

#01
ISSUETHE
FARMING FUTURES
OBSERVEREspecial Issue
Farming and
Urban
Communities

THE LATEST NEWS IN REGENERATIVE FARMING ACROSS EUROPE



Cuzco Pirelli, the new 10-year-old TikTok environmental sensation revolutionising farming literacy

Cuzco, a 10-year-old attending Scuola Primaria Inverno in the Trastevere neighbourhood, in Rome, has become the new face of farming education, leading a community farm, improving his neighbours' farming literacy, and keeping up with his TikTok influencer account. [>> p. 2-3](#)

District 4 community farm in Brusselona reaches a consecutive new peak of volunteers

Local youth Pau has successfully led an initiative to push the popularity of communal farms leading to further decoupling of dependence on supermarkets and readily available foods. [>> p. 4](#)

London's new rewilding campaign is bringing bee voices to the core

Recently elected London Mayor is pushing back to truly rewild the city of London. Beyond integrating community farms, the Mayor is launching a campaign to build empathy among citizens with other species. [>> p. 10](#)

Brusselona's mandatory farming volunteering scheme in place

A new law on mandatory farming volunteering was passed last Wednesday in Congress. The law stipulates that students need to volunteer at nearby farms to be able to graduate. Harvesters of Change, the first organisation to bring students to farms, has been running for two weeks. [>> p. 2](#)

Conflict between humans and mice pest-hunter cats arise in London community farms

London community farms are facing tensions with the cats guarding them. Cat guards trace back to 2030 when many community farms started using cats as pest hunters. [>> p. 4.6](#)



New city, new life: How much has life changed for Brusselona newcomers?

Pau, a youth who moved to Brusselona three years ago, is very committed to food sovereignty in his district. His story brings some positivity in the face of the current food scarcity crisis. [>> p. 8](#)

From banking to blooming: Former banker leads change in landscape restoration

Peter, a former banker in Amsterdam, decided to start a regenerative farm with two friends in Noordhorn, Groningen. [>> p. 6](#)

5th EDITION OF POEMS OF NATURE
Read the awarded poems. [>> p. 11](#)



THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION

Brusselona's mandatory farming volunteering scheme in place

Emin Y.
Mon 16 Oct 2033, Brusselona

A new law on mandatory farming volunteering was passed last Wednesday in Congress. The law stipulates that students need to volunteer at nearby farms to be able to graduate. Harvesters of Change, the first organisation to bring students to farms, has been running for two weeks. The Farming Futures Observer talked to Sarah, one of the volunteers of the first batch.



■ Sarah, one of the volunteers at the Greenleaf Valley, working at one of Harvesters of Change's crops.

Meet Sarah, a city girl who has already joined Harvesters of Change at the Greenleaf Valley, a farming community. In her two weeks of volunteering, Sarah claims she is learning to farm the right way, focusing on sustainability and organic methods and embracing ethical farming. She has planted seeds and hopes to witness the harmony of nature.

Sara claims this programme is helping her appreciate the environment and do more than farming, becoming part of a tight-knit community, and working with people from various backgrounds for a common purpose - to protect the environment and create a better future. •

Cuzco Pirelli, the new 10-year-old TikTok environmental sensation revolutionising farming literacy

Ada M.
Mon 16 Oct 2033, Rome

Cuzco, a 10-year-old attending Scuola Primaria Inverno in the Trastevere neighbourhood, in Rome, has become the new face of farming education, leading a community farm, improving his neighbours' farming literacy,

and keeping up with his TikTok influencer account. In his later endeavour, Cuzco will feature as the protagonist in a new animation movie.

The Futures Farming Observer has interviewed Cuzco to learn all about his pro-

jects and how he is influencing farming education in Trastevere and planning to expand internationally. He has also shared his latest letters to his friend Yzma describing his experience regarding the new compulsory gardening course at school. Our journalists have reported back from their conversations with Cuzco regarding his future projects as a farming influencer.

Cuzco, promoter of the #KeepFoodGreen movement on TikTok

Jenny K.

Cuzco became interested in farming by using TikTok for his school assignments. Today, he is a TikTok farming celebrity in Trastevere.

