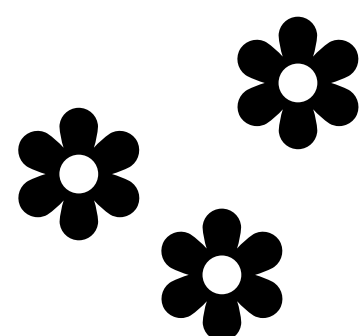
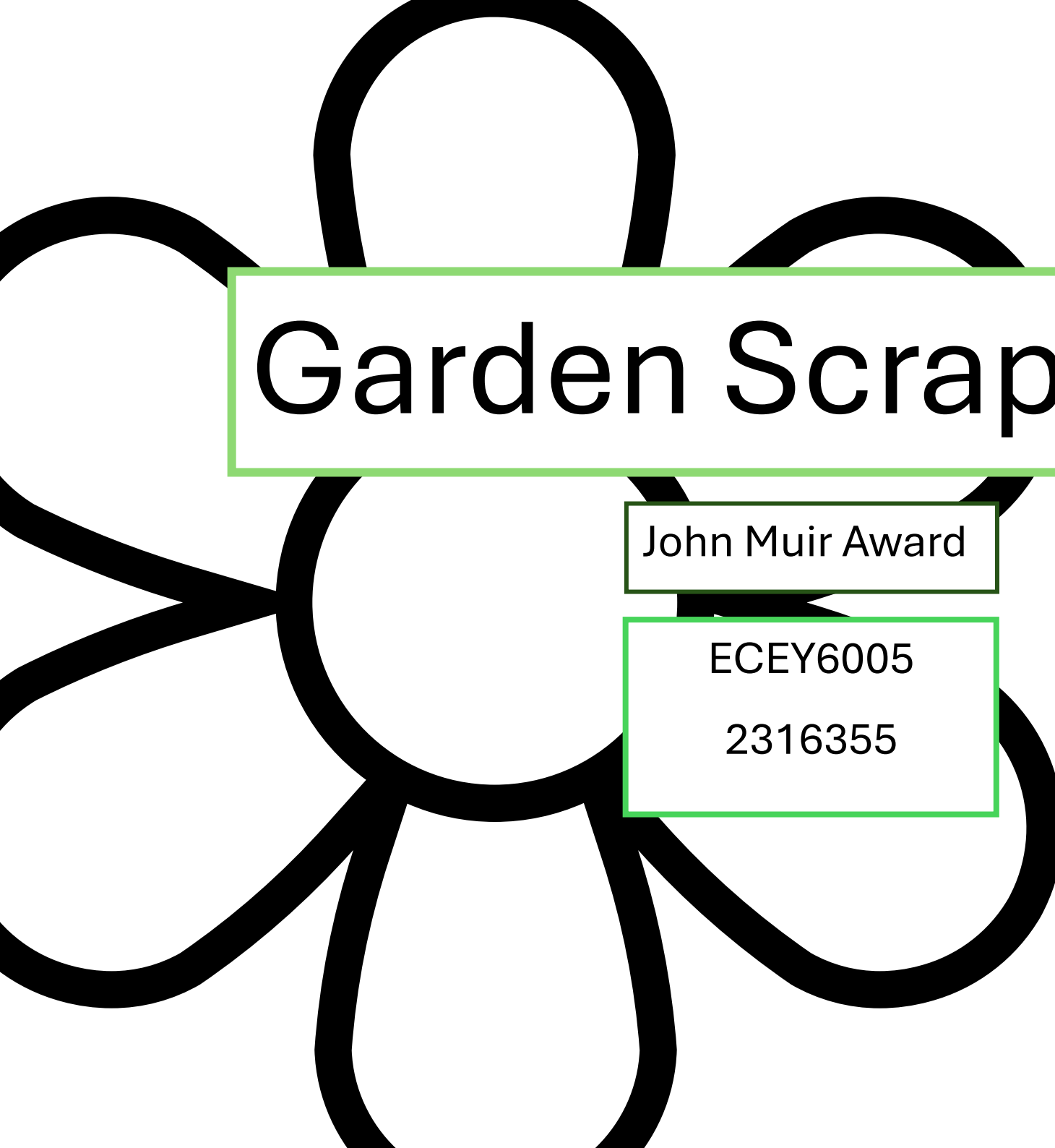


