



My Garden

By Sara Anstice

Student Number: 1905461

Module: EAEE6005

What can we see?



Colours

Variety of plants

Patio

Potted Plants

Plastic-free pots



Trellis and climbers

Artificial Grass



Low wall

Green

Textures, tones, height

Pink and white

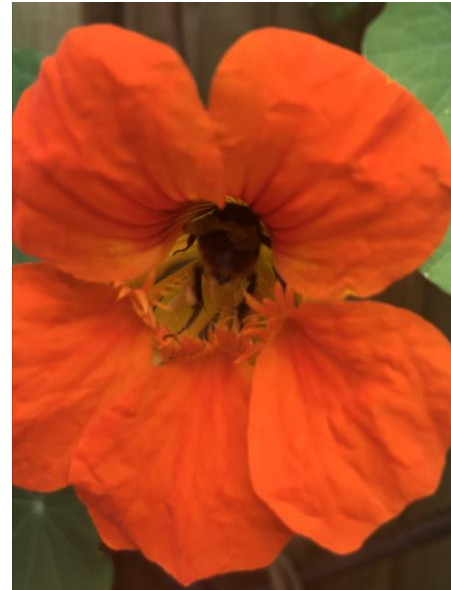
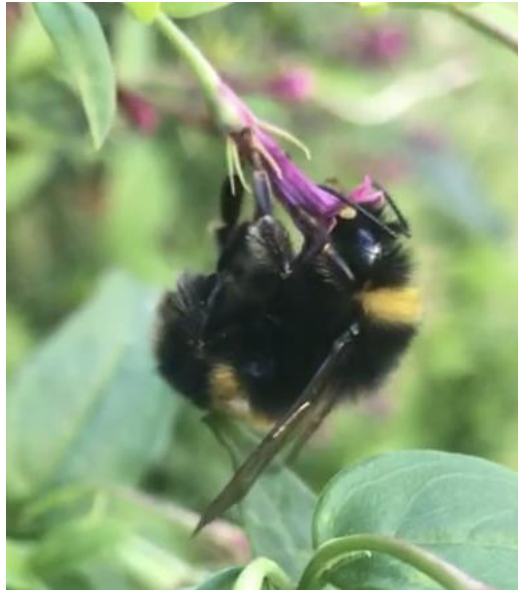
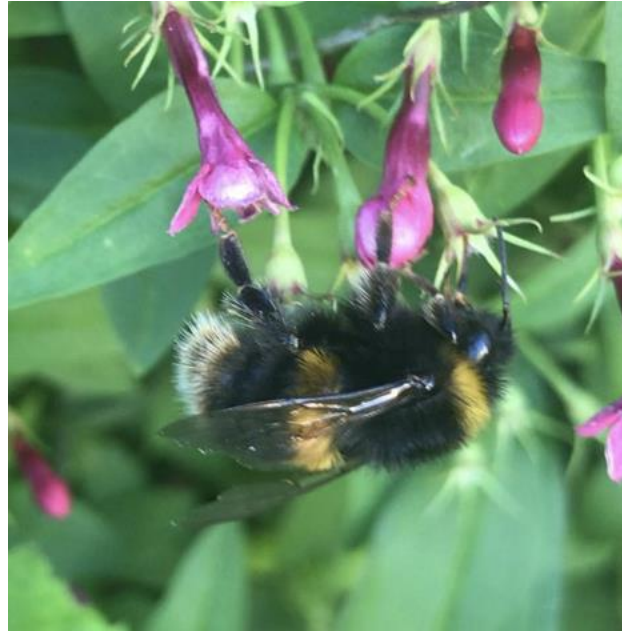
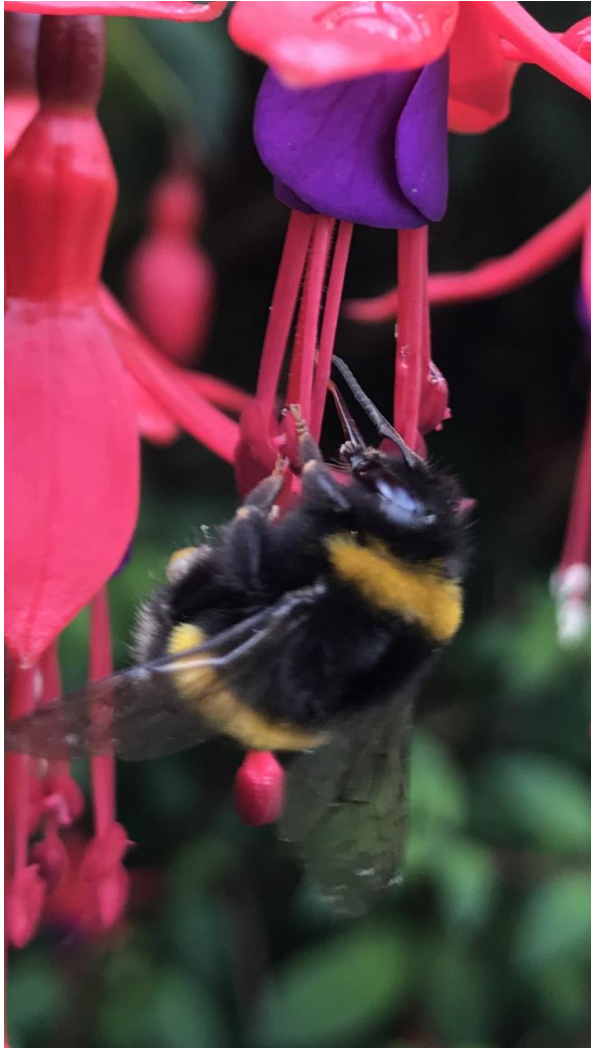
Wooden Sleepers/flower bed

