

Wildlife & Countryside Services

‘Gardening for Butterflies, Bees and other beneficial insects’ by Jan Miller-Klein.

Price £20.00 Large format, 262 pages with colour photos on every page.

Buy now at www.wildlifeservices.co.uk/gardeningbooks.html

Some reviews and customer feedback;

wildlife
wherever
he could

could. Large areas of woodland were organised with south-facing glades; nettles and thistles thrived in wild areas, near the ponds; meadows were left uncut so that ladies' smock, trefoil, daisies and cornflowers could grow among native grasses; and circles of grass were left unmown round the base of fruit trees, protecting their roots and encouraging pollinators, a simple device that we could all adopt. The National Trust at Chartwell, under its enthusiastic and knowledgeable head gardener, Giles Palmer, has followed Churchill's lead.

As a child, Winston wrote to his mother, Lady Randolph Churchill: "I am never at a loss while I am in the country for I shall be occupied with butterflying all day."

If you'd like to encourage what Churchill called "flying fairies" into your garden, Jan Miller-Klein's *Gardening for Butterflies, Bees and other Beneficial Insects* (7wells.co.uk) is full of useful information, including habitat creation, border designs, species identification, and the best flowers to cultivate to sustain caterpillars and butterflies.

advised him on matters lepidoptera. With a transparent netted front (glass would make it too hot and dry), the house has a shelf for cages of caterpillars on feed plants, mostly nettles, hawthorn and thistle. The chrysalids are kept in hanging anti-spider nets, and the butterflies are released by finger into the garden 24 hours after they emerge.

These are indigenous British butterflies: painted ladies, peacocks, orange tips, tortoiseshells, red admirals, and skippers. Churchill loved to watch them spreading their wings as they set out on their maiden flight.

The planting at Chartwell is dictated by the butterflies' needs: nectar-rich summer and autumn flowering *Buddleja davidii* cultivars;

Sedum spectabile; *Centranthus ruber*; hebes; lavenders; and herbs from the kitchen garden. The insects also determined the style of gardening, which was then considered unusual. Churchill, who was ahead of his time, fostered wildlife wherever he

Fluttering by: (clockwise from top left) a peacock butterfly, *Inachis io*; Chartwell's Butterfly Walk; a cornflower; the common blue; cuckoo flowers; painted lady *Cynthia cardui*; *Sedum spectabile*, or ice plant; Churchill and his wife, Clementine, at Chartwell; the orange tip *Anthocharis cardamines*

THIS WEEK I HAVE BEEN ...
Thinning any surplus apricots that have not fallen during the June drop

PHOTO: GILES PALMER; THE NATIONAL TRUST; DAVID HALL; PETER ALAMY

The Sunday Telegraph | JUNE 24 2012

From Sir Jonathan Porritt;

I wanted to thank you for the copy of 'Gardening for Butterflies, Bees and Other Beneficial Insects'.

I had a chance to get a good look at the book at the weekend, and was really delighted with it. The Section on 'How to Identify Butterflies' is really one of the best I've seen, as someone who is vaguely interested in this area, and the section on Bees was also amazing – I had no idea about the diversity here!

Not really being much of a gardener (and that's something of an understatement!), I'm sure that some of the finer points about the design and layout will have passed me by – but the combination of excellent design and very practical advice is a sure winner. Amazing piece of work.

Very best wishes

Jonathon

Jonathon Porritt

Founder Director

[w forumforthefuture.org](http://www.forumforthefuture.org)

9 Imperial Square, Cheltenham GL50 1QB



Bob Flowerdew;

I love the concept and can see you have put much work into researching for it, I would have preferred a slightly less large, less DK and a less coffee table book, however the photography is excellent. Still a good effort, well done, Bob I included it as my book of the year recorded in Anne's garden, prog. (Gardener's Question Time Radio4) went out the following week, 3rd and 5th December- I did not hear prog. so perhaps the piece was not included as not all are, best wishes, Bob

Rob Sutton; I have just finished my cover-to-cover read - and it is exquisite! On so many counts you put the stress exactly where I do in my talks, and on so many others I learned something extra about varieties, propagation & garden design.

Dusty Gedge;

I think it is a great - looks good, reads well and an excellent addition to the canon on creating wildlife - well done.

15th July;

Hi Jan

Just received a copy of the book - looks brilliant! - the quality of the printing & binding is fabulous!!

Fingers crossed they sell like hot cakes for you!

Many Thanks & Best Wishes

Lucy

Many thanks for your e-mail. I can say, with great pleasure, that I can update Order Status to "RECEIVED". And- "well received", what a lovely book!

