MasonBees was founded in 2012, borne out of a fascination with *Osmia bicornus* – the Red Mason Bee**.**

 Their primary objectives are:

* AGRICULTURAL: To research and develop the Red Mason Bee, Osmia bicornus as a principal pollinator in fruit and other crops in commercial orchards.
* CONSERVATIONIST: To discover how best to manage, conserve and increase numbers of the Red Mason Bee - and other solitary bee species - in areas of the countryside where they have become extinct.
* SOCIAL: To develop husbandry techniques and equipment for use by individuals in their own gardens to create new places of refuge for solitary bees across the country.

Over the last three years, they have developed a range of innovative products aimed at transforming how people think of and care for solitary bee species in their gardens.

They hope to encourage more people to take on the responsibility of installing nesting tubes for solitary bees and caring for their cocoons. They want to make caring for solitary bees an activity accessible to all. Indeed, we believe over time this endeavour should become a cultural norm – akin to feeding the birds in our gardens.

MasonBees are also developing a commercial model that we hope will allow the bees to become prime pollinators in orchards.

Early indications suggest that not only are these incredible creatures more efficient pollinators than Honey and Bumble Bees, it seems there are beneficial effects passed onto fruit produced from the trees they pollinate; there have been signs of improvements to fruit quality, uniformity, skin finish and shelf life in our field trials.

MasonBees are making new discoveries every season!

Work with university and research organisations continues to this date, both in the UK, Europe and more recently with partners in the USA working with Osmia lignaria.

As virtually all of the solitary bees at home and abroad are endangered, it is important we work together and share knowledge to conserve the different species worldwide.

Indeed, we all have a role to play if we want to prevent the extinction of these precious and remarkably valuable creatures. We hope, that with MasonBee products, it’s never been easier to help solitary bees  - help them find a home this year.