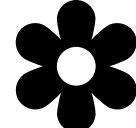
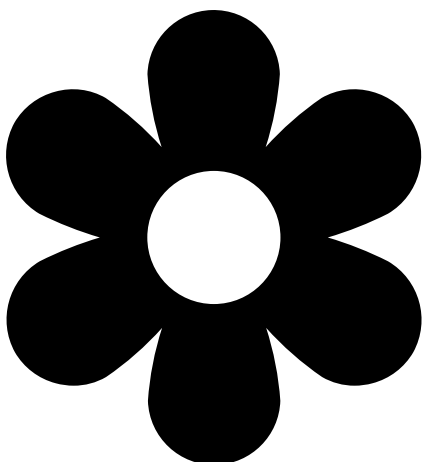


Garden Scrapbook

John Muir Award

ECEY6005

2316355



Discovery



(Microsoft Bing, no date)

The peaceful and tranquil garden is located in the village of Carmel, within Carmarthenshire. It is a vibrant and calm environment, full of shrubbery that already considers and encourages nature and sustainability. It therefore offers a rich space to explore, care for, and further learn about nature close to home, with a varied ecosystem consisting of plants, insects, and animals. It allows for observation on the interaction between different animals, and how these are dependent on different plants and soils to live.



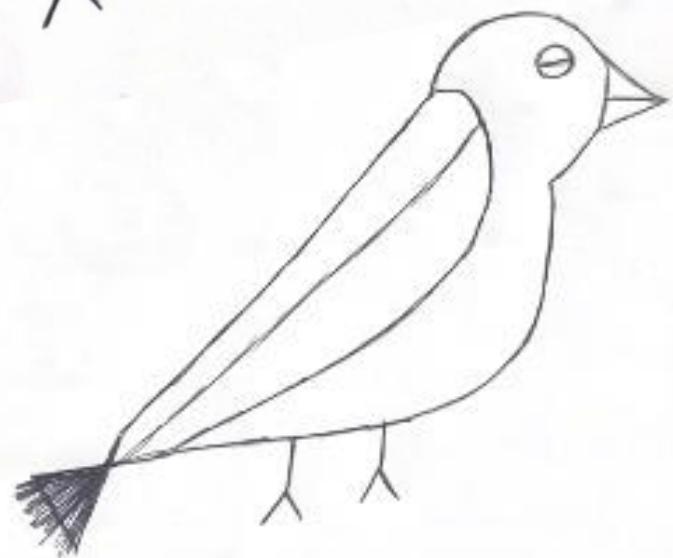
(Holiday Cottages, no date)



I am able to connect with nature, and help play a part in sustaining plants and habitats, working towards sustainability.

It is an accessible area that allows me to partake in conservation, including reducing waste and increasing wildlife, whilst developing appreciation and responsibility to improve my community, which is particularly important in a village that is considered a natural nature reserve.

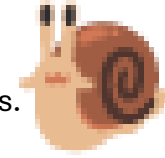






Ladybirds eat harmful pests, making them a natural pest control.

Slugs and snails are decomposers.



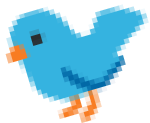
Butterflies are pollinators that aid plant reproduction.

Spiders eat flies, moths, and mosquitoes, controlling flying insect pests.

Worms break down organic matter and aerate soil, improving soil structure and fertility.

What to expect?

Gardens are usually full of life and its animals play an important role in maintaining the ecosystem.



