



Ysgol Glanyfferi

EIN GARDD NI/ OUR GARDEN



WHY HERE?

The school garden is important to me because this is where I spend most of my time learning, exploring and developing my interest in the natural world. It provides me with the opportunities that I would not otherwise have as I do not have a garden of my own. I enjoy working alongside the pupils where we can reflect, be creative and build a better understanding of the outdoors. This space is where I find myself continually learning as it pushes me out of my comfort zone and motivates me to research and investigate things I may never have considered before.

LETTER OF CONSENT-

Annwyl Mrs Evans (Pennaeth),

Hoffwn ofyn am ganiatad i ddefnyddio ardal allanol yr ysgol fel rhan o fy aseinlad ar gyfer fy ngwrs prifysgol. A fydddech yn fodlon llenwi y datganiad isod i gadarnhau caniatad?

Rwy'n rhoi caniatad i ddefnyddio ardal allanol yr ysgol fel rhan o'r aseinlad ar gyfer y cwrs prifysgol.

Llofnod M Evans (Pennaeth, Dros-Dro)

Dyddiad 25-6-2026

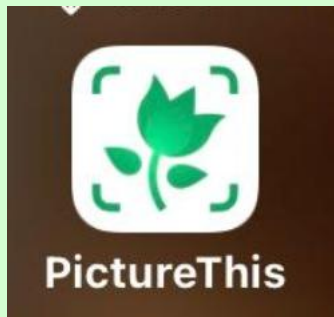
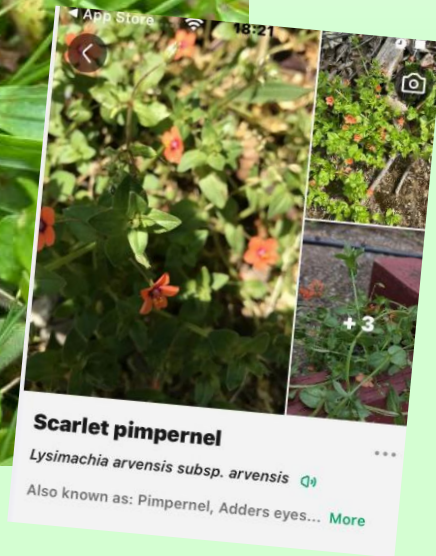
Diolch,

Gemma Burton



Discover -

During my discovery walk through the area, I was drawn to the bright, wildflowers among the grass. As a child I always enjoyed noticing them in the garden but never knew much about them. This prompted me to investigate them further.



I used the app 'PictureThis' to help me identify and discover interesting facts about the various wildflowers I found in the garden.

WILDFLOWERS

I found out that - The Scarlet Pimpernel is slow-growing wildflower, which can be found in fields, roadsides, gardens and cultivated land. The flower can be bright scarlet-red or orange in colour and bloom from spring to autumn. The plant is also known as the 'Poor Man's Weatherglass' as its flowers close during cloudy weather and before rain but opens in the sun. This flower contains compounds that can be toxic if eaten by humans or livestock.

