

**Sustainability
in the Early Years.**

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EAAE6005

Discovering My Back Garden.

I only had a small garden as a child. I remember exploring it and how I longed to have a large garden to play in. However, I also had some freedom to explore outside the garden. I remember making perfume and pot purri from flowers that I found, making dens and using natural items such crab apples in my role play.

I am now fortunate to have a large garden. It is situated in a semi-rural area, between the mountains of the Brecon Beacons and the beaches of Swansea bay.

I appreciate the space our garden affords my children, as it provides them with an opportunity to play independently and I hope that they form an enjoyment of nature as I have.

I notice and enjoy the nature I often see in my garden, and although our busy lifestyle means our garden is often neglected, I understand that this may actually benefit nature and creatures that lives in our garden.

However, I have not really taken the time to explore the garden until now...





The most noticeable wildlife in the garden are birds. There are various birds that visit the garden including sparrows, wood pigeons, great tits and black birds. There is a returning female blackbird that we believe lives in our garden. We recognise her as she has leucism. While exploring the garden I discovered a nest that had been made in an old peg bag hung on the fence behind our shed.



I sit in silence.

I hear the birds tweeting loudly,

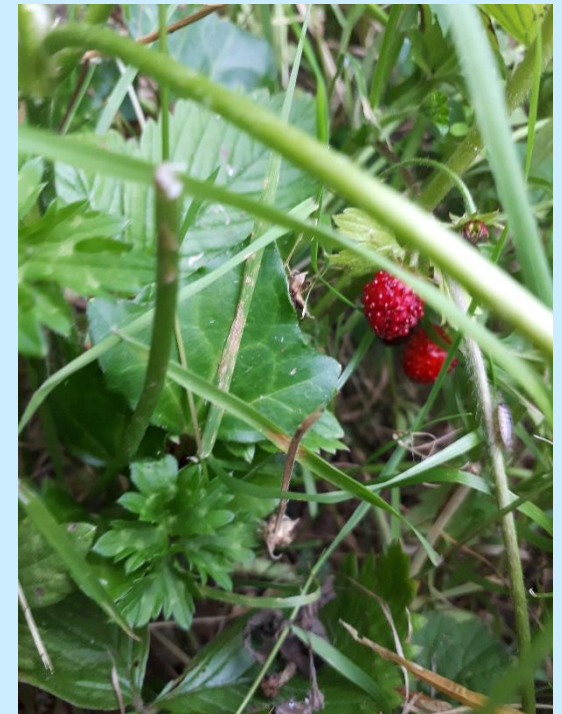
As the day begins.



There was a lot of minibeasts discovered in the garden. Lifting stones and planks in the garden revealed woodlice and ants.



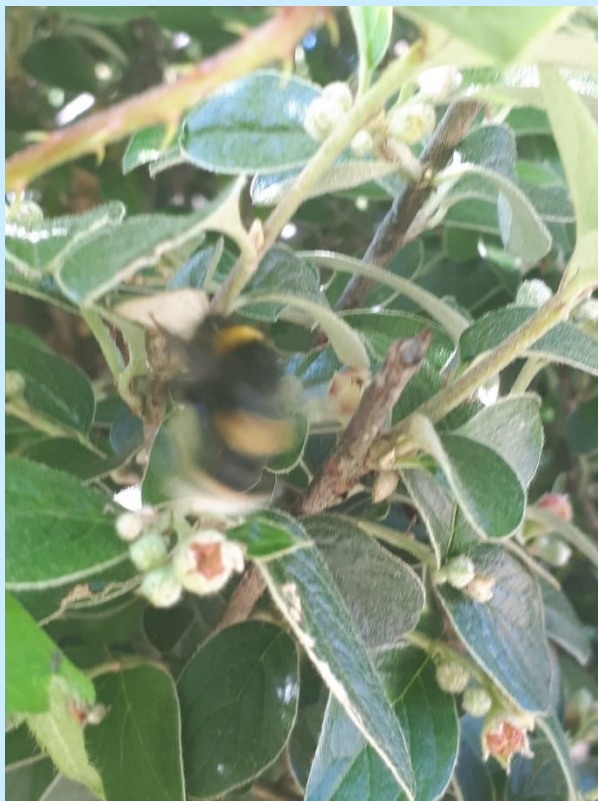
I had wondered if I had spotted some wild strawberry plants in the garden, but I had never seen any strawberries so I was unsure if my assumption was correct. While I was exploring the garden I was delighted to find these tiny wild strawberries hidden under the grass.



