

Hand in hand through our..

Pond Life!

BABG is undertaking a number of projects on the allotments to encourage biodiversity. All undertaken by volunteer plot-holders largely on their own plots. This includes education on the use of chemicals such as slug pellets and weed killers; hibernacula; bug hotels to encourage insects and this, one of a few **small ponds**.



Tips for your small pond*

- Fill it with rainwater, tap water as chemicals that may inhibit growth.
- Don't have to keep it full, some animals benefit from varying water levels.
- Make sure there is a shallow edge so creatures can get in and out.
- No fish! They eat invertebrates and tadpoles.
- Choose native pond plants.
- Don't move frogspawn, it can spread disease.
- If you have a solid fence around your garden leave gaps to encourage migration.
- Be patient – a pond takes time to settle.

*Adapted from [bbc.com/future/article/2024023](https://www.bbc.com/future/article/2024023)

Some benefits of small ponds

- Supports pollinators – bees; hoverflies.
- And beneficial insects like ladybirds.
- Provides stepping stones for species to spread.
- Will add to biodiversity within weeks of setting up.

Species to look out for include :

- Common frog .
- Smooth newt.
- Water beetles .
- Diving beetles.
- Dragonfly nymphs
- Caddisfly larvae.
- Dragonflies.
- Not to mention birds and bats.