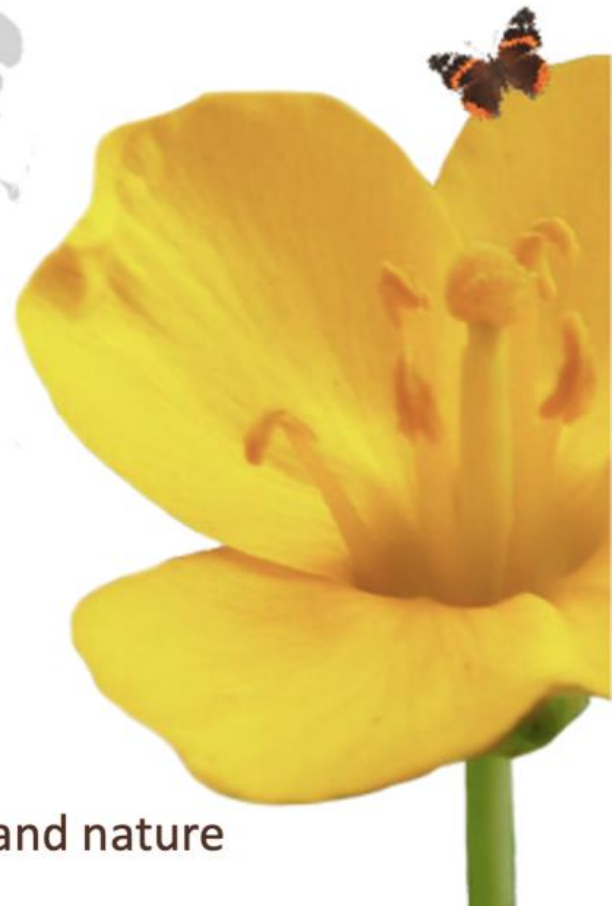




grow

and learn in nature

Award portfolio



Name of participant or group Carolann Philp

Describe Your GLiN Project Site

Describe your GLiN project site

I decided at the beginning of my GLiN Project I wanted to try and reach a more than one site to make as much as an impact as I could.

The main focus for my project was a local primary school, which houses 19 classrooms and a 70 place nurse, situated close to a busy road. The building is single storey and features a large enclosed courtyard. The school entrance grounds looked unsightly as it had been neglected for few years. The entrance borders were covered with annual, perennial and ephemeral weeds. I identified that the areas in most need to be prioritized for improvement were three large sections to the front of the building that made up the entrance to the school. These areas would need to be cleared of weeds with some shrubs requiring pruning, with a view to planting an array of spring bulbs that would create a burst of colour from Feb/March right through to summer and importantly serve as vital spring forage for hungry important foraging pollinators.

I have also making some adjustments to my own medium sized garden at home in Rosyth, Fife. I recently created five borders with a plans of sowing pollen and nectar rich wildflower and bulbs and incorporated changes to encourage the natural biodiversity, after all, if I can encourage more Blue Tits into my garden then I can hopefully minimise those pesky Aphids!

Describe your GLiN project

Primary School

The three sections at the front of the school , two on either side of the entrance and one triangular section the front I wanted to make more pollinator friendly and create something cheery for the children and parents and visitors.

My first step was to make contact with a member of the Parents Teachers Association , who, after hearing my idea, contacted the school head teacher. The head teacher was delighted with this idea and telephoned me to discuss in more detail. We agreed spring bulbs would be a very welcome addition that would create an inviting spring and summer display as well as being educational and fun. The bulbs would give emerging hungry bees vital forage. Bulbs decided upon were crocus, snowdrops, daffodils, winter aconites, tulips and alliums. Over 300 bulbs in total! My next step was to arrange the planting which had to carefully orchestrated to ensure this complied with the current Covid-19 government guidelines.

We agreed that their would be five adults (including myself) and eight children, who were already attending each others classes at the school. This was easy to manage being outside and the three areas were well spaced apart.