This bush was in the garden when we moved into our house. I had never noticed the little flowers before. I asked a knowledgeable work colleague if she recognised the bush but she was unsure, so she took the image to ask someone she thought might know. This person suggested that it was cotoneaster. I searched this on the internet and found it is indeed cotoneaster lucidus.

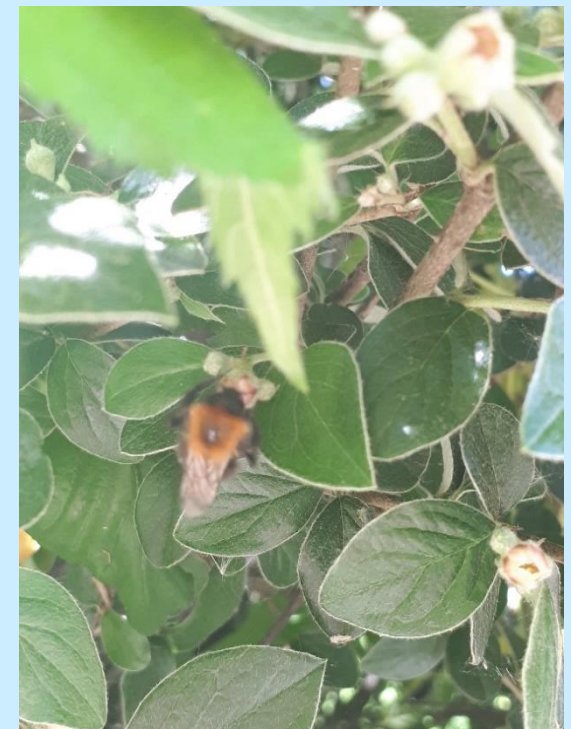
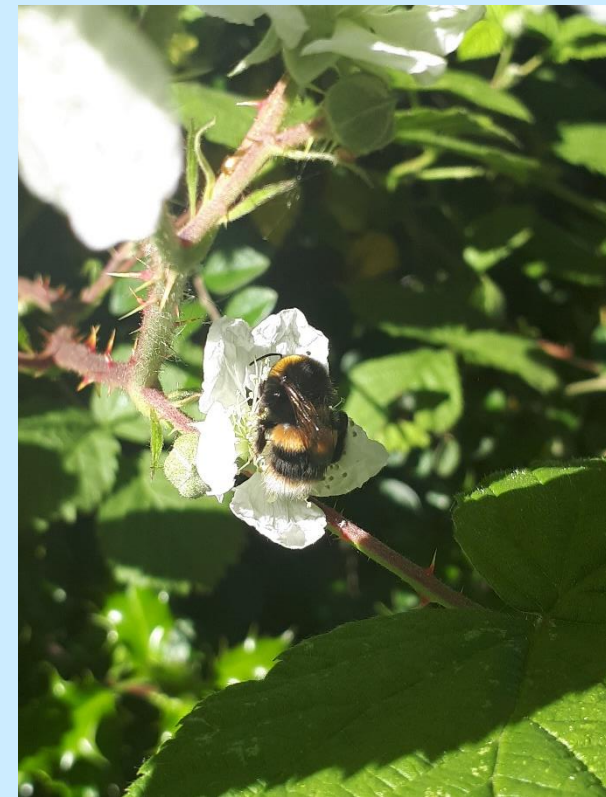
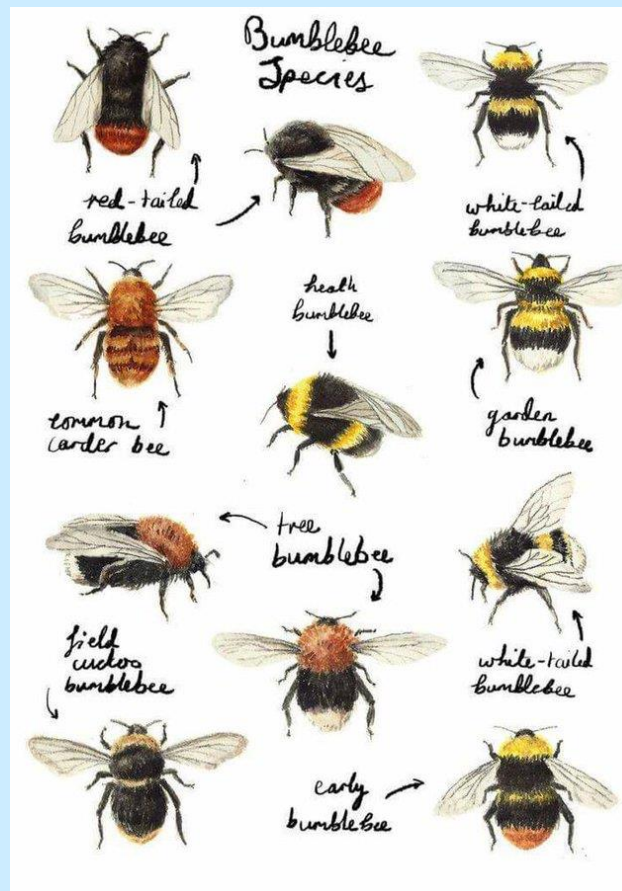