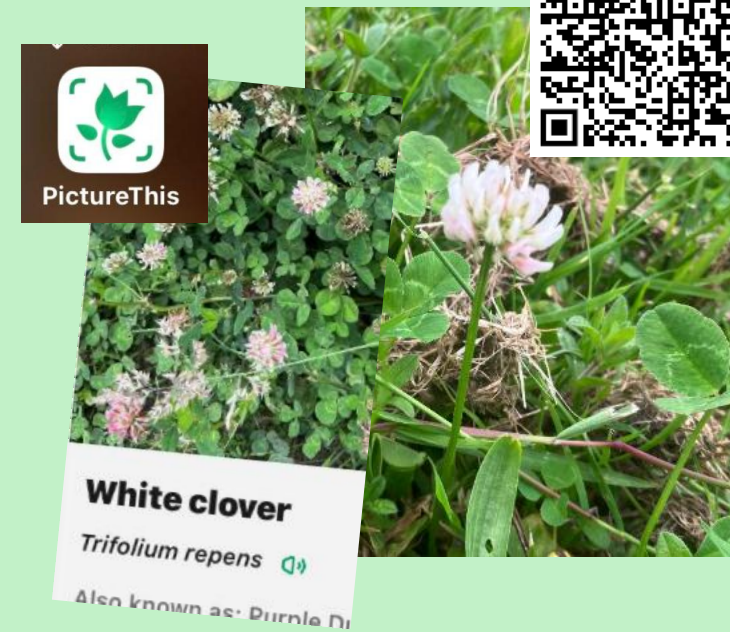


I discovered that the Kenilworth Ivy was also a low-growing plant found creeping along walls, pavements and old stonework. This wildflower has adapted to survive within the environment by growing in small cracks where other plants cannot compete with it. After flowering, the seed stalks bend and push the seeds into cracks and crevices allowing it to spread in new areas. It has light-sensitive movement where after pollination the stalks can turn away from light to place the seeds into darker gaps, improving its chance of survival.

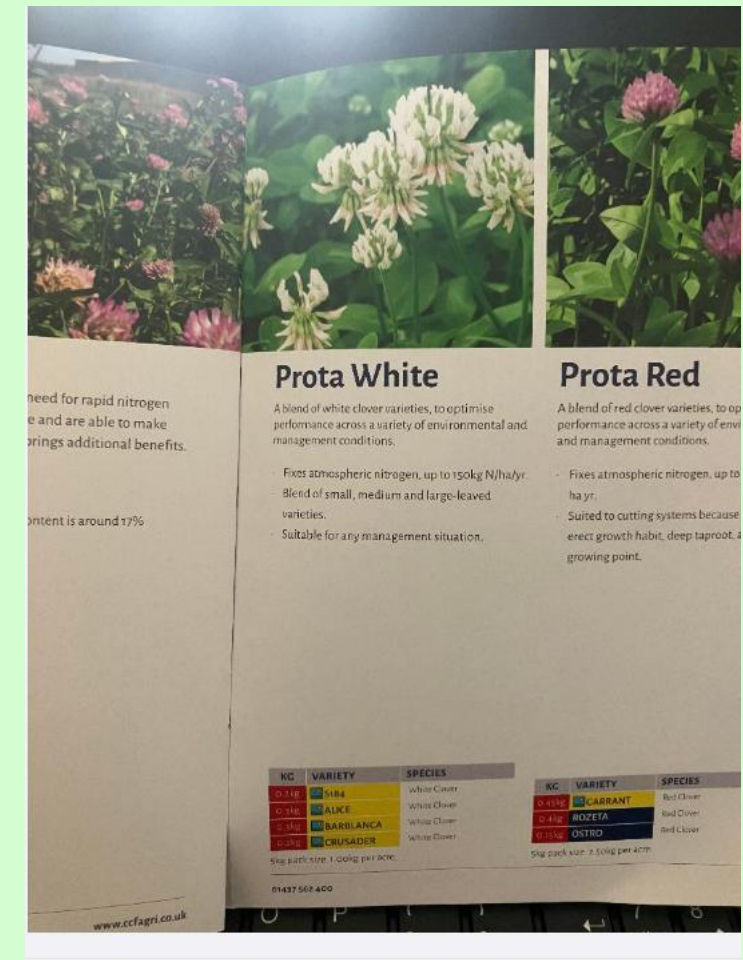


The grassy area I explored had mostly the White Clover flower growing among the grass. I discovered that this flower is important for livestock because it is highly nutritious and can improve soil fertility by fixing nitrogen and enriches the ground it grows in. It has ecological value as well as agricultural value as it supports biodiversity, improves soil quality and provides food for pollinators.

This can mean that farmers may rely less on synthetic pesticides and fertilizers as farming systems focus more on sustainable solutions and animal welfare. This may also improve animal health and productivity for example increasing the production of meat and milk.



