

NATURE DETECTIVE - MEET OUR EXPERTS!

We are very lucky at One Garden Brighton to have a team of experts who know a huge amount about nature, gardening and wildlife. We asked them all to share their favourite wildflower, insect and bird and explain why they love their jobs.

Read on to find out more about the team. If you have a question about plants, wildlife or gardening you can email us [here](#).

ALEX WATERFIELD—GROUNDS AND GARDENS MANAGER



I enjoy my job because I like watching plants grow and change with the seasons. I like seeing an area you've planted develop into something that can be enjoyed not just by myself, but give others enjoyment as well. It gives a real sense of achievement.

Favourite wildflower: Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*).

Though it doesn't have the most beautiful scent, it is distinctive and is always a reminder of walks as a child. En masse along a road verge it really makes a statement and is a good food source for pollinators.



Favourite insect: Orange Tip butterfly (*Anthocharis cardamines*)

Again probably a child hood thing, I was always attracted by the orange tips to the males wings and the mottled pattern to its underwing for camouflage and the way it darts back and forth along the hedgerow, one of its typical habitats.



Favourite bird: Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

Always will be and always has been my favourite bird. Who can't love its striking iridescent plumage that almost appears to shimmer and change colour as it catches the sunlight and the flash of electric blue as it flies by? It has an amazing ability to slightly hover over the water before diving in to catch its prey. Will never forget an occasion where one flew past me and I'm sure it cranked its head to say hello as it whizzed by. Just found out that it was supposed to be the first bird that flew out of Noah's ark!



KATE NANNERY—HORTICULTURAL APPRENTICE



I love my job because I get to work outside in nature and green spaces! I also love learning about all the amazing plants, how to grow them and keep them thriving and happy!

Favourite wildflower - Garden Forget-Me-Not (*Myosotis sylvatica*)

These pretty blue flowers spring up all over my childhood garden and I just love them. They thrive in woodland areas and add a beautiful carpet of blue through the dappled light.



Favourite Insect - Palomena prasina (Shield Bug)

These little green fellas are one of my favourite mini-beasts because my sister and I used to go hunting for them in my mum's garden when we were growing up. We used to call them Mr Greenies!



Favourite British Bird - Phalacrocorax carbo (Cormorant)

This fish-eating water bird is one of my favourites because they amazingly dive right into the water to get to their fish dinners! There is a group of them that sit by a jetty in Bristol and whenever I visit I go and watch them fish by the marina-side.





PETER WOOD—SENIOR GARDENER

I like my job because its always different every day, out in the fresh air and watching things grow and change. There’s always something new to see and you can try out new ideas.

Favourite wildflower: Meadow Poppy (Papaver Rhoeads)

I love these flowers because they are vibrant, papery thin with beautiful seed heads. They often grow in summer meadows and are quintessential-ly English. Poppies are also used as a symbol to remember soldiers who died in the two World Wars, as they grew on the battlefield of France after the First World War.



Favourite insect: Dragonfly (Anisoptera)

I love these delicate insects because of the way they hover over ponds. They have the most beautiful iridescent wings which catch the light in the sunshine. They also have a fascinating life cycle with several stages.

Favourite bird: Blackbird (Turdus Merula) * See Nature Detective Sheet Silver Level 2! *****
These distinctive birds, which are very common in parks and gardens all over England, have the most beautiful morning and evening song. They are also great in gardens for helping to eat pests which really helps with organic gardening.



HANNAH MAPLESDEN—HORTICULTURAL APPRENTICE

I enjoy my job because I can spend my time outside doing something useful and seeing all the plants grow and develop. It is really interesting and every day is different.

Favourite wildflower: Borage (Borago Officillanus)

I love this because it is such an unusual colour and bees are really attracted to it. It is a herb and can be used in recipes, to decorate drinks or salads and as a type of medicine.



Favourite insect: Damselfly (Zygoptera)

I love damselflies because they are shimmery and delicate. They live in the water in the first part of their life cycle and then in the sky when they are an adult. What an amazing transformation!

