

Jim Grogan Countryside and Wildlife Award 2019-20

This year's award – which has been presented in December year rather than July following the national lockdown in the Spring and Summer terms of 2020 - is awarded to Isabelle Bridson.

Isabelle has always been interested in wildlife - but this has grown especially in 2020 and spending more time at home during the covid pandemic.

Isabelle has always watched David Attenborough and downloaded apps and stories to research different types of animals - worldwide..... but this year she became more practical in her actions.

Through learning and activities at home she created butterfly feeders and created drinking facilities for insects - including decorating them with bright colours to attract the insects. Isabelle made a bug house for the garden and helped her family tend to the plants and shrubs. After having a new baby brother born in April - she's taken on the role of supporting the gardening in her stride. Gardening, weeding clearing cuttings and bending, fetching and carrying. Isabelle planted tubs for the patio and hanging baskets for both the summer and now the winter – learning much in the process. Isabelle and her father planted vegetables and grew tomatoes, strawberries and courgettes!!

Isabelle became more interested in how we can help save and preserve wildlife and became concerned at the amount of litter left in the woodland and local area , when out on walks. She designed a 'recycle' poster to promote re using rubbish and keeping local areas tidy. She even asked the school if they would support her in a local litter pick.

Isabelle gained her green 'eco' Blue Peter badge for this poster. She gained 3 blue Peter badges over the summer! Tarvin primary school gave Isabelle a special achievement award for this.

Isabelle was given binoculars and a nature watch book by her grandad this summer and she often went on walks ticking off birds and plants she had found along the way. She planted two seed bombs to promote wildflower growth for the bee population and was overjoyed at seeing so many insects in her own garden over the summer. She has gone from being scared of most insects to being inquisitive and respectful. She has noted dragonflies , bees, butterflies, birds, squirrels, worms , beetles etc and is enjoying being able to share her knowledge of these.

Isabelle now sees the world around her in a different light. Noticing wildlife and thinking about ways to care and support it.

It is for these reasons that Isabelle has been declared a worthy winner of The Jim Grogan Countryside and Wildlife Award