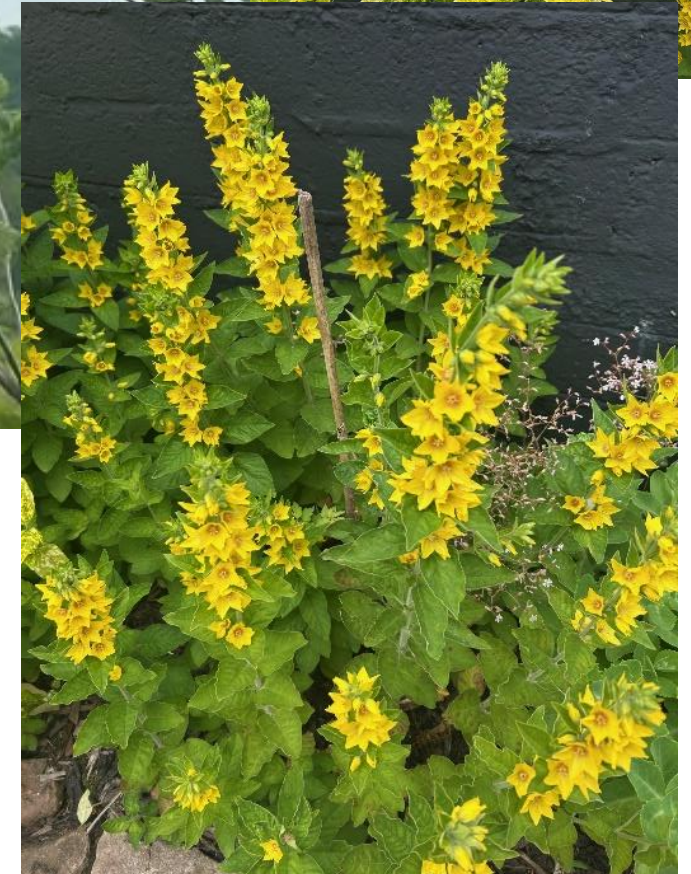
Birds like robins, blue tits, sparrows, blackbirds eat insects, slugs, and caterpillars, controlling pest populations and spreading seeds.

Bees pollinate flowers and plants, helping fruit, vegetables, and flowers grow.

