



Press Release



Red tailed bumblebee, Jon Hawkins, Surrey Hills Photography

Derbyshire's first ever Bee Summit

Join us for a day packed full of bees. Listen to the latest from national bee experts, discover what you can do to help bees recover, find out how organisations and businesses in your county want to work together to encourage bees and enjoy a local school's bee wiggle dance! The event, being held the University of Derby on the 24th June is Derbyshire's first ever Bee Summit. The UK is home to approximately 267 species of bee, including the well-known honey bee and bumblebees, but also many species of solitary bees but they are in decline and we have lost two species of



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bumblebee already.

Tim Birch, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's Head of Advocacy and Conservation Strategy said, "now is the time to bring together a whole host of concerned and interested organisations to work in partnership, to agree on an action plan for bees and pollinating insects in Derbyshire. We believe this would be a first such comprehensive event at the county level in the UK and could encourage other counties to do the same."

Professor Paul Lynch, Head of Department of Natural Sciences adds, "A healthy bee population is fundamentally important as they are primary pollinators for many of the UK's wild flowers and agricultural crop plants. Approximately 78% of temperate flowering plants are insect-pollinated, meaning without insects such as bees they could not successfully reproduce. Bee pollination (often from commercial hives) is vital for the production of important UK crops including oilseed rape, apples and strawberries. However, in recent years there have been substantial declines in many bee species in the UK, with evidence of reduced ranges for species and particularly solitary species becoming more endangered."

The Bee Summit will celebrate the significance of bees to the sustainability of our environment, assess why there has been such a significant decline in recent years and consider what can be done to reverse these worrying trends.

The full list of speakers will be announced shortly on Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's website <http://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife/wildlife-advice/bees/bee-summit> and the day will run from 9.30am – 5.30pm. Tickets cost £30.

To book your tickets please call the Trust on 01773 881188.