In the face of 2033's new agricultural educational programme pushed by the Government, where every student in elementary school must participate and cultivate food to raise their awareness about food sustainability and understand the process of food cultivation, a fifth grader named Cuzco is leading in content creation. Cuzco started with no interest in the gardening programme at school. However, as teachers always try to look for much cooler ways for kids to learn about sustainability, they turned to TikTok to engage students.

After six months of learning about food sustainability, Cuzco has become passionate about the topic and decided to record his knowledge and share it with kids his age on TikTok. Thanks to Cuzco and his #KeepFoodGreen movement, he inspired a lot of kids to keep up this movement and turn sustainability into a cool trend of present times.



 Kids looking at Cuzco's TikTok videos after class.

Young farming leaders: A 10-year-old starts a community garden in Rome

Belen G.

Cuzco Pirelli (2023) put in place the first green community garden in the Trastevere neighbourhood of Rome, Italy.

Inspired by a school workshop "How to create and take care of your garden in the city", he brought the idea to his parents, who already had a small orchard in the backyard of their home, where they cultivated tomatoes and cucumbers. The Pirelli family pitched the idea to the neighbourhood Council and they got permission to extend the orchard to the surrounding buildings.

Trastevere now has a big enabled space to cultivate vegetables for the neighbours. Cuzco is supervising the crops and giving some courses to the rest of the gardeners on how to maintain the soil healthy, when is the best harvesting time or which seeds to plant at different times of the season.



 Kids from Scuola Primaria Inverno visited the community farm led by Cuzco to implement the lessons learned in their new gardening course.

Cuzco is featured as the protagonist of an animated movie about kids and farming

Marion K.

Farmers at School is a new animation movie based on Cuzco's life that will be out at the Trastevere movie theatre in February 2034.

The movie is about a 10-year-old boy who lives with his parents in a small town. After a long summer holiday, Cuzco started school again, but this year is different, as he is going to learn about gardening practices. Cuzco's teacher wants to raise awareness about organic farming, the value of water, and the importance of growing a variety of products. To support him, his parents decided that the family join a

community garden. Every weekend, they can go to the garden and plant seasonal vegetables.

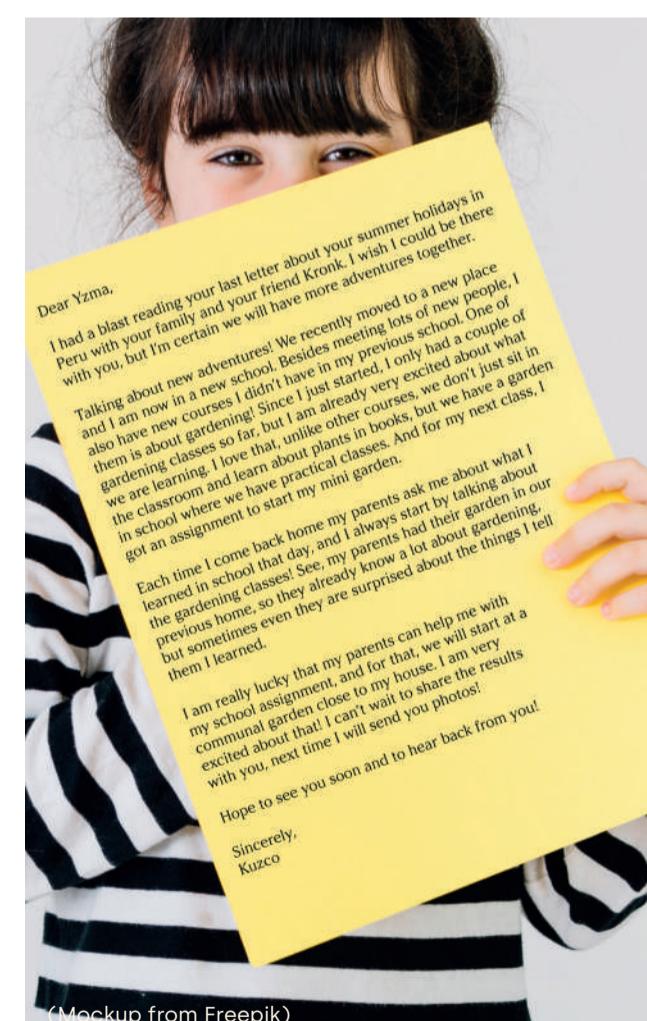
The movie will be out in February of the next year. The producers hope to make enough money from the selling of tickets to buy new garden beds for the local school garden.