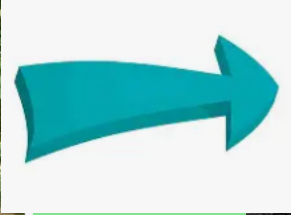
Through speaking to colleague and sharing my finding I discovered much more about the White Clover and how beneficial it is to farming and sustainability. They shared this leaflet with me. This highlighted the true significance and sustainability value of this wildflower in today's world.





BIRDS -

As I walked further into the garden, I discovered a bird's eggshell lying beneath the tree. There are often nests around the school building and in the trees because the garden is so close to the estuary, we sometimes see empty shells and the remains of chicks or crabs taken by seagulls. However, there was no nests visible above, which made me curious about where it had come from and what bird it belonged to. This took me back to my childhood, when I would be fascinated by the various patterns, shapes and sizes of different birds' eggs. This curiosity prompted me to investigate.



I used the app 'Picture Bird' to help me identify and discover interesting facts, using images and audio recordings about the various birds I could see and hear.



The video recording captured the birds singing as I tried to spot the ones hiding among the trees. Over time, I noticed that not many birds visited the area, but the audio helped me understand more of what I could see. Together with the photos, the recording gave me a much clearer idea of which bird the eggshell might have belonged to.

The birds I discovered and identified along with their songs which I attempted to match to the audio recording I took -

I discovered that the UK Blackbirds breed from March to July with males attracting the females through their songs. They stay together for many seasons where the female builds the nest in bushes, trees or climbing plants and lay 3-5 pale blue green eggs with reddish-brown speckles. I also discovered that blackbirds support sustainability by acting as both predators and pray by keeping food webs in balance. As predators they reduce earthworms and insect numbers preventing overpopulation and protecting plant health. They are also a source of pray for larger birds and mammals, supporting biodiversity. They also help with seed dispersal by spreading the seeds of the fruits and berries they eat. This process supports plant regeneration, strengthens habitats and helps ecosystems recover and thrive without human intervention. [🎵 Blackbird - song / call / voice / sound.](#)

The app also described how the House sparrows' eggs can be different colours but mainly white pale grey or greenish with brown speckles. They are small and oval in shape and under an inch long. They can lay between three and seven eggs at a time. The House Sparrow play a vital role n creating sustainable ecosystems by feeding on insects that damage crops which can reduce the need for chemical pesticides which supports healthier soil and waterways. They also contribute to plant regeneration by spreading seeds and they support the food web as prey to predators like sparrowhawks and owls.

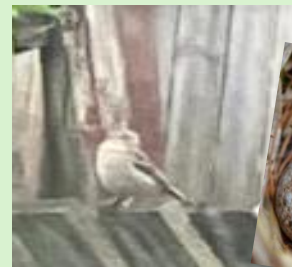
[🎵 House Sparrow - song / call / voice / sound.](#)

I believe the eggs were that of possibly a Pigeons or Dove which can live in both urban and rural environments and build their nests on sheltered ledges, rafters and bridges in high safe places. A pigeon's egg is small, smooth and pure white with a clean glossy surface with a slightly rounded shape, very similar if not the same to one I found. Pigeons support sustainability as they eat fruits and seeds which pass through their digestive system which get only partly broken which supports seed dispersal. They drop the seeds in new locations which can germinate and increase plant growth. Pigeons also support the food web as prey for predators such as falcons, hawks foxes and cats.