Observations

I was aware of pollination but rarely did I see it in my own garden. Little did I know that my small garden was helping the bees pollinate. When I took the time to explore my garden I noticed that plants had begun to grow in new places.



What can we hear?



The sound of the buzzing of the bees changed as they entered the foxgloves – something I had never thought of or noticed before!

Bees at work in my garden

Observations:

6+ bees on one plant

Small bees, large bees, stripey bees, honey coloured bees.

Moving quickly from one bud to another.

They like foxgloves, nasturtium, honeysuckle, lavender.

My children and I did some bee watching and we identified different species of bees in our garden – as shown in this image →

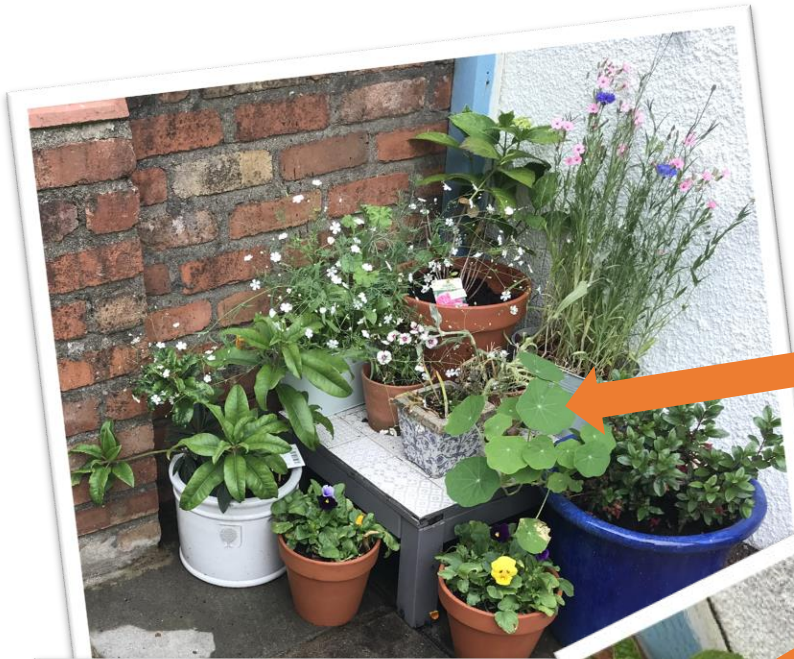


15th June 2021

Spot the Difference!