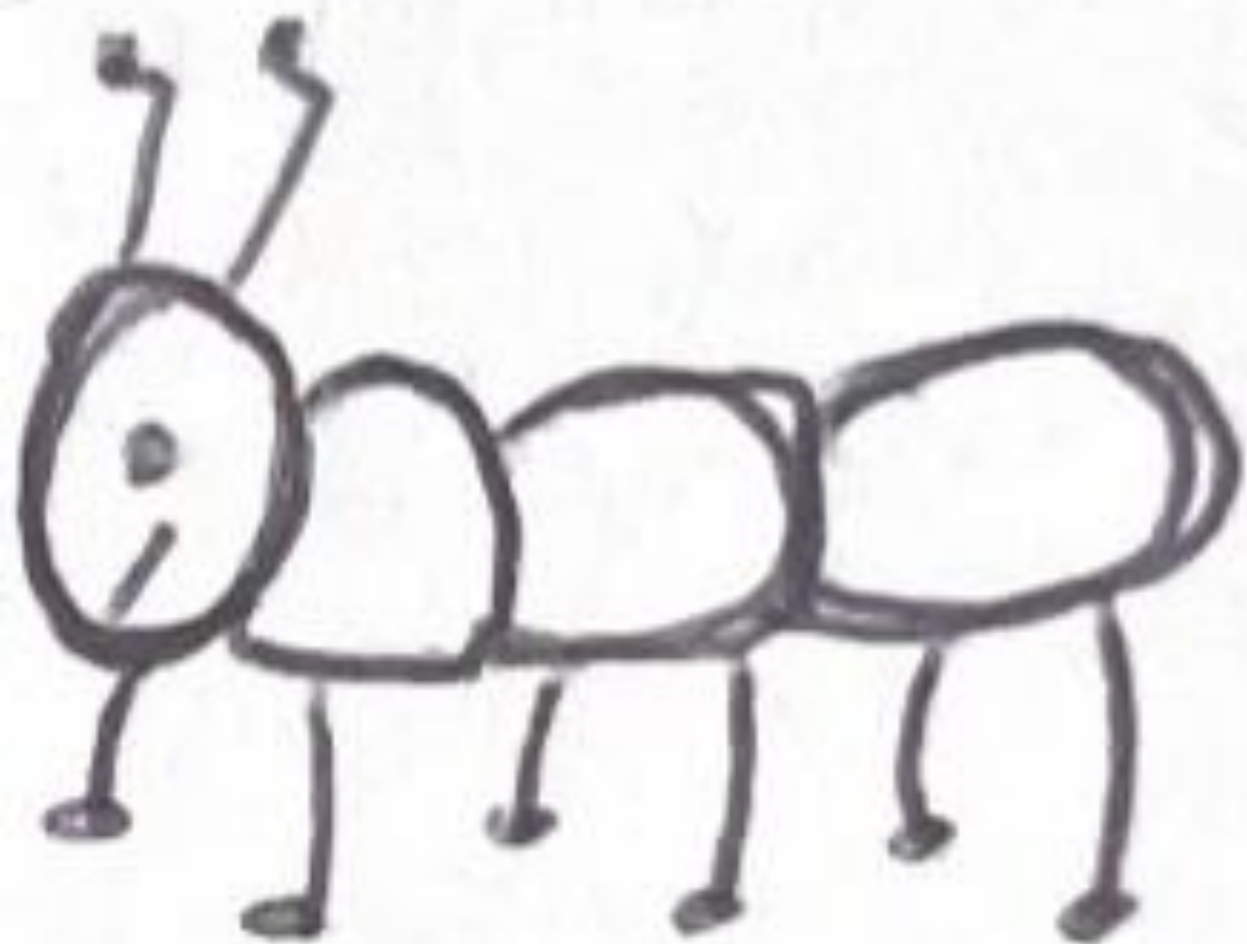
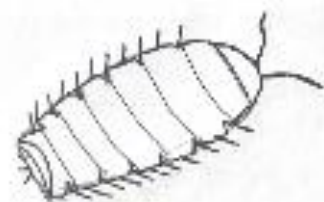
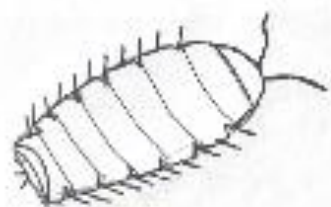
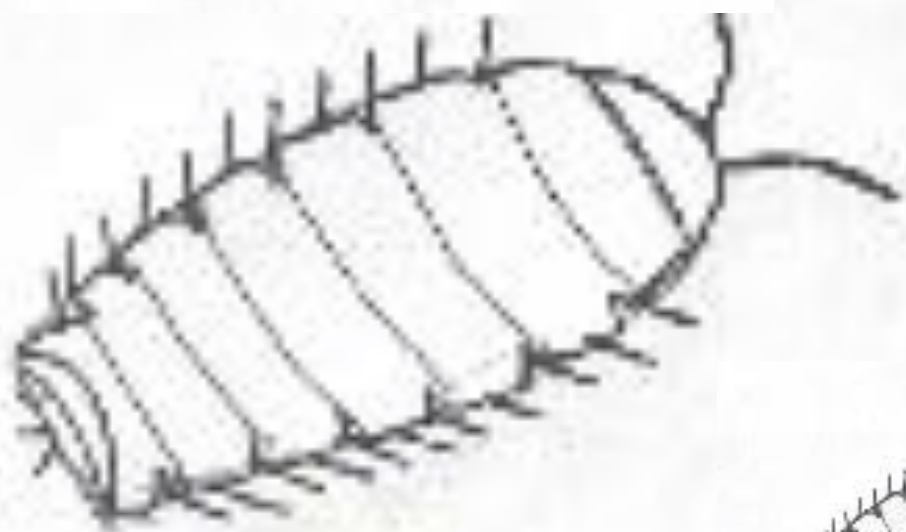
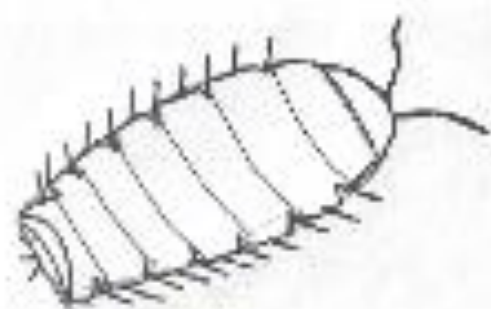
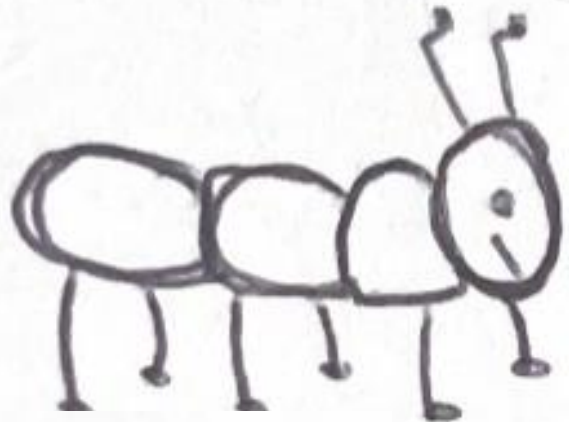


