

Do you have **the bug** ?



SHED

This hole was home to this solitary bee during the early summer of 2021. It was in the door of a garden shed. The hole is the result of a naturally occurring knot in the wood.

Despite the door being stained and regularly opened and closed, the hole provided home to a number of different species during the rest of the summer.



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Other passer-bys take a keen interest in the hole. This nomad bee had a quick check to see if anyone was at home.

They were and it moved on, though if it was keen on laying its own eggs in the nest of the bee, it probably returned when the home-owners were out.



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The walls of the shed, including the door, were also of great interest to a pair of Ruby-tailed wasps.

They rarely stopped, scuttling quickly back and forth, but generally upwards from the base of the shed.

Antennae continuously twitching, they were also on the lookout for someone else's home to lay their eggs



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When the weather is fine, one wall of the shed is bathed in sunlight for much of the day. Great place to rest and soak up the warmth, which is just what this Small Tortoiseshell is doing.



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A rather drab looking Leaf Beetle
lands on the shed wall and remains
there, motionless, for half an hour.



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This ground beetle moves quickly down the edge of the door, seeking the cover of the ground below.

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This weevil, on the other hand, moves very slowly down the door, with what appears to be the skin of an aphid, or similar on its back.



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A bumble bee rests in the early evening sun
at the base of one of the side walls of the
shed.

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The end



Garden Guardians is another Stroud Great Green Partnership project and we link to this whenever subject matter is relevant



'Do you have the bug' is produced by Stroud Nature on behalf of the Stroud Great Green Partnership. These photographic stories supplement the quarterly online magazine. Current and previous issues of the magazine and supplements can be viewed here:

<https://stroud-nature.org/do-you-have-the-bug-issue-2/>

<https://stroudnature.org/garden-guardians-2/>