Beyond digital: Cuzco goes analogue with his close friends

Mikaela M.

Cuzco is also an aspiring writer and wants to bring back the forgotten art of writing letters.

He shared with The Farming Futures Observer his latest letter to his friend Yzma about his summer holidays describing his experience regarding the new compulsory gardening course at school. •



 Cuzco's letter to his friend Yzma.

COMMUNITY LANDMARKS



>Last harvest of District 4 community farm. Picture provided by Pau, the current leader of the initiative.

District 4 community farm in Brusselona reaches a consecutive new peak of volunteers and becomes the most popular in the city

Jonathan P.

Mon 16 Oct 2033, Brusselona

Local youth Pau has successfully led an initiative to push the popularity of communal farms leading to a further decoupling of dependence on supermarkets and readily available foods.

A sight to behold in Brusselona's District 4 as a new record of volunteers has been reached this Friday. An up-and-coming figure by the name of Pau has taken the lead in inspiring a major revival in interest in local agricultural practices.

In an outstanding turnout District 4's local high school was able to rally over 700 students to volunteer in the end-of-the-month crop yield. Pau led a campaign focusing on the importance of these structures moving forward as resource scarcity is having major effects on food security. •

Conflict between humans and mice pest-hunter cats arise in London community farms

Ada M.

Wed 4 Oct 2033, London

London community farms are facing tensions with the cats guarding them. Cat guards trace back to 2030 when many community farms started using cats as pest hunters.

According to residents, this decision was driven by a need to control the mice population and guarantee enough food supply for the community without using chemical pesticides.

However, there has been major discord in opinions regarding cat roles in communi-

ty farms. Animal protection groups have accused community farms of speciesism and many community farms across London have been vandalised with signs pointing this out.

The Farming Futures Observer has had access to diary entries from Linda, a community farm security guard, and Marina, a resident volunteering at a community farm. The newspaper has also had access to letters and a diary entry from two pest-hunter cats. These letters and diary entries paint a picture of the conflicts currently faced in community farms across London between humans and cats.



(Mockup from Freepik)

Community farm at Islington, vandalised by animal protection group led by Aya K.

Linda Y. (human)

Wed 4 Oct 2033, London

I was appointed security of the UAL garden today. I did not want to take that role. Me? Securing? I'd rather plant. But as the mayor of the community said, roles rotate, and unfortunately the time has come for me to guard our livelihood. The day started quite well. I see the neighbouring community hard at work. They do not know how to harvest their crops. Our garden is growing. It has tomatoes, cucumbers, potatoes, and so many other vegetables that are too fancy for me. But I like them. They make my salad taste nice. I also like this space. It made me learn so much. Did you know

that tomatoes were fruits? Well, I didn't. Did you know that children are capable of teaching us some skills? Adults are not everything here, thank god.

Anyway, back to my security role. I hated it. The cat was growing crazy. We had a rat infestation and we wanted Carl the cat to save the day. Instead, Carl runs to join our enemies, the RCA garden. What do we do now? We have no cats left. I raised the issue to the mayor, but he's too busy. So I decided to have a community meeting, after all, it is a community garden. The meeting went wonderfully well, although I still hated the security role. It was stressful. But so is growing a community garden. Anyway, I love the UAL garden still. See u tomorrow



AI-generated image

Carl the cat, who used to guard UAL garden. Picture taken during Monday morning shift.



AI-generated image

■ "Talk to cat" device, designed, built and used by resident Theresa Jenkins.