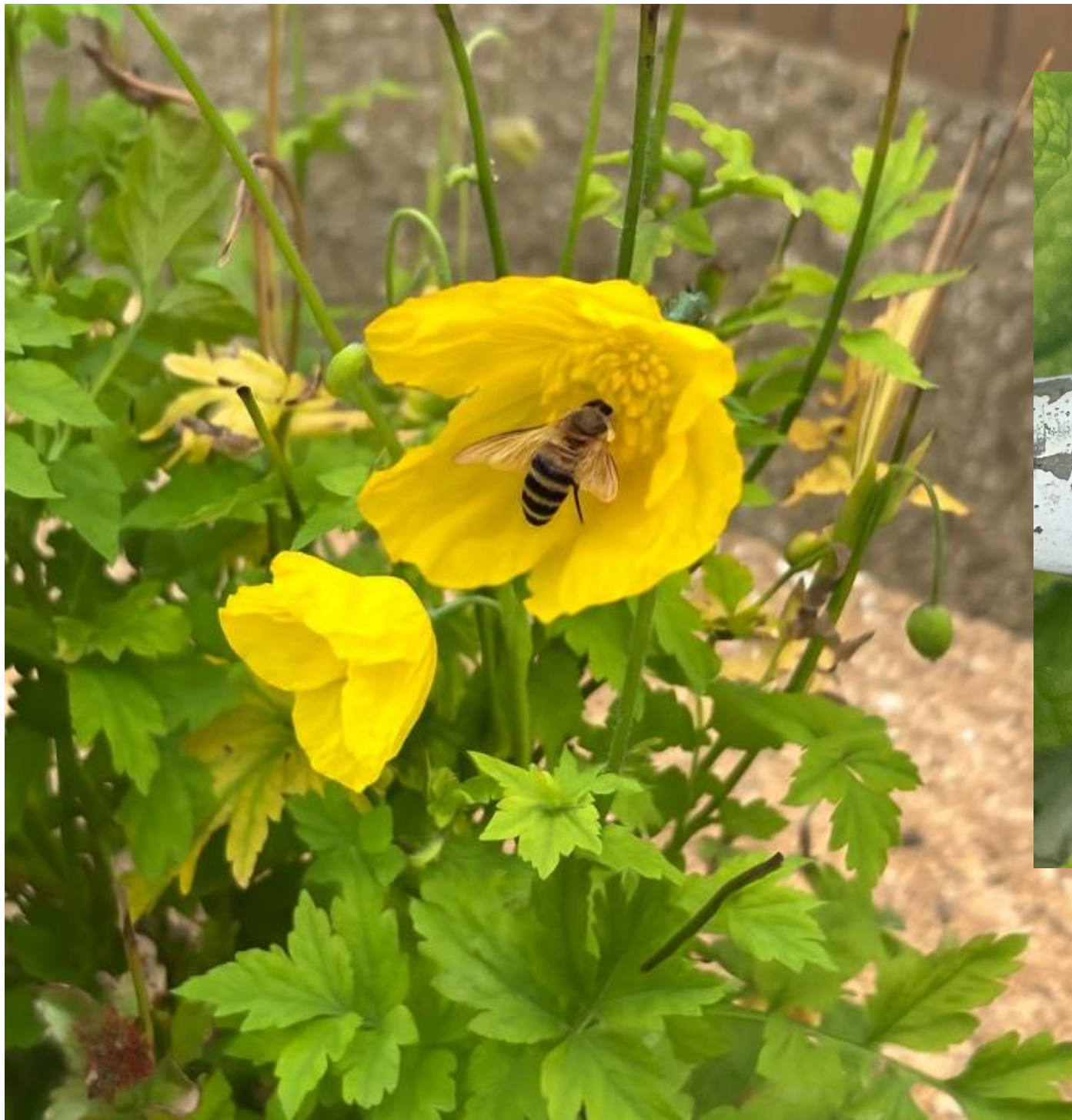
Frogs and toads feed on insects, slugs, and other small invertebrates, serving as pest control.

