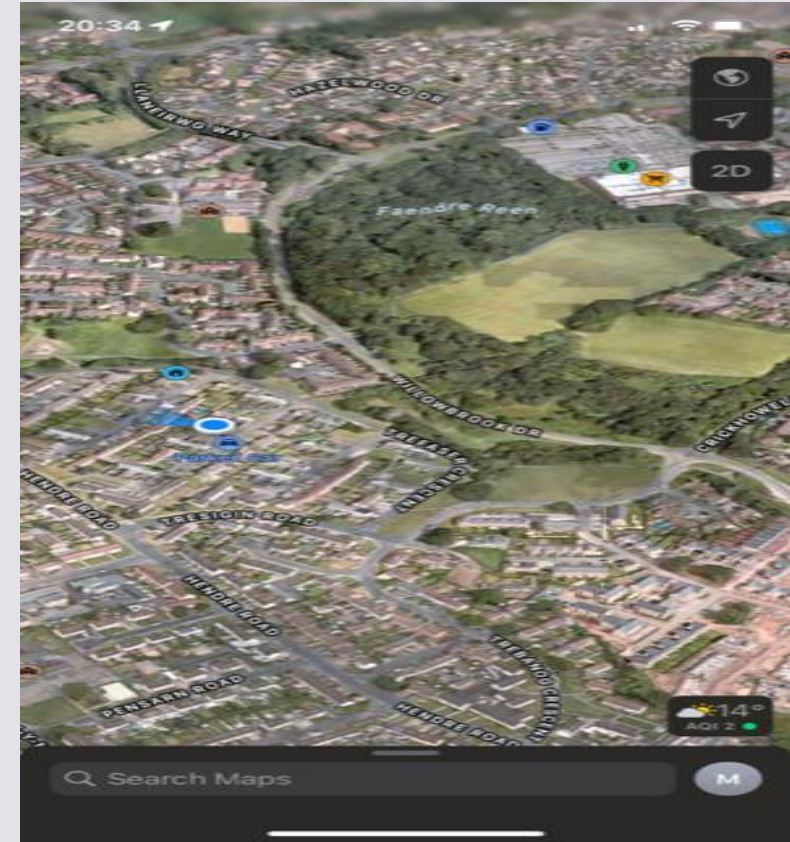




MY PARENTS GARDEN, THE FAMILY'S HAPPY PLACE.

Student: 2111339 Module:ECEY6005

MAP OF AREA



As you can see from these two maps, my parent's house is in a rather built-up area, it does not have much green space around where they live.

DISCOVER

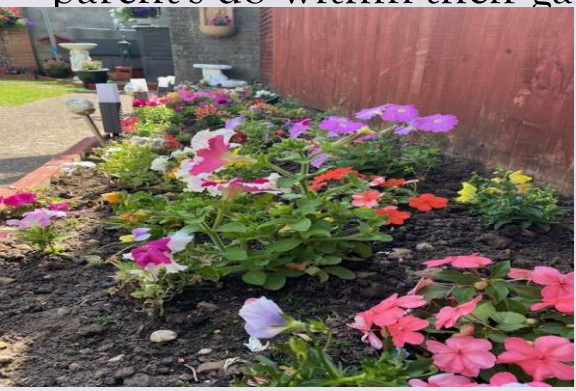
This scrapbook looks at my parent's garden which is situated in Trowbridge, Cardiff. My mum enjoys her garden putting a lot of time, effort and money into the upkeep of it. This is my mum's happy place, she does not go anywhere and since covid-19 this has become progressively worse, she is very anxious about going out, the garden is where she finds peace, she finds purpose looking after nature, birds, insects, planting and growing things, not just for herself but the family too.

We as a family AND we are a big one at that, spend a lot of time together at my parent's garden and this is the reason I have chosen here for my John Muir award.

