

Report for The Alice McCosh Trust (AMT).

Date 15th October 2024

The Alice McCosh Trust (AMT) generously awarded us a grant of £445.00 for our butterfly project.

Our charity and school is an additional needs secondary school of 190 pupils all of whom have profound, severe and complex physical, learning and emotional disabilities. We strongly believe that inability does not mean disability. Our children all love nature and wildlife. We use nature and the environment as a tool for communication, learning and teaching life skills.

We are pleased to advise that the grant was used successfully to plant insect and especially butterfly attracting plants including the Devil's-bit scabious and other members of the Globulariaceae family.



Unfortunately, with our wildlife pond still being work in progress, our area was not quite damp enough to attract the rare and elusive Marsh Fritillary.



Digging the wildlife pond



Pond area

We have, however, been successful at attracting other insects.



Ladybird

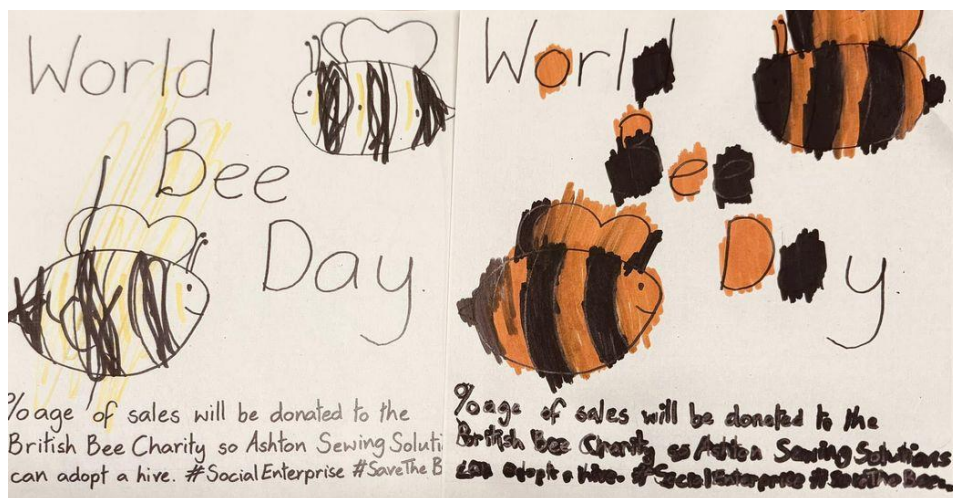


Bee

And here are some of the other insect attracting flowers that we planted.



We have undertaken other insect projects that have gone down very well with our 190 special needs students, including a bee day in May 2024.



And a bug hotel



When starting this project we miscalculated the need for immediacy for many of our pupils and having a camera in hand. Fruitful discussions have taken place in the classroom on wildlife seen and experiences enjoyed.

However, we have not given up on our focussed butterfly project.

We have developed close links with the bordering Seven Lochs Wetland Park rangers, who have supported us with enthusiastic volunteers. We have also been adopted by the University of Glasgow, who will add a scientific dimension to this project (see below)



As the old saying goes from little acorns large oaks grow. So it is with this project.

Thank you for your help.