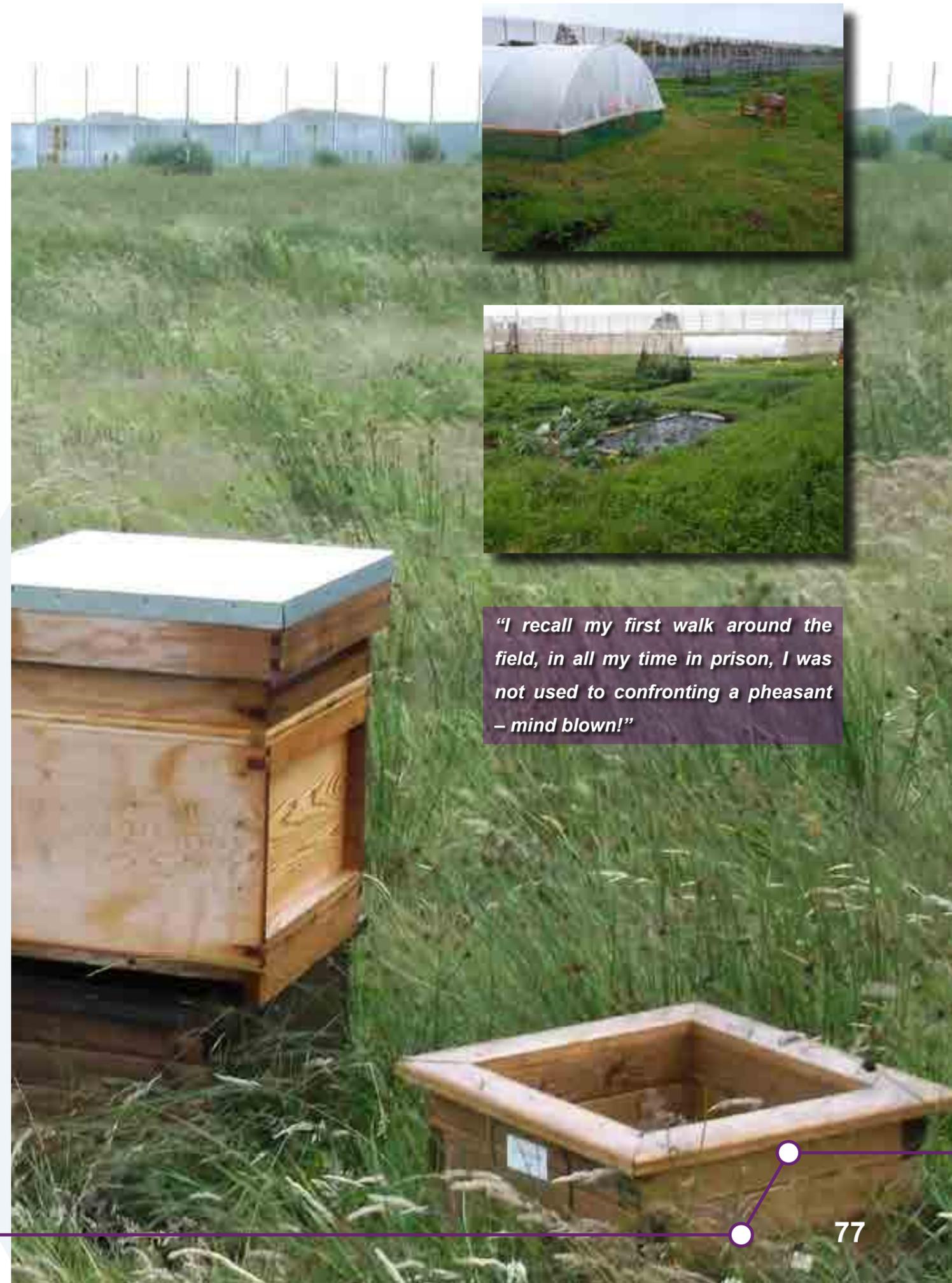


Trees - As well as the established and newly planted wild flowers, we have planted 57 saplings of the endangered Aspen tree.

Feeding tables - To encourage more variety of birds, we have placed numerous tall roofed bird tables plus a large concrete planter which has been converted into a bird bath. There are also smaller bird baths located across the area to enable ground dwellers access to water.

Wild Flowers - Throughout the field we have planted over a thousand plug, wild plants and thousands of seeds to create the wild meadow.

Bee Hive Heaven - So far two sets of bee hives have been located in to the field. These hives are thriving thanks to the plethora of flowers nearby. Fruit Cage – a 50m2 area was dug out to make way for the construction of a fruit cage which has been covered in mesh. We currently have



"I recall my first walk around the field, in all my time in prison, I was not used to confronting a pheasant – mind blown!"

“For me it’s been very rewarding to have been part of this project... I feel grateful to be part of a small team assisting nature...”

“I had been told by more than one member of staff, ‘Things will get better’ and ‘Just give it some time’.”



red and white gooseberry's plus blackcurrants growing really well.

Allotments - We have created numerous allotment beds. These have been planted with various vegetables: potatoes, broccoli, cabbage, peas, runner beans, beetroot, carrots, onions, radish and lettuce. Some of this produce is used on the residential units with the rest supplementing the prison kitchen. We also have a polytunnel that has been erected next to this area to develop the soil and start other vegetables.

Band Stand - An area has been dug out and we await materials to create a 70m2 band stand. This area will also be used for worship, mediation and group work out in the open air.

Memorial Garden - Plans are in place to create a memorial garden to remember staff, residents and mark significant events at the prison.

One of the key messages from the park has been to educate people around wildlife. Whether this be interpretive panels, posters, literature or just by experiencing wildlife first hand.

The work we have done in the field has been a “labour of love” for some of the residents taking the opportunity recycle and upcycle discarded materials across the prison.

The park is predominantly led by the residents of Haverigg.

Haverigg are working with the Back on Our Map (BOOM) initiative – a lottery funded project to reintroduce and boost the numbers of endangered trees, plants and wildlife in the UK. The work so far has involved planting 57 aspen trees, kidney vetch and cowslip.

We have also linked in to a number of local agricultural farmers to gain expertise on managing the land.

Members of the Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust have also been involved in group discussions about the park providing a Mental Health input.

It is also worth pointing out that staff from all agencies within Haverigg use the park on a regular basis.

At various points in the day you will regularly see officers, managers, Healthcare & Mental Health staff, Novus tutors, workplace instructors....the list goes on!

There have been two residents at Haverigg that have led from the front – Thomas and Jason.

They have spent every living moment creating and developing the area. Not only have they carried out a lot of the work, but they have encouraged others to get involved and this has proved particularly useful during the current COVID lockdown period.

They have both provided impact statements showing the benefits of working in this area to their own well-being and mental health.

I am grateful to all the staff and men who have contributed to the ‘Park’. I have no doubt that it has improved the mental wellbeing of all concerned. What makes this project special is that it has been driven by the men themselves. Whilst staff have provided advice and equipment it has been the enthusiasm and dedication of those men which has seen such a transformation in such a short period of time.

