

Engaging with Nature – Windsor & Maidenhead

Update **August 2023**

Project delivery

The project has got off to a great start with three out of four cohorts having completed the first season of nature connection sessions.

Thames Hospice

As part of the first season of sessions we have planted a pollinator bed in front of the day therapy unit.



“Like all charities we are suffering in this economic climate your project, has enabled sessions that add a completely different dimension to our normal activities. To see the smile on the patients’ faces when they look out of the window at the new pollinator bed or join you to walk down to the lake lifts all our spirits. **David Boyce, Day Therapies Team Leader**

“The Engaging with Nature sessions give me a real boost, I’ve made a plaque to celebrate the partnership between Thames Hospice and BBOWT.” **Stephan, a day patient**

Re:Charge

The first season of sessions included planting pollinator plants in pots and butterfly feeders to take home.

“We work with vulnerable families from a wide sector of society including many different ethnicities and it has been wonderful to see how the leader Clare engages them all in nature. Many of the children live in flats so the outside world of nature is alien to them but the pleasure on their faces and the conversations we have had as a result of the sessions are really heartwarming. Many of the children at home aren’t allowed to play creatively either so the sessions give them the opportunity to experience nature, and feel the soil etc.” **Tamsin Phipps MBE Operations Manager**

Furze Platt Junior School

The first season of sessions at Furze Platt School included making individual bee hotels to take home and introducing eco-diaries to record achieving set aims, suggested by the children, to help the environment.

“The children really enjoyed being in the shade of the woodland and learning lots about bees. They could tell me about how many different species of bees there were and how you can see pollen and what that means for the bees. They thoroughly enjoyed the session.”

Miss K. Edwards Year 5 Team Leader & Class Teacher

“I really enjoyed all the sessions but especially making the bee homes. We learned a lot about the important work bees do and all the different kinds of species which I didn't know before.” - **Maya**

The Autism Group, TAG



The sessions with TAG are taking place over the summer holidays, kindly hosted by Braywick Heath Nurseries. We are delivering sessions to three groups from TAG with parents and siblings throughout the day on a Thursday. The sessions to date have included bird spotting and making bird boxes to take home.

“What a great day we had yesterday exploring Braywick Heath Nature Reserve. Children from our clubs and their parents and siblings enjoyed getting out and about, learning about nature and bird spotting, with Clare from BBOWT. We also managed to squeeze in making a bird box. Thanks to Braywick Nurseries for hosting us for this summer Nature Project.” **Ruth Barlow The Autism Group Clubs Manager**

“Apologies I couldn't make it today... but Matthew, Amelia and my wife Michelle said they had an amazing session this afternoon... Thank you again for these sessions at Braywick, they are brilliant... hopefully see you next week!” **Andrew Webb, Matthew and Amelia's Dad**

Participant Numbers

Participants directly involved with the project are those which take part in the cohort sessions as described above.

Location	Total Direct Participants	Comments
Thames Hospice	20	Patients (11); Staff (9)
Re:Charge	65	Parents/carers (27) Children (34); Staff (4)
Furze Platt Junior School	21	Includes 18 children
The Autism Group	35	TAG members (16) Parent/carers/siblings (19)
TOTAL	141	

Indirect participants are those which Clare, Project Officer, has spoken with about the project, as part of a meeting or event attended or an activity led.

Location	Total Indirect Participants	Comments
St Luke's Eco Morning	20	
Abri Housing Orchard Opening	65	
RBWM World Cafes	20	
The RBWM Lottery	4	Direct supporters from playing
TOTAL	109	

Additionality

Other than the impact already illustrated, the funding from the Climate Partnership has also enabled BBOWT to have a community presence in Maidenhead and the local areas. This is something that we haven't had previously, other than our Woolley Firs Education Centre, which brings people to our site but doesn't enable the networking that the EWN project has done. Maidenhead is one of our thirteen key urban target areas for our current strategy – and is integral to work towards the target of 1 in 4 people taking meaningful action for nature. Without the funding, connections and networks made so far, will not have happened.