Yours sincerely, Henry Caistor

Jan

[Thanks very much for the book- well done you must be very proud.](#)

[Best wishes, Richard Scott Liverpool Wildflower Centre](#)

Dear Jan,

Many thanks for sending me a copy of your new book which is clearly a labour of love on your part. You must be delighted to see it in print. I have added a reference to my web site giving the publication details in the hope that it might attract a bit more custom.

Presumably you will be taking advantage of the Butterfly Conservation event at Juniper Hall later this month as a sales opportunity. With best wishes, David Element

I think the text I have read so far is excellent by the way. It is an excellent book. Full of good information and advice based on solid experience, e.g. about school gardens. Marc Carlton

EXCELLENT, a fine book. Thank you; a fine addition to the wildlife gardening list.

David Henderson

17th July;

The book is really lovely - easy to access because of the large print and clear layout, and beautiful crisp photos.

Caroline Parry

18th July;

It really is a beautiful, well designed book and I am sure you will sell lots of copies. It is bound to encourage more people to grow wildlife friendly plants in their gardens and to develop an interest in insects. Janet Graham.

Just writing to thank you for my copy of the book and to congratulate you on such a fine work. It looks splendid and I think you did marvellously to get it all together, get all those excellent illustrations and get illustrious people like Dusty Gedge to contribute. I really think it has the makings of a classic and I hope it sells well and gets good reviews. You obviously put enormous work into it, and it pushes forward the genre of wildlife gardening books onto a new level. Marc Carlton.

BOOKS REVIEWS

BUTTERFLY www.butterfly-conservation.org Autumn 2010

Gardening for Butterflies, Bees and other Beneficial Insects

This is an excellent book from garden designer, writer and passionate Butterfly Conservation volunteer Jan Miller-Klein.

It starts in familiar territory, with profiles on plants that are particularly good for butterflies through the seasons of the year, but then moves on to more. Much more. There are informative sections on bees, beetles and other beneficial insects, which provide identification tips as well as detailing the ecological roles played by these creatures and a myriad of ways to encourage them into your garden. There is, of course, lots of information about butterflies and moths, the habitats and resources they require and how to cater for them in your garden. For the more adventurous gardeners there are sections about creating butterfly banks, green roofs, flowering lawns and the brilliantly-titled 'water-creature feature'. And, perhaps, most useful of all, are the numerous garden designs for readers to copy or adapt. These suggest colourful and beneficial planting schemes for plots of all sizes from patio containers to school grounds.

The book is large format and wonderfully illustrated in colour. It's a practical guide, but also a fascinating collection of facts, anecdotes, advice from experts and case studies. On top of all that Butterfly Conservation will receive a donation from sales of this book. **Richard Fox (Senior project officer, Butterfly Conservation)**

Jan

Just received a copy of the book - looks brilliant! - the quality of the printing & binding is fabulous!!

Fingers crossed they sell like hot cakes for you!

Many Thanks & Best Wishes Lucy

Many thanks for sending me a copy of your new book which is clearly a labour of love on your part. You must be delighted to see it in print. I have added a reference to my web site giving the publication details in the hope that it might attract a bit more custom. Presumably you will be taking advantage of the Butterfly Conservation event at Juniper Hall later this month as a sales opportunity. With best wishes, David Element

I think the text I have read so far is excellent by the way. It is an excellent book. Full of good information and advice based on solid experience, e.g. about school gardens. Marc Carlton

Jan Miller is an exceedingly active volunteer with Butterfly Conservation in North Wales and a very knowledgeable horticulturalist. This book combines her interests & skills to give newcomers to gardening for butterflies etc an excellent manual. Pleasingly it does offer new ideas to old hands at butterfly gardening too, especially suggestions for moraine gardens and butterfly banks.

Moths are not forgotten either with numerous references made to plants & features to help them and their caterpillars.. It is lavishly illustrated & a joy to read. Lynn Fomison; I have to tell you, I enjoyed the book SO much, and hope I was able to communicate my enthusiasm in the review. You do a wonderful balancing act between the total gardening-for-wildlife brigade who want huge patches of nettles and piles of rotting logs everywhere, and the Robin Lane Fox types whose first instinct is to reach for a can of bugspray. Well done, girl! Pat Huff, Editor, Plant Heritage (NCCPG)

. I have really enjoyed reading your wonderful new book. I think that it is written in way that is very easy to understand and brings together a lot of information that I have on leaflets that I have acquired from various 'butterfly centres' over the years. I just hope that I can now find the time to transform my garden in some of the ways that you describe.

Mike Starkey

Thank you for sending out a copy of your book to me, at the request of (and as a gift from) my friend. It is an all-time first for me to have a book with a personal dedication, so thank you for taking time to sign the book. That is a lovely touch, and one I really appreciate.

