

Scouts' Bird Boxes for School
Royal Hospital for Sick Children & Department for Clinical Neurosciences, Edinburgh
Multiplex

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Small Scale Permanent Award

Project overview

'Name the crane' bird of prey artwork competition involved 48 children from Craigour Park Primary displayed on the building site. 29 scouts from 1st Biggar/Tinto built bird boxes and donated to the school for trees and in nursery. The project was 18 months duration with zero costs in a suburban location.

Were there any specific reasons that led to this project?

To kill two birds with one stone is phrase that is often used! It is maybe not the most appropriate saying to use here but it is certainly true that we have tried to focus on projects that benefit multiple stakeholders with a double-win i.e. we needed to meet community engagement targets but also needed to conduct a biodiversity project for BIG Biodiversity amongst other targets.

The other driver was the head teacher of the school was very cooperative with wanted to work with us.

Also without one of our managers being a scout leader it wouldn't have happened!



Children at Craigour Park Primary in their garden with bird box on tree, along with Multiplex staff

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

The project focused on educating for future generations tied with a practical hands-on construction of bird boxes. The specification and design was taken from the RSPB but a forestry commission employee also assisted the scouts with tweaking the design to place the entrance hole for birds a little higher to help prevent weasels and other predators catching the young birds!

The scouts timed their project to coincide with start of bird nesting season so we got them ready for late February and then down to the school in March. The bird boxes, once finished, went to a local wood land apart from the ones donated to the school. They were all erected in the lea of the prevailing wind to provide shelter to the birds.

The area where the school is has seen lots of new houses built in recent years so bringing some additional habitat to the school garden will help to redress some of the decline. But there is still a long way to go. The timber for the boxes was reused from the construction site. All scout leaders were volunteers, Multiplex staff volunteers and the school office lady even took a bird box home for her own garden!



'Name the crane' artwork from a competition run at the school with Multiplex Construction. Artwork was blown up and displayed around the site hoarding

How would you best describe the project?

Enhancement

Further information

Head Teacher of Craigour Park Primary was delighted to use the boxes for educating children on the value of biodiversity. One is located in the nursery department and used as a Bird Watching Station (see photo).

The remaining boxes were mostly deployed in nearby woods. One box has been erected to a tree in the garden area of the school grounds. Two were taken home by members of staff to be installed on trees in their back gardens!

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

The head teacher was very enthusiastic and we wanted to match her enthusiasm by following up the art work competition with a hands on real-life biodiversity initiative. The children are reporting birds in the playground and as an environmental manager at Multiplex, that is nice to see.



Photo Description: Bird Watching Station at nursery in Craigour Park Primary