Chahat G. (cat)

Wed 4 Oct 2033, London

Today was a lovely sunny morning, I woke up to the rays shining on my face and then started with my morning meditation. I'm grateful for this recommendation that a human suggested and it has helped me cope with the work pressure and stress that I have recently been dealing with. Keeping the mice at bay from the berry section in my Islington community garden has been quite challenging, I have constantly been feeling

Marina P. (human)

Wed 4 Oct 2033, London

Harry the cat looks tired (or is he just lazy?). He was brought to us from a different community after Marcy passed away. Just like that, she was gone and with the harvest season arriving we couldn't afford to be without a cat. So Harry came along and I'm not sure if this was a good or a bad thing for us as now we are stuck with him. I heard of a community that was able to successfully apply for a new community cat, but things were drastic then (from the stories I heard it seemed like that cat was having some serious paranoia issues and not even humans were safe around her), Harry is just lazy and the authorities will say we

need to train him better, give him some incentive to put the work in. But how can we know?

Theresa from the building next door is making really good progress with her "talk to cat" device. Marcy was able to share some of her thoughts and needs through it, but Marcy was such a brilliant cat! Maybe that's why...

I can see mice walking around the crops and it worries me the cockroaches will start coming out too. The fig tree has been half eaten by the birds, from yesterday to today the figs I was counting on picking have been bitten, Harry looked at me with a snarky face. I wonder if he doesn't care. I wonder if he knows there's nothing much we can do.



AI-generated image

■ Morning meditation, a practice acquired by some guard cats who are under work stress.

Damien T. (cat)
Oct 2033, London

01/10

Daisy,

It's been 46 days since the stupid humans have forced us apart but not a day goes by that I don't meow for you. I still do my job silently because they don't bother me if I just protect their silly plants. How fragile they are, they don't know how to hunt or feed themselves. I have been digging a hole under their fence. Give me just a little bit more time and I can escape. I'll see you soon my love.

Yours always, Garfield

7/10

Daisy,

Today the hole was almost discovered by the fat one. He's always nosy and problematic and today he came looking for me even after I've brought 3 mice to him. 3! More than my quota for the day. I don't understand why they have to be so nosy about what we do. Why do they care if the mice want to move in? Why do they care if the cockroaches just want to cross the road? And why do they have to stick their noses into our relationship? I promise you, nothing can keep us apart. Soon, I'll be able to run away and meet you in your garden.

<3 Garfield

14/10

Daisy,

I think it's ready. Tomorrow when the stupid humans have gone to sleep, meet me by the tomatoes in the corner of your garden. •

From banking to blooming fields: A former banker leads the change in landscape restoration

Patricia C., Rosa V. and Chat GPT
Mon 16 October 2033, Groningen

Peter, a former banker in Amsterdam, decided to start a regenerative farm with two friends in Noordhorn, near Groningen. They created a thriving community but also faced many setbacks to their dream. A tale about Peter's life has been developed in collaboration with the authors and Chat GPT.

In the heart of the Netherlands, in March 2032, there lived a man named Peter. Once, he had been a successful banker, but as the years passed, he began to feel an emptiness in his life, a growing disconnection from nature. It all started one sunny afternoon when Peter attended a local regenerative agriculture and holistic land management event. There, he met his neighbours, Heng and Anne, who shared his passion for restoring the land and reconnecting with the earth. Inspired by the event, the three of them decided to embark on a remarkable adventure together.

The government had offered a unique opportunity to citizens like them – a transfer of land use rights for 50 years and a funding scheme to run the collaborative project. This was part of a worldwide initiative within the framework of the Nature Restoration Law that was approved by the Green Party in 2030 to promote regenerative agriculture and land restoration. With the land now under their care, they named their project the Harmony Haven Project. They began planting diverse cover crops, fruit trees, and native species.

As the years rolled by and the Harmony Haven Project continued to flourish, Peter, Anne, and Heng realised that reconnecting with rituals and traditions was vital to holistic land management. They recognised that these traditions not only fostered a sense of community but also had a profound impact on the regenerative process. One tradition they decided to revive was the ancient practice of singing around

the planting season. Their favourite was 'Singing in the rain' every time it coincided with the rainy days in the Netherlands.

In May 2033, Peter received a letter from the Government with an eviction notice. He and his team were aware of the critical need to justify their restoration plan to secure continued funding and land transfer rights. However, they faced a major setback: they had neglected the nature recovery monitoring, essential to their commitment to the government's program.

The land that Peter and his team had been restoring through the Harmony Haven Project faced a significant threat. If they failed to rectify their oversight and lost their land transfer rights, it would mean the land would go back to the original landowners, who were one of the last remaining fertilising companies in the market.