The cotoneaster also has holly and brambles growing through it. I particularly liked the way that the light caught the petals on this bramble's flower.



I noticed that the cotoneaster was surrounded by bees. I decided to try and find out what kind of bees they were, however this was difficult. I think it is a white tailed. While I was researching this I discovered lots of facts about bees that I did not know. I did not realise that there were so many different species of bee!

(LBGardening, 2015).

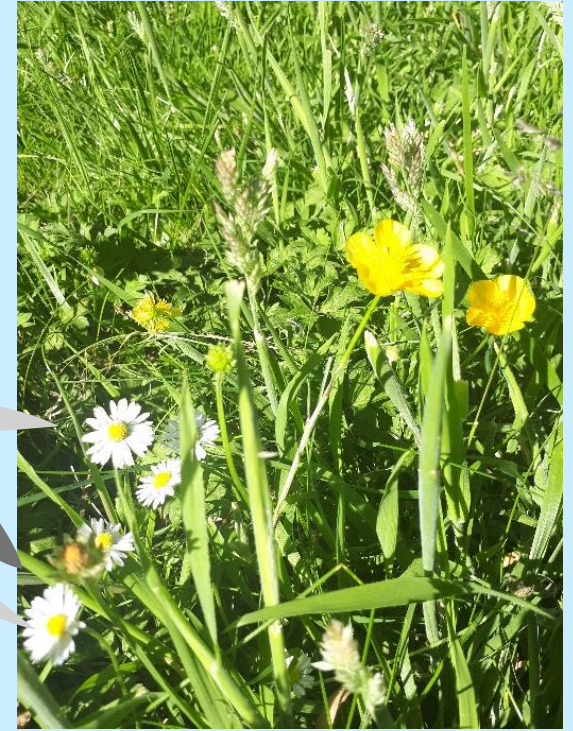




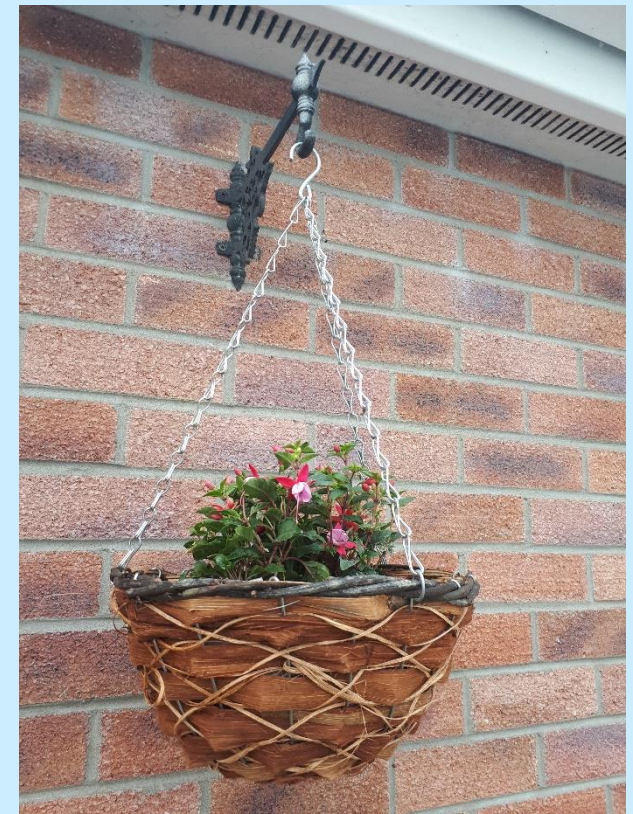
I realised that my garden while very green, only contained a few flowers that grew naturally in the garden such as buttercups and daisies.



The garden is green,
But some colourful flowers
May attract more bees.