It is a place we use often to come together for family time (when the British weather allows)

Not only do my parent's care for plants, birds and insects that visit their garden, but my dad also has a fishpond which he put in when my son was a young child, he is now 22 and my grandchildren my parent's great grandchildren, get enjoyment from it now, helping my dad care for and feed fish, clean and maintain the pond and generally learning about pond life.

Participating in the John Muir award for this module has given me a greater understanding of the importance of all that my parent's do within their garden and has allowed me to appreciate our time together there even more.



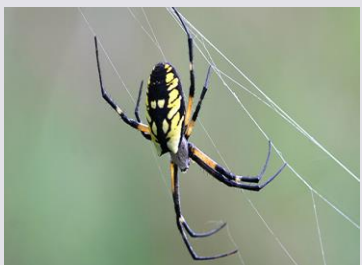
POLLINATORS



- Yellow Snap Dragon
- Antirrhinum
- Petunia
- Geraniums
- Garden Verbena

All these flowers in the garden are great pollinators, provide food for bees, attract butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators.





When exploring the flowers, I saw, spiders, bumblebees, ants and woodlouse. I learnt spiders are more than likely looking for food (insects), bumblebees are important pollinators of many plants. Ants are probably building nests and woodlouse are found in healthy gardens and like shady damp areas of a garden.

Having an array of plants and flowers in the garden makes you feel good, they can support people with depression and anxiety feel less low and positively improves mood.

POLLINATORS



HORTICULTURE



These are some of the things growing in the garden this year.

- Strawberries
- Tomatoes
- Broccoli
- Cauliflower

My mum planted the strawberry plant with my niece and the tomato plant with my grandson.

For the first time she has attempted to grow her own broccoli and cauliflower and has been surprised at how they grew.

This fishpond has been in the garden for many years now, it was built when my son was young, he is now 22 years of age, and the great grandchildren are actively involved in the upkeep of the pond now, this is something the children do with my dad

I have learnt a fishpond provides a living space not only for the fish, but it attracts birds, such as herons, although this is not always positive as herons tend to eat the fish in the pond, as my dad quickly learnt. The pond supports continuing growth of the pond system with the possibility of attracting new & varied species/insects and amphibians.



"Look at this fish Babu".



Exploring what lives in the pond.



Working together cleaning the pond.



FISHPOND



The wire net keeps Herons out of pond.

BIRDS IN THE GARDEN



Pigeon



Robin



Starling



Blackbird



Sparrow

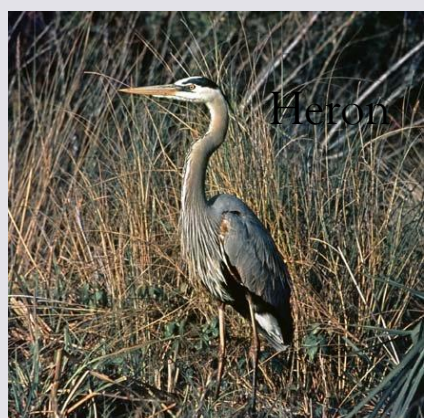


Wren

Over the course of four days, I witnessed these species of birds coming into the garden, I watched them feed from the bird feeders, bathe in the bird bath and peck the ground. I was lucky enough to really listen and hear the beautiful sounds birds make, it has made me realise the beauty of nature and if we just stop and absorb what it around us it truly is magnificent, and I felt really connected with nature. For the first time I fully understand why my mum enjoys watching and listening to the birds in her garden.



Wagtail



Heron



Seagull



Crow



Bluetit



Magpie



Having the bird feeders, boxes and baths in the garden provides food, shelter and a safe place for the birds, this is important especially the winter months when birds may find food sparse. Certain birds pollinate which assists the garden flowers, supporting them to grow bigger and brighter, they also encourage a variety of birds to visit. While exploring the garden I discovered twelve different species of birds came into the garden. However, photographing them was not an easy task and I was unable to get decent photos.

I learnt bird baths can spread disease, such as avian flu, therefore the water can become contaminated and needs changing regularly.

BIRD FEEDERS/BIRD BOXES/BIRD BATH.

