



Exploring and Conserving My Garden.

DISCOVERING NATURE AND PROMOTING
CONSERVATION EFFORTS

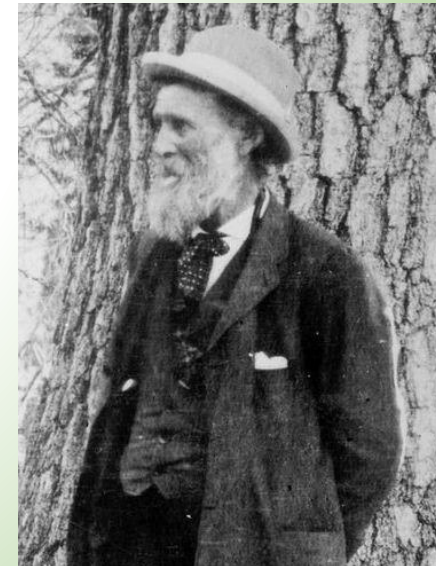
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John Muir – Who was he? What did he do?

John Muir (1838-1914) was a Scottish-born inventor and the founder of the modern conservation movement. He had a deep passion for wild places, dedicating his life to exploring, writing about, and campaigning to protect them. Muir believed in the importance of preserving these natural areas for their own sake, as well as for the well-being of both people and wildlife, and who brought a sense of curiosity to his adventures in nature. He loved spending time in the great outdoors, observing how plants and animals interact with one another and their environment. Muir believed that wild places are not just resources for humans but have their own special value. He felt that we are all part of nature and that visiting these beautiful spots helps us grow and recharge our minds and bodies. Through his writing, he aimed to share his passion for nature and encourage others to care for it too. Muir was also a strong advocate for protecting wild spaces and fought against inappropriate development. His efforts played a key role in creating several national parks in the United States, including the stunning Yosemite Valley!



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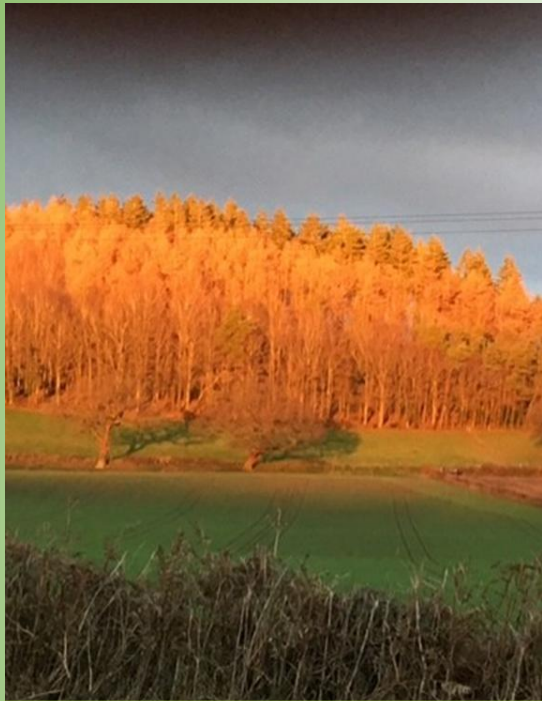
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Discover: Unveiling My Garden

Location and Map of My Garden : NP15 1JQ.



My family home is situated in Llangoy. We moved here when I was 3 months old in 1981.



Surrounding Areas.

The Garden and the Church on the Hill.

My garden blooms with life and light,
With buzzing bees and birds in flight.
Flowers dance where veg beds grow,
And soft green lawns in evening glow.
An arch of dog rose, bright and fair,
Spills pink through summer-scented air.
Beyond the gate, the fields unfold,
In waves of green and threads of gold.
And on the hill, so still and grey,
The church stands watching night and day.
Among the yellow blooms they lie,
My roots, my past, beneath that sky.
I walk the paths they once walked too,
With every bloom, their love shines
through.
This garden holds both life and grace,
A growing, glowing, sacred place.



My Garden: then and now.

My Great, great,
great aunty lived
here and the house
has been in the
family ever since.





My Garden: then and now.

For the past 44 years, my family home has been more than just a place to live, it has been a part of who I am. I've watched it change and grow over time, but what's remained constant are the memories woven into every corner. The scent of wet earth after rain, the morning birdsong, the familiar presence of wildlife... all of it grounds me and brings a sense of Cynefin. This place doesn't just hold my memories, it brings them back to life and gives them meaning.