**AM Corcoran
Governor**

HMP Haverigg Cat C

The Park - Impact statements

Impact statement - Jason

I came to Haverigg late January 2020 with the insight to prepare for my release later in the year. I didn't know what to expect but I couldn't wish for a better place to be.

I got a job on the gardens, as I am a gardener (Landscaper) by trade with almost 20 years of experience. I started work tidying up the grounds around the establishment and was introduced to the old 'potato' field with ideas and a view to turn it into a park and nature area.

Looking at it for the first time, I thought it was a mammoth task I had ahead! I couldn't wait to get my hands in clearing and starting from a blank canvas.

Then the coronavirus came and at first, I thought that it would have been put on hold for months. Thankfully, this was not the case. Two other residents and myself had virtually a free rein and got started and with the glorious weather that we were blessed with this was a dream come true and we have taken this project on whole heartedly creating a fabulous area for all.

I shared my skills and knowledge and it slowly started taking shape. More and more people started to get involved which was greeted with much appreciation from everyone. Different ideas and skills came together to achieve this fabulous park that we are all proud of. Everyone within the establishment now enjoys the park;

it was like an ugly duckling turning into a beautiful swan.

The staff here have been fabulous and encouraged us tenfold. This has been a great help with the mental health fitness as well as seeing nature thrive in all aspects of the park.

As I stated at the start, I have been a gardener for many years and doing this project has helped me so much in getting back to the job I so enjoy. Thank you so much to Brendan and the rest of the staff for this chance to project myself into something I can work on for and in the future.

Impact statement - Brian Clarke

I recall my first walk around the field, in all my time in prison, I was not used to confronting a pheasant – mind blown!

I continue to walk around doing about 10 miles a day. The transition has been fantastic, a great bunch of lads have worked very hard on the allotments growing various crops, with the type of soil it has not been easy. A poly tunnel has been put up. There are lots of projects on going. I am honoured and pleased to have witnessed it. As I walk around them there is always a cheery welcome from the lads. It makes me feel very good about myself. We have ducks, pheasants, stoats and various birds. I very much enjoy walking around the park, such piece of mind. I look forward to what else is in store in the future.



Impact statement – Thomas

It's nice to see a project run by both Anglican and Catholic faiths: I am a fellow Christian.

I was asked if I would like to help with the work on the 'Park' and was asked for my ideas as to what we could do with such a large area. It felt good to be part of a team with such a major project in front of us. So with our ideas pooled together we set about the 'Park' and began digging!

From the plan drawn up of the 'Park' you can see the hard work we had to put into the 'Park', especially taking into account the small number of people we had to help.

For me it's been very rewarding to have been part of this project helping to dig out the area for the first fruit cage and the nine allotment patches, where we have planted various vegetables.

I feel grateful to be part of a small team assisting nature by planting over 1000 wild flowers and placing bird feeders and baths throughout the

'Park' and seeing all the wonderful wildlife that is part of our community. All this helps to take you away from being in prison and the worries that you have day in and day out. I go out to the 'Park' every day to work and afterwards, in the early evening, I walk I walk the peaceful perimeter and enjoy the peaceful ambience of the 'Park'.

One of the projects we had was to plant 57 saplings. These were saplings of an endangered species of tree so it was really good knowing that we had planted something for the future while maintaining a species of tree that we could lose.

The 'Park' has also gained two bee hives, and although I've been stung once, and hopefully for the last time, as I got too close. It's been wonderful to watch them buzzing around and pollinating flowers while collecting nectar to make honey.

I'm in the process of digging out a pond which is over a fair size of ground. It's really hard work but I know that it's going to be a nice place where people can sit and relax as well as encouraging other wildlife to come into the 'Park'.

As I have been working and walking in the 'Park', I have seen stoats, a female duck with her ducklings and a pheasant with her young which was very cute to see, along with the many different sorts of birds using the feeders, which in itself has been a marvel to see. It brings into context what we have achieved with our hard and exhausting work in the 'Park'.

HMP Haverigg Cat C

The Park - Impact statements

Impact statement - Seb

When I first arrived at Haverigg, I was a mess of anticipation and trepidation. At first, I was disappointed to see so many fences in a D-cat prison, more than I'd even experienced even at C-cat. I immediately questioned my choice of coming here. On the other hand, I was here now so I might as well make the best of it and give it a chance. As one of the first new intake I found myself in a place that had clearly seen better days and obviously been out of use for some time. Years of decay on some building, broken down construction on others. But I had been told by more than one member of staff, 'Things will get better' and 'Just give it some time'. On the plus side, there were large green spaces throughout the site, plenty of wide roads and paths to walk around and – for the most part – open gates across the site. All of which hinted at the freedom I'd been looking forward to. It helped to assuage my scepticism.

After a couple of weeks, I moved billets from R2 to R6 and found myself suddenly next to a very large very disused field. Some referred to it as 'The potato field' while other talked about 'when we kept pigs there'. It was easy to see some evidence of both those statements in the sad looking water butts standing along the fallow and overgrown mass of grasses, weeds and brambles. There was concrete path around its perimeter offering about 800 meters of uninterrupted circumnavigation in fresh Cumbrian air, which was in the right direction

in improving my ennui. Within days of the first access, we were told that it was to be 'our field' – accessible to all prisoners and staff from around the establishment – and, even more intriguingly, that we could do with it, within reason, whatever we wanted. A small team of us, the majority of whom had met only recently, began to think about our own abilities and plan what we might be able to accomplish.

With a landscaper gardener, a joiner, plenty of DIY enthusiasm and my own experience of set design and art, we were able to map a rudimentary blueprint of what could be.



Impact statement - Officer Nina Dobson.

The taming of the potato field

For the 13 years I have been an officer at Haverigg. The potato field has been at the periphery of my knowledge of the prison grounds, even working on Programmes as it was then, the potato field was just an area just outside the locked metal gates in the grounds, that some point was filled with large pigs who had turned semi feral. I had no idea of the scale of it and certainly no idea that it was going to be 'tamed', cultivated, loved and become a source of inspiration, hard work and dedication.

Since moving onto R6 and resurrecting it from the dead there has been a small group of lads who have worked tirelessly in all weathers to try and make sense of the huge sprawling wasteland. Now we have a bird hide, we have a vegetable plots, bees, a nature walk, a wildflower meadow, fruit trees and more recently a poly tunnel where even more vegetables and herbs will be grown. The lads are supplying endless amounts of herbs grown from boxes and vegetables to the kitchens, something I would never have envisaged 6 months ago. They notice the changes in the animal habitat, nurturing the newly hatched wildlife, and have worked harder than they probably thought they would previously.

The field has helped make a community out of our 32 men, with a few dedicated lads creating digging, and innovating, nurturing and taking

pride in the field that has become their back garden. It has also become a focal point for visitors at lunch time who like to take a walk and get 'their steps up' who have begged the lads to 'show us the ducklings'.

There are still plans for the wildlife pond, a bandstand and a memorial garden to commemorate Dr Mann who was a staunch supporter and believer in HMP Haverigg. I am proud that it is mainly the R6 lads who have made all this happen. The potato field is no longer an overgrown forgotten wasteland, but a vision of what can be done with hard work, dedication, teamwork and vision.