Favourite bird: Barn owl (Tyto Alba)

I love these birds because they are just so adorable and fluffy. They have huge eyes and amazing eyesight. They are nocturnal and hunt at night for small mammals to eat. They are a protected species and their nesting spots—mainly old barns—are becoming less common so we need to try and look after them and make sure they have places where they can nest undisturbed.



JONATHAN TURLEY—PLANT AREA SUPERVISOR



Favourite wildflower: Cowslip (Primula Veris). They remind me of pastures and cows. It is a beautiful plant that grows particularly well on chalk downlands, like those near One Garden Brighton.

Favourite insect: Beetle (species: Coleoptera). I love the poem by AA Milne about Alexander beetle. Read it [here](#)

Favourite bird: Mistlethrush (Turdus Miscovorus). They are very protective over their tree and berries. They get very territorial and tell other birds off that come near them!



LYDIA SAMUEL—LEARNING AND OUTREACH OFFICER

I like my job because I get to teach people of all ages about nature and gardening. I work with a team of people who are all passionate about what they do and enjoy working with volunteers, community groups and children of all ages doing lots of exciting activities linked to Science, wildlife and plants. I also get to hang out in a beautiful garden which makes me happy!

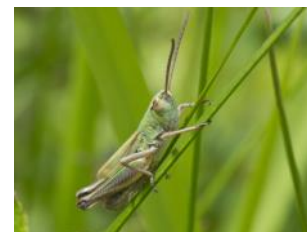


Favourite wildflower: Wild Violet

When I was a child my mum used to collect wild flowers, carefully wrap them in damp tissue and post them to my Great Aunt Violet. Near One Garden Brighton I discovered a beautiful glade of wild violets and recently found some sleepy bees resting amongst them. They look like little gems on the woodland floor.

Favourite insect: Grasshopper (*Omocestus viridulus*)

These remind me of lying in long grass as a child and of camping as an adult. When you lie still in a field you can hear them chirping and if you are lucky you will see them, clinging to a grass stem.



Favourite bird: Robin

I love the look of these birds—plain but with a flash of colour. They always seem slightly cheeky and inquisitive. I have an allotment and they will often come and sit near me and sing while I dig or plant vegetables. They also have the most beautiful uplifting song.

KATE MOYSEN, SENIOR HORTICULTURAL TECHNICIAN

I love my job. I get to work outdoors and see plants that excite and delight in every season (even winter!). I love playing a small part in keeping our planet green. And I love seeing our students excited by horticulture and nature. It is nice to be around people who feel the same.



Favourite wildflower: Bee Orchid (*Orphrys apifera*)

They only grow on chalk downland and are very rare. They are only pollinated by particular bees and butterflies and are an endangered species. We are very proud at Stanmer to have propagated these orchids from small pieces of plant tissue, a real achievement! They also look like a bee, hence their name!



Learn more about the amazing chalk downland in Sussex here and all the wildlife and plants that you can find there: <https://learning.southdowns.gov.uk/wildlife-habitats/south-downs-habitats/chalk-downland/>

My favourite insect: Ladybird (*Coccinellidae*)



They look absolutely beautiful and gardeners love them because they eat all the aphids!

My favourite bird: Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos Caudatus*)

I think long-tailed tits are great because they hang out in gangs and chat to each other. They are also very fluffy and cute!



WE HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED OUR NATURE DETECTIVE SHEETS AND ENJOYED MEETING ALL OUR EXPERTS. LATER THIS YEAR OUR BEAUTIFUL GARDEN WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND YOU CAN COME AND MEET OUR TEAM. [ONE GARDEN BRIGHTON](#) WILL BE FREE TO VISIT AND THERE WILL BE LOTS OF DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS.



SO DO GET IN TOUCH WITH US!

Email us: hello@onegardenbrighton.com

Learning and Outreach page at Facebook—click [HERE](#) to join.

Thanks, from all the team at One Garden Brighton!

