



# SILVER LININGS

Stories of happiness, hope, friendship and a sense of community in Greater Pollok during the pandemic.



## Woodacre Nursery

**Went to Gran's house and  
made cakes with Gran and  
my brother. – Orlagh**



**I went walking to the shops  
with my mum.  
– Layaan**

**Playing in the paddling pool  
Making pictures using crafts.  
– Dani**



**Making play dough. – Leo**

**Making cards for Gran and  
Grandpa. – Olivia**



**I made a robot. – Iain**

## About

On the 23rd March 2020 Scotland went into lockdown in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Life as we knew it changed in ways we could never have imagined. We stayed at home. Schools and community centres closed their doors. We were introduced to 'Zoom' and learned the word 'furlough'. Somehow in this horrifically hard and trying time we managed to find Silver Linings.

We found new hobbies, support networks and perhaps a resilience we never knew we had. This book is a collection of stories, quotes, photos and artwork from people of all ages across Greater Pollok during the pandemic. It charts the glimmers of happiness, hope, friendship and sense of community that have got people through this challenging time.

The Village Storytelling Centre in Pollok engages with people of all ages in the community using Storytelling to connect and create. As we paused our in person workshops and worked from home we were struck by the varied and incredible stories people were sharing with us. We wanted to gather these stories, not to shy away from the difficulties and losses of Covid-19 but to share the light people have found shining in the darkness.

23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH  
LOCKDOWN  
COVID-19  
HOME  
ZOOM  
FURLOUGH



## Special thanks

Thank you to everyone who has helped to create the Silver Linings book:

Paula Morgan, Anthony Morrow and Keiran Renshaw at Sanctuary Housing, Andy Peline and the rest of the team at SWAMP, Pat Boyce, Glasgow Area Partnership - Greater Pollok, Woodacre Nursery, Photographer Andy Gunn.

Thanks and credit to Stevie McGowan, John Campbell, Euan McGlynn and Chris Jamieson at the Centre for Civic Innovation for their support and effort to bring these stories to life.

### **And to the wonderful people of Greater Pollok.**

Thank you for your contribution, your humour, your bravery and for everything you have done for each other throughout the pandemic.

## **Going online with The Village**

Throughout the pandemic The Village Storytelling Centre staff stayed connected with people through phone, email, post and online workshops.

We were able to provide people with phones, tablets and WiFi when needed to support engagement.

During our online sessions for children we shared stories, played games, danced and created using art parcels that were sent to each participant.





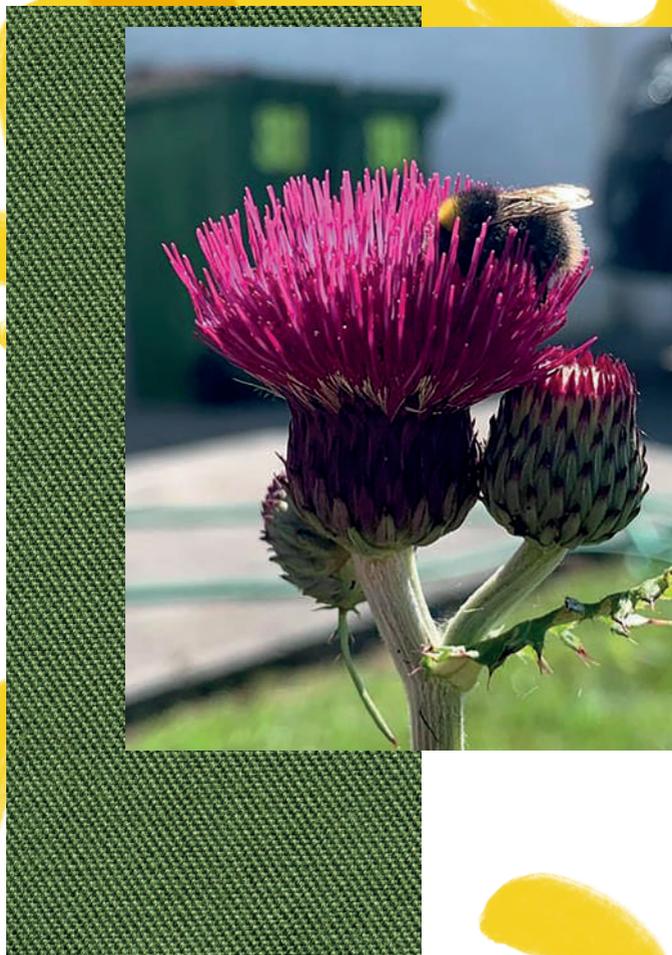
## 'At Home'

by Mila and Theo, both age 7.

A word association poem created during online Story Club.



Fun  
Hooray  
Play  
Cuddles  
Caring  
Bundles  
Delicious  
Full  
Pancake  
Pies  
Warm  
Love



## Yvonne

My Silver Lining during lockdown is rediscovering how beautiful nature is and how important our bees are. I added some flowers to my garden which was purely grass before.

I snapped the bees loving it. I could sit for hours just watching and listening to them.



**'We made a show in our living room.'**

**'I missed my friends.'**

**'I spent time with Mum.'**

**Brother: 'I played with my sister'**

**Sister: 'No you didn't'**



**'We got a dog.'**

**'I got a bunny rabbit.'**

**'I like going outside.'**

**'I like it better when I can see people.'**

**'I like being outdoors. I feel like I can run free.'**





## **Going Outside with The Village**

In November 2020 restrictions allowed us to meet our children's groups in person outdoors. We gathered in our garden at Langton Halls, at Peat Road Hall and in local parks. We provided outdoor clothing and the children were given space to reconnect with nature and one another in a playful and creative way.

We got very messy and very silly as we built our confidence and social skills back up. We shared imagined stories as well as our own experiences of lockdown.



Joe

Nocturnal  
Animals

Trees

Unique

Red squirrel

Evergreen leaves

Peter



## **‘Changes’**

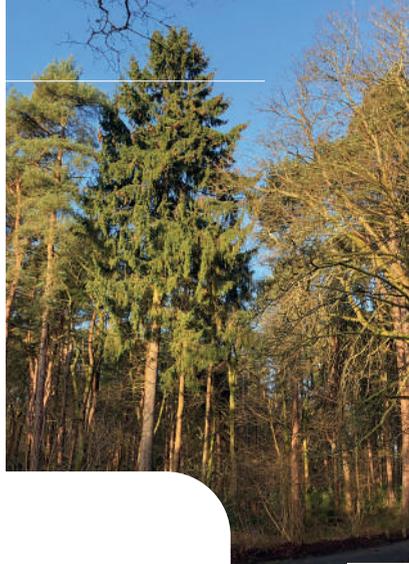
