# All you need to know about the complexity of the Bee

## HOW MANY BEES ARE THERE?
There over 270 species in Britain divided into bumble bees, solitary bees and honey bees; they are all important.

## WHY ARE BEES IMPORTANT?
Bees visit flowers to collect nectar and pollen, which they use as food for themselves and their larvae. By moving from flower to flower, they pollinate many garden and wild flowers that are then able to create seeds and therefore new plants.

## HOW DO BEES FIND THE FLOWERS?
Firstly they obviously fly; they have 2 wings on each side and they hook the 2 together when they fly. They use 'insect pathways' to get around; these 'B lines' form a network that covers the landscape. If a bee finds a good source of food it will tell its nest mates through what looks like a dance to us, which is called the 'waggle dance'.

## WHERE DO BEES LIVE?
They live everywhere there are plants, including in the centre of our cities. They also live in all sorts of places. Some live alone in holes in walls or in the ground while others live in large communities. We have learned to farm bees for their honey by providing hives.



## WHAT DO BEES NEED?
Most bees need access to nectar from March to October but some emerge in February and are still flying in November so it is important there are a range of plants providing them with food throughout most of the year.

## HOW DO HONEY BEES REPRODUCE?
One honey bee, the 'Queen' produces all the eggs that the other bees look after. If she dies the workers select a larva and feed it special food called 'royal jelly' so it will develop in to a new Queen; by far the largest bee in the colony.

## ARE BEES CLEVER?
Well they have very small brains but scientists have trained buff-tailed bumblebees to score a goal in 'bee football' in return for a sugary treat. Besides their 'waggle dance' they have other ways of being efficient at collecting nectar. Bumblebees have smelly footprints that allow them to distinguish their own scent, the scent of a relative and that of a stranger. This means they can avoid flowers that have already been visited.

## HOW CAN WE LOOK AFTER OUR BEES?
Plant a range of native flowering plants that flower throughout the year.
The Parish Council is doing this (look at the map to see where the flowers are planted).
If you have a garden, yard or windowsill you can also help the bees. Every plant has flowers, even grass and trees so do not forget these. Here are some ideas:
www.gardenersworld.com/ plants/plants-for-bees/

BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL

# Buckden's Trees, Bees & Wild Flowers

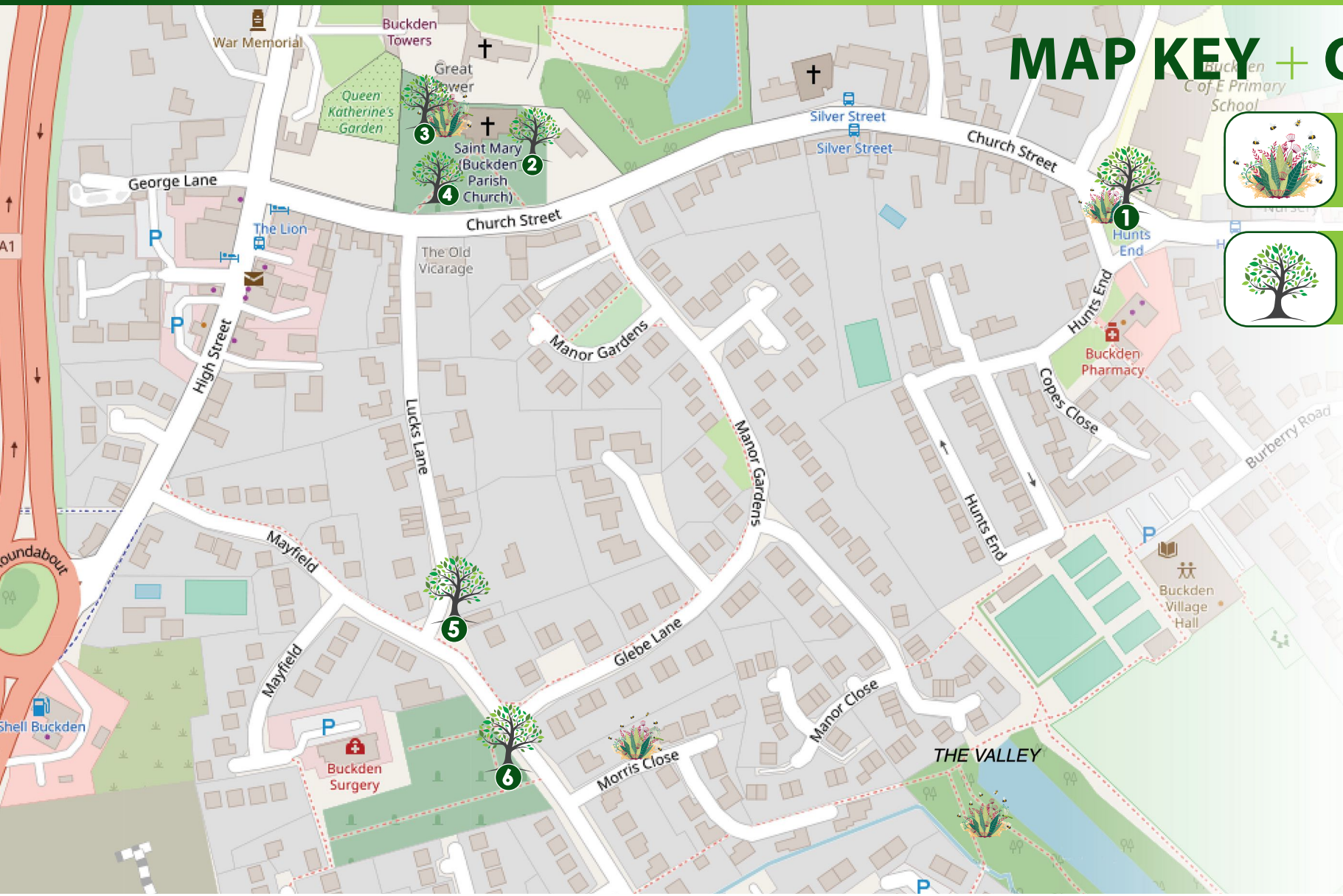
Check out our map inside that will guide you through some of Buckden's oldest trees and beautiful wild flowers

Includes QR codes to scan and listen to the details of each tree

Also on the back page of this leaflet, discover all you need to know about Bees!



# MAP KEY + QR CODES




Area of wild flower planting.

Our talking tree's! Just scan the QR Codes below to find out more.

1 OAK

2 YEW

3 JUDAS

4 SYCAMORE

5 SILVER BIRCH

6 HORSE CHESTNUT

**The oldest living organisms on earth are trees**, they are amazing and have been important to people for millennia. Take a moment to look at the wonderful trees in our village. To help you, some of our trees will tell you their stories. Find them on the map and take along your phone to hear what they have to say by using the QR codes in this leaflet or beside the trees themselves. The Parish Council celebrates trees through its 'Greening Buckden' initiative and has created a leaflet to help you plant more; the link to the leaflet is on this page: www.buckdenpc.org.uk/ the-parish/greening-buckden/