



**Kingfisher Award Scheme
2019**

**Report for The Nineveh
Trust**



The aim of the Kingfisher Award Scheme is to provide primary school children with the opportunity to get out of the classroom and go on to local farms to explore the natural environment and to touch, feel and see the relationship between wildlife and farming.

The project took place in an additional county this year, with field days successfully delivered in Wiltshire, as well as in Cornwall, Devon and Somerset. The summer activities make up the main part of the project's annual expenditure and consist of four main components in each county: field days, research project & presentation, family picnic & award ceremony, and staffing & support for schools.

Field Days

A record 975 children from 26 schools across the South West region took part in the field days in May and June. The theme of the field day activities in each county for this year were:

- Cornwall: What lives on a dairy farm?
- Devon: Muck, Milk and Minibeasts
- Somerset: What's in the words: wood, wheat and worms?
- Wiltshire: What lives in and around a wheatfield?

In order for the children to explore the different aspects of wildlife conservation on the farm they are visiting, they are divided into smaller groups and spend time at a number of different activity stations. The activity stations are run by the farmers and local volunteers, who have specialist knowledge on their particular topic. Highlights of the day reported by the children were: getting up close to native birds of prey and examining their diet, handling dragonfly larvae, and making and cooking their own bread twists over the fire.

'Extremely valuable learning experience. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and would liked to have spent a longer time there. It has consolidated scientific knowledge and developed cross-curricular learning.'

Year 6 Teacher, Trevisker Primary School

Research Project & Presentation

When the children returned to their respective schools, they had approximately 6 weeks to work on putting together a presentation. It is impressed upon the teachers that the focus of the display must be child-led and that the presentation must fit on or around a table. The children used an imaginative range of different resources to produce their display including papier mache models, animal brooches, collages,

drawings, a hedgerow in a box, posters, poems, stories and even a huge owl face with eyes that lit up!

'Truly amazing, fitted in really well with our environmental themes. We love the opportunities to lead their own learning and grow in confidence. The creativity that it has produced has been incredible and the depth of knowledge and retention of information amazing.'

Year 5 Teacher, Broad Chalke Primary School

Family Picnic and Award Ceremony

Families and friends joined the children and their teachers when they returned to present their project displays to the judges for the prestigious Kingfisher Award in each county. The afternoon includes a celebratory picnic and a range of fun and practical activities to keep family members entertained whilst the judges are making their rounds, talking to the children who have put the displays together. Activities included making willow wands and swords, modelling clay hedgehogs and owls, welly wanging, milking the cow, how to encourage wildlife in your garden, designing a buzzing bee and words for wildlife treasure hunt.

Judges were very impressed by the standard of the school displays and the competition in all four counties was very close. Schools extended the learning from the field days into unique projects of their own; for example one school constructed a bug hotel in the school garden: all classes took turns in monitoring the activity therein and recording results; another school created an owl's face from paper feathers, with every child in the school making a feather each.

'This scheme has been wonderful to be a part of. The children have learnt so much and this goes beyond the display at the end. They have spoken clearly about their learning and had fun along the way! Thank you, it has been fantastic!'

Year 3&4 Teacher, Ludwell Primary School

Staffing and Support for Schools

The team of volunteers in each county are essential to the success of the Kingfisher Award Scheme (KAS). Their input, energy, enthusiasm and knowledge are invaluable in making the field days such a varied and inspiring day for the children. They fill a huge range of roles from activity station experts, picnic makers, guides, judges, owl pellet collectors and many more.

The KAS County Coordinators are responsible for planning the events each year and ensuring all those attending have a safe, positive and enjoyable experience – whatever the weather! The KAS Coordinators are in regular contact with schools, once they have registered their involvement, to ensure schools teacher and pupils are well prepared for their day in the field and their subsequent presentation on the picnic day.

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Photographs from the Kingfisher Award Scheme 2019

