

A Little Patch Of Paradise

Woman's Weekly Community

'It has an immense affect on people's wellbeing – for both young and old'



Farmers Brian and Denise Herrick have transformed a neglected wasteland into the UK's largest collection of wildflowers. Hannah Bass visits the Field of Dream

It's like a moving Monet painting. One day it's totally pink; the next it's white dappled with blue... The meadow that farmer couple Denise and Brian Herrick have dubbed the Field of Dreams is scattered with 62 different varieties of wildflower from all over the globe. At four-and-a-half acres, it's the UK's largest stretch of wildflowers – and one of the most impressive you'll see anywhere in the world.

The area was first planted in 2011 after Brian and his wife Denise bought some extra land for their arable farm in Somerset. 'It was in a very poor state indeed,' Brian recalls. 'Covered in masses of rubbish – supermarket trolleys and all sorts.' The couple set about rejuvenating the field so it could be cultivated for crops, but when they'd finished, Denise said to her husband, 'I don't want to put it to crops yet – why don't we plant some flowers on it for the first year, just to see the difference?' Brian explains, 'Our idea was to see if something so

horrible could be transformed into something beautiful.'

Once the flowers came up in all their glory, the couple realised they had to give the public a chance to see it, deciding to take a collection for local charities at the gate. In the last two years, more than 9,000 people have visited the meadow. Brian adds that it has proved to be heaven for bees, too. 'They love wildflowers and the honey they produce is delicious.'

But the most profound impact the field has had is on its visitors. 'It has an immense affect on people's wellbeing – both young and old,' Brian says. 'It helps people relax and they end up staying for four or five hours. Often elderly people just stare and become quite transfixed. It seems to make them more talkative and happy. Children come in and start running round and playing – everyone adores it.'

❖ **The Field of Dreams is open to visitors from 4 July to 31 August. To find out more, visit barcrofthall.co.uk**

Before



After



Their sumptuous wildflower diet means the Field of Dreams' bees produce especially delicious honey



Tiptoe through the wildflowers with me