HMP Doncaster Cat C

All Creatures Great + Small

The prison's hedgehog project continues and early 2020 saw the birth of 5 hoglets from a couple of our over-wintered hedgehogs. The offspring will be overwintered this year in our wildlife area in the grounds of the prison; their parents were released to a new wildlife area which has been created outside the prison wall to the rear of the staff training centre. This new wildlife area is a talking point for new trainees joining the service, and it also introduces them to how we take our wildlife preservation seriously and encourages them to get involved.

We have recently completed a new 10ft x 20ft wildlife pond alongside the existing ponds with the aim of introducing newts; we are just awaiting the outcome of discussions around us possibly accommodating great crested newts so watch this space.

This year has seen the wildlife pond areas come to life with a variety of species from our resident heron to bees, butterflies, dragonflies, frogs and various other pond insects. As the wildlife area has matured there has been an increase in the variety of birds visiting and nesting there, including blue tits nesting in a box made out of recycled wood by prisoners.

Plans for this winter are to house 3 disabled hedgehogs and the 5 Hoglets in our new polytunnel the prison purchased with the prize money from the national prison wildlife competition 2019. This polytunnel has been specially adapted as an overwinter shelter for the hedgehogs and the team of prisoners are busy getting the habitat ready.

The officer responsible for the wildlife areas (Tony Johnson) has recently become a 'Serco Goes Green Ambassador' for HMP Doncaster; this role involves implementing sustainable practices to improve and reduce our environmental impact; hopefully Tony will introduce even more measures to the prison to encourage wildlife, educate prisoners and involve local charities/organisations.

Tony generally works with a team of 9 prisoners for approx. 5½ hours per day however due to COVID restrictions this has reduced to 5. The team have still had the work to do and have been extra busy looking after the grounds, the hedgehogs and the ponds.

When they're not out and about in the grounds they can be found around the allotment area digging and planting, maintaining the worm farm, working in the polytunnels or in the workshop making their wares out of recycled materials. The team receive no budget and are 100% self-sufficient - they are all extremely proud of what they achieve!

See these 2 testimonials:

Lee
I have worked with Tony for a couple of months and I'm involved with everything around the prison grounds and wildlife areas. Being part of this team has helped me massively; I suffer with my PTSD and learning new stuff keeps me occupied. Tony has taught me new skills and I'm learning all the time. Tony is absolutely spot on - when





HMP Doncaster

All Creatures Great + Small - contd

I'm feeling a bit stressed, and have flashbacks, I can talk with him and have a chat. His method of teaching is brilliant, he goes through everything and explains it all and even asks us all for our ideas.

Leroy 'The Joiner'

I have worked on the team for 3½ years, mainly making the nest boxes, bug houses, mud kitchens etc. Over the years I have gained confidence with using wood, gardening, with nature... I find it calming and interesting. Recently I've helped with digging out new ponds which is good for landscaping for when I get released. I see Tony as a boss who I would work for outside, he treats me with utter respect, he's very knowledgeable about lots of things and he is like a mentor to the lads in the team. We have a prisoner in our team who is deaf and has settled in really well and has been made to feel welcome, they are now teaching us how to sign so we can communicate more effectively. Tony has been fantastic in making our team such a tight-knit group – he is credit to the prison!

The prison set up the hedgehog project in 2017 with a local Hedgehog charity – Hedgehog Warts N All, located in Barnsley, South Yorkshire. Although the charity is no more, the founder (Janet) is still in regular contact with the prison and is always there to give advice and guidance to the team. Tony and his team have taken over where Janet's ill-health has not allowed her to continue anymore.

Tony and his team also continue to support a local charity in Barnsley (Grimethorpe Community Farm) who provide a rehabilitation service to

youngsters who have found themselves involved with the police or excluded from school. The prison provides them with various veg and bedding plants and donates recycled clothing as work wear for the youngsters; and in return the Farm provides the prison with a supply of tadpoles and newts. The Farm was recently vandalised, and Tony is now racking his brains as to what the lads make and sell to raise funds for them to purchase a new CCTV system.

Tony's work around the prison grounds is outstanding, he is a font of all knowledge when it comes to gardening, wildlife and hedgehogs and is extremely passionate about the projects he has set up; this has clearly rubbed off on his workers as they are equally enthusiastic and eager to learn more. The work carried out gives the team a real sense of pride and achievement, not to mention responsibility.

The pond area is outstanding, it is a place where staff can sit and reflect, and watch the world go by, you would never ever think you were in the middle of a busy local Cat B prison in the middle of a busy town centre!

It is a real testament to Tony and his team for the transformation of the prison grounds over the last few years, his work has made a positive impact on the environment and hopefully on the lives of those in our care.

**John Hewitson
Contract Director**



Cat C HMP Huntercombe

Pollinating the fruit orchard

Two members of staff along with between 4-6 have dug out and planted an orchard in the grounds outside the prison over the past two years. It was then decided to join forces with a local bee keeping organisation to use their bees for pollination. We put out a plea for any interested parties and were contacted by the Oxfordshire Bee Keeping Association who were looking for a site for their bees.

After a meeting it was agreed that we would clear and develop an area of the prison land to accommodate 12 of their hives.

The men got to work digging, clearing, fencing and slabbing the area and were finally ready to receive the hives in March when covid hit.

Since then we have continued to maintain the area and it is hoped that the bees will be sited within the month.

The Bee Keeping Association have agreed in exchange for the men's hard work to provide lessons/training in bee keeping to staff and inmates.

The prison social enterprise workshop made the hive stands from old pallet wood and have offered to print labels for the jars of honey that will be produced.

The men are now creating a woodland walkway for staff to relax in during break times and visitors

to enjoy and have various other wildlife projects in process.

We usually have around 4 men per day although this can vary according to how many are approved for ROTL (Release On Temporary License).

The men are of varying religious beliefs, Christian, Muslim, Siekh, Hindu but all agree that the ROTL experience and working outside the prison doing this work has been an eye-opening experience. They all agree that being out in the open air has enhanced their appreciation of the environment, wildlife, plants, trees and birds.

They truly are in awe of their surroundings now and are all looking forward to sharing this experience with their families on release.

We have a local working partnership with Oxfordshire Bee Keeping Association.



HMP The Verne

IRC

Hedgehogs and Home

Hedgehogs & Home, a simple name we came up with to describe two joint projects we started this year, before Covid-19 put a halt to everything.

We were going to be giving disabled hedgehogs a safe haven to live in after they had been rescued, as we can provide a predatory free environment from badgers and foxes etc. The hogs we were going to home could be anything from hogs with 3 legs to blind ones! Sadly, this project was put on hold due to Covid-19 and will be something we can concentrate on in 2021.