Yesterday morning I took my coffee out into the sunny garden with the intention of dipping into your book. Having started to scan the summaries at the start, an hour later I found had been pulled into the detail and had read almost half of the latter half of the book! How unusual it is to have a book as deeply informative as yours that is so accessible and a joy to read. Thank you for all the time you put into that book. It was well worth the effort and it is a wonderful resource. Lynne Perry

Oxford Times. Val Bourne;

However I'm missing the bees and butterflies more than usual and the arrival of a new book, "Gardening for Butterflies, Bees and other beneficial insects" by Jan Miller-Klein, has made my longing for summer worse.

This large soft back book simplifies the art of butterfly watching by clear drawings showing their shape and distinguishing features. Common Blues have orange on their underwing and Holly Blues do not for instance. Jan's next section deals with the seasons and butterflies are teamed with the plants they seek out. There are instructions on how to grow these plants and butterfly flowers are nectar-rich and nearly always attract bees too. But flowers are only part of the picture: there's a section on food plants that's informative and if you want to create a butterfly garden these are vital. There are also three butterfly gardens with planting plans. Jan also deals with natural pest control and lists predatory insects and what they feed on. The section on ladybirds features seven species commonly found in gardens and there is also a section on solitary bees that you may see in your garden. There large photographs and the clear way this book is laid out would appeal to every age group and informing the young is vital. They may not realise how insect life has declined over the last four decades. However the clear layout makes this book look deceptively simple. Don't dismiss it. All the information is there. How many of you knew there was Harebell Bee, for instance. Many of the bee pictures were taken by Marc Carlton in his London garden (www.foxleas.com) so wildlife gardening is highly possible in a city.

A Good Read

Gardening for Butterflies, Bees and Other Beneficial Insects by Jan Miller-Klein
published by Saith Ffynnon

This would make an excellent Christmas present for any gardener who cares
about the planet. Tell your friends about it please.

...one of the reasons I really like your book – it's by a real-life person talking from
their own experience; I get fed up with coffee table books which just pull together
stuff from other sources and perpetuate the errors. ...the other bit of your book I
particularly liked – you covered moths as a matter of course, you didn't put just
have one page grudgingly put in at the end. I haven't got very "into" moths yet,
but that's lack of time and energy, not lack of interest – I've run a few moth traps,
which have been fascinating. Lyn Pullen, Dorset.

I just wanted to let you know how delighted my husband is with the book, which he received today
for his birthday. He loves the clarity of the lay-out & the wealth of photographic images &
particularly commented on how refreshing & welcome it is to have a book which hasn't been forced
into some publisher's format, but achieves so well what it so clearly sets out to do. Although we
know a fair amount about gardening for wildlife, the book has much in it that is new to us & so
many more photos than one usually finds in similar books.

So thank you again.

Good wishes
Jenny Dean

is a colourful and comprehensive compendium of practical advice. Its large format would look splendid on any coffee table, but ought really to be spread across the bench of a potting shed, a few empty seed packets tucked between its pages and earthy thumbprints in the margins.

Different approaches to gardening are recognised in the organisation of the book: which food plants to grow for different species; which plants to grow in each season; and how flora and fauna come together in different habitats. The book offers a wealth of ideas – from designs for borders and containers (and whole gardens), to seed suppliers and societies to join. It includes an identification guide to butterflies and sections by other authors with their own expertise.

There is a sense of 'go do it!' about the book – it imparts an infectious enthusiasm to do something practical, be it recording on a brownfield site or building a 'water creature feature' or a green roof. It is hugely informative and readable, but above all it's a practical manual, of value to gardeners, as well as the insects, and the birds and mammals that depend upon them.

DAVID WEMBRIDGE

READ ON

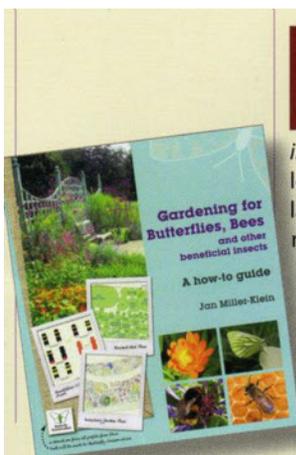


The Naturalized Animals of Britain and Ireland by

Christopher Lever is published by New Holland, normal price £35. Enter the discount code 'PTES' at the checkout for an exclusive 50% discount.

The Natural History Book, edited by David Burnie and published by Dorling Kindersley, is widely available, RRP £30.

Gardening for Butterflies, Bees and other beneficial insects by Jan Miller-Klein is published by Saith Ffynnon Books, and available from www.7wells.co.uk RRP£19.95.