Over the following months, the team collected data on soil health, biodiversity, and ecosystem recovery thanks to the Nature Restoration Kit provided by the government. They also documented the growth of native plants, the return of wildlife, and improvements in the land's overall health.

The government officials commended their efforts to rectify the oversight and were impressed by the transparency and data-driven approach. As a result, Peter and his team not only continued to receive funding for their project but also retained their land transfer rights. •



Painting of Peter working his land.



Nature Restoration Law 2030

For people, climate, and planet



*From an extorted
land ...*



*... to a
regenerated one*

BRUSSELONA: FIRST FARMING CITY

New city, new life: How much has life changed for Brusselona newcomers?

Ciara K. and Nima R.
Mon 16 Oct 2033, Brusselona

Pau, a youth who moved to Brusselona three years ago, is very committed to food sovereignty in his district, where he has co-founded the District 4 community farm. As his story brings some positivity in the face of the current food scarcity crisis, he decided to tell it through a documentary.

Pau is 19 and lives with his parents and younger sister in Brusselona. He moved to the city from the now-megacity of Paris three years ago. His family struggled to get by, with rising food prices in megacities putting strain on their budget. The cost of living crisis across urbanised areas in Europe has only worsened with increasingly monopolised food suppliers and water scarcity in the face of climate change. Since moving to Brusselona, he has been involved in community farms and is the co-founder of one of the most well-known community farms in Brusselona: District 4.

Pau believes the EU's pilot case of Brusselona has been well-received and is eager to see more cities like this emerging in the future, where sustainable agriculture is available to everyone. Pau's family situation before moving to Brusselona was very similar to that of families across Europe: Low income and worries about sourcing affordable food. That is why, together with a group of friends, they have put together a documentary that they hope



Photo by MorningbirdPhoto (Pixabay)

■ Pau makes a French baguette during the documentary.

reaches youth in other cities who decide to try out their model.

The documentary has an informal tone, recording Pau coming home from school and speaking to the off-camera interviewer. Pau shows his apartment building community farm, District 4, which was set up in a disused parking lot, but is now one of the most thriving gardens in the city. He also shows the building's rooftop garden where the apartment building owns a shared chicken coop where the Brusselona municipality has started an initiative to host animal interaction workshops for kids.

The documentary also shows Pau preparing a recipe with the produce harvested earlier on the community farm while he narrates his childhood poverty and lack of access to food in his family. Each step of the recipe preparation goes off into a pivotal moment in his past and social context, until the dish is served and shared with the filming crew. This last bid, Pau tells us, was inspired by a novel written back in 2019 by Elif Shafak "10 minutes and 38 seconds in this strange world".

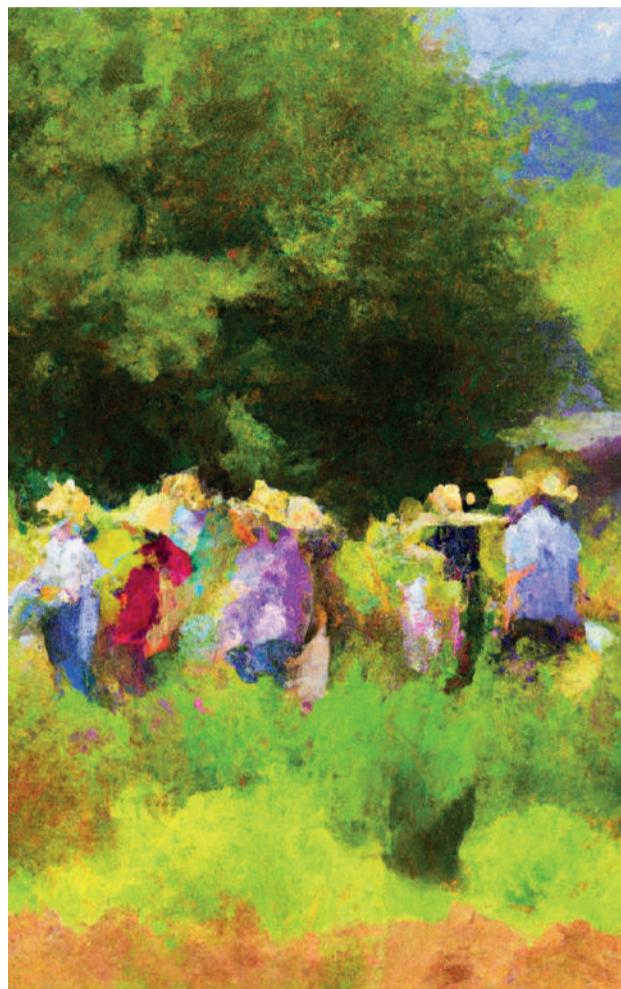
The documentary is available on YouTube and has nearly 10.000 views after just one week of being released. •