How our garden grew in 10 days.

25th June 2021



Nasturtium

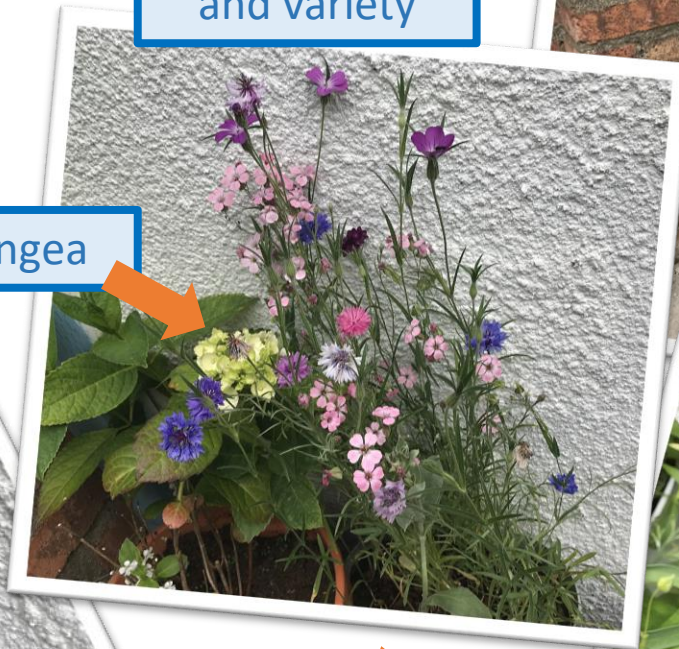
More colour
and variety

Hydrangea



Nasturtium
more than
doubled in
size

Pansies



New flowers and
colours

9th July 2021



We collected seed pods and we will plant them next year.



Colour Hunt

My 3 year old, Sophie, and I went on a colour hunt around our garden. We searched between our plants and underneath leaves and petals. My son, Dylan, is fluent Welsh and Sophie has recently started a Welsh nursery so we used this opportunity to practice saying the colours in Welsh. As my mother was born and raised in Holland I tried teaching Sophie some colours in Dutch too.

"This one's the same but a different orange and this one has got white and porffor." - Sophie

Sophie showed a clear interest in the colour hunt by identifying different shades of orange and finding different colours within one flower. We also talked about different textures, shapes and lines.

Pink and white



Pink
Pinc
Roze



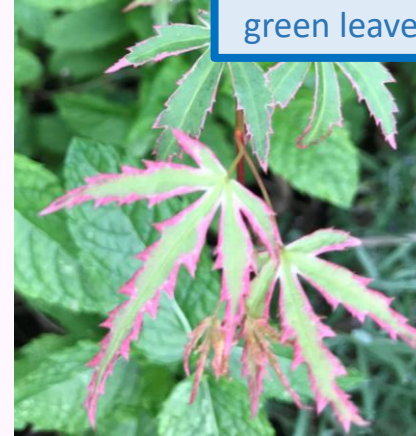
Pink and purple



Purple
Porffor
Paars



Pink and green leaves



Green
Gwyrdd
Groen



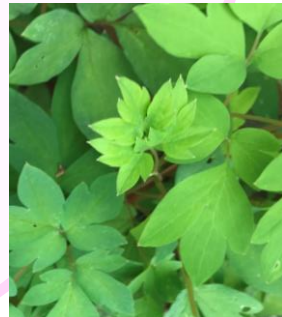
Pink/purple stem



Shades of orange



Orange
Oren
Oranje



Threats to bees

- Loss of habitat
- Climate change
- Disease
- Non-native bees
- Pesticides
 - affect bees navigation abilities
 - negatively impacts breeding
 - affects their central nervous system which impacts feeding, foraging and homing.

Finding a dead bee in our garden made us wonder what caused it to die and how we can help the bees.



What can I do to protect bees?

Plant native flowers that provide our native bees with a good source of food.

Use less electricity – buy a washing line stop using the dryer (it will save money too)!

Walk more – shop locally, leave the car at home and walk (good for my health too)!