In the meantime, what's the "Home" bit? Well, whilst trying to transform a piece of old waste land at the back of our greenhouses in the gardens, we decided to add a green corridor and make another wildlife pond! You can never have enough ponds and as I'm fascinated by dragonflies, it was decided we would build another pond to encourage them! Not only did we build a pond, a new lawn was laid, recycled garden seats installed, and dry-stone walls built to create raised flower beds! It turned into something quite spectacular!! A highly manicured garden that residents and staff can relax in, get away from "work and prison life" somewhere that felt "like home"

Our secret little garden, you have to find! We don't advertise it! If you stumble across it, then it's yours to enjoy, in peace and tranquillity. You can sit in the sun and watch the Emperor Dragonflies come to and fro, listen to the gentle

sound of water from the fountain in the pond and cuddle up to one of the Gardens Cats, George! Remind me where I am again?

I had 4 prisoners in total that created this area over a year, and it has been one of the easiest and most enjoyable projects yet! One prisoner now takes care of the whole area and it's only going to get better! Here's what he has to say:

"It's been a very relaxing and enjoyable project, I've also created a small allotment area which has been dedicated to provide Cancer fighting vegetables for myself and those who need it. I have been extremely grateful to be involved and been given the opportunity to develop this area, it's been particularly nice to be able to provide a relaxing and peaceful area for others as well."

There has been some really innovative ideas put forward by Michelle and her team on the gardens.

The projects mentioned are only a few of the great things that are happening encouraging wildlife back into the establishment, this is not only good for the environment but also for those who live and work here. The secret garden is an outstanding area that creates a tranquil place for reflection.

**John Gane
Industries Manager**



Stock Image

HMP Whitemoor Cat A/B

Bug Wing and our surrounding nature reserve

HMP Whitemoor covers 82 Acres, 74 of which are home to some magical and mysterious wildlife. We are working alongside the MoJ Ecology team so that we can do our utmost to keep these beautiful animals coming back every year and so that we can enjoy them and they can flourish too.

The GFSL Gardens team have created and placed Bug Hotels throughout the Reserve and even "Bug Wing" just outside X-Ray 1. Everything we build is from recycled materials. So far this year we have seen Bumblebees,

say one of the owl boxes has its first residents! We have a duck that comes back to our inside pond every year, so we have decided to build her a house. This results in us being able to witness her young, which definitely makes it worth it. Free trees were given to us from the MoJ Team, we planted these along with thousands of wildflower seeds and now the benefits are for all of us to see.

During the "Lockdown" we were able to plan together and built an Otter holt. After our Phase 1 survey we realised these magnificent animals come to our Reserve daily, so we decided to



Butterflies, Blackbirds, Woodlice, Ladybirds, Earwigs, Bats, Field Mice, Grass Snakes, Owls and Hedgehogs already using our hotels! Around 30 beautiful handmade bird boxes for all different species have been put up around our site. The Gardens team have erected handmade benches overlooking miles of scenic fenland view. In December 2019 GFSL carpenters built from scratch 2 wonderful owl boxes. The Gardens and Works Dept. worked together to get these erected in the Reserve, and we are now proud to





HMP Whitemoor

Bug Wing and our surrounding nature reserve - contd



construct and make them a home!! Constructed by our Carpentry team, with the help from a local business we installed this on the bank of one of our large ponds. The Otter House was completed at the start of August, and staff member Colin Underwood will place a camera inside.

It has given us the opportunity to witness all this magical wildlife, and show us a small part of their lives! We are setting up a programme with a local scout group, who will do some of their community work here, litter picking and monitoring the wildlife. We are working to also set up a Geo-cash site, these are both local community schemes that we are looking forward to working alongside and sharing the beauty of the reserve with. Again constructed by our carpenters and installed by the Gardens team. Our hedgehogs now have houses throughout the Reserve, and the grass snakes have their own shelter too. We put together some information boards throughout the Reserve, giving the public a little insight to the Nature we have, and what to look out for. The signs were produced at HMP Coldingley and the stands constructed here by the GFSL Carpentry team.

Our Reserve sits on the old Marshalling yard which was very important to Britain during the second world war. We discovered this year that a Wellington Bomber crashed on the yard in November 1941 killing all 9 crew aboard. We planted a tree and had a plaque made for each individual crew member and erected an information board for the public. The "Braza" pit is home to so much wildlife, everything from Herons, Canadian Geese, Otters, Moorhens, Pikes, Eels, Swans, Buzzards and Marsh Harriers.

We are very fortunate to have so many talented photographers amongst the staff, especially Colin Underwood who takes the most extraordinary pictures, that we have used to decorate X-Ray 1&2 and the Works Dept. Colin recently published a charity calendar this year with photos from the Reserve. We are proud custodians of this natural habitat and without the hard work and dedication of past, present and future staff none of this would be possible.



HMP Kirkham Cat D

Wild about Wildlife

Colin Beswick - Band 4 Amenities Instructor asked if we could fence off some awkward field corners and plant groups of Hazel to provide additional wildlife habitat. I am pleased to say that with help from Keith Burrell and Peter Barton (Livestock Instructors) and their group of key workers, we have fenced off several corners of grazing fields and planted young Hazel trees that we purchased from HMP Ford.

Keith and Peter have also helped bring another idea come to life, by erecting an ex-telegraph pole in the conservation area and siting a barn owl box (made by our Timbers Industries) at the top. We have already seen a kestrel showing an interest and would like to see a bird of prey using this habitat. This was a recommendation from Dr Phil Thomas after we discussed the presence of barn owls on site. Dr Phil Thomas suggested using a telegraph pole in a prime spot as the way forward.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic Colin had started work on a wildlife garden in the main camp for residents to enjoy. Colin and his group have made a base for an insect hotel, sited log piles, planted bulbs and wildflower plugs, purchased bird feeders and a hedgehog house and planted some specimen trees. This has been halted pending the arrival of temporary accommodation blocks, but we will hope to complete the wildlife garden as soon as we have access to the site.