Our group cleared the areas of the weeds, which was a painstaking task then we started to dig over the borders, fork it then rake it to a finer tilth preparing to start planting the bulbs with fun and chat about nature, gardening and bees all being had. I wanted to ensure that the children were aware why we are doing the planting and the importance of pollinators and the environment to have pride in how their school looked. The bulbs were placed in such a way that fitted the overall design with mass planting of one type of bulb to I've maximum impact. In the triangular border at the front I decided that crocus, and tulip bulbs in the colour combination red, yellow and white would work with Allium 'sensation' placed sporadically to give height and a sculptural quality. Crocus, winter aconites were added to the shallower soil border where there is a bench will give a beautiful blanket of colour where anyone sitting can hear the buzz of pollination!

As we proceeded with the planting, one of the parents advised me their were two round (approx. waist height) planters which would also benefit from some spring colour. The planters were in amongst where the children's play area. We had some Narcissus left over from the planting areas at the front and another date was arranged to plant some more. This took part on another session – roughly three weeks after the first planting session, at a time most convenient for everyone who attended the first session and we had some newer faces that did come along and get involved – fantastic!. We did more weeding with a view to planting in some more areas – possibly Helianthus annuus (Sunflower) that will be seen from the road side.

Despite the weather being rain we all enjoyed ourselves and speaking to the children about the importance of bees and worms. Lots of wonderful Comments from the children such as “ I like to feed Robins”, “ I know what I am doing (when planting bulbs) because I have done this with my Grandad”, and “I will let you know if the holes aren’t big enough” “I like playing in Mud” “ Its good to pick up litter” “ I'm going to tell my friends it was me who planted this” “ Can I do that?”, “I like all the colours” “ Can you help me grow plants for bees next year?” “My favourite flowers are daisies” “ Worms are good for the ground” “ This is how you plant them” “ Can I help with the wheelbarrow?” Along with such chatter about school lunches are not been great, but the Toffee Yogurts are quite nice!

The Adults and children involved in their school planting experience really enjoyed themselves too and importantly learned about gardening and the impact they can make going forward. I am sure that when it comes to spring time and the bulbs start to bloom they will be telling their friends that they were the ones who planted them for the bees and thus hopefully encouraging others to get involved both at school and at home. It was really a great experience!

My Domestic Garden.

I had originally created triangular shaped borders in the lower half of my medium sized garden with a view to sowing pollinator friendly flowers. I has already taken some steps to encourage nature into my garden, but I knew I could do more.

I decided that within the five borders I would sow a hardy annual ‘ Cornfield mix’ including Corncockle, Scarlet Pimpernel, Corn Chamomile, Cornflower, Corn Marigold, Common Poppy, Corn Buttercup, Night flowering Catchfly and scentless Mayweed. We are all becoming increasingly aware of the need to encourage pollinators, especially bees into our garden and we can do our bit by growing more wild flower and insect friendly plants.

In addition to the seeds sown ‘ in situ’ I also planted out Foxgloves ‘ True Wild form’ which I had gown from seed in my poly tunnel, these were ‘pricked out’ and ‘potted off’ and ‘planted out’ in October. Bulbs I also planted included Honey garlic, Muscari, Allium Sensation, Allium Mount Everest, daffodils, tulips, crocus and Foxtail Lilly. I looked forward to planning ahead to next year, simply because I cannot find anything more satisfying than growing from seed, and in saying this I have bought more seeds that will grow into nectar/pollen rich plants and some herbs including Ragged Robin, Red Champion, Turkish Tulip Poppy, Common Cowslip, Coneflower, Cosmos ‘ Bright Lights’, Woolly foxglove, Tea Cup Plant, English Lavender, Great Masterwort, Pot Marigold, Bellflower, White Borage, Chamomile, Rosemary and Dill) I'm even try sowing Lithops (Living Stones, Succulents)seeds . All I need now are pots! I appealed to my local community on social media to donate their unwanted plastic pots, to cut down on plastic, and the result was great. Definitely potty! These plants will be added to my garden and also friends and family to encourage them too!