I do not use pesticides but I can encourage others not to use them and find other ways to stop the use of pesticides.

Our voice

I feel as though I am not able to do much, but I know that if I can educate myself, I can pass this knowledge on to my own children and the children I work with. I can get involved online by signing petitions and sharing information on social media.

"Did you know a poisonous, potentially cancer-inducing chemical could be present in your body?"[1, 2] This is possible because our food is being sprayed with it. In fact, scientists have found traces of the hazardous chemical Glyphosate in the urine of nearly 1 in 2 people tested.[3] Glyphosate is a common pesticide, used on everything from food to gardens. The World Health Organisation has labelled it as "probably carcinogenic". It is also very harmful to plant and animal life. In short, it's a pretty damaging pesticide."

Stop Glyphosate

Ban glyphosate and protect people and the environment from toxic pesticides

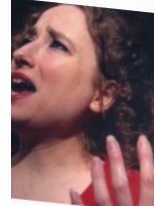
We call on the European Commission to propose to member states a ban on glyphosate, to reform the pesticide approval procedure, and to set EU-wide mandatory reduction targets for pesticide use. Ban glyphosate-based herbicides, exposure to which has been linked to cancer in humans, and has led to ecosystems degradation; ensure that the scientific evaluation of pesticides for EU regulatory approval is based only on published studies, which are commissioned by competent public authorities instead of the pesticide industry; set EU-wide mandatory reduction targets for pesticide use, with a view to achieving a pesticide-free future.

Why is this important?

Did you know a poisonous, potentially cancer-inducing chemical could be present in your body?[1, 2] This is possible because our food is being sprayed with it. In fact, scientists have found traces of the hazardous chemical Glyphosate in the urine of nearly 1 in 2 people tested.[3] Glyphosate is a common pesticide, used on everything from food to gardens. The World Health Organisation has labelled it as "probably carcinogenic". It is also very harmful to plant and animal life. In short, it's a pretty damaging pesticide.

In Summer 2016, after a long campaign by hundreds of thousands of Europeans, the European Commission was unable to relicence the use of Glyphosate for 15 years, but instead had to settle for a short 18 month renewal. This was a huge success achieved in the face of intense lobbying by the chemicals industry. But big producers of weed killers like Monsanto are still lobbying to protect their profits. Their deep pockets have been paying for "studies" and "expert" opinions to show that their product is safe.

BAN all crop spraying of poisonous pesticides near our homes, schools and playgrounds!



Petition

Overturn the decision to allow the use of neonicotinoid pesticides

Defra has granted farmers in England the temporary insecticide thiamethoxam for a 120-day period to beat. This pesticide is proven to be harmful to be pollinators and already suffering population decline be reversed.

More details

Sign this petition



✓ **51,575** signatures
We've added your signature to the petition:

Links:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-55215291>

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/569214>

https://act.wemove.eu/campaigns/eci-glyphosate-int?utm_campaign=post_2017-07-19&utm_medium=facebook&utm_source=WeMove.EU

<https://www.change.org/p/the-prime-minister-rt-hon-boris-johnson-mp-ban-all-crop-spraying-of-poisonous-pesticides-near-our-homes-schools-and-playgrounds>

<https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/news/bee-killing-pesticides-comeback-george-eustice/>

Bee-killing pesticides are making a comeback. Here's how we can stop them.

The government has just given the green light for bee-killing neonicotinoid pesticides to be used in the UK. It's up to us to reverse this dangerous decision.