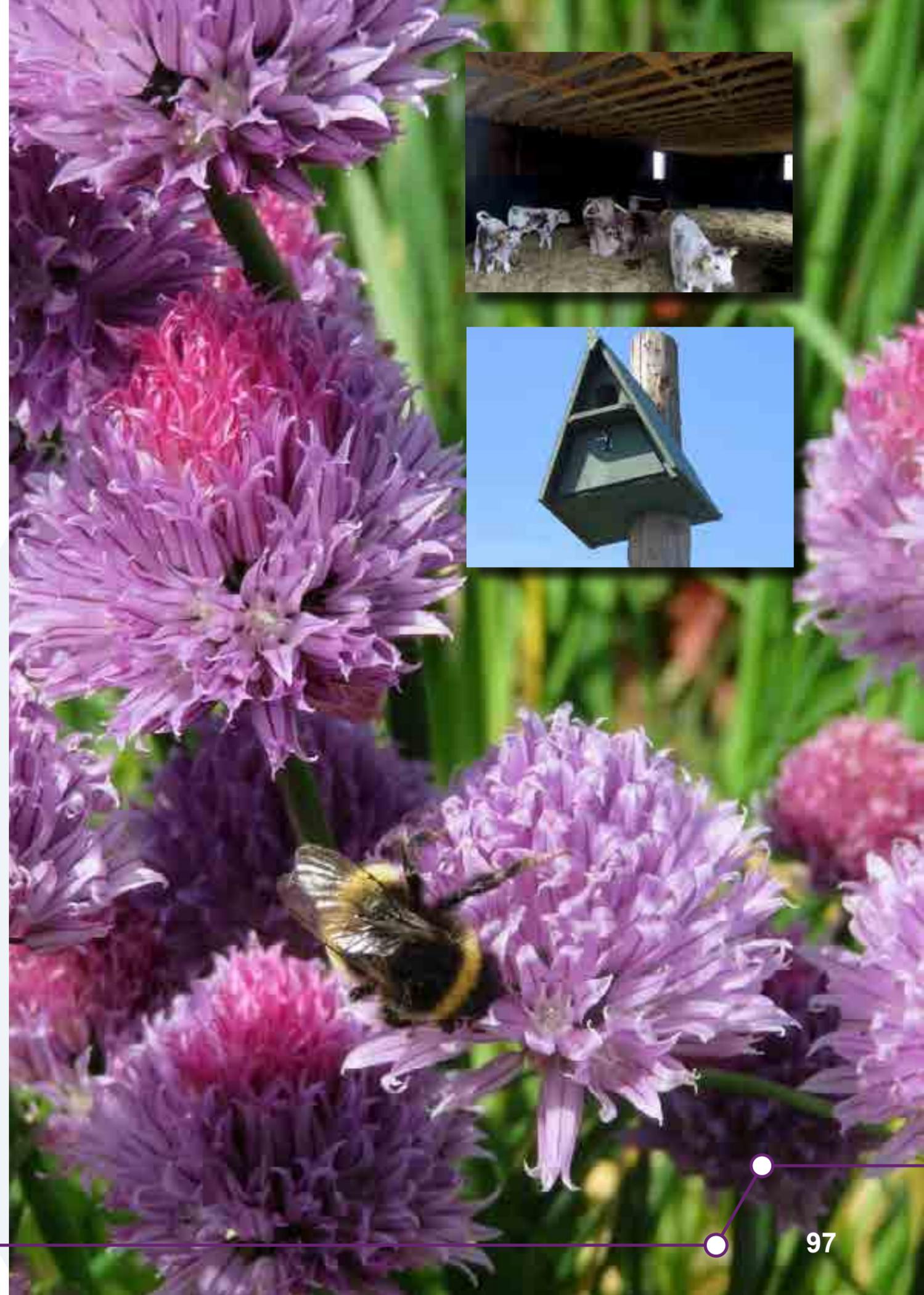
We have planted some young trees on scrub land at the rear of the grading shed and purchased rabbit guards to protect them. The

trees were donated to us by MOJ during National Tree Week and we have planted the remainder around the Livestock area, woodland area and wildlife corridors.

We have purchased some sedum seeds and grown our own sedum plants that we be looking to plant out in areas that have very little soil. We are hoping to create a green roof on a suitable building to provide another habitat. We have also planted additional shrubs around the grounds to provide cover for small nesting birds such as wagtail, black bird and sparrow.

Our Allotments for the men are continuing and still as popular as ever. We provide the men with plants and seedlings for them to grow on and care for. Each allotment is the responsibility of the person and they need to care for it all year round. We always have a waiting list of men wanting to take on the challenge.

We had several men involved with tree planting during National Tree Planting week earlier in the year. The Trees were planted during February/ March this year when the weather was cold and wet, perfect for tree planting. We also asked for staff volunteers to help and along with the men we planted 50 trees around the site. All had extremely cold hands and feet but the staff and men worked out in the rain and cold to plant the trees and the discussions were great with comments such as "they would tell their children and grandchildren about this day" The men asked a lot of questions "why do we plant in winter" and "what trees are these" and "will





HMP Kirkham

Wild about Wildlife contd

these grow big miss” All the enthusiasm made the day worthwhile as the group were a mix of men and staff who perhaps had not spoken to before. Working alongside each other helps to break down barriers and I am sure that the men and staff got a lot out of the event.

We do a lot with the local community with our Community Bus team who are involved in lots of projects for the local council, local churches, schools and cemeteries. The community bus team take small groups of men out with them to work on soft and hard landscaping as required.

Peter Barton and Keith Burrell are the Livestock Supervisors and have improved areas for wildlife, always enjoy showing visitors around site and are great ambassadors for the prison.

Peter and Keith have maintained fencing around wildlife corridors, put up a barn owl box and fenced off corners of the fields to enable trees to be planted.

Both are happy to support wildlife and have reported a healthy population of Hares, Oyster Catchers and Barn Owls means that the habitat is healthy. Both are passionate about their Livestock and this shines through to the men working on the group.

Also, Colin Beswick who has the ideas and makes them a reality. Colin enjoys creating habitats, planting trees and creating wildlife corridors. Colin’s passion and knowledge of wildlife is passed on to the men during the



fortnightly conservation walks that he does on Friday afternoons. This is open to all men (regardless of health or disability – wheelchair accessible footpaths) to have a walk around the conservation area, meet the farm animals and see the different habitats and how nature can survive and thrive in areas formerly used as an RAF base. The feedback that Colin gets from these walks is amazing, with all who take part learning something from the walk and perhaps taking this away with them to use in their own life with their family.

One of the men who works on Livestock with Keith and Peter and he is returning to his job on a farm when he is released. He is a great help during Lambing, tagging the animals, moving the stock around the land etc., and has a natural ability in his field.

Some of the men are happy to work on livestock at the weekends to ensure the animals are cared for 7 days a week.

We have had a core of men as our “key workers”

covering the Livestock group and Waste Management. The key workers have been essential in helping staff maintain the care of the livestock and keep the site clean and tidy.

The key workers we had working in the greenhouses and on the grounds have also helped us to grow our own produce for the kitchens and farm shop and still maintain the site with bedding plants and supply all our prison bedding plant orders.

We have had 20-30 men working during the pandemic when normally we would have up to 110.

I am proud of the work of staff and prisoner residents on the numerous conservation projects at HMP Kirkham and in the local community. The staff and residents are making a real difference in generating a suitable environment which supports nature and wildlife conservation, a key element of our rehabilitative culture at HMP Kirkham.

**Derick Harrison
Governor**

Celebration of Sustainability





Stock Image

Recognising Wider Sustainability

Expanding the awards in 2021

The annual HMPPS Wildlife Awards are a highly valued recognition of our environmental champions and their exceptional best practice across the prison estate.

As this publication celebrates, the projects enhance staff and resident wellbeing, and offer valuable skills, opportunities and self-development that result in positive changes for the future – for people and the environment.

As well as enhancing biodiversity, the Sustainability Team also facilitates investment and ideas that reduce our use of water, energy and other natural resources. Although these principles have been embedded in our organisations for some time, and are driven by the Greening Government Commitments, we have been buoyed by the enthusiasm demonstrated this year. Rest assured that sustainability is a high priority for MoJ at a strategic organisational level, and at an individual establishment scale. We know that HMPPS are planning many improvements and investments, not least the Green Transformations Project, and we will be supporting this.