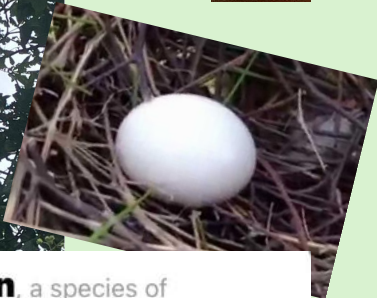
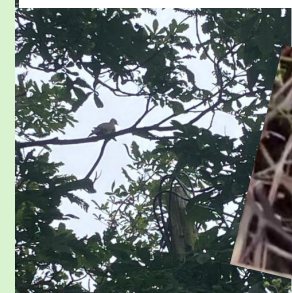
[🎵 Wood-Pigeon - song / call / voice / sound.](#)



Also known as: Common Blackbird, Eurasian Black Thrush, European Blackbird, Colley Bird, Colly Bird, Blackbird



House Sparrow, a species of Old world sparrows(*Passeridae*)



Rock Pigeon, a species of Dove(*Columbidae*)

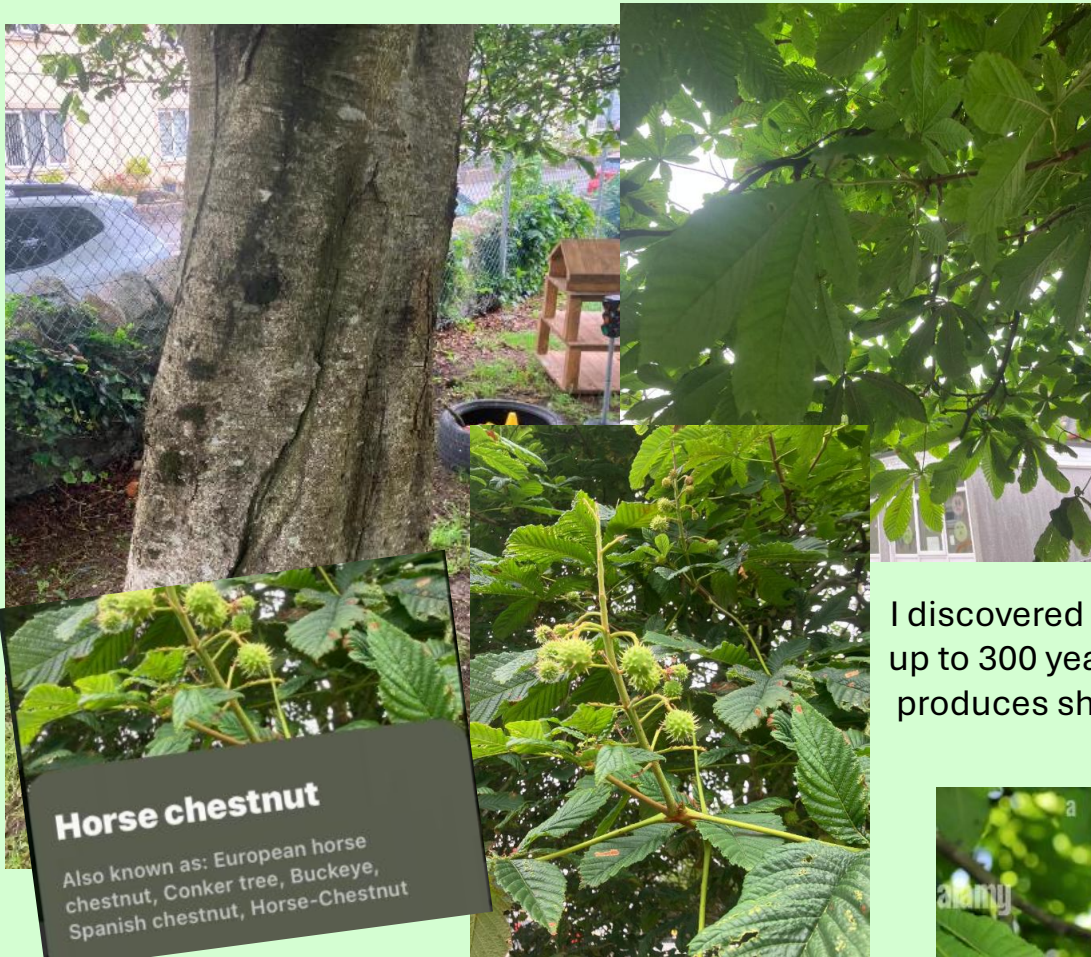
Also known as: Rock Dove, Homing Pigeon, Common Pigeon, Pigeon





'Ac am fod y bore i'w
rannu
Y mae adar yn canu.'