Community farms have boosted community cohesion by 25% since 2026

Ada M.
Tue 28 Nov 2033, Brusselona

The rise in community farms has also brought benefits with it: communities are becoming more united than they were in 2023. According to Brusselona's Open Data Institute, community cohesion has risen by 25% in the past seven years.

The Futures Farming Observer talked to some residents, who provided the newspaper with different local stories that reflect this rise in community cohesion. Areti, a District 10 resident, shared with us her last diary entry and oil painting, where she talks about the community farm during a planting session, including children's laughter and group singing of old traditional farmer songs.



■ Painting by Areti of her community farm in District 10.

Areti V.
Tue 16 March 2033

Today I felt very excited! My neighbourhood looked more united and different than ever. We were 30 people gathering outdoors to celebrate the ownership and planting of our communal garden. We started walking by the apple trees and Peter grabbed his guitar and started singing and playing, 'I'm Singing in the Rain'. The rest of us sang along and danced. Suddenly, before we started planting the seeds of various local veggies, we heard two children screaming. Leah and Adam were fighting for their favourite seeds. Leah wanted to plant some tulips, but Adam grabbed the bag with seeds from her, as he was also curious to see how these plants would grow with his help. Finally, their parents arrived and gave seeds from multiple plants to them. Carrots, broccoli, tulips, and some potatoes for their favourite snack. •



Photo by Greta Hoffman (Pexels)

■ Community day at one of Brusselona's community farms.

10 years of Brusselona: Transformation at the cost of debt

Émile N.
Mon 16 Oct 2033, Brusselona

Brusselona offers a very different sight than other European cities: the absence of traffic noises is most noticeable. There are very few cars cruising the streets.

This Friday, like every week, residents participate in a "community day" and work in the vegetable gardens lining the streets, talking, and crossing the streets with wheelbarrows, tools and top-soil bags.

The new city, an ongoing EU-funded experiment for the past 10 years, is undeniably a very enjoyable place and its residents are reporting the highest happiness level of the European Union. However, the finance reporting shows the project being unsustainable without the infusion of European funding, maybe a more realistic approach would be more advisable. •

MULTISPECIES CITIES

London's new rewilding campaign is bringing bee voices to the core

Ada M.
Mon 27 Nov 2033, London

Recently elected London Mayor is pushing back to truly rewild the city of London. Beyond integrating community farms, the Mayor is launching a campaign to build empathy among citizens with other species.

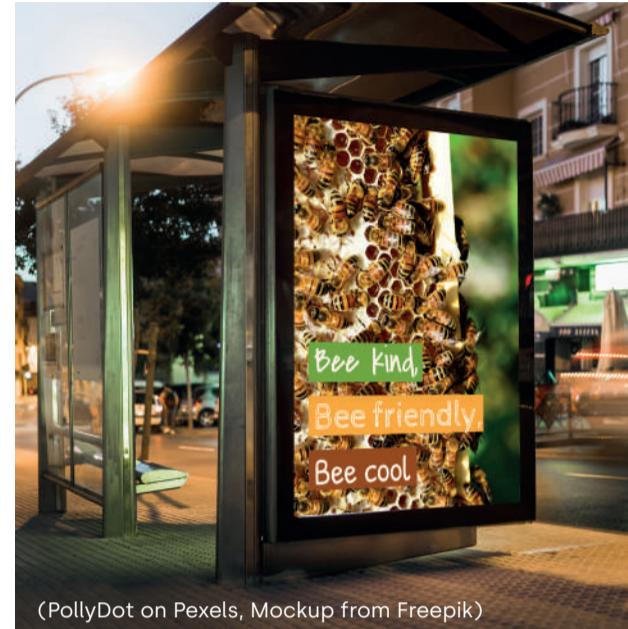
The first pilot of the campaign will aim at bringing the voice of bees to citizens through different media: books, documentaries and bus stop ads, among others. The Mayor launched a contest last May to bring in artists, communicators and designers to propose different actions for the campaign.

