



The Patchwork Meadow

The Patchwork Meadow is a voluntary-led constituted organisation with charitable aims that started in North Edgbaston during the first lockdown. Our aim is to brighten up our local neighbourhoods, bring back the pollinators and give people the opportunity to connect with nature on a daily basis. We believe that if we all plant pocket meadows in window-boxes, pots and hanging baskets and in our gardens and streets, together we can create a huge green space, a 'Patchwork Meadow'. So, we give out packets of wildflower seeds and plant seeds wherever we can.



We focus on trying to reach people who may not be able to afford to buy seeds, giving these out at food hubs, Places of Welcome and events in inner-city parks. In addition to giving wildflower seeds to local residents, they have been given out in wellbeing packs on Mental Health Awareness Day, in activity packs for Syrian refugee families (with instructions translated into Arabic) and in kindness bags given out by a local supermarket to key workers and people who were shielding.

We have also planted pocket meadows in the grounds of a church, a supermarket car park, a railway station, a cemetery, a sailing club, a pub, a retirement complex, supported accommodation for vulnerable individuals, a park and a community centre. School children have helped us with the planting, and we've run sowing sessions for children visiting food hubs, enabling them to take home a 'mini-meadow' in an egg-box to put on a balcony or outside a front-door.



Working in conjunction with Woolly Mammoth Stitchworks we have worked with local residents aged 50+ on 'sewing' and 'sowing' projects to help brighten up Quinton and Brandwood, resulting in a trail of metre meadows (wildflowers and embroidered) across the area.



It is now recognised that we need to do everything possible to address the climate crisis, 'thinking globally, acting locally'. Meadows have decreased in the UK by 97% over the past 30 years and one third of the UK's bee population has disappeared over the past decade. The decline of pollinators will have serious implications for biodiversity, for food production and gardens. It has been estimated that a bumblebee needs to drink nectar and eat pollen every 40 minutes of flying time; without this they cannot fly. In addition to enhancing our urban neighbourhoods planting pocket meadows enables us to provide vital 'pit stops for bees'.

Each of our packets of wildflower seeds will cover one square metre. Our seeds are an annual and perennial mix, so that they will flower in future years. They are made up of seeds which are easy to grow and suited to all types of soil. For every £1.50 that is donated we are able to sow a square metre of wildflowers.

BBC Midlands Today did a short feature on our work which you can see at [YouTube.com/watch?v=3ewT1y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ewT1y)

To date we have given out and planted seeds, resulting in more than 3,000 square metres of meadow, some of which are pictured below.



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