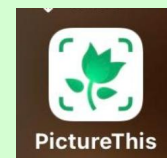
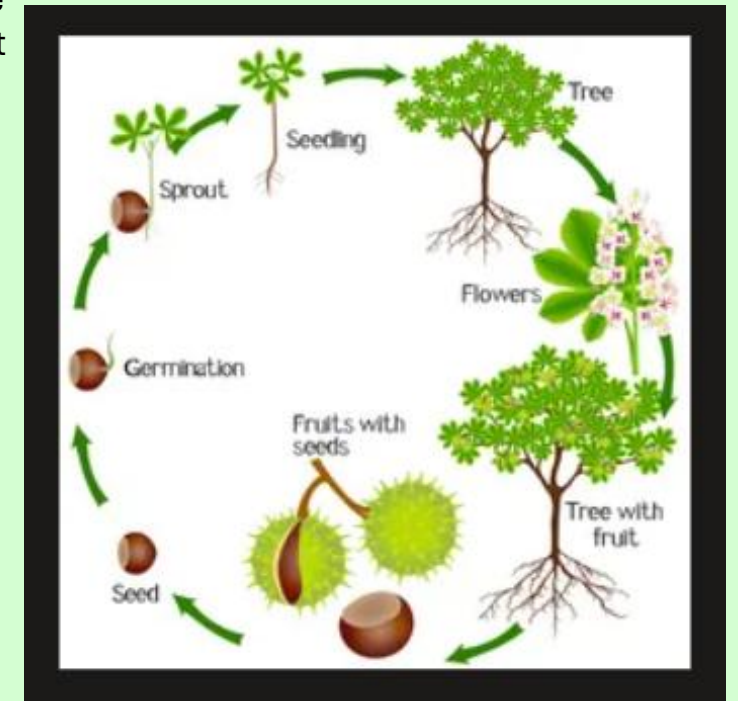


Trees-

I chose to take a closer look at the trees remembering how I would go hunting for conkers as a child however paying very little attention to the leaves and the tree itself.



I discovered that the Horse Chestnut tree can live up to 300 years and has beautiful white flowers. It produces shiny brown conkers which are seeds, inside spiky cases.



This means that it benefits the environment for a very long time by supporting biodiversity through providing food and habitats for wildlife but also improves air quality. This made me curious to discover how old this tree was.



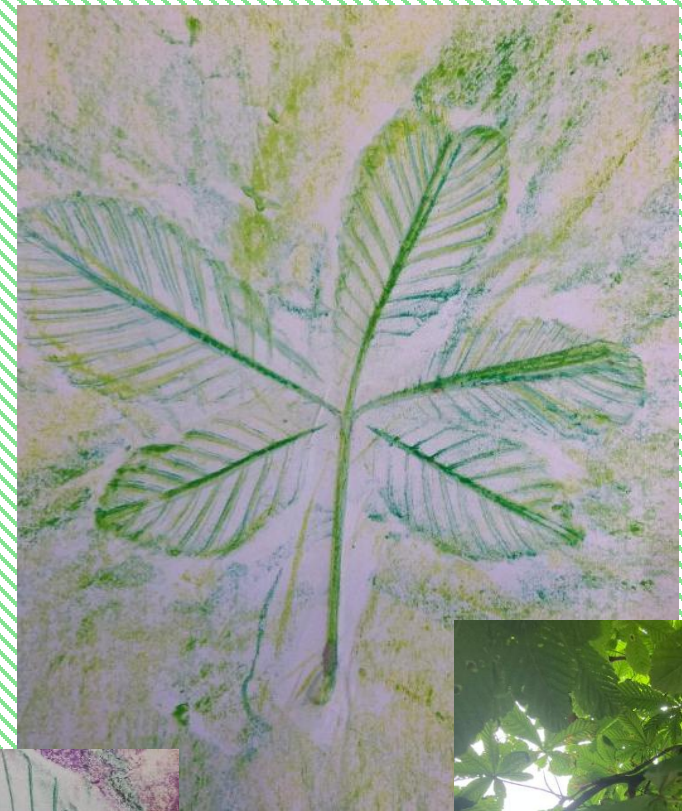
**Circumference -
174cm / 2 = 87
years old**