There's plenty to recommend about *Gardening for Butterflies, Bees and other beneficial insects* by Jan Miller-Klein, not least the glorious poetry in the language of the book. The common names of butterflies and wild flowers, such as scarce vapourer, small pearl-bordered fritillary and purple loosestrife, provide such a wonderful lexicon that it almost can't help itself. But the book has more prosaic intentions: it

BOOK REVIEWS

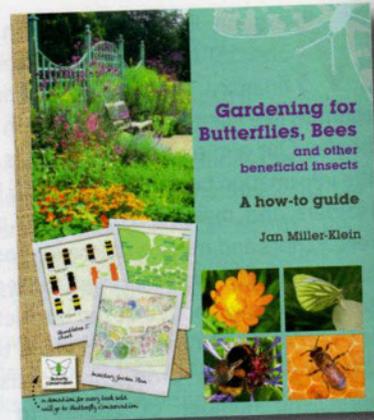
NEW BOOKS FOR GARDENERS

GARDENING FOR BUTTERFLIES, BEES AND OTHER BENEFICIAL INSECTS: A HOW-TO GUIDE

Jan Miller-Klein

262pp. Illus. Saith Ffynnon Books, ISBN 9780955528804, £19.95. The book is distributed through the author's website: www.7wells.co.uk

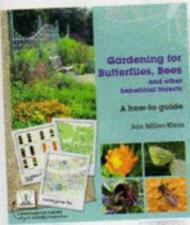
Jan Miller-Klein's boundless enthusiasm for bees, butterflies and dozens of other invertebrates is balanced by the realisation that she is writing primarily for gardeners. However much we might want to encourage our creepy-crawly chums, most gardeners are not prepared to sacrifice several square metres of garden to a patch of stinging nettles, nor to embrace creeping thistle because the Silver-Washed Fritillary finds it "irresistible". Ms Miller-Klein knows that it is a balancing act and offers in this book a list of insect-friendly plants and do-able projects that combine them in attractive and unusual ways. Her chapter on brownfield sites in particular is a revelation. The pressure to both house and feed an ever-expanding population means that developers are given incentives to use brownfield sites, which are considered to be already degraded, rather than encroach upon agricultural land. The surroundings of abandoned factories and disused mines are, however, often rich in biodiversity. Even the rundown corners of cities, eyesores full of dumped shopping trolleys and old mattresses, can be habitats rich in endangered species. The actions of 'guerilla gardeners' who tidy them up and replace the weeds with attractive plants may have unintended and unwelcome consequences. One way of



reproducing the spartan conditions of a brownfield site is to make a green roof, and Ms Miller-Klein gives simple directions on how to do it. She has a great grasp of the possible. Although the sight of wildflower meadows are beautiful in the mind's eye, in practice they require constant management and, usually, heavy earth-moving equipment. A flowering (i.e. weedy) lawn is much more within the grasp of most gardeners, and will be as beneficial to butterflies, bees and other insects. She gives plans for Butterfly Gardens, Bee Gardens and Moth Gardens, and suggests that you "photocopy the one you want and put in a plastic pouch to use in the garden so that your book doesn't get wet and muddy". She is honest as well as practical: no matter what you do, or what you plant, if you don't live near the Norfolk Broads, you are never going to get Swallowtail Butterflies in your garden. As National Collection Holder of *Eupatorium*, Ms Miller-Klein is already a major player in conservation. This book is just as she describes it: a 'How-To Guide' to get the rest of us involved.

Pat Huff

Love your bugs



GARDENING FOR BUTTERFLIES, BEES AND OTHER BENEFICIAL INSECTS

Jan Miller-Klein

Saith Ffynnon Books

£19.50

ISBN: 9780955528804

There was a time when gardening for butterflies meant planting buddleja. Luckily, advice for attracting

them to your garden has become a bit more sophisticated of late. Nectar-rich flowers are all very well, but since the adult butterflies are just the final stage of a long lifecycle mostly spent as a caterpillar, there are lots of other factors to consider first.

Brightly laid out and simply written, here is all manner of useful and helpful advice, including a note that buddleja, "can be invasive and should not be planted where it can seed into wild areas."

★★★★☆

Richard Jones is an entomologist and environmental writer

COUNTRYFILE BOOKSHOP

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January 2011

BBC Countryfile magazine

The Practical Islander: R. M. Lockley in his own words edited by Jen Ijyweijn *Swing Carrog Swach 2010 £8.50*

For contributed intense world, in islands and material for E. He managed ion for being in fresh air, s alive to the words. His valion meant cacophony of others saw I find the observation, stirred in him, companying story-telling explains the at appeal 's continued

together some es from half a a coherent realization of bits together the effect e reflection sley's writing, mpo, each if but also a ' unfolding together with daughter

The context for this selection of Lockley's writing, which was written between 1950 and the late 1940s, includes the relatively robust condition of nature, the relatively desperate state of farming and wartime exigencies. Unsurprisingly, his social observations, particularly about farming, are dated, and perhaps naive. He was a controversial figure in Pembrokeshire at one time, and no doubt the attraction of islands for him included an escape from society. Yet it is striking how fresh much of the writing remains. Jen Ijyweijn has been astute in her selection; the writing here is simply sparkling.