I added two nesting boxes for Blue Tits in my garden and along with bird feeders filled with suet ball, peanuts, sunflower hearts and have some nesting material ready - this will encourage more biodiversity in my garden, and the birds have already been checking their new homes out. I am also provide fresh water for birds, mammals and insects with a standing bird bath and a shallow dish with pebbles inside that sits on the ground.

In one of my borders nearer the back of my garden I have made a log, stick and leaf pile, decaying wood which are great value to insects, fungi and lichen.

One of my more of my recent additions (which I treated myself for my birthday) was a tree for my garden. I had always wanted one. I decided on Amelanchier Canadensis ‘Juneberry’. This tree will give cover and food for birds, and spring flowers for pollinators.

In addition to this I have been volunteering, when I can, at my local Community Orchard. It’s really nice to be able to speak to people about gardening and the environment.

Tick activities you will undertake for your GLiN project
(Choose at least one from each section)

Section 1: Biodiversity and Nature

- ☐ Y / N Provide food for pollinators, insect, birds and mammals
- ☐ Y / N Provide water for pollinators, insects, birds and mammals
- ☐ Y / N Provide shelter for wildlife
- ☐ Y / N Conserve water
- ☐ Y / N Conserve natural resources (peat free compost)
- ☐ Y / N Reduce, reuse and recycle materials, especially plastics
- ☐ Y / N Record biodiversity in your garden or greenspace

Section 2 : Soil Health

- ☐ Y / N Keeping your soil healthy (no-dig, green manures, crop rotation)
- ☐ Y / N Make your own garden compost
- ☐ Y / N Make your own leaf mould
- ☐ Y / N Applying environmentally friendly mulches
- ☐ Y / N Top dressing & base dressing, environmentally friendly fertilisers

Tick activities you will undertake for your GLiN project
(Choose at least one from each section)

Section 3: Plant Care

☒ Y / ☐ N Pricking out, potting on and hardening off seedlings

☐ Y / ☐ N Thinning out seedlings

☒ Y / ☐ N Planting out

☐ Y / ☐ N How to water plants outdoors

☒ Y / ☐ N Basic shrub pruning

☐ Y / ☐ N Environmentally friendly weed management

☒ Y / ☐ N Environmentally friendly control of pests

☐ Y / ☐ N Environmentally friendly control of diseases

Section 4: Propagating plants beneficial to nature

☒ Y / ☐ N Seed sowing

☐ Y / ☐ N Division

☐ Y / ☐ N Cuttings (soft-wood, semi-ripe or hardwood)

☐ Y / ☐ N Cuttings rooted in water

☐ Y / ☐ N Layering

☒ Y / ☐ N Collecting and storing seeds

Record the development of your GLiN project
(add photos, drawings or even videos of your progress)

My Domestic Garden & Community Volunteering



Local Primary School

I know what I am doing (when planting bulbs) because I have done this with Grandad, and I will let you know if the holes aren't big enough"



Love the digging sign! "

"My Favourite flowers are daisies "



"I like playing in Mud"



"I'm going to tell my Friends it was me who planted this"



" Can I help with the wheelbarrow?"



" I've picked a Red bulb"



" The bees will be hungry"



"This is how you plant them!"



"Can I do that?, I like all that?! "





"I like to feed Robins"



"Worms are good for the ground"



"Its good to pick up litter"



Can you help me grow plants for bees next year

Record what you are learning as part of your GLiN project (include quotes, observations)

The children has a great time and the little chats during our planting, so clever and entertaining!

Some of the children have already been planting with family

"I know what I am doing (when planting bulbs) because I have done this with Grandad, and I will let you know if the holes aren't big enough"

Two of the children wanted to push the wheelbarrow

" Can I help with the wheelbarrow?"

"The bees will be hungry"

The children enjoyed planting with their school friends.

"This is how you plant them!"

"Can I do that?, I like all that"?!"

The children wanted to pick their own bulbs and loved the colours

"I've picked a Red bulb"

"Can you help me grow plants for bees next year?"