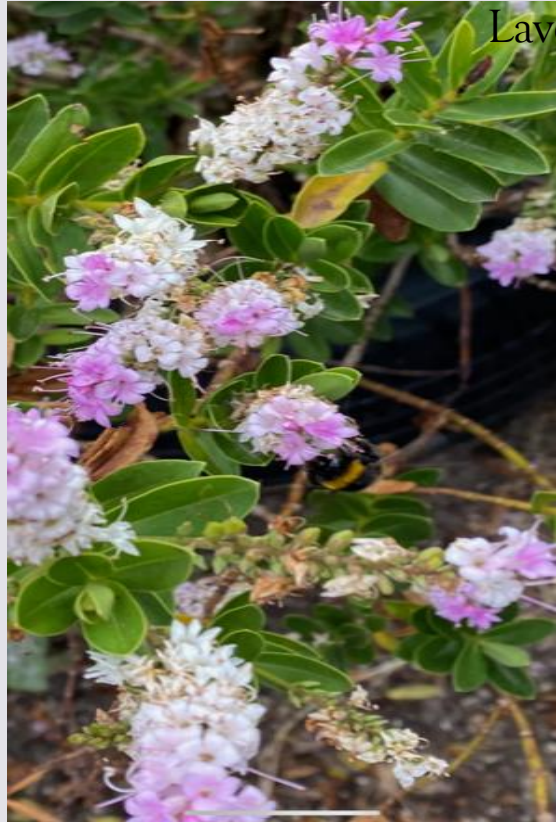


Lavender Plant



OTHER VISITORS IN THE GARDEN

If you look closely, you will see a bumblebee on both the Lavender and Hebe plant.



Hebe Plant



Bumblebees are important pollinators that do not depend on anyone flower type, however some plants rely on bumblebees to achieve pollination.

Grey Squirrel



For the first time, my mum noticed a grey squirrel visiting the garden this year, feeding from the bird feeder. Grey squirrels are known for causing damage to vegetables or plants, so far this has not happened, so it has been left to enjoy the garden

Butterflies



There is always a range of beautifully coloured butterflies in my mum's garden, I was fortunate to see three different types of butterfly when exploring my mum's garden, and we suspect it is either due to the neighbour's apple tree and perhaps they are coming for the fallen fruit, or the nectar on the flowers as many are situated in warm shaded areas.

EXPLORE

Exploring my parent's garden gave me an insight to how much it has to offer, not just for us as a family but for learning opportunities for the children and more importantly the birds, bees, butterflies and insects.

However, I had realisation how wasteful and harmful using a garden hose and sprinkler were to the environment.



CONSERVE

Taking part in the John Muir award exhibited to me that the garden could be more environmentally friendly, and that garden hose pipes and sprinkles were not the best option to use and were clearly not beneficial to water consumption. Therefore, I decided upon discussing my idea with my parent's I would add a water butt into the garden to gather rainwater to use for the plants and flowers. Furthermore, I knew I wanted to involve the children, so we constructed the idea of using plastic bottles, cutting off the bottom, attaching them in various places around the garden allowing rainwater to be collected so that the children could freely use the bottles to water the plants and flowers when needed. We also popped some bottles (also with bottom cut off) into the flower beds and plants attaching an irrigation drip to the bottles for efficient flow of water that the plants and flowers need to grow.