14TH JANUARY 2021 BEES BLOG

SHARE   

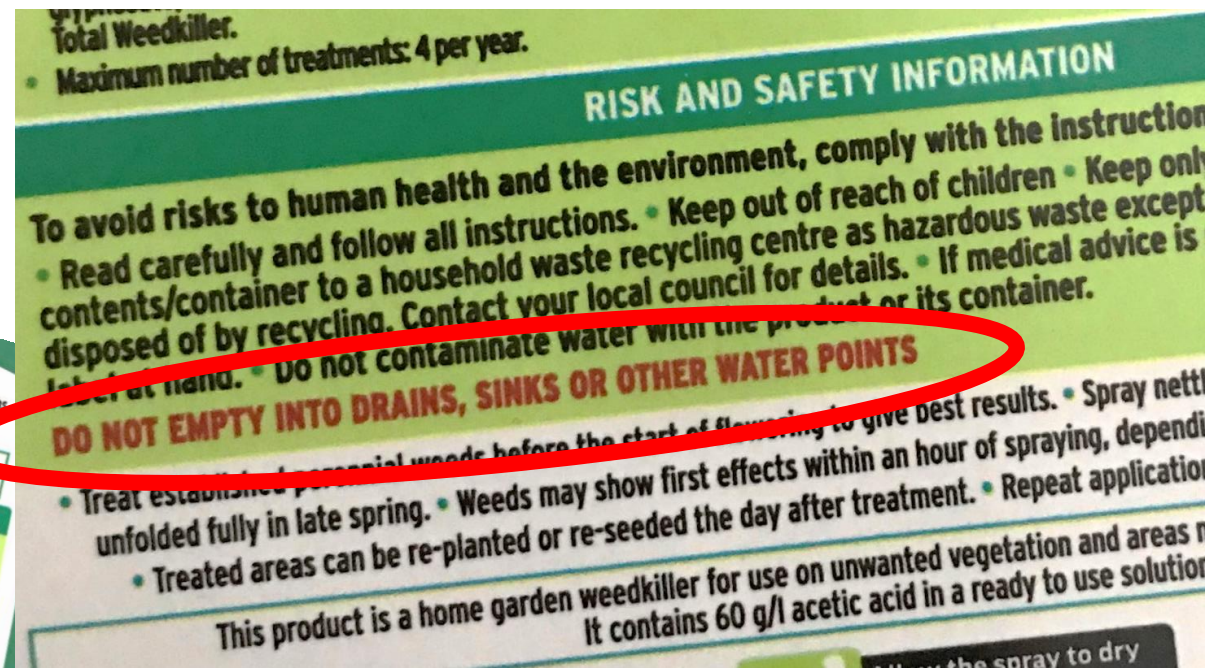


AAKASH NAIK

"We cannot afford to put our pollinator populations at risk." These were the words of Michael Gove when he introduced the ban on bee-killing pesticides in 2018.



No list of ingredients.
Why?
What other harmful
ingredients are
there?



On the back of other roundup products, including no glyphosate products, it stresses that it should not be used near ponds or other water sources/water points. This suggests that the product is damaging to the environment.

Some articles state that there are still dangerous ingredients in roundup “no glyphosate” products.

What other products damage our environment? *What I can do to protect our planet.*

Artificial grass – production of artificial grass negatively impacts the climate. Artificial grass becomes substantially warmer than real grass. *Replace artificial grass with real grass but find a use for the artificial grass elsewhere.*

Make-up – Some products are tested on animals or contain bee venom, whether obtained humanely or not. Usually comes in unnecessary plastic. *Use vegan alternative products in recycled/recyclable packaging. Reduce the amount I consume.*

Clothes – plastic used within fabric sends microplastics into the ocean. *Find clothes produced ethically using organic, sustainable materials, including second-hand clothes.*

Cleaning products – chemicals that make up cleaning products end up in the ocean. The plastic containers contribute to plastic pollution. *Switch to non-toxic cleaners, environmentally friendly refills and use a reusable bottle.*



How else can I help?

My children are part of the future.

I can help my children develop a love for nature and appreciate the tiny little miracles that occur in our garden.

I can teach them how to plant, how to take care of our garden and how to make sure that it is a safe environment for wildlife to thrive.

There are adverts for trendy, fancy, expensive mud kitchens online but we used old plastic table and stool (which was otherwise destined for landfill) to make our own mud kitchen/gardening station. This would become a place where my son can spend time away from screens (to save electricity and connect with nature) to help teach his sister about planting. As a mud kitchen, it is a place where she can play with mud and not be afraid to get messy!

We used reused pots and other equipment rather than buying new. I am still searching for other useful pieces that friends or family would otherwise be putting in the bin.