When I explained about worms when we were digging

"Worms are good for the ground"

"I'm telling my friends, as they are slimy"

The children picked up litter in the school grounds in pairs.

"Its good to pick up litter"

The children even spotted a robin whilst we were digging

"I like to feed Robins, we have one that visits us "

"I've going to paint you a picture of bees"

The parents had a lot of questions about gardening.

Asking about how to plant bulbs properly, how we can grow sunflowers for one of the areas for next year. They asked about bees, as they know I am a beekeeper and we were planting for bees. Some of the parents are looking forward to planting more pollinator friendly plants next year!

I have also been learned the Latin and Greek for plants, which will tie in neatly with my new RGBE Horticulture course. Spelling and pronouncing some them is sometimes interesting.

I have been learning about plant botany, which as a beekeeper and gardener helps when learning about pollination (by which flowering plants reproduce)

Flowers have both male and female parts. The male part is called a stamen and is a long slender stalk with pollen at the end. The female part is called the stigma and sits at the very centre of the flower (The female part is the pistil. The pistil usually is located in the center of the flower and is made up of three parts: the stigma, style, and ovary). It's all good to learn!

It has been really nice to watch the bird in my own domestic garden, using the bird feeders, drinking and bathing in the bird baths and checking out the new bird houses even although we are a while before nesting time – they like to be organised. I've a regular territorial robin, blue tits, great tits, sparrows, collared doves, Goldfinches and a couple of plump wood pigeons (even more round now with the amount of sunflower hearts I am providing!)

I have been using a microscope in our local community orchard to have a look at Autumn leaves (as seen in my pictures) which was wonderful and very beautiful. It is nice to see the chlorophyll leaving the leaves, showing reds and yellows of the leaf as well as the midrib and leaf veins close up.

During this project I have also made new contacts and friends, who know they can come to me to ask anything or we can share ideas, which is great for the community and for nature.

I am always learning more about gardening and how to use tools – which tool is the right one for the job and how to ensure tools are looked after and maintained well. It was good to see the children using common gardening tools such as a digging fork and trowel.

Whilst completing this project I've also learned about types of seeds ie Orthodox and recalcitrant. Orthodox seeds need to be stored in a cool, dry, dark environment and recalcitrant in in cool, moist conditions. Recalcitrant seeds do not last as long as Orthodox seeds and I've been storing my Orthodox seeds in their paper packet in which they came to prevent respiration.

Unfortunately, the weather has become increasingly inclement as Winter is well on it's way, but Its still really nice to observe the changes in the garden, and already my bulbs are beginning to poke above the soil surface.

I have really enjoyed participating in the GLiN Grow and Learn Award as it has enabled me to learn new skills, meet new people, become more environmentally friendly and has, of course, made my garden visitors very happy too! It has also been a delight helping my local community with their greenspaces and planting with the children in their primary school who, I hope, have learned so much as well.

It would really nice if , when they bulbs start to bloom next year the children take pride in their achievements and that may just encourage our next future gardeners!

On completion of your GLiN project

☐ Y / ☐ N make sure you have completed at least one activity from each section of the GLiN checklist.

☐ Y / ☐ N carried out 30hrs of GLiN activity.

What are your next steps? What is your gardening or nature pledge for the future?

I have been on waiting list for an allotment, which, I have been reliably informed that I am now at the top of the list. I hope to be able to start a growing season with my own vegetables and a site welcoming wildlife, growing wildflowers, making solitary bee houses and log/stick piles for hedgehogs. All very active and exciting indeed!

I will continue to ensure my own domestic garden is a haven for pollinators, insects, and mammals, by continuing to grow my own plants and keep on doing what I have so far.

Looking forward to studying too, with RBGE – RHS Certificate 2 In Horticulture.

Continue to talk to people about pollinators and gardening and my beekeeping.

I would like to help another local school next year, so we shall watch this space! 😊

Signature Carolann Philp

GLiN project start date: 01/10/2020

GLiN project end date: 12/12/2020

**Ready to celebrate and be awarded your GLiN 'Certificate of Achievement' then
email: growandlearn@gmail.com**