

Draft Press Release
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Bee friendly planters brighten up Clifton Village

Brightening up Bristol and creating new habitats for bees and other pollinators, a series of new multi-tiered planters have been developed by dedicated locals to be placed at key locations across Clifton Village.

The Clifton Collective project has been funded by local businesses through BID Clifton Village and the Bristol Council's Cabot, Clifton and Clifton East Neighbourhood Partnership, extending the legacy of Bristol's Green Capital. It aims to provide new sheltered areas for bees and butterflies and raise awareness of how local planting can help improve our ecosystem.

The impressive planter extends over several tiers and is full of bee houses, bee hotels and bee-friendly seasonal flowers and herbs. The planters have been hand built from reclaimed wood and designed especially for Clifton Village by Bristol carpenter Russell Henry from Hot Soup House. The first planter will be positioned on Regent's Street, providing an attractive welcome to people to discover Clifton Village.

Florist Connie Reeves of Bristol based Flower Riot will be planting the planters with a combination of spring flowers and flowering herbs, as well as wild roses to encourage the solitary leaf cutter bee, which is vital to the local ecosystem. The first planter will be packed with trailing star jasmine, lavender, wallflowers, bellflowers, sweet william, yarrow, roses, honeysuckle, tree ivy and crocuses. The aim is to fill the planters with bi-annual plants and shrubs so that they become sustainable and don't need to be replaced each year.

Speaking about the Clifton Collective bee-friendly planters, BID Clifton Village Chairman, Andrew Morgan MBE, commented:

"We hope these planters will raise awareness of the importance of bees and other pollinators to our ecosystem as well as brightening up Clifton Village and becoming permanent fixtures across our community.

As many pollinators such as bees and butterflies are in decline globally, with one of the main causes being the loss of habitat and flowers, this collective is an opportunity to look for ways to boost numbers and is in line with the National Pollinator Strategy."

A secondary part of the project will encourage an informal network of local Clifton Village bee-keepers and bee-friendly gardeners, and will host talks about beekeeping and bee-friendly planting, and provide information about bees on the Discover Clifton website; www.discoverclifton.co.uk.

To celebrate the completion of the first planter, the official launch of the Clifton Collective planters will take place on Thursday 25th February with support from the Royal Horticultural Society's South West in Bloom.

Known as a corner of the countryside in the heart of Clifton, Clifton Village is proud to have won a host of awards for its spectacular show of flowers and gardens, taking home a 2015 Gold Royal Horticultural Society Pennant Award, a 2014 Outstanding Neighbourhood Award and another Gold RHS Pennant Award in 2014.

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