Exploration



Whilst there is very little history of the property's garden landscape and biodiversity, Carmel's geology is largely limestone, and the impact of its quarrying during the 19th century continues to show in the village's ecosystem today. The property is backed by quarries, open fields and streams, encouraging a variety of animal and plant species.



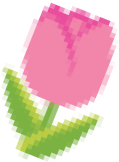


The garden is home to flowers, shrubs and trees including laurels, daisies and hydrangeas, insects such as bees, butterflies, spiders and slugs, birds such as sparrows, blue tits and red kites, as well as reptiles such as frogs and toads due to the property's microclimate location.

Background and history



- The terrain and landscape is rocky due to the limestone that underpins the area.
- It is home to a seasonal lake, namely Pantllyn, which fills with water each autumn and drains every summer.
- The villages' reserve covers broadleaved ash woodland, along with species-rich grassland, meadow and wood that continues to benefit the area's wildflowers.
- There are over 100 native woodland plant species, including bluebells, and wild garlic.
- The rocky landscape and its caves provide optimal living for frogs, toads, newts, and insects, and the woodlands encourage dormice, birds and other woodland species, including the woodpecker.
- Its nature reserve is a designated SSSI, SAC & National Nature Reserve, and is managed by Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales and NRW.





(First Nature, no date)

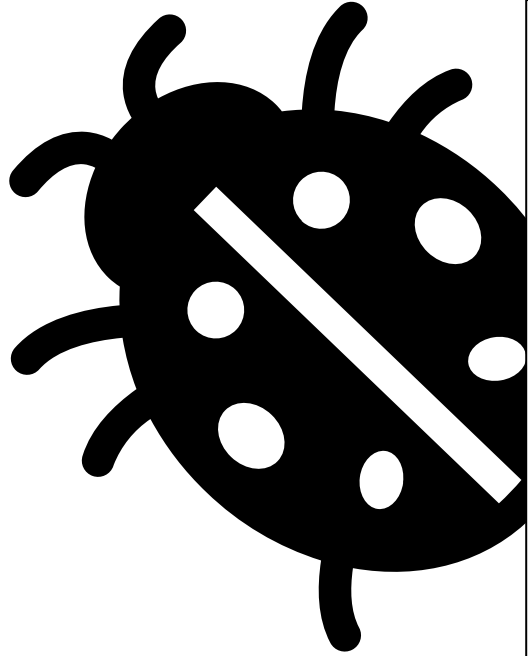


(Alamy, no date)

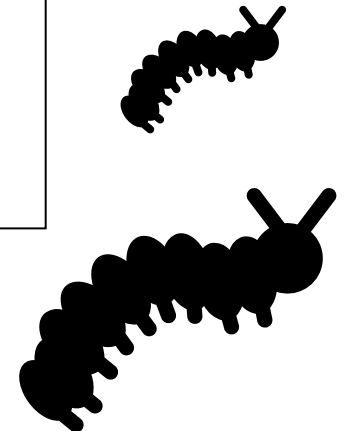


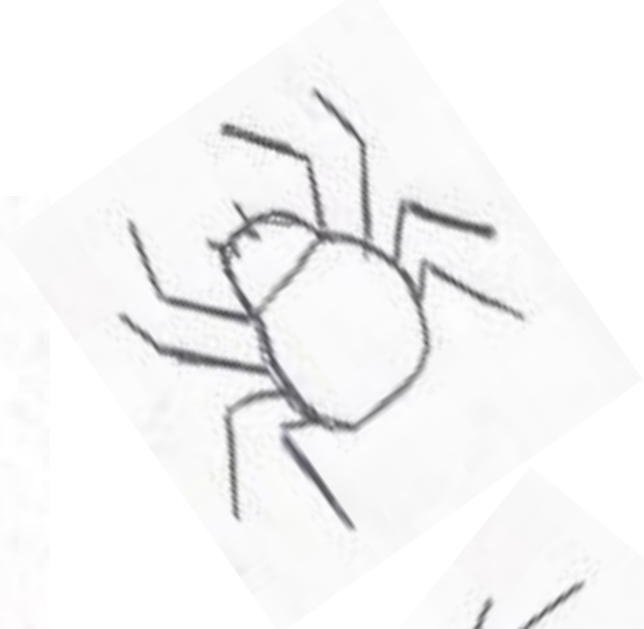
(All Trails, no date)

