

Wildlife Friendly Addingham

Skipton Road Bank - making space for wildflowers, butterflies & bees

Three years ago this road bank was mown regularly right through the summer. Since then Addingham Environment Group has worked with Bradford Council to change the way it is managed. In that short time it has been transformed from mown grass into a colourful wildflower bank, buzzing with bumblebees and butterflies.



- *Now Bradford Council only cut the grass once a year in September, allowing all the wildflowers to finish flowering & set seed, saving money & carbon emissions too*
- *Wildflowers thrive best in low nutrient conditions, so the AEG volunteer team rake off the cut grass leaving it in piles for the Council to collect*
- *By taking off the 'crop' we are replicating traditional Dales hay meadow management*
- *To help with the transformation to a flower rich bank we've sown Yellow Rattle, a northern hay meadow plant which is especially helpful as it is parasitic on the roots of grasses, so suppresses their growth and creates room for other flowers to grow*
- *We've also put in some native plug plants, but mostly here changing the mowing, regime has given the wildflowers the opportunity to flourish*
- *Last summer nine species of butterfly were recorded here including good numbers of Orange-tip, Ringlet and Meadow Brown but also occasional Small Tortoiseshell and Small Heath. Bumble Bees (White-tailed, Buff-tailed and Common Carder) were less abundant than butterflies, but were particularly attracted to Ragwort in flower.*

