



Sustainability in the early years

Student number - 2205919

Module code - ECEY6005

My own plants, flowers and wildlife in my garden





1 - Damask rose



2 - Macrophylla 'Hobella' Hydrangea



3 - *Arum calla lily*

I always enjoy watching these flowers bloom each year. However, I do sometimes struggle to keep on top of their upkeep especially after the winter months and they can be neglected as a result. The damask rose bushes need pruning to encourage further growth and more flowering each year.



The Arum calla lilly attracts snails due to their large foliage and enjoy chewing holes in the leaves. The snails like the scent it gives off for pollinating.



4 - Looking at my garden it had become very tidy and bare in some areas



5 - Plenty of room to play and run but nowhere to encourage wildlife due to the lack of flowers and plants

The glory of gardening; hands in dirt , head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul -
Alfred Austin.



Discover



When I think back to my own childhood, it mostly involves being outdoors playing, exploring, running, climbing and enjoying being adventurous. Discovering the outdoors was very much a daily occurrence and in all weather, and no structured activities.

Growing up in the 80's - this was how us children found our own fun! Outdoors was where I could use my imagination and be free!

However, as an adult this becomes lost in amongst the busyness of life. But I have always enjoyed spending lots of time outdoors, and as much as possible with my own children. We are lucky enough to have a large grassed garden that they have grown up enjoying. I am still learning about the flowers that grow each year and the wildlife that I find..

Discovering and exploring my garden

I love how I can always hear the birdsong sat in the garden or even when the windows of my home are open. They are often sat on my fence and fly in and out. But what made me suddenly think was that I no longer have a bird feeder, as the small tree it used to hang on had recently needed to be cut down due to becoming rotten and was dangerous. This had not been something I had thought about until starting this assignment for the John Muir award. Whilst exploring I also noticed some bumble bees scavenging around for pollen, but there was not enough flowers about for them.



6 - A young bird watching made me aware the bird feeder they used to frequently visit had now been gone for some months



7 - Link to Bees foraging for food. Not enough flowers for pollen!

[IMG_3551.mov](#)



8 - Only a tree stump left that needs attention and is currently an eyesore!

Conserve



9 - In its place a bird house feeder to encourage the birds back to the garden



10 - Plenty of food replenished ready for the birds to find



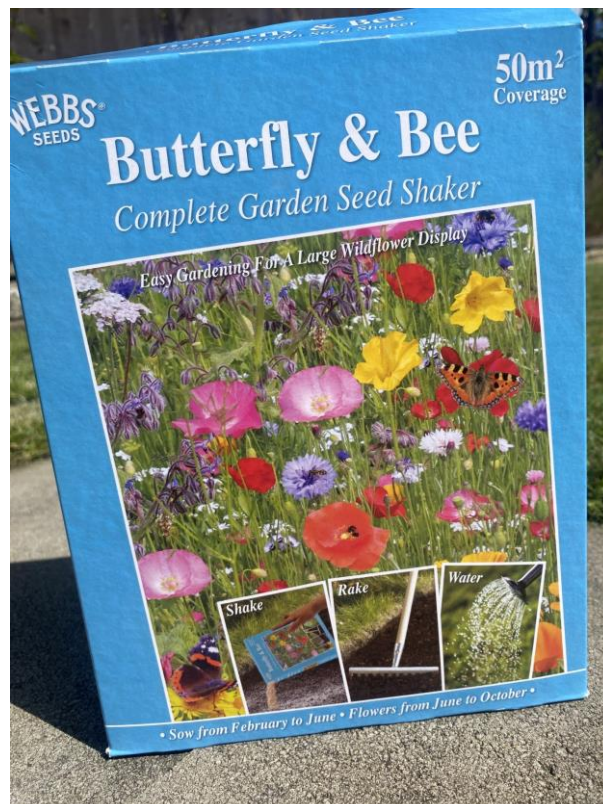
11 - This young bird quietly waiting before visiting its new feeding spot



12 - First came one...



13 - Then there were many!!



14 - Bumble bee and butterfly wild flowers to help encourage and invite back into my garden



15 - A bare area that needed some brightening up

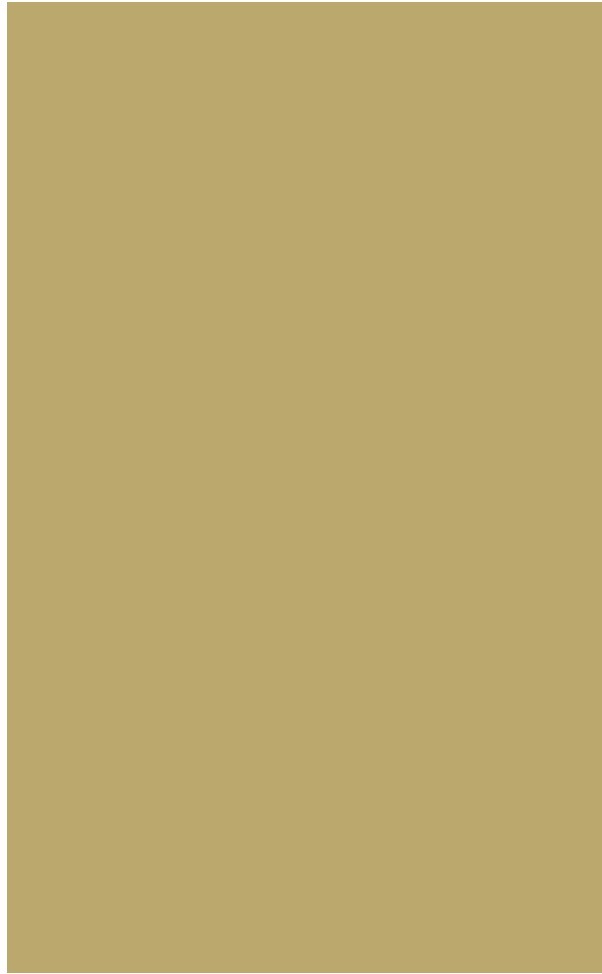


16 - Area prepared ready to scatter the seeds down



17 - A valuable habitat - A Bug hotel. This will attract more bees and butterflies and a many other insects and pollinators.

Conclusion and reflection



Getting involved with the John Muir award allowed me to stop and reflect and take notice of the nature around me. It made me remember the joy i get from gardening and being outdoors, and how i feel when i had the chance to conserve nature in my own garden. My family enjoyed also taking part and helping me with the building of the bird feeder and ideas of new flowers to plant. My son helped pick the bug hotel and found the perfect spot to place it.

I really have appreciated how much the small changes make a big difference, and this has made me come away feeling a sense of happiness to know i have helped with supporting nature.