

Enjoy your garden more with Tythorne Garden Design

Garden design solutions: The Wilding Gardens Conference

by Ian McBain

In January, I travelled to Manchester for the inaugral Wilding Gardens Conference. Over two fantastic days, an extraordinary range of speakers talked about the important role our gardens can play in tackling the climate crisis that threatens us all.

As the name suggests, the theme of the conference was rewilding our gardens. An often misunderstood term, rewilding essentially means sharing our outdoor spaces with wildlife and nature. At its core I think there are three main themes:

1. Stop using chemicals

The impacts of pestcides or herbicides are stark. We know they can harm pollination, habitats, the food chain and water quality. But what about us? How are we being affected? We were told, for example, that



gylphosate is now being widely detected in the air we breathe, the rain that falls on us, and the dust in our houses. We are only beginning to understand the potential risks for our health, but it is entirely avoidable...we can and should garden (and farm) without chemicals.



2. More variety

More biodiversity requires more variety. This means giving space to different sorts of plants, creating more varied habitats, and having a more relaxed attitude to tidiness.

3. Adapting to a changing climate

We know that our climate is changing and this will change the type of plants we can grow. One speaker told us that by 2050, London's climate will be akin to Barcelona's now, so only plants that can cope with extended periods of hot and dry weather will survive. Yes, we'll likely experience wetter winters, but our summers will be longer, dryer and hotter. Our gardens will have to adapt.

It would have been easy to despair about the sheer scale of the challenges ahead of us, but the overwhelming feeling was one of hope. We can make a difference if we take some pretty straightforward steps to make our gardens better for wildlife and nature. Design can help, but so too can attitude.

TYTHORNE
GARDEN DESIGN

Tythorne Garden Design provides professional fixed-fee garden design solutions for customers in Grantham, Stamford, Newark and surrounding areas. Book your initial garden design consultation today by calling 01529 455 355 or 07900 224 239.