The Practical Islander should introduce a new generation to Lockley's very particular vision, as well as providing those familiar with his books with a reason to take another deep draught from the well.

James Robertson



Self Sufficiency: A Practical Guide for Modern Living Liz Wright *Gaia Books, London, 2010 £20.00*

I came across this book at Hay Festival, where its author was answering questions on self-sufficiency, most of which dealt with nuts and bolts issues. This is exactly what the book does; it is down to earth. The subtitle gets the point across – this is the stuff of life, a guide to green living. Liz herself is at pains to avoid promoting too narrow,

dogmatic a version of self-sufficiency. Her breadth of understanding of the issues at the heart of living more lightly and 'sustainably' is drawn from her work in Africa; no reason, then, to be surprised at the inclusion of a panel of information on 'Down to Earth Cuba'.

This nicely sets the context for what is a mine of practical information. The bulk of the 320 pages is packed with information to help anyone wanting a greater sense of self-reliance in their lives; this is surely most of us, given the shallowness of the consumer experience. As well as familiar (to me at least) subjects like vegetable growing, composting and poultry-keeping, are less well-covered ones, such as cleaning the home, making candles and soap, weaving, spinning and dyeing. There is a chapter on working with wildlife, and a section on food from the wild. While I would have welcomed more about managing land for nature, there is so much information to fit in that it is inevitable that some aspects have to be signposted rather than covered in detail.

Liz Wright believes strongly that you don't have to have acres of land to be more self-sufficient; and she warns against over-ambition when you get started. The hallmark of this book is its common-sense approach. Don't get carried away by self-sufficient dreams, which may end in failure. Be realistic in what you take on. Even if you only tackle a couple of the subjects in this book, you'll live a more connected life, with all the satisfactions that brings.

James Robertson



Birdsong Kim Atkinson and Noelle Griffiths *Hafod Press 2010, Hardback £7.50*

Last winter on a walk I came across a pair of artists sitting alert in the woods. On greeting them I was promptly shushed to be quiet until they finished their half-hour sound sample. Each season, in the Vale of

Ffestiniog and at Aberdaron, Noelle Griffiths and Kim Atkinson conducted a survey making notes, drawing and painting the sounds they heard. The finished product is a metre wide book, called *Birdsong*, in which the calls of various birds are represented by a series of marks or squiggles. No words can do this justice, it has to be seen, and a copy is available at the National Library of Wales.

A further nine copies have been produced and if you are thinking of a Christmas gift, be aware there is no missing decimal point in the purchase price!

Kim Atkinson has previously provided artwork for the front cover of *Natur Cymru*.

Huw Jenkins



Gardening for Butterflies, Bees and Other Beneficial Insects: A How-To Guide Jan Miller-Klein *Saith Ffynnon Books 2010 £19.95*

This most attractively presented book delivers a wealth of information for both the wildlife enthusiast, always willing to learn more, and for the keen gardener who wants to be more environmentally friendly. The book is richly illustrated throughout with a range of large colour photographs and clear diagrams giving practical tips on creating flower beds and borders that are nectar-rich throughout the year. The large typeface is easy to read and the text clear to understand whilst

not departing from the need to impart technical information in good plain English. The insights into the wonders of many of our small garden insects will be enough to encourage the reader to investigate the more obscure world of the creatures that we dismiss at our peril. There is help to identify the 'good guys' and clear reasons as to why we should not only tolerate these animals but do our best to positively encourage them in the garden.

The book clearly links which plants are beneficial for which insect and highlights the importance of recognising the caterpillars of our more common butterflies and moths. It is useful to know that different plant species are needed at the larval stages in these animals' lives. We have our eyes opened to the value of small patches of wild habitat often found just outside our garden boundaries and we learn the value of keeping these wild patches

as part of the mosaic enjoyed by the beneficial insects. Hedgerows, field edges and derelict (brownfield) land are all part of the jigsaw and we should try and defend these areas where possible.

For the keen horticulturalist there is maybe too much emphasis on growing wildflower species and there are some mildly irritating inconsistencies and inaccuracies in naming plants. I would have liked to have seen listed a much wider range of suitable garden plant cultivars as many of these are great sources of nectar but undoubtedly growing some native species in our gardens is a good thing. This book helps us to make those balancing act decisions. Many examples in this book come from Wales and overall this enhances the relevance of the book for Welsh readers and it should be a recommended read.

