

Staying Connected 2

A newsletter for our dementia-friendly walking group—
created by the Woodland Trust and City of Trees

What's in the Garden? - Birds of the week

Today's video from Russ Hedley is called 'How to Train your Robin'.

Many of us will have a robin which has claimed their garden as territory. This video will tell you all you need to know about robins, and how to become friends with them –all that's needed is some bird food, and patience! We'd love to hear whether you can train a robin!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1F2L_nAcc4

Here are the answers to last week's bird quiz. Did you guess correctly?



Starling



Blue tit



Blackbird



Magpie



Great tit

Thank you to the Smithills Estate Wildlife volunteers for these photos. With this newsletter is a bird spotting sheet, with more photos from our volunteers—see how many species visit your garden, and let us know what you see.

Bees, Bees, Bees

We looked at butterflies last week, this week it's bees! Even if you have a small garden, paved yard, or windowsill planter you are still likely to see bees as spring progresses. Bees love all kinds of plants, even 'weeds' like ivy, clover, dandelions and daisies—so it's OK if you don't clear all the weeds away! Recently we have been seeing queen bees buzzing about. The queen bees are BIG and should be easy to spot.

There are lots of different bee species and it can be hard to tell them apart (mainly because bees won't sit still!) but if you are interested in having a go, here are some photos of different types of bee our volunteers spotted on Smithills Estate last year.



Gypsy cuckoo bee



Tawny mining bee



Buff tailed bumblebee

Due to bees being so difficult to photograph, we'd like you to keep a tally of how many you see instead. We've been doing it over the last few days and the leaderboard stands like this:

Roberta 5

Trianna 4

Vicky 3

Get Creative

This week Trianna has been doing some origami on the theme of bees! Here she is showing you how to make your own origami bee—can you complete one? There is a guidance sheet with this newsletter.

<https://youtu.be/U41s-tWFPLM>

Send us a picture of your paper bees!

Keeping in contact

Through this newsletter we aim to bring you a little bit of nature, and a craft activity—but we also want to keep up the chat. Send in your wildlife sightings and photos, or just tell us about how you are doing! You can do this in the following ways:

Email— smithillsestate@woodlandtrust.org.uk

Finally... a word from us

It's great to have everyone join us during this time. We hope you have enjoyed our newsletter. We hope that when we return to our walks together, we return stronger and happier. Please look after each other and keep safe.

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

www.cityoftrees.org.uk

This week's photo credits: Starling, Blackbird, Magpie, Great Tit—Richard Cooke; Blue Tit—David Butterfield; all bee photos—Jim Ormerod.