

The Jim Grogan Countryside and Wildlife Award 2014 - 2015

Owen Blockley

Over many years, Owen has shown a passion for, and an excellent knowledge of, local wildlife and the countryside in which it lives. He is an avid bird watcher, spending hours watching coots, ducks, geese and moorhens. He has also learned first-hand how to tend and maintain farm ponds. He enjoys pond dipping and examining what he has found under a microscope.

Owen spends much time watching birds and helping to maintain Granny's bird table. He also visits the hide in the Woodland Walk. Then, afterwards, he looks them up and draws them. Furthermore, he helped to organise the barn owl box that school had in the field and, currently, he is trying to think where to put its replacement. Owen has always enjoyed the great outdoors and when in the fields around Tarvin, he takes much interest in the plants and insects that grow in them. He has especially enjoyed watching the local bats and has found out much about them. He continues to take part in Woodland Trust activities on the Woodland Walk and in wildlife activities run by The National Trust.

Owen's heroes are David Attenborough and his Uncle - who was an entomologist. He has written to David Attenborough and told him about the activities that he does and how much he enjoys his programmes. In return, he received a signed photo of Sir David Attenborough meeting his uncle.

Away from the village, Owen loves visiting Natural History departments in museums with his family. His favourite is the, "Dead Zoo" in Dublin. When he goes to the World Museum, he studies the drawers full of stuffed animals until he finds the ones that he recognises from the farm. He has also visited art galleries and exhibitions that focus on British wildlife and, once again, this leads him to drawing them on his return.

This year especially, Owen became very interested in water voles when a group of scientists arrived at Church Farm to monitor if they were in the ditches and the Goway. This then inspired him to read a book called, "The River Singers" which is about water voles.

Owen is learning how to maintain the hedgerows, trees and meadows of Tarvin from his grandfather, so that he will have the skills to maintain them when he grows up.

Owen has received the award this year due to his dedication to, and love of, local conservation.

Andrew Davies
Headteacher
Tarvin Primary School

Stuart Exell
Chairman
Tarvin
Community
Woodland Trust

14th July 2015