An empty space



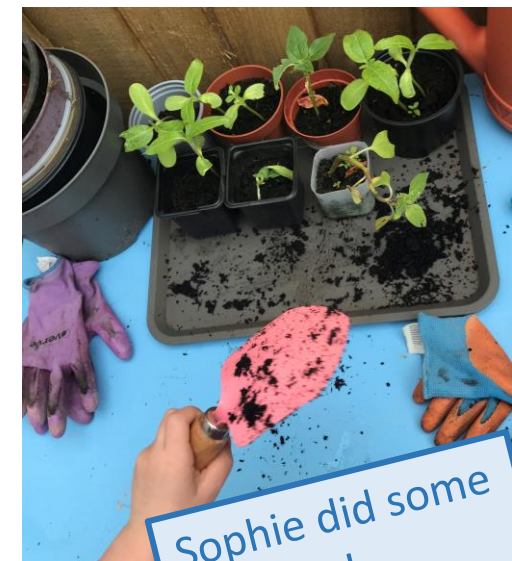
We found an old table



Old plant pots from the shed and from family



We put up hooks for the tools



Sophie did some planting!



Bee Tally Chart Activity

Although my garden was small and my bedding area was full, I still had space and unused plant pots that I could use to plant bee-friendly flowers.

To find out which plants the bees liked most my daughter and I used chalk to create a tally chart of the plants we think the bees like most.

Whilst playing in the garden we watched the bees and recorded how many times each plant was visited by a bee. The results (according to Sophie) were as follows...!

Foxglove



Lavender



Nasturtium



So...

...We did some planting!



We enjoyed planting some lavender in pots given to me by my grandfather and watched them grow.

We are going to plant some more foxglove plants when we have some more pots – we are looking out for second hand pots.



A chat with Mrs Swann

My neighbour, Mrs Swann, has a wild garden. She does not like to cut back any trees or plants because she strongly believes that they are not hers to cut, they belong to the birds, hedgehogs and minibeasts. When I spoke to her over the garden wall recently she said she only cuts back enough so she can walk to and use her washing line and to make space for a bird feeder, which is very popular with the birds!

She plants herbs in hanging tins on her wall and grows rhubarb, all of which she uses in cooking.

I recently learned that she has a compost bin situated to the side of the house. She told me I was welcome to use it. We have guinea pigs who eat some of our food waste but any other compostable items now get taken to my neighbours compost bin.

We have noticed how much food waste we produce and we are now trying to plan meals more carefully.



