

# Bees for Development brings a buzz to Chelsea Flower Show 2025

## Who

Bees for Development, the global charity that harnesses the power of bees to fight poverty, protect biodiversity, and inspire climate action.

## What

RHS Chelsea Flower Show –  
Balcony Garden: Making Life Better with Bees

## When

Press Day – Monday 19 May 2025  
Public Days – 20–24 May 2025

## Where

RHS Chelsea Flower Show, Stand 803

## Why

To inspire urban audiences with the message: even the smallest spaces can support bees and biodiversity.

Bees for Development are thrilled to announce that their long-time supporter and new Patron, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, will be joining them on Press Day, Monday 19 May. His visit highlights their shared commitment to nature-based solutions to the world's greatest challenges.

The celebration continues on Tuesday 20 May, as their Balcony Garden plays host to a colourful celebration of World Bee Day, marking the critical importance of bees and biodiversity.



Bees for Development President, Her Majesty The Queen with Bees for Development Patron Martha Kearney and host Gyles Brandreth

## ABOUT BEES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Founded in 1993, Bees for Development is dedicated to harnessing the power of bees and beekeeping to combat poverty, promote biodiversity, and foster resilient livelihoods. Over the years, the charity has earned accolades for its impactful work at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, including a silver medal in 2018, a bronze in 2021, silver in 2022 and a silver gilt in 2024.

“Bees for Development is honoured once again to be invited to exhibit at RHS Chelsea Flower Show and create a Balcony Garden dedicated to pollinators, highlighting that even in the smallest of spaces, you can make life better with bees,” said Megan Denver, CEO of Bees for Development. “Our mission is to showcase the beauty of bees to underscore their profound impact on sustainable development. We believe that by promoting nature-based beekeeping, we can empower communities, protect ecosystems, and create a better world for all.”

Bees for Development's **President** is **Her Majesty The Queen** – a beekeeper herself. **Patrons** include **Monty Don**, **Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall**, **Baroness Anita Gale**, **Kate Humble**, **Martha Kearney**, **Professor Tom Seeley**, **Lemn Sissay**, **Sting (Gordon Sumner)** and **Sesi Turnbull**.



## THE BALCONY GARDEN STORY

Step into a buzzing world where African craft meets British ingenuity and design. Making Life Better with Bees is a vibrant, sustainable urban retreat that proves small spaces can make a big impact. Inspired by our work with beekeepers across Africa, the garden showcases the vital links between bees, biodiversity, and livelihoods.

A windfallen oak trunk displays a traditional African log hive—bringing authenticity and connection to rural communities in Africa.

Upcycled planters made from old honey barrels and beehives remind us that reuse can be beautiful and practical.

A hexagonal bench invites reflection, while providing privacy and space in tight urban settings.

A vertical living wall, punctuated with solitary bee hotels, highlights the importance of wild pollinators.

All planting uses peat-free compost and drought-tolerant species.

Plants such as Agapanthus, Kniphofia, and Gleditsia 'Ruby Lace' bloom in harmony—chosen for their pollen, nectar, and seasonal beauty. The planting palette reflects both African and British styles, creating an international celebration of pollinators.

### WHY THIS MATTERS

Bees for Development has worked for over 30 years in communities where bees change lives. Our RHS Chelsea garden sends a clear message:

**No matter where you live, you can make life better with bees.**

This garden is a call to action – encouraging every visitor to do more for nature, whether they have a balcony, backyard, or window sill. It also celebrates the role of bees in tackling poverty, enhancing biodiversity, and combating climate change.



## PLANT LIST

### Containerised Plants

- *Coreopsis verticillata* 'Moonbeam'
- *Corokia* 'Sunsplash'
- *Dianthus barbatus* Nigrescens
- *Dianthus superbus*
- Dwarf buddleia
- *Erigeron* 'Lavender Lady'
- *Eucalyptus* 'France Bleu'
- *Fragaria vesca*
- *Gleditsia* 'Ruby Lace'
- *Heuchera*
- *Kniphofia* 'Elvira'
- *Kniphofia* 'Little Maid'
- *Muehlenbeckia complexa*
- *Penstemon pinifolius*
- *Peony* itoh 'Garden Treasure'
- *Sedum* 'Cape Blanco'
- *Sedum reflexum* 'Blue Spruce'
- *Senecio* 'Angel Wings'
- *Tetradium daniellii* saplings
- *Trifolium rubens*
- *Nasturtium*

### Living Wall

- *Allium* 'In Orbit'
- *Allium schoenoprasum*
- *Erigeron* 'Lavender Lady'
- *Fragaria vesca*
- *Origanum* 'Dingle Fairy'
- *Silene flos-cuculi* 'Alba'

For more information about **Bees for Development**, our work, campaigns and images, please contact Jenny Handley at [jennyhandley@beesfordevelopment.org](mailto:jennyhandley@beesfordevelopment.org) | 07399 000 752