

May 2009

## Bee aware – before it's too late

Find out what you can do to help the decline of the humble bee at a nature event next week.

As part of the North Devon Festival, North Devon Council, Northern Devon Coast and Countryside Service and Fremington Parish Council are hosting a Bee Awareness Day at Fremington Quay on Saturday 6 June from 11am – 4pm.

Bees are essential for the pollination of crops and wildflowers, as well as making us honey but they are currently in serious decline. They are responsible for pollinating about a third of all the foods we eat, so their loss would have catastrophic effects.

This free event includes the opportunity to see a demonstration hive, make a bee box for your garden, buy some local honey and ask the experts about bees and what you can do to help them. There will also be regular bee walks along the Tarka Trail looking at bees with an expert.

Visitors will also have the chance to find bee-friendly plants on guided walks at Fremington Local Nature Reserve, designated as part of the North Devon's UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Andrew Moulton, Community Officer for North Devon Council says: "They may be small, but bees are an incredibly important part of our ecosystem, as well as giving us delicious honey for our toast! This is a free event for all the family and is a wonderful opportunity to find out what you can do to help the nation's bees in the beautiful setting of Fremington Nature Reserve."

Tom Hynes, from the Northern Devon Coast and Countryside Service added: "The decline in bees is something the whole world should be concerned about but if everyone did a little bit to help bees we could make a huge difference. During the Bee Awareness Day there will be lots of opportunities to help including the chance to win a bee box for the garden, to find out more about which plants are good for bees and to learn more about what bees need to survive."

For more information, contact North Devon Council's Parks Team on 01271 388323, email [parks@northdevon.gov.uk](mailto:parks@northdevon.gov.uk) or [ndccs@devon.gov.uk](mailto:ndccs@devon.gov.uk) or visit [www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk](http://www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk)

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