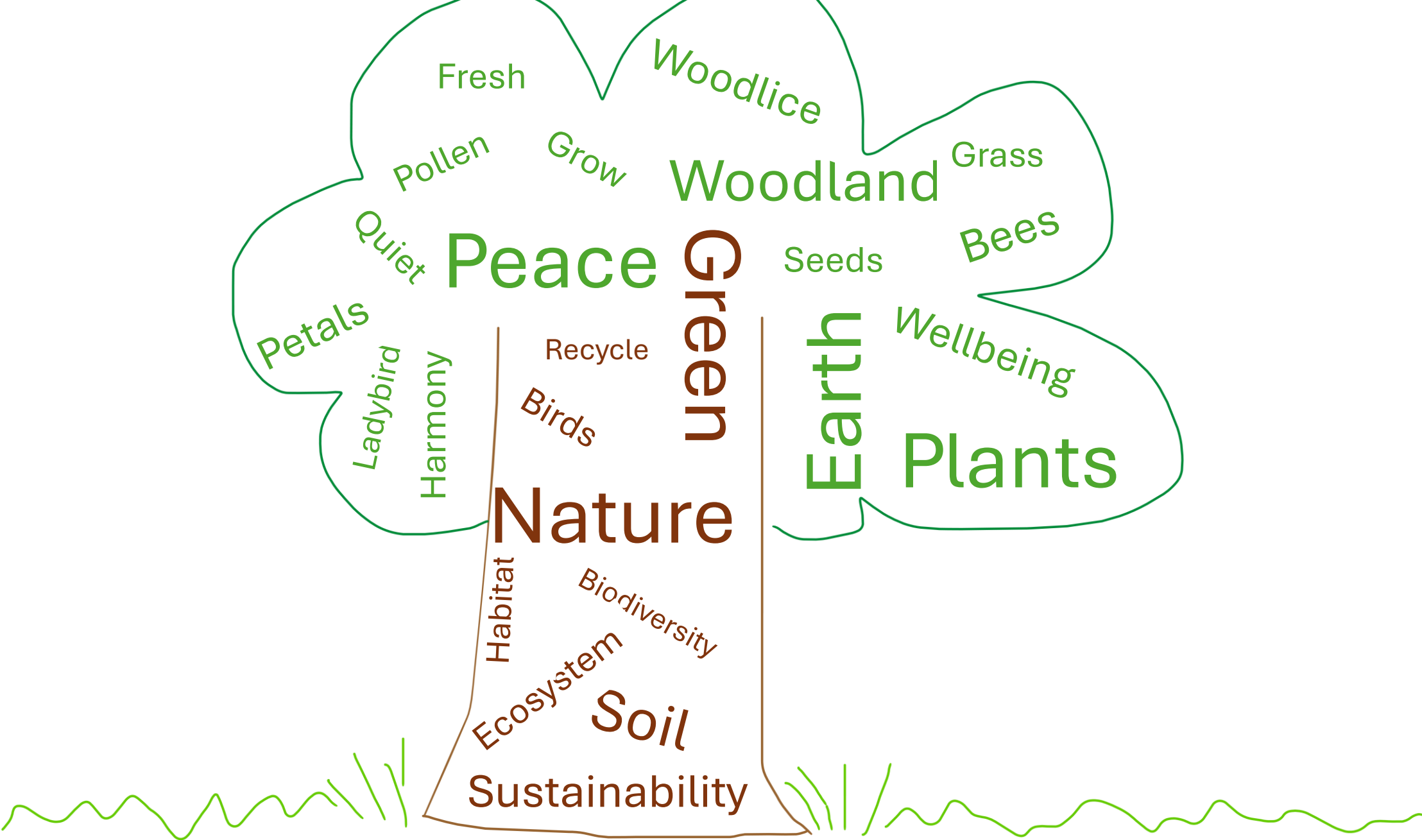
(Flickr, 2016)



Green leaves, singing birds and
ever-reaching trees;
Blooming plants, curious squirrels
and buzzing bees;
Each working quietly to help the
earth with ease.
Every bug, spider and woodlice;
Even birds, rabbits and mice,
Play a part in making the world a
work of art.