The contest winners have joined a team to refine their proposals and are already visible across London. The team is formed by professionals Aleksandra S., Paulien D., Dariana G., Jacob T., Suzan U. and Summer F.

Bus stops turned into bee hives

Billboards are used to raise awareness.

Instead of perfume and technology ads, the new Mayor will use all ad space in public transportation, including buses, underground and trains, to promote wildlife in London and encourage residents to support and preserve it with their actions.



(PollyDot on Pexels, Mockup from Freepik)

■ An ad to raise awareness of bee well-being in Brixton, London.

Bee education for early ages through books

A new book called *My Bee and Me* for 3 to 5-year-olds will be printed and distributed throughout London schools.

A book, developed by the awarded creative team by the city of London, in collaboration with environmentalists and educators with experience in the environmental field, was presented last Tuesday in the Town Hall. Copies of the book will be distributed for free in London public schools to educate children and their families on the importance of supporting bees for the well-being of the ecosystem.



■ Girl reading the book during the presentation in the Town Hall.

City wildlife documentary from the eyes of 'Beeolet'

A new documentary relating a day in the life of a city bee will be out on January 2034.

The documentary is narrated by Beeolet, a flying bee guiding the audience into different scenarios in a very friendly soft voice, talking about wildlife population recovery, pollination of urban gardens, but also the problems and threats encountered by an urban bee.

Lonely Planet goes multispecies

The team behind this new campaign is also collaborating with Lonely Planet. The guides developed aim at explaining London from the point of view of different species.

The first edition, *Bee London*, will be launched on March 2034 and explain key spots for bees in London, such as Brixton's best apple trees and Crouch End's wild heather.

The guide will also talk about the new changes in the law, requiring all buildings to install rooftop plants and trees along with at least one beehive, and will feature the best "bee hotels" built by residents. •



■ Prototype of the *Bee London* guide by Lonely Planet in collaboration with the City of London.

FARMING AND LITERATURE

5th Edition of Poems of Nature: Read the awarded poems

Long Time No See

Marta C.

I woke up and I saw the sun.
I woke up and I saw the sun, the sky and the green.
The green and yellow and orange and red and pink and brown and purple and black.
I woke up and I saw the rainbow of colours.
I woke up and I saw the rainbow of colours dirtying my hands like every Friday.

Nature was back.

Nature was awake.

Nature was kicking.

I woke up and I saw nature alive. Nature was alive and breathing and I was breathing with her.

HER?

Yes, her, because she was giving life back. She was giving life back to all of us. I remember I woke up ten years ago. I remember I woke up and I couldn't breathe, I couldn't see the sun, I couldn't see the sky, I couldn't see the rainbow. I remember I woke up and I saw the lack of air. I saw the lack of water. I saw the lack of colour. I remember I woke up and I saw the need for change.

Lines

Emma F.

Stretched out to the horizon
The lines between mine and yours dissolve
Tearing apart the quilted landscape
The nation has never seen such warmth.



One of the awarded writers after the award ceremony.

A Pathway of Lullabies

Daniela D.

As I wander through the lowlands
That stretch way out yonder
I leave a pathway full of lullabies
And footprints as I wander

While the rain falls on the leaves above
I see my neighbours smile and wave
A sense of gratefulness fulfils me
As I remember them so brave.

Restoring Futures

Josep C.

Once upon a time, there was a farmer called Peter
Used to be a banker but now is a communal leader
Practicing agroforestry to avoid Monsanto and large lorries
Sings this song in March so rain washes his worries
Walking through the fields in between lines of trees
Peter smells deeply the aroma of the bees
While planning his new season with the help of the administration
So everybody benefits from the new law on Restoration. •