Anne Brenchley

Natur Cymru 2011

Gardening for Butterflies, Bees and Other Beneficial

Insects by Jan Miller-Klein is a delightful guide into the hows & whys of bug-friendly gardening. *Butterflies & Bees*, focuses primarily on these two bestknown pollinators. Miller-Klein launches into the world of insects and flowers in a soft-cover 'coffeetable' book. It begs to be picked up if only for the pictures.

Colour-coded like a reference book on birds, *Butterflies & Bees* is very accessible. Taken section by section this book guides the reader gently into a smaller, alternate worldview. It opens with the big questions of 'why' and 'how' before systematically stepping through the maze of plants, habitat, examples and garden designs, making it a handy how-to guide.

But what turns the page are photographs. We get to see Peacock butterflies the size of saucers and bees the size of teacups and we also see glorious photographs of old-world flowers with medieval names such as honesty, feverfew and vipers bugloss.

Miller-Klein is a naturalist living a dream life on an eight-acre farm in the shadows of a twelfth century castle in North Wales. Miller-Klein and husband Richard turned their sheep pasture, meadowland for the past few centuries, into an ecological centre that has become well known across the UK and Europe as a model of what can be done to turn the ecological clock back on impoverished land and restore some sort of bio-diversity.

Fortunately for them, native deer are long gone and a four-foot fence is sufficient to keep the neighbouring sheep

from feasting on the jungle of flowers and foliage.

The recent world-wide concern about honey bee 'colony collapse disorder' is one of the motivations for this book. In the UK there are some 254 species of wild bees (about 400 in BC) and the fact that bees generally account for a third of the food crops we depend upon is no small matter. Not surprisingly, *Gardening For Butterflies, Bees And Other Beneficial Insects* provides an overview of insect friendly habitats, habitats that demonstrably work, at least in the UK. Photos and lists of butterfly and/or bee-friendly plants are provided for every season ranging in scale from meadows to raised beds and containers for the urban patio.

The writer includes careful notes and warnings about the introduction of non-native species to the UK that are 'one of the big threats to biodiversity.'

Notwithstanding geographical and ecological differences, *Gardening For Butterflies, Bees And Other Beneficial Insects* is a handy guide and a fun read or browse for gardeners of any age.

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Visit www.islandtides.com to read the current edition and more find more interesting articles on other BC, national

& international topics in our extensive archive of newspapers and articles.

Book Review by Brian Crumblehulme

A Bug's Eye View of Gardening

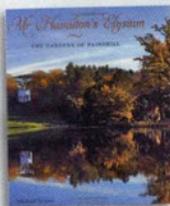
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Michael Symes
176pp 2010
Frances Lincoln
ISBN 9780711230552
RRP £35

Mr Hamilton's Elysium

An impressive culmination of a lifetime's research on the gardens of Painshill Park

Painshill Park in Surrey is iconic both for its cultural success as an 'Elysian garden' (a naturalistic designed landscape) created by Charles Hamilton in the 18th century, and as an exemplar for volunteer-based restorations.

The quality and depth of the research in this book is striking. Every sentence bulges with historic detail. The book is beautifully composed and illustrated, with both up-to-date images and those made by 18th century visitors. The book is not only of interest to those who are concerned with Painshill. Many sections provide an excellent basis to a wider appreciation of garden history, such as a chapter in which the author explains the discipline of depict

Research into Painshill is something of a life's work for the author, a garden historian to whom we gratitude for his teaching, making this book well anticipated. ■

Linden Groves is co-author of The Gardens of English Heritage



Jan Miller-Klein
264pp 2010
Saith Ffynnon
Books
ISBN 9780955528804
RRP £19.50

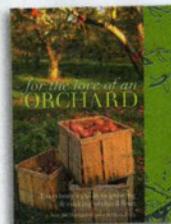
Gardening for Butterflies, Bees and Other Beneficial Insects

The author is a passionate gardener and spokesperson for garden wildlife. Her book is large, well illustrated and full of practical information with guides to identifying butterflies, bees and other groups of beneficial insects. As well as describing the best nectar-rich plants for adult butterflies, the author discusses food plants needed by caterpillars. The garden can serve all life stages and her images of caterpillars may even deter gardeners from using insecticides.

The best feature of this book is her practical advice on designing special garden habitat areas. Her series of garden designs and planting schemes are invaluable – the suggestions are attractive, practical and achievable.

This is a special book for those who want to be creative and imaginative, and love observing garden insects. At a time of increasing worldwide concern about the decline in honeybees and other pollinators, this book has a message for everyone. ■

Stephen Head is co-ordinator of the national Wildlife Gardening Forum



Jane McMorland
Hunter and
Chris Kelly
288pp 2010
Pavilion
ISBN 9781862058507
RRP £25

For the Love of an Orchard

A sentimental look at orchards
This book is about the romantic orchards in days gone by. It history of orchards, including growing top fruit in garden separate kitchen gardens will be trained against walls and historical quotations such

There is coverage of dwarf for smaller gardens, but like images it has an impression information for practical g the chapter 'Growing fruit photographs of fruit places and wrapped for storage, b growing the fruits themsel

This is an attractive book illustrations and decoration its story. The photographs slightly misty atmosphere. and nostalgic story of trad conjures up an image of fr suits this ideal. It is a good its readers to take a deeper wonders of growing fruit.