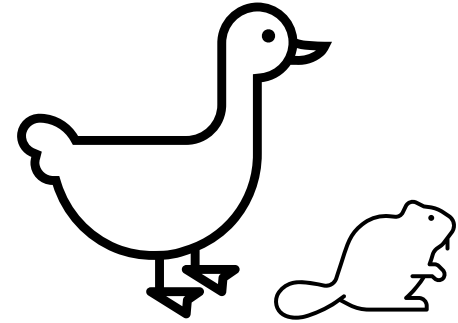








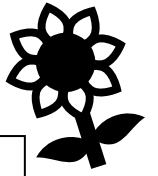
Conservation



A birdfeeder created using used and recycled drinks bottle and sticks found within the garden has been used to encourage greater wildlife into the garden, including birds and squirrels.

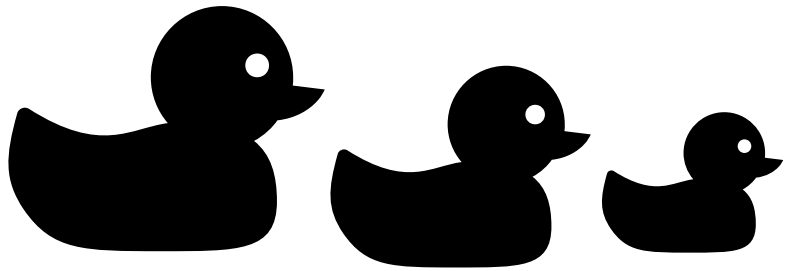
The use of recycled plastic ensures the protection of the environment by reducing plastic waste, saving energy and money, and supporting biodiversity.

The use of food waste, namely fruit, instead of seeds, saves money, reduces food waste and provides a source of food for wildlife. Research was undertaken prior to ensure that the food waste was safe and suitable for animals and would not harm them following consumption.



A foxglove plant has been planted amongst the existing shrubbery to encourage greater wildlife, namely insects such as bees and wasps. Research shows that foxgloves provide vast amounts of pollen and therefore encourages greater biodiversity into the garden.

The foxglove cutting has been taken from an existing plant in another garden, therefore contributing to the reduction of mass commercial plant production, minimising waste, saving money and conserving the ecosystem.



A separate used and recycled drinks bottle has been cut in order to provide a source of water to wildlife. This has been hung using recycled string from gift packaging. The water bath has been hung on a tall garden ornament that is above ground to ensure isolation and remoteness so that the wildlife is not disturbed by pets.



John Muir

John Muir was a Scottish American naturalist, born in 1838. He is considered one of the most influential conservationists in American history as he changed individuals' outlooks on nature and the wilderness. His thinking and actions have influenced the modern environmental movements and has led to the preservation of public land. John Muir argued that it should be preserved for beauty, inspiration, and spiritual renewal, rather than for profit.

The preservation of Yosemite National Park and Sequoia National Park was largely the result of John Muir. He advocated for the protection of the wilderness before conservation was widespread and convinced Roosevelt to expand state protection of natural lands. John Muir also founded the Sierra Club in 1892 and served as its first president until his death. The organisation later became one of the most important environmental organisations in the USA as it activated public support to protect natural areas from development.

'My First Summer in the Sierra' and 'The Mountains of California' are two of his writings about nature and the spiritual link between humans and the wilderness. These emphasised the sacredness of nature and the importance of its preservation and protection.

National Park policies, including that of Yosemite, was shaped by himself. He is now referred to as the "Father of the National Parks" and is remembered for inspiring generations to value and protect the natural world.

Muir's thinking not only helped protect natural areas and introduce policy, but continues to drive environmental movements today, through placing a responsibility on human beings to maintain sustainability in order to protect nature.

(Californian Museum, no date)



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