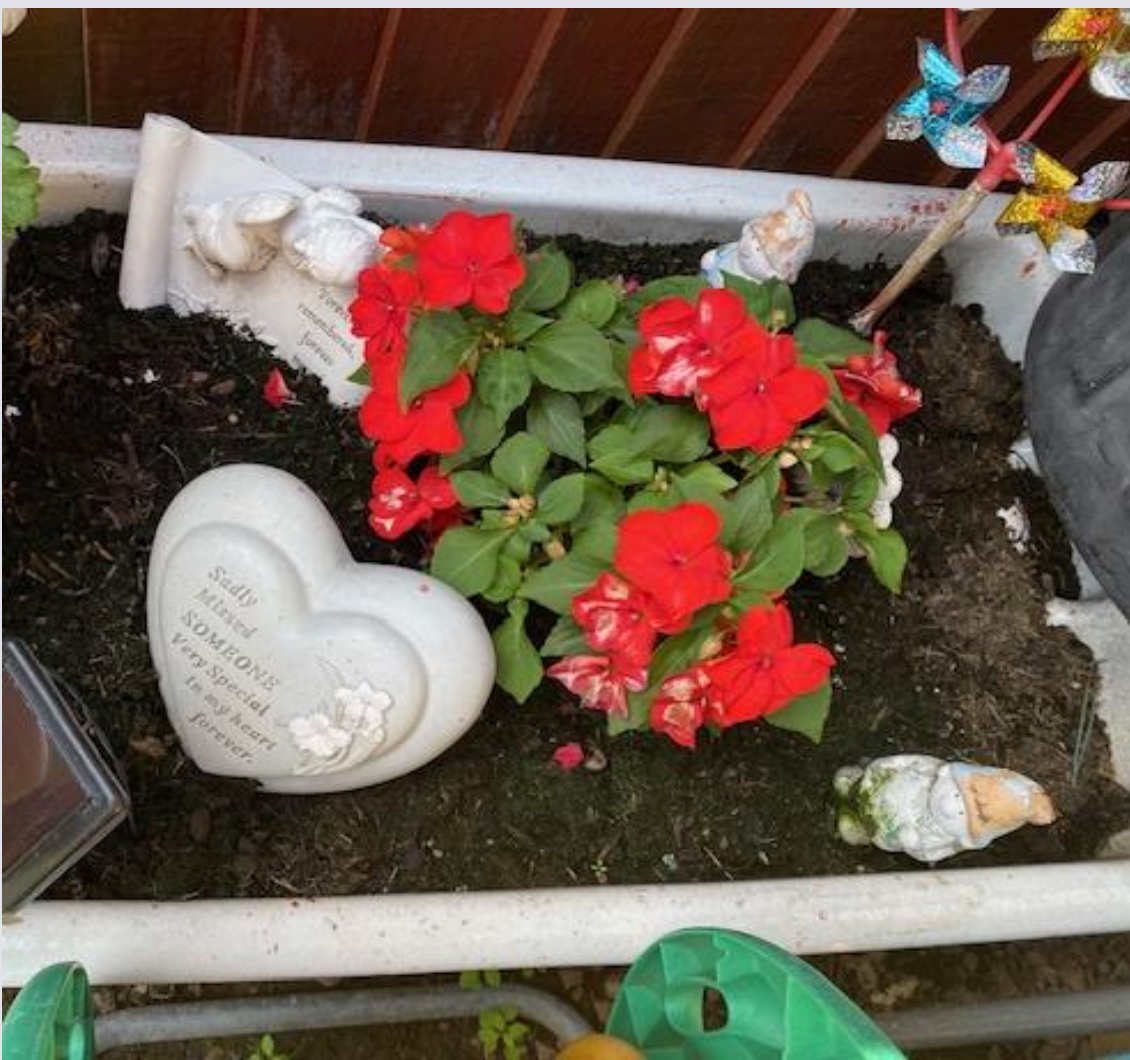


SHARE

This garden is shared by us as a whole family, even though my parents maintain the garden, the grandchildren and greatgrandchildren are very much involved in planting. Growing and maintaining the garden environment.

We share our family time here often, along with our family pet dogs and nature itself and have I shared this experience with practitioners in my setting so we can become more sustainable, and the children understand the importance of their environment, now I am sharing this garden with you the tutors.





A PLACE FOR EVERYONE

In the corner of the garden is a special remembrance plot that my parent's created with my niece for their family dog 'Rio' that sadly passed away a few years ago. This area is poignant, especially for my niece, therefore it is always maintained and looked after frequently, this brings comfort to the children having something and somewhere to remember Rio.