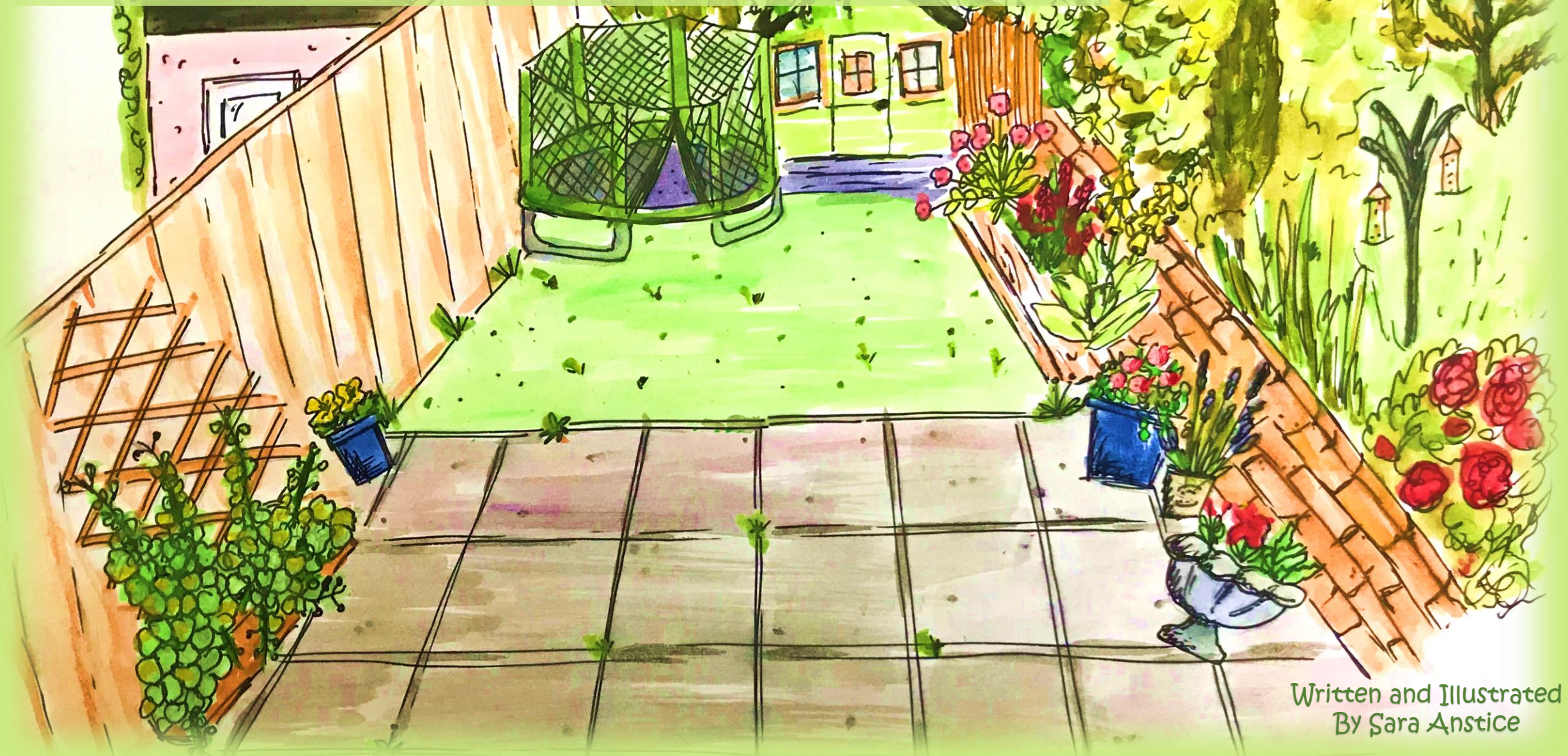
On our way to Mrs Swann's compost bin we found berries growing in her front garden. We will revisit them to see how they grow and hope to see birds and insects feeding off them soon.

The next part of my scrapbook is a short book I wrote and illustrated to help children in the early years develop an appreciation and understanding of bees.

The illustrations are all observational drawings/paintings of the different elements of my garden.



Our Busy Little Garden



Written and Illustrated
By Sara Anstice

Tall buildings and busy roads,
My little garden sits in the city.

It's not big and fancy and
grand,
But the flowers are
growing and they look so
pretty.



The harder I listen the more I hear,
The closer I look the more I see.
Who's been munching on the leaves?
Who's that tweeting in the trees?
Who's left this silvery trail?
Who's that buzzing next to me?

Yellow and black,
It's flying free.
Small and stripy,
It's the busy bee.



I have plants that are wide
and plants that are small,
But bees like my tall
foxgloves most of all.

The bees collect nectar from
flower after flower,
Making honey with their bee
friends hour after hour.

But that's not all the busy
bee does...

I noticed a flower I hadn't noticed before.

"We didn't plant it, there by the door."

"How did it get there?" I wondered and asked.



"The busy bees did it," smiled mummy.

"Bees have special jobs to do.

They collect nectar for their tummy,
and carry pollen on their body.

To help the flowers make their seed,

The busy bee visits many flowers,
spreading the pollen that they need."



When the seeds are planted, or carried by the
wind, new plants grow in different places.



We share the planet with many creatures,
They make our world a brighter place,
But they need the plants and flowers to live,
It's why we sow the seeds that we sow.
And help the gardens grow.



So, plant some flowers in your garden,
even if it's small.
Or help your friends and family with theirs,
if you don't have one at all.

Just remember, although flowers look so pretty,
so tempting to pick,
the best thing we can do is leave them for the bees.

An important message you can share with friends,
is that everyone can do something to help.