Building on the success of the wildlife awards, we will be expanding them in the coming year to recognise and celebrate achievements across the full breadth of sustainability. This will include projects in carbon and energy reduction, renewable energy, waste management and recycling, water-saving and

circular economy initiatives: themes that we know enhance staff and residents' experience and provide tangible environmental benefits (as well as long term cost savings). **So please look out for further news on this!**

For now, we wanted to highlight some great work already happening within HMPPS – prisons who are leading the way with their commitment to wider sustainability. We hope you find the showcase on the following pages interesting and encouraging, and we are eagerly awaiting your further examples.

The Sustainability Team are always happy to help support your ambitions or provide advice. Read more about us on page 111.

HMP Send Women's closed

Breakwater tank improvements

We recently had the old dilapidated insulation and covering removed from the breakwater tank and replaced with new insulation and white metal coating. This now protects the tank and improves efficiency and reduces energy usage. The new cover helps keep water cool in the summer and helps prevent freezing during the winter. This also complies with water regulations.

Paul Cozens Site Manager: HMP SEND

"Sustainability is important to me and my Team, we are proud of what we have achieved with the refurbishment of the drinking water tank and pump equipment at HMP SEND. Thanks to the team Micky Woodford, Karl Speers, GFSL Escorts and GFSL Business Partners"



Cat C / D HMP Brixton

Single-use plastic removal

During the last year HMP Brixton has worked with the MoJ Sustainability Team to reduce the prison's carbon footprint and look to eliminate use of plastic water bottles. Chilled water fountains that dispense filtered ambient and chilled water were installed around the site and a campaign introduced to encourage staff and residents to use the fountains and reusable bottles rather than reaching for the single-use plastic.

This initiative was supported by the **Governor and Head of Residence, Julie McGowan**, who said "I was really pleased that Brixton was chosen for this pilot project so we can start to reduce our single-use plastic going forward". Brixton is committed to reducing waste and becoming more environmentally friendly and sustainable and initiatives like this make small inroads into more sustainable choices and behaviour.



HMP Deerbolt Cat C

Greenest Prison Vision

Our Greenest Prison Vision aims to set an aspirational target to improve our environmental impact in every area of the prison, we have started this piece of work but know we have a long way to go. However, we are starting to think green and are delivering on the below projects:

- Orbio chemical free cleaning. HMP & YOI Deerbolt have been able to procure innovative technology which converts water using electrolysis into a cleaning and disinfecting solution. We also re-use plastic spray bottles and deliver the fluid in the prison using an electric vehicle and re-usable plastic barrels, creating a true circular economy.
- Active participation in the Modern Energy Partnership Scheme, Deerbolt is actively contributing to the project and using our involvement to self-generate understanding of the options. This involvement has instigated other green ideas within the prison e.g. hybrid vehicle purchases to replace prison cars. These plans will be shared with staff once published.
- Bike refurbishment workshop: Refurbishing un-wanted bikes, training young men and providing accredited qualifications, plus donating the refurbished items to charitable causes.

- Green Thread Strategy: All workshops are encouraged to identify wasteful processes and address them e.g. laundry suggested that re-usable kit bags could be swapped for disposable bags when issuing new kit.

All workshops contribute to the greenest prison vision and are involved in improving our environmental impact. The Orbio workshop employs a team of cleaners, who learn about the process and how the workshop minimises the impact on the environment. All workshops are encouraged to generate ideas on how they can improve process' within their area of work.

Special mentions are owed to 2 workers and 1 member of staff within the Orbio workshop. The first worker, has been in the Orbio workshop since it was set up, he has extensive knowledge on how to use the product. He is a mentor within the workshop and helps to train the other operatives. He is a significant asset to the team and performs to an excellent standard. The second, enjoys working in the workshop, he has discussed the potential of translating his knowledge of Orbio into a business venture when released and has a mature attitude and builds positive relationships with instructors and staff, he also supports new inductions into the workshop and is happy to share his experiences. Both work well as a team and can be relied upon to deliver an excellent service.



Adrian Hepburn also deserves a special mention. Adrian is a passionate advocate for the benefits of using Orbio, he is extremely enthusiastic and is currently setting up his own workshop and dedicated team. Adrian is willing to complete all tasks assigned to him and is actively developing his knowledge of cleaning and the science behind Orbio in his own time. He is conscious about the environment and shares this knowledge with his workforce.

Del Fiddes Industry Manager



HMP Prescoed and HMP The Verne

Water saving measures

HMP Prescoed

HMPPS had a longstanding leak at the farm at HMP Prescoed. The farm is very extensive making leak detection really difficult. The MoJ sustainability team, having analysed historical data and compared to prison water use benchmarks to determine the scale of the problem, funded a water and leak detection survey. The leak detection process was very complex involving specialist pipe tracing equipment and even a sniffer dog trained to detect the chlorine in water! The leak was eventually located and repaired. The survey and repair cost approximately £15,000 and will save HMPPS an estimated £54,000 per annum. Just as importantly we will no longer be wasting around 18,000 m³ of water per year, nearly 4 million gallons.

HMP The Verne

Established in 1949 at the site of a 19th century citadel, The Verne is one of the oldest prisons within the estate from an infrastructural standpoint. In early 2019, the site launched a water leak find and fix programme that concluded in August 2020. Over this period, they have reduced their average annual monthly consumption by 25% based on only 6 months of consumption for 2020. We expect this reduction figure to steadily grow for the remainder of the 2020/2021 reporting year. When the works concluded in August, consumption figures indicated a July on August reduction of just under 40% alone. The site team adopted a strategy that focused on finding and resolving the quick fixes first and then assessing the reductions achieved as a result. They continued this approach until they found the biggest leaks which accounted for the majority of the water

waste. Whilst this process took over a year, the site has managed to make significant repairs to their water infrastructure and has cut down water usage to a point where it is now in line with benchmark figures. The site is now also able to claim back two years of drainage charges relating to the volume that was lost through the leaks.

Taking action against water leaks can be a slow and disruptive process. Finding leaks along several kilometres of pipework which is often concealed underground or is otherwise inaccessible is a job that is very difficult to put a price on. The work will often continue until the leak is found which can take a few days or span a few weeks. Hence, making a standalone business case to initiate works can be challenging and is sometimes delayed until it can be incorporated within a larger programme of works. However, as the team at HMP The Verne has demonstrated, a well-planned gradual programme of surveys and repair works can have instantaneous impact by significantly cutting down water consumption and realising savings. By implementing improved monitoring systems across the estate and adopting the latest leak detection technologies, the MoJ team is working alongside the Prison Maintenance Group to tackle water leakages and wastage across the estate.



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HMP Manchester

Cat A High Security

Waste management unit refurbishment

In April 2016 the Waste Management unit at HMP Manchester had to cease its operation owing to the main building, which provided many of the facilities being condemned as beyond economical repair. The initial plan for the unit was to decrease significantly the amount of waste the prison was sending to landfill by recycling as much as possible. This would reduce cost to the prison and at the same time generate significant revenue and support our 'Greening Agenda'. Potentially men working in the WMU could gain real and useable qualifications as part of their employment and training.

In September 2019, Steve Mallinson and Steve Ball from PSPI's Waste Team visited the site to help support reopening of the unit. Following this visit, and after budgetary constraints, a conversation with two trades prison officers whom the Governor had recently employed to carry out work around the prison, we were advised that the refurbishment of the cabin could be carried out at a fraction of the cost we had been quoted for previously. We took the proposal to the Acting Governor at the time who said run with it.