Tom La Dell is a landscape of Brogdale Collections Tr

26 Thursday, July 7, 2011 **LOBHAGER NEWS** and the North Star. / Ray C.

A COUNTRY DIARY  **by Ray Collier**

Essential guide to creating an insect-friendly garden

GARDENING FOR BUTTERFLIES, BEES AND OTHER BENEFICIAL INSECTS By Jan Miller-Klein. Pub. Saith Ffynnon Books. 2010. ISBN 978-0-9555288-0-4.

WITH such a proliferation of books on "wildlife gardening" these days it is difficult to find one that stands out above the others. However, this is such a book and it is partly because it concentrates on butterflies and other insects and does not get bogged down with birds and mammals.

All too often such books do not combine the essence of gardening with the needs of the various groups of insects whether it be butterflies or bumblebees. This book entwines the two very successfully and for this reason it will appeal to gardeners and insect enthusiasts alike. A good example is the ivy that has a well deserved section on its own. I had not really appreciated its value to insects all the year round and it looks on the pros and cons of ivy to the gardener that even I could understand.

One section I did like was the tour through the seasons with illustrations of butterflies, moths and bumblebees. Then there is a section, most important, on basic identification of butterflies seen in the garden. Such books often conveniently ignore the need to actually identify the butterflies.

BOOKS

Chapter four is "A gazetteer of the best flowers to grow in each season". This chooses the best plants for spring, summer and autumn with such plants as Aubrietia, garlic mustard, cuckoo flower and various heathers. There is also the best section on Buddleias I have read including the various species and the colours and the best one to attract butterflies. These shrubs also indicate the significance in being able to grow flowers that will blossom all through the spring to the autumn. This is most important for the butterflies coming out of hibernation and the huge numbers that may come in as migrants such as red admiral and painted lady.

The range of insects covered is wide as, apart from butterflies and moths, it includes beetles, bees, lacewings and even spiders. I found the section on attracting dragonflies intriguing and made me re-think some of my ideas about garden ponds.

This is a large format book, which means that the photographs on whole pages show them off well although the standard is variable. It was good to see the section entitled "School Wildlife Gardens", as I fully support any efforts to involve children with wildlife at any level these days.

The Appendices starts with a well deserved plug for Butterfly Conservation that these days does so much for the conservation of insects throughout the countryside.

Another Appendix lists the sources of plants and seeds and the next one is caterpillars and adult food plants for common garden butterflies. There is a list of flight periods of garden butterflies followed by useful addresses and websites.

If anyone is interested in helping or attracting insects to gardens then this book comes thoroughly recommended. There are plenty of books covering birds and mammals but as far as I know this is the first to deal solely with insects. A must-buy.

From the Journal of Insect Ecology;

JICo Book Review

Historically, butterflies have been at the centre of insect conservation and although in the last the few decades, this comparatively new science has increased in scale and importance, broadening to include many different insect species, butterflies remain among the most well studied of all fauna, not least in the UK. Being relatively conspicuous on warm sunny days, and easily identified and observed by scientists and public alike, butterflies are frequently more accessible than many less-well known insects, but similarly sensitive to pollution and changes in climate, land use and management. Thus, as well as being pollinators and prey for other animals, butterflies are variously regarded as "flagships" for other insects, good indicators of environmental health and wider biodiversity, and in the UK, as icons of the British countryside, which are almost universally included in wider nature conservation strategies.

One does not have to visit the countryside in order to see butterflies however. On the contrary, their decline in rural areas in recent years due to loss of habitat has been well documented, as has the increase in importance of greenspaces in urban areas, including domestic gardens, for butterflies and other species. In the UK, as many as 20 different butterfly species can be seen in gardens, around 10 of these, quite commonly, even in densely populated urban areas. Provided there are nectar plants available and suitable habitat nearby, these butterflies will potentially visit any garden, however small.

Butterflies, arguably the most beautiful of all insect species and perceived by many people to be aesthetically "pleasing", harmless and therefore, intrinsically worthy of conservation, are the focus of this 262-page book. However, with contributions from other authors and experts, writer, plantswoman, garden designer and Butterfly Conservation volunteer Jan Miller-Klein seeks to raise the profile of other frequently overlooked and sometimes reviled beneficial insects, and demonstrate how they, along with their more overtly attractive butterfly counterparts, can be encouraged into gardens and put to good use as predators of plant-eating garden pests.

