

MY SCRAPBOOK REFLECTING ON THE JOHN MUIR EXPERIENCE.

Module: EAEE6005

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DISCOVER

I have lived in Lower Cwmtwrch for over 30 years and witnessed several environmental changes to the area. What was once fields that I would run and play in with friends has now become a housing estate, a new super school and a new football club with well kept pitches. Fortunately, I have discovered an area that has been protected by the Brecknock Wildlife Trust called Cae Lynden Nature Reserve. While visiting the area I learned that there are many species of butterflies such as the Meadow Brown, Gate Keeper, Brimstone and the Marsh Fritillary surviving due to the rhos pastures and meadow of rich mixed wildflower. This area has also become the protection for many flowers, birds and the now endangered Dormouse. The beautiful area has also attracted the attention of celebrities such as Chris Packham and Iolo Williams.



DISCOVERING WHAT IS AROUND ME.

As I walked through the sea of green landscape I was reminded of my childhood. The smell of fresh grass blowing like a Mexican wave welcoming, the tingly touch of swaying grass blades on my hands as they curtsy beside me. The array of colour that danced before my eyes as butterflies fluttered from flower to flower reminds me of my old rubik's cube as I could never match up the same colour twice. The sound of bee's buzzing and something in the undergrowth scurrying signals natures creatures are hard at work





HERE ARE SOME OF
THE BUTTERFLIES
PROTECTED BY CÆ
LYNDEN



(Source: Pittman, 2014)



(Source: Sharp, 2014)



(Source: Sharp, 2017)

THE INSPIRATION TO DRAW SOME OF THE WILDLIFE SPOTTED IN MY GARDEN.

The Robin

I have watched the robin for several days now, picking up worms from the overturned soil on my vegetable patch.



The Grey Squirrel

There are two cheeky grey squirrels in my garden who buried their acorns collected from my tree, I love to watch them scurrying around.



The Common Pipistrelle

These bats can be seen flying around in my garden at night and they can eat up to 3000 insects a night.

(Bats Conservation Trust, 2010)



WITH SO MUCH
INSPIRATION
ALL AROUND ME
IT WAS TIME TO
TAKE ON THE
CHALLENGE.

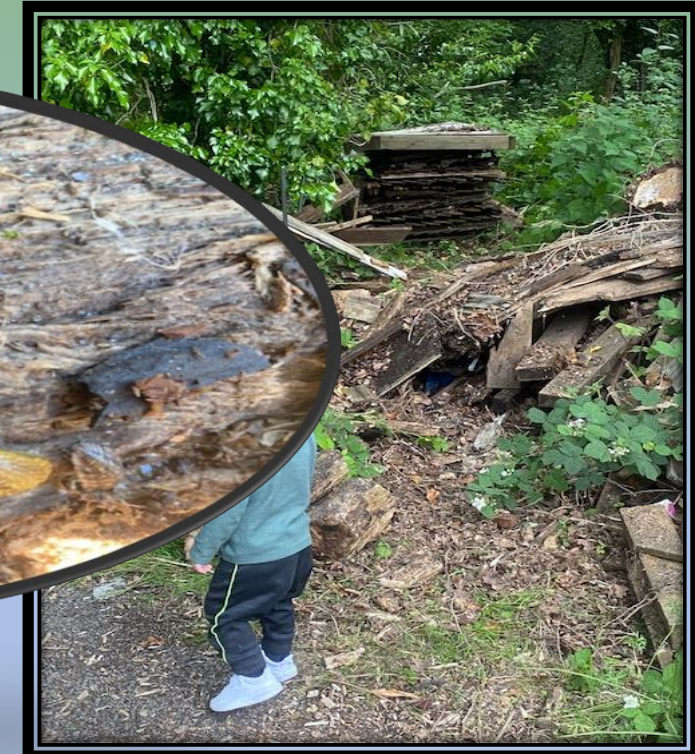
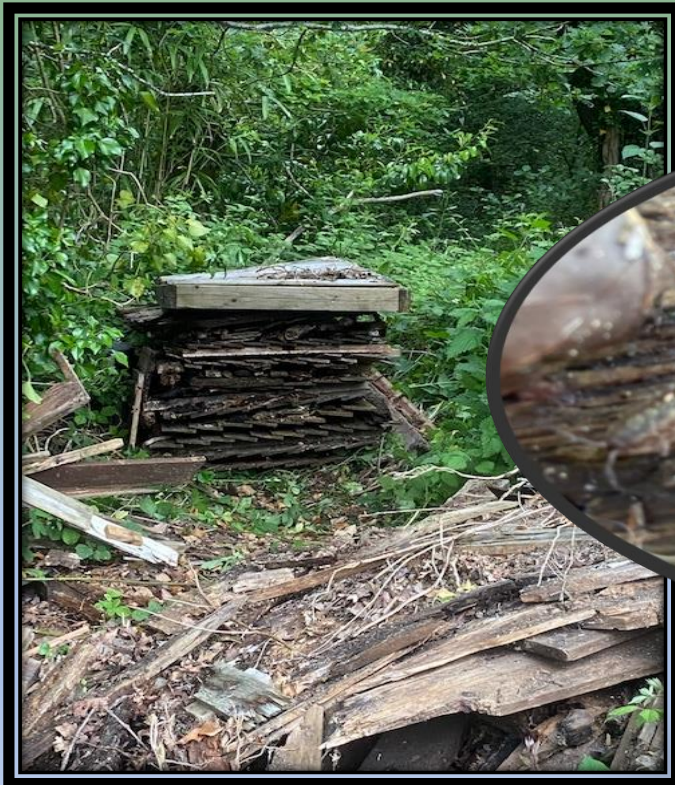
For the John Muir award I reflected on what had been accomplished by others in my area and decided that the removal of wood that had been deposited in the forestry behind my home would help to protect the wildlife and environment.