Explore: Connecting with My Garden



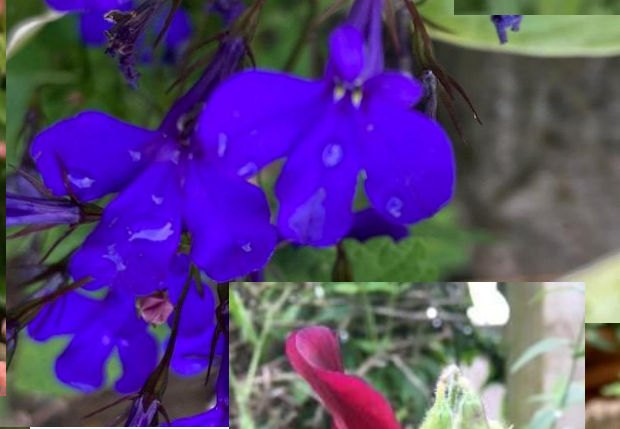
Flora: Plants and Trees in My Garden

Our garden is packed with all kinds of plants that help create a healthy, balanced space for wildlife to thrive. Everything we grow, whether it's flowers, veg, or trees, plays its part in supporting insects, birds, and other creatures. When we first moved in, there were just a few old apple trees at the bottom of the garden. Since then, we've added eating apples, cooking apples, cherry, and plum trees too. It is all grown from our love of gardening and wanting to live more sustainably. Fruit can be pricey, so growing our own not only saves money, it also helps the environment and brings fresh, homegrown food to the table.



Tiptoe through the Tulips...





Fauna: Wildlife and Insects Residing Here

Having lots of birds, insects and wildlife in the garden makes such a difference. Insects like bees help with pollination, and others keep pests in check, so the garden stays healthy without needing much help. And all the different birds and animals that drop by aren't just lovely to see they depend on the plants for food and shelter, just like we rely on them to keep the whole space buzzing with life.



Geese



Woodpeckers



Partridge



Sparrow



Pheasant

Bird Visitors
to the
Garden.

House Martin



Sparrow Hawk





Newt



Rabbit



Hedgehog



Frog



Squirrel

Conserve: Taking Care of My Garden



Home Tweet Home

The garden is aflutter with birds, This could be because of the re-usable bird feeders that are available to the birds but also because there are a lot of bugs around the flowers and the wood piles that are in the garden. There are lots of places for the birds to nest including some old shoes and a teapot. The birds seem to enjoy having different places to hide and build their nests. I have learnt so much about different birds from the garden and have even taken part in the RSPB Garden Birdwatch with my children.



Hedgehog Habitat.

Baby hedgehogs and underweight adult hedgehogs awake at the wrong time of year, all welcome here!!



Hedgehog homes galore – 1 bought and 1 hand made during Covid by my daughter.



We re-built the wall with an added extra – a hedgehog hole! Used by hedgehogs, partridge and a magpie with no tail called 'Stumpy'.



Future Hotel Stays.

My next step is to build a bug hotel. Bug hotels offer a safe haven for beneficial insects like ladybirds and bees, helping to boost biodiversity in the garden. Using natural materials such as wood, bamboo, straw, and pinecones, not to mention any leftover bits from the garden, you can create an inviting space for a range of helpful bugs. These tiny visitors play a big role in keeping the garden healthy and productive by controlling pests and supporting pollination.



Sustainable Gardening Practices

– Growing Together.

Growing our own fruit and veg has always been a big part of family life. It's something that's been passed down through the generations, taught by grandparents, great uncles, and anyone with muddy boots and a love for the garden. One of my earliest memories is of my great-uncle pottering around in his garden just up the road. Now my own children have grown up with those same traditions. They've been out in the garden with their grandparents since they were little, digging, planting, getting messy and even now, at 16 and 12, they still enjoy helping out (especially when it comes to picking strawberries and raspberries!). We try to garden in a way that's good for the planet, too. Composting is a big part of what we do. It keeps waste down and makes the soil much richer. We use pinecones instead of slug pellets, and plant flowers near the veg to attract insects to the right places. We also use mulch, collect rainwater in a butt by the greenhouse, and start plants under cover before moving them out to the garden itself. Seeds are collected from one year to the next and planted out in old egg boxes or toilet roll tubes. This all helps with our sustainable gardening and is what we should teach future generations.





The Garden Holds It All

My garden, a haven where wild things stay,
Buzzing and blooming through each new day.
Where history lives in each petal and tree,
And family roots run deep beneath me.
The church on the hill keeps watch from afar,
Where ancestors rest like guiding stars.
Their love still lingers in soil and breeze,
In laughter that dances through flowers and trees.
I remember the chase with cousins in sun,
The games we played, the endless fun.
And Grandma's smile, Uncle Bill's grin,
As I warned, "The cows will moo on you!" with a giggle within.
We dig, we plant, we learn to give,
To grow with purpose, and gently live.
Recycling, reusing, tending with care,
So something good is always there.
This garden teaches, this garden gives,
A space where memory breathes and lives.
More than a patch of green and sky,
It's love, it's legacy. It's my reason why.

Conclusion.

This project has taught me to slow down and really be present, to watch, to listen, and to feel the garden. It has shown me the beauty in growing and nurturing, through trial and error, patience and care. Most of all, it's reminded me to love and protect this space, just as my family did before me. They gardened for themselves, never knowing how much it would mean to me, or how deeply it would root itself in my children's lives too.

Through this journey, I've found a new love for nature, for nurture, and for sustainability. Not just in my own garden, but in the wider world and my community. This space is more than soil and plants, it is legacy, learning, and connection. More should be done to teach young children about gardening and where their food comes from, starting in the Early Years. These lessons connect them to nature, encourage healthy habits, and show them the value of growing, nurturing, and living sustainably.

It's a gift we can pass on, one seed, one muddy hand, one curious question at a time. A promise to the future, to raise a generation that understands how to care for the world around them