The book itself is in large, soft-cover format, with easy-to-read large text, and for quick access, is colour-coded into the 10 main sections into which it is divided. The first section starts on familiar ground with a brief introduction explaining why the conservation of butterflies and other insects is important, how insects can be useful as well as beautiful, and painting an attractive picture of how a garden, set out and planted to attract insects and other wildlife, might look. Just under a half of the book is taken up by the next section: a gazetteer of the best plants to grow in each season and the butterflies that might come to them at that time. This is followed by a much shorter but equally informative chapter on bees and beetles, the plants and habitats to which they are attracted, and the benefits of attracting them (e.g. natural pest control), and the sections on specific insects end with a chapter on how to grow foodplants for larvae, focussing mainly on butterflies, but including some moth species. The book then moves onto specific habitat areas including moraine gardens and banks for butterflies, wildflower meadows and flowering lawns, water features and ponds, and how to create them, often from already existing features. For the more adventurous, in a survey of brownfield sites, there are instructions on how to construct a green roof on an extension or a garden shed. Next, three butterfly gardens, including one designed by the author are showcased and followed by a chapter of designs and plant lists for borders, raised beds and containers, and insect gardens, each of which can be copied and adapted to urban as well as countryside settings. The text concludes with a brief survey of the ways in which the UK government, local councils and environmental organisations are working to protect butterflies and other threatened species. Finally, there is an appendix with table summaries of adult and larval foodplants of the butterflies commonly seen in gardens in Britain, their flight seasons and information on where to find useful societies (including Butterfly Conservation, which receives a donation from the profits from the book), suppliers of plants and seeds, gardens to visit, and all the relevant websites.

One of the factors that set this book apart from many on wildlife, plants, gardens or gardening is that it is published by the author and so is not constrained by publishers' formats. The result is one of the most striking features of the book: an unusually large number of beautiful colour photographs taken by insect and plant specialists and, according to the author, representing hours of individual observation. There are numerous close-ups and portraits of all the butterflies, moths and other insects featured, and the plant(s) to which they are attracted, each with their common and latin names, and in the case of the plants, how and where they may best be grown. These detailed photographs are balanced with broader scale views of groups of plants, gardens and landscapes illustrating planting styles and habitats specific to the different groups. The second part of the book is also illustrated in colour with schematic diagrams and elevations of planting and garden plans. Almost no page anywhere in the book is without some form of illustration, which adds to the book's appeal.

Another distinctive feature of the book is the deceptively simple but clear identification key consisting of stylised diagrams highlighting the main defining characteristics of each species within the six main families of butterflies one might see in UK gardens. A smaller, but similarly drawn, key for bumblebees reveals a diversity that might otherwise go unnoticed to the casual observer.

The text itself is informal and personable in style, and for such an informative book, very easy to read, whether from cover to cover or by "dipping in and out". I initially picked the book up with the intention of scanning the first section on butterflies and plants but quickly found that I had been drawn into reading the whole section. It is perhaps a shame that there are one or two typing and grammatical imperfections and places where, in my opinion, the writing style becomes a little too personal. But these are minor quibbles which do not detract from the main messages of the book or the wealth of factual,

observational and experiential information on butterflies, moths, the habitats they require, the contribution they make to the ecology of individual gardens as well as the wider environment, and the numerous ways of encouraging them into gardens, contained within. As well as being inspiring, the book is encouraging in that it makes wildlife gardening accessible to anyone and achievable even with minor changes that can be made over time to existing gardens whatever their state, rather than by means of a complete overhaul. For example, a common misconception about wildlife gardening, in particular for insect species, is that only a narrow range of mainly native plants are suitable and that cultivated gardens and the plants within them have little to offer. However, the gazetteer and plant lists show that this is far from the case as the majority of the plants featured can be found on sale in nurseries and garden centres.

This book is indeed what its title indicates: a “how-to guide” full of practical advice on how to garden for butterflies, bees and other beneficial insects. However, it is far more than the coffee-table book its large format, weight and vast number of photographic illustrations might easily suggest. Whilst not being a “hard scientific” textbook, the information presented is supported by “hard science” with the results of fairly recent research subtly integrated into a text which will appeal to anyone interested in, and wishing to find out more about, insects, plants, gardens and gardening, as well as those whose focus is specifically conservation. While there is no shortage of books on butterflies, insects, plants or wildlife gardening in the UK, if there is room on any shelf for only one more, then this beautiful and edifying book would be an excellent choice. Speaking personally, as an ecologist and a keen gardener, I am delighted to own a copy and would have no hesitation in purchasing another as a gift for a friend or relative.

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Price £20.00 Large format, 262 pages with colour photos on every page.

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