Fawydd



Castanwydden y Meirch





The colours of these leaves interested me as they still seemed to have their autumn colours even in the spring to summer months. The leaves appeared to be purple colour. This tree is also referred to as 'queen of British trees' and produce small triangular shaped nuts called beechmast which are an important food source for squirrels and birds.

Interesting Facts!

- Moss can store a massive amount of water.

- Moss creates microhabitats for insects.

- Moss improves soil formation.

- Moss grows without roots



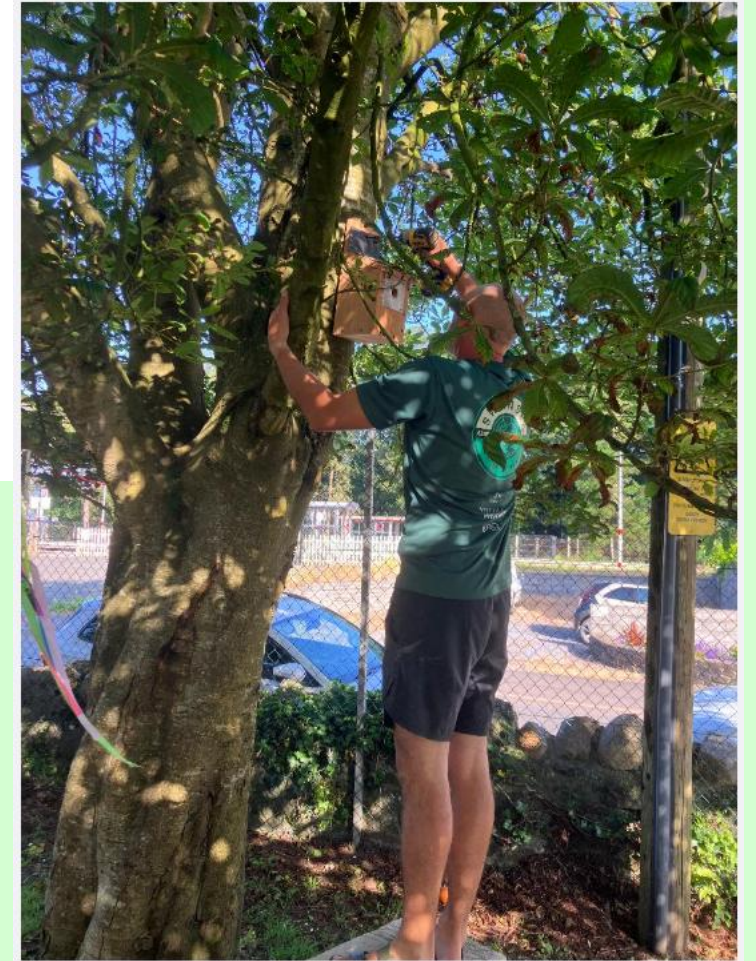
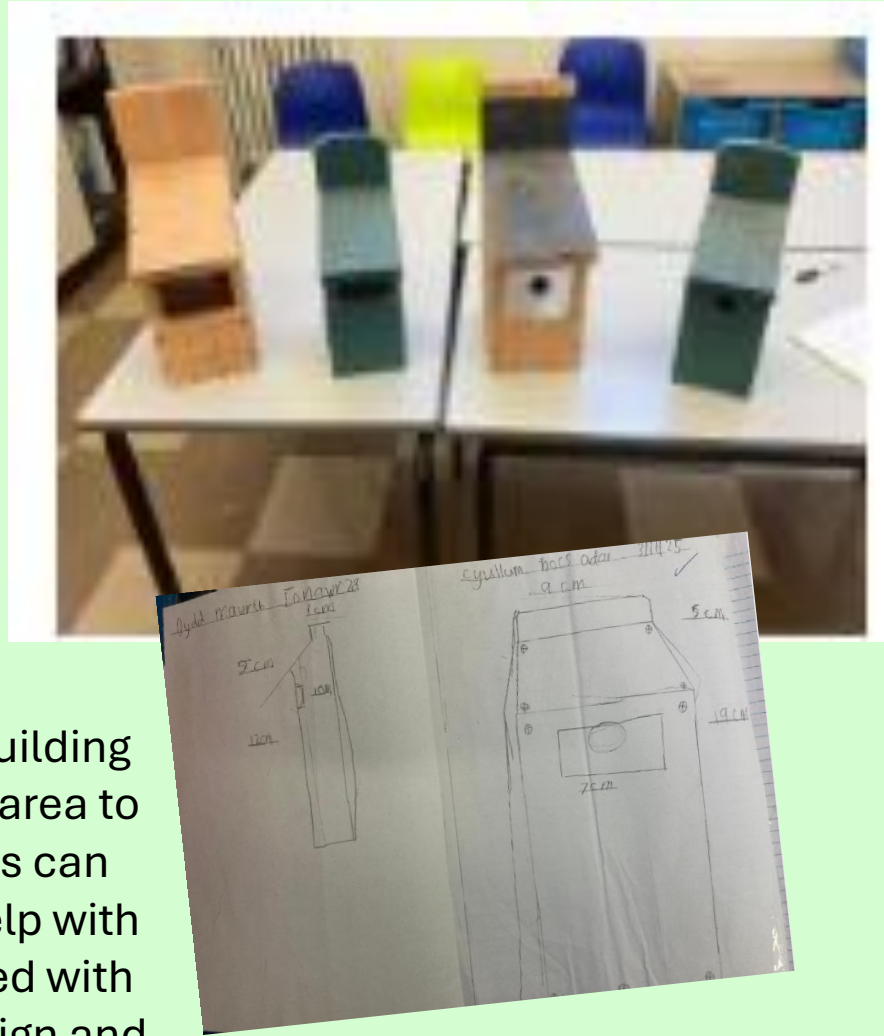
Silvergreen bryum moss