Work started on the Unit in December 2019. The complete unit was stripped out and what followed was a full restoration with new floors, roof and all facilities. Despite Covid hitting us hard, work continued. PSPI brought us a new 'Baler' and a quantity of 'Euro bins' to assist with the project. The WMU has now reopened

and despite all the restrictions around Covid-19 it is anticipated we will be able to build on our previous achievements and take the unit to another level. This will include the delivery of WAMITAB qualifications in Waste and Recycling being offered to all the men that are employed within the work area.

To assist the Waste Management project the new Governor of HMP Manchester Rob Knight reinforced our commitment to reducing waste by giving the go ahead for a new Clothing Exchange Store to be built within the Laundry. This will allow for a dedicated 'one for one' kit exchange to be implemented across the prison which will increase accountability for all kit with the men taking ownership of their clothing and bedding whilst reducing the constant cost in procuring new laundry supplies.

The support from in particular Steve Mallinson PSPI, Dave Clare, Mick Fitzpatrick (our two Works Officers) and David Horridge the Acting Governor at the time of the visit, it is acknowledged that, without these people the unit may never have been built. HMP Manchester is now in a positive position with regards to Waste Management and sustainability enabling the site to be compliant with the MoJ Sustainability Operations Framework.

Jimmy Davies
Industries Manager

Before



Before



After



New laundry kit exchange area



HMP Ranby Cat C

Boot disinfecting station

With funding from the Operational Innovation Awards, HMP Ranby has set up a professional boot repair workshop, where residents' boots are collected, repaired and recycled. This provided the establishment with several elements of achievement, employability, cost reduction and environmental efficiency, along with job satisfaction for the men working in this area.

The prisoners that work in this area can see first-hand the poor condition the boots come in as and get the job satisfaction in bringing these boots back to an exceptional standard in condition and hygienically sanitized in making them fit for purpose and for re-issue. The men that work in the area often show me the boots after they have gone through the process and are really proud to see the difference when they have completed their work on them, it really does give the men job satisfaction that they have

completed this purposeful activity and know that these boots can be confidently re-issued back into circulation.

Since the Introduction of this project we have had several site visits from other establishments, this was to get an understanding of how we are operating and view of production processes, all that have attended have been very impressed with the project and would like to replicate this in their establishments, we have had nothing but positive feedback regarding this Innovation Project award. This process also has a massive reduction on landfill making us more environmentally friendly and reducing our carbon footprint, this has to be the way forward for 2020

Linda Sobolewski
Waste management
& Recycling manager



Cat C HMP Hindley

Food waste bin cleaning solution

An innovative solution to a concern over residue food-waste being washed down into the sewers at HMP Hindley, lead to a resident initiative to introduce a system to capture all residue when cleaning food waste bins after emptying.

The paper that was presented by the resident relating to the potential environmental impact from disposal of food waste residue, and the clear and well thought out plans to address this

in a constructive manner was excellent and rewarded by the Head of Learning and Skills, Lucy Clayson. The resident set out very clear steps that can be followed in order to clean the food recycling bins more appropriately, and there is no doubt that this will be of great assistance to the other learners, the Recycling instructors, the Establishment as a whole and even potentially across other Prisons as well.

Procedure for the Cleaning of Food Recycling Bins

Equipment

- a. Stainless steel table with access to sink which has already been set up.
- b. Black bin with plastic bin bag inside

Method

1. Take all emptied food recycling bins into the workshop for cleaning.
2. Two-person lifts with one at either side of green wheelie bin. This will then be lifted onto the stainless steel table with the opening pointing towards the sink area.
3. Place the black bin with plastic bin liner at the front of the stainless steel table.
4. Use a brush inside of the green wheelie bin starting at the bottom, pulling the brush and residue towards and into the black bin bag. This should be repeated for all green wheelie bins containing residue.
5. When the black bin bag is full, it should be sealed, removed from the black bin and weighed to determine and assess the volume of waste being sent down the drain.
6. The black bin bag along with the contents should then be placed into a clean wheelie bin.
7. Once the cleaned wheelie bin is free from residue it should be placed to one side for deep cleaning. The deep clean should be carried out using a mixture of hot water and detergent which will get poured into the green wheelie bin to commence further cleaning with a brush. The residue from the operation can be safely poured down drains.
8. Once the green bin is fully cleaned and the process complete, it will be put to one side to be re-issued round the establishment.





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Meet the Teams Involved

Who we are and how we can help



Land Based Activities Team

The Land Based Activities team sit within the PSPI Group and its main function is to support prisons on land based issues. Our primary focus tends to be working with the 40 or so commercial sites that are producing fresh produce for the service, alongside growing seasonal bedding plants and nursery stock to be used across the estate and our new build sites.

PSPI wholly support sustainability initiatives, and consideration of our natural resources play an increasingly important part in how we carry out our work and the way we do things operationally eg. using peat-free compost and wildlife friendly landscaping. The Green Transformations Project will continue our teams working together, to ensure such sustainability skills are promoted for rehabilitation and employment.

PSPIWasteManagement@justice.gov.uk

The Sustainability Team

The Sustainability Team sits within the Estates Directorate, and works across HMPPS, HMCTS and all other MoJ functions. MoJ is the second largest landowner in government and HMPPS is a huge part of our footprint as an organisation. Nearly all of our custodial and non-custodial sites influence a protected habitat or species and 90% of the water we use is consumed in prisons. 75% of MoJ energy use comes from the prison estate alongside 75% of all waste produced.

We are responsible for ensuring the MoJ meets its environmental obligations, and leads by example to become a flagship government department of sustainable infrastructure and operations. We are a passionate team and work

closely together on specialist areas of energy, waste, ecology, carbon and other sustainable technologies.

The MoJ vision for sustainability is to:

- Lead the way in Greening Government;
- Embed environmental sustainability in everything we do;
- Support MoJ strategic objectives by reducing reoffending, transforming the estate, reducing costs, and making MoJ staff feel proud.

The team deliver various programmes to meet cross-government targets on resource use, waste reduction, reducing emissions, and protecting and enhancing biodiversity – some of which have been showcased brilliantly within this yearbook! We are also here to support you in your own local innovation of the above, and help with technical specifications and funding if we can. **If we don't know about your project or your efficiencies, please tell us and we can ensure you are recognised and share your best practice.**

In addition to our current estate, we also become involved in design, construction and decommissioning. Utilising new technologies and working methods in building new premises, along with recycling and salvage when closing old ones, we are working to ensure that our buildings and sites have less of an impact on the environment and are made more resilient to future climate change impacts. By working closely with prison maintenance, procurement, commercial, FM contractors and others, we will benefit those living and working on the estate as well as society as a whole.

SDEnquiries@justice.gov.uk



In partnership with ...