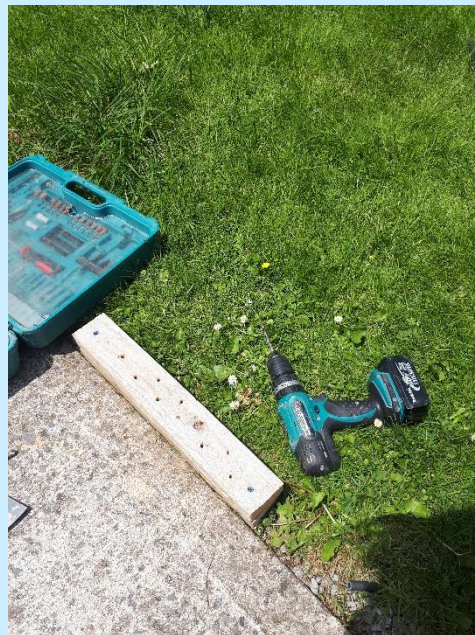


I decided I would like to conserve the bees in my garden by sowing wild flower seeds and putting up some hanging baskets.



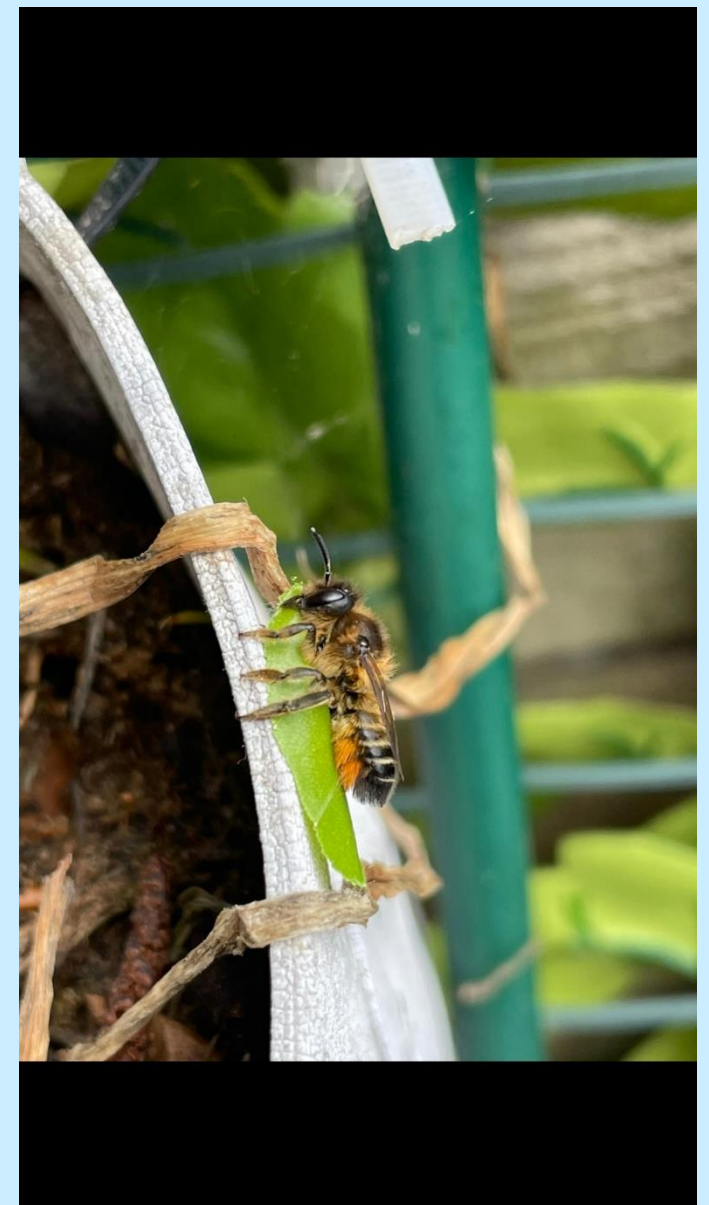
I also decided to make a bee hotel to provide somewhere for solitary bees to lay their eggs. I used some old wood blocks. I drilled holes of different sizes in an upward direction to prevent rain water entering the holes. I then attached it to the south facing wall of the shed at least six foot from the ground.

(Brokaw and Isaacs, 2017).



Share

I shared what I had learned about bees with my work colleagues. One told me that it had enabled her to recognise this leafcutter bee that seemed to be laying its eggs in an old wellington boot that has been used as a plant pot.



(Owen, 2021)

I was inspired
to make a bee
out of clay
during art and craft.



To raise awareness of what I had learned about different species of bees, I decided to write a story called Polly the Patchwork Leafcutter Bee. A story aimed at young children to increase their positive feelings of nature.