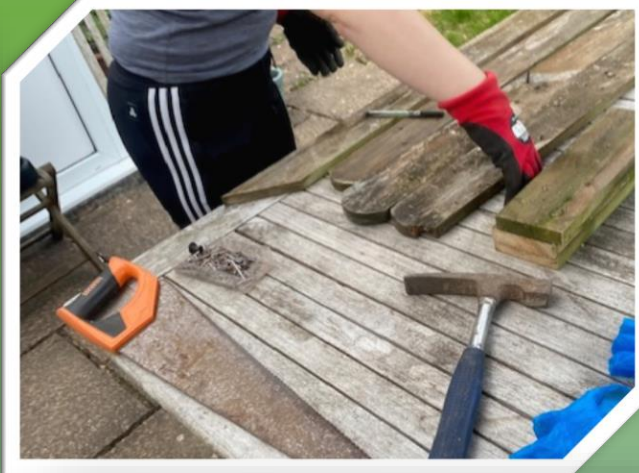


WITH THE HELP OF FAMILY, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

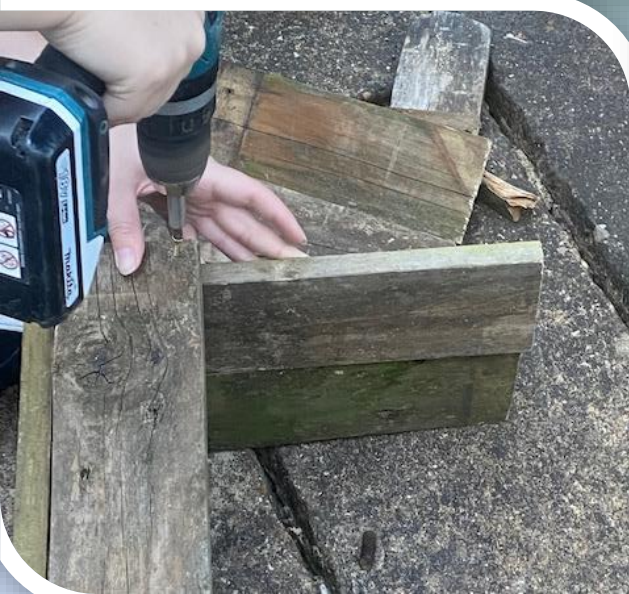
We found that many insects such as woodlice and slugs had utilized the wood so we started by constructing a bug hotel.

Even extended family wanted to join in on the action, my nephew was so intrigued with all the little insects running around.





WITH HELP FROM MY FAMILY,
WE STARTED TO CREATE
HABITATS FOR THE WILDLIFE
FROM THE ABANDONED WOOD.





All the habitats were placed back into the
forestry

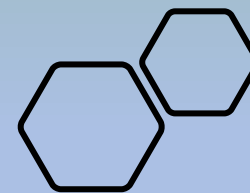
To make the habitats I felt it was important to spend time talking to friends and professional people who had knowledge on the different species to accomplish the perfect habitat.



While trying to capture a picture of a bumble bee I started to notice some lovely colours and textures.



(Source: Gander, 2019)





THE SONG OF BIRDS



Sweet tweet, upbeat melodic lullaby to the world.

On and on goes the twittering chant of bird in song.

Nurturing harmony reminds me I am alive.

Grounds me, calms me, brings me peace.



REFLECTION

The last few evenings I have stopped to
take notice of the lovely surroundings I
am lucky enough to live in.

Unfortunately, not everyone seems to appreciate the beautiful surrounds.



Keep the world
happy and bin your
rubbish!



Save our
environment before
it's too late!

During one of my walks through Cae Lynden I was really upset to see that some one did not appreciate the area and had thrown bags of rubbish into the hedgerow, I popped home to retrieve my gloves and litter picker and went back to collect up the rubbish, while collecting up the rubbish a group of young children from the school I work at approached me questioning why I was picking up someone else's rubbish, I explained that if birds were to pick up and eat some of the plastic it would be harmful to them, also the rubbish is not good for the environment as it is not biodegradable (it does not break down in the soil), also it makes the area look messy and to finish I explained that it made me feel sad to think others do not appreciate the beautiful surrounds we have. When I arrived at school the following day I was overwhelmed when the same few children presented me with a poster that they had made reflecting on our conversation.

BIRDS THAT HAVE
BEEN SEEN IN THE
MEADOW AND MY
GARDEN.



(Source: Lobb, 2014).



(Source: Kent Orchards, 2021).



(Source: British-garden-birds.com, no date).



(Source: Madison, 2014).



(Source: British-garden-birds.com, no date).



(Source: British-garden-birds.com, no date).

REFLECTION ON THE JOHN MUIR EXPERIENCE

This opportunity has given new life to me and my family as we have reconnected with nature and found ways in which we can help to protect the future of wildlife and our beautiful surroundings. The project started is still not over and through continued preservation and time I hope the forestry will be returned to its full beauty. We have also given great thought to how we can live in a more sustainable way and reduce our carbon footprint.