Also known as: Silver moss, Silvery thread moss, Silvery bryum, Silvery bryum moss, Silver-moss

Conserve -



I decided that making bird food and building bird boxes would be beneficial for the area to provide nesting areas for the birds. This can also support biodiversity and could help with pest control and sustainability. I worked with the pupils and local 'Men Shed' to design and create the bird boxes. We also made bird food together for the birds.



I also discovered that allowing the wildflowers grow had many benefits for soil health and I shared my findings with the staff and children. We discussed how changing the area where we usually grow vegetables could be an opportunity to experiment with the quality of the soil. This could potentially save money and be more sustainable than attempting to maintain the quality of the soil through using shop bought compost. Instead, the White Clover could prove to be more sustainable !



Allowing the wildflowers grow also promotes biodiversity through providing food, shelter and habitats for wildlife and play their part in the wider food web.

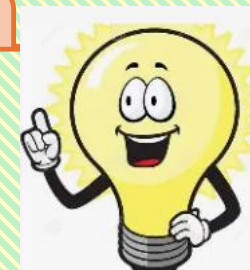
We also discovered and discussed how supporting the presence of birds in the area would also help towards keeping pest levels down which would support healthy plant growth and promote sustainability.



SHARE -



I shared my discoveries with
work colleagues.



John Muir

1838 - 1914

John Muir was a Scottish, writer, explorer and campaigner and the founder of the modern conservation movement. He spent his life exploring nature, writing about its beauty and advocating for its protection. Muir believed that preserving natural landscapes was important not only for wildlife but also for the health and happiness of people.