HMP Channings Wood

- Woodland Trust

HMP Deerbolt

- Durham Bat Group
- Barnard Castle Town Council
- Durham University Ecology Department

HMP Doncaster

- Hedgehog Warts N All
- Grimethorpe Community Farm

HMP Foston Hall

- RSPCA
- BBCT
- PeoplePlus
- Milton Keynes College

HMP Hatfield

- Woodland Trust

HMP Haverigg

- Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust
- Back On Our Map (BOOM)

HMP Hull

- Beverley Beekeepers Association
- British Beekeeping Association
- Kew Gardens
- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
- East Yorkshire Swift Conservation

HMP Huntercombe

- Oxfordshire Bee Keeping Association

HMP Kirkham

- Community Bus Team

HMP Liverpool

- GOOP

HMP Onley

- The Conservation Foundation
- Heritage Fruit Tree Co.

HMP Portland

- The Butler Trust
- Expia Ltd

HMP Stafford

- Staffordshire Beekeeping Society

HMP The Verne

- Hayley's Hedgehog Rescue

KSS CRC

- Loveworks Charity
- Merstham Hub

Wales CRC Cathays

- Friend of Cathays' Group
- Cardiff Council Bereavement Services

Wales CRC Llandough Orchard

- NHS
- Natural Resources Wales

HMP Warren Hill

- Shelby's Café

HMP Whitemoor

- GFSL
- Greener Growth

Editors Comments

Thanks and acknowledgments

What a year, and what a lot of wonderful entries to the 2020 re-jigged version of the HMPPS Wildlife Awards. We are in awe of you all, working hard to keep establishments running smoothly and safely during the pandemic, and even though they're not official awards this year we hope that this book acts as an inspiration and reward to us all.

We have to do a special mention to our talented editor and graphic designer Kingsley Chesworth from 47 Creative. Kingsley has come to the end of his probation period at Preston Probation Service and set up his own graphic design business. He has done this work for us in order to expand his portfolio. What a brilliant job - thank you so much.

You will have no doubt noticed the spectacular photos throughout the yearbook? All credit needs to go to the sites for providing these original masterpieces to us, not only people with remarkable photography skills, but also the amazing array of wildlife they captured, well done all.

Our HMPPS print services has printed and distributed nearly 600 copies of this yearbook during lockdown so thank you printing team. These have gone to Governor offices, Garden Teams and prison libraries, and are also available electronically for internal distribution. A Welsh language version is in progress too - so please let us know if you'd like a copy of that.

We have thoroughly enjoyed reading your case studies, from wildlife ponds to bees, and tree planting to a Hugelkultur no-dig raised bed.

Throughout lockdown some sites have been getting very creative: the in-cell nature activity packs were much valued and distributed widely. Lots of nature themed puzzles and word searches to keep people's minds active and learning throughout the additional confinement.

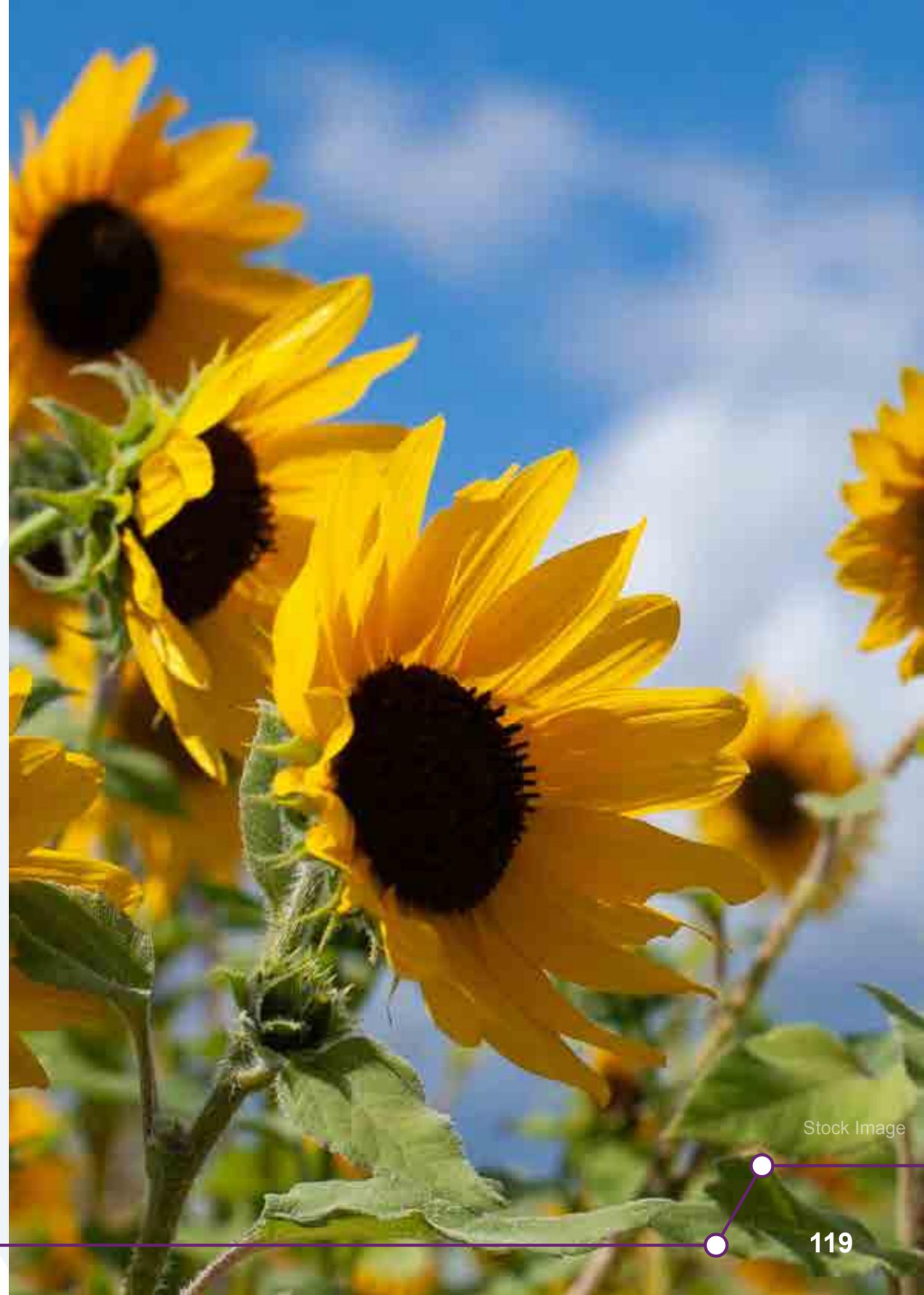
As Anna and Paul highlighted in their introduction, MoJ and HMPPS want to support you in improving our wildlife and wider environment. Every small thing we do for our native species, habitats and services can make a difference, so we are looking forward to all of your entries next year - big or small, and with wider sustainability in mind too! We have thoroughly enjoyed reading your case studies so THANK YOU to everyone involved in creating this publication, and we hope that it sits in your staff rooms and libraries for many months to come.

Would you like a pond or an orchard to enhance your prison and wildlife work? Specialist funding and expertise can sometimes be available to help – please contact Greg Kellman at:

MoJ_Ecology_Team@justice.gov.uk

We hope you enjoyed the read,

Beatrice Finch and Greg Kellman
Ecology Technical Support



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