

## What is Space to thrive?

Chelmsford City Parks look after green spaces across the district, creating wildlife-friendly areas within urban surroundings to give nature space to thrive. These habitats can be found in your local park or even smaller patches of green and roadside verges in your neighbourhood.

By leaving areas of grassland to grow taller, wildflower meadows can bloom. This attracts pollinators which in turn provide food for mammals and birds in the food chain.

## What is a pollinator?

You might immediately think of bees (and you would be right!) but a pollinator is anything that transfers pollen from the male part of a flower to the female part. This could be of the same or a different flower. As well as bees our native pollinators include wasps, butterflies, moths, hoverflies and even mosquitoes.

## How does Space to thrive help to fight climate change?

Grassland soils can store as much carbon as woodland and reduce greenhouse gases. Wildflower meadows can reduce the effects of climate change by supporting biodiversity. They are also able to capture more rainwater due to the complex root systems which can help reduce flooding.

## What can you do to help?

We can all play a role in giving nature space to thrive and supporting pollinators.

- Encourage your grown-ups to leave areas of your garden for wildflowers to grow, to provide nesting and feeding sites.
- Offer a watering station, such as a shallow dish of water with some pebbles for insects to perch on.
- Build a bee hotel (see inside for instructions).
- Spread the word about how important these creatures are to our world.

## Stay up to date with Space to thrive



Scan for more information



Follow us @loveyourchelmsford

loveyourchelmsford.co.uk

Can you colour in our meadow and add any wildlife you have spotted in a local green space?



Space to thrive

fun activities inside

## Nature in your neighbourhood



Chelmsford City Parks

## Find the lost words

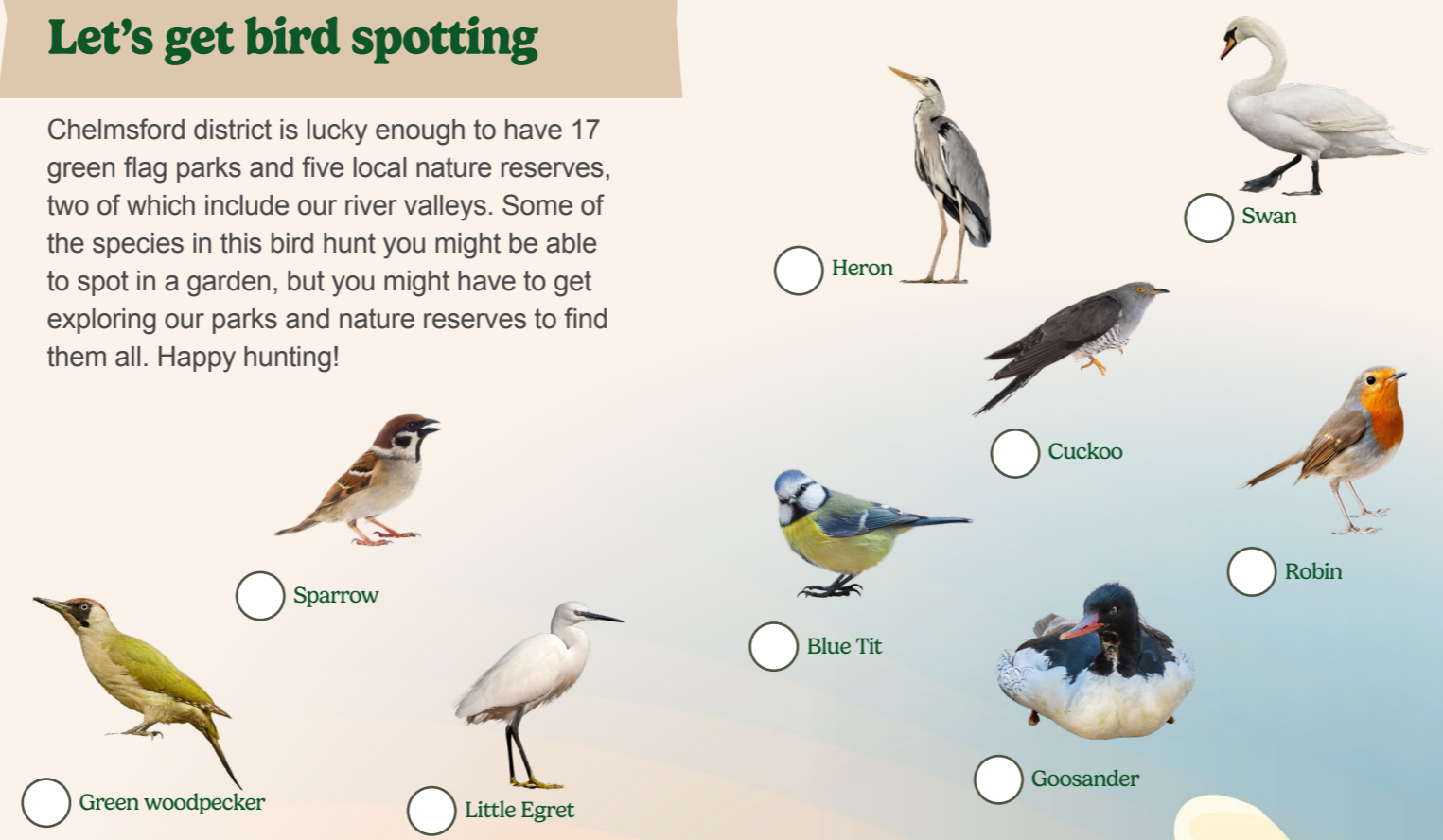
In 2007 the Oxford junior dictionary removed several nature words. We believe nature is more important for young people than ever – can you help revive some of these lost words by finding them hidden in the grid?

**J T A W K Z X S T A**  
**J M D B I D U U R C**  
**W H D L N A W Y O O**  
**D E E U G N I B T R**  
**E R R E F D L J T N**  
**N O R B I E L C E E**  
**B N L E S L O B R W**  
**I X I L H I W S Z T**  
**Z B U L E O V M H K**  
**F E R N R N X N J U**

- Acorn      Dandelion      Kingfisher      Willow
- Adder      Fern      Newt
- Bluebell      Heron      Otter

## Let's get bird spotting

Chelmsford district is lucky enough to have 17 green flag parks and five local nature reserves, two of which include our river valleys. Some of the species in this bird hunt you might be able to spot in a garden, but you might have to get exploring our parks and nature reserves to find them all. Happy hunting!



**Did you know?**  
 In the UK permanent grasslands are estimated to store more than 2 billion tonnes of carbon.

## Why not make your own pair of binoculars to help you spot them?



1. Get two cardboard tubes
2. Attach them together by wrapping a piece of card or paper around or sticking them in place
3. Decorate away with pens or stickers
4. Punch two holes, one on each side of the binoculars
5. Attach a string through the holes
6. Find a green space and see what you can spot!

## Five star bee hotel

### What you'll need

- Small terracotta plant pot
- Modelling clay
- Plastic straws or bamboo canes
- String or twine



### What to do

1. Cut the straws or bamboo canes to the length of your pot – you might need to ask a grown-up to help you.
2. Tie the bundle of straws or canes together with a piece of string or twine.
3. Place some modelling clay in the bottom of the pot and stick the bundle of straws or canes into the clay.
4. Place the pot on its side in a quiet area of your green space for the bees to move in.

**Did you know?**  
 Over a third of the world's food relies on insects to pollinate them!

**Did you know?**  
 In the last century the UK has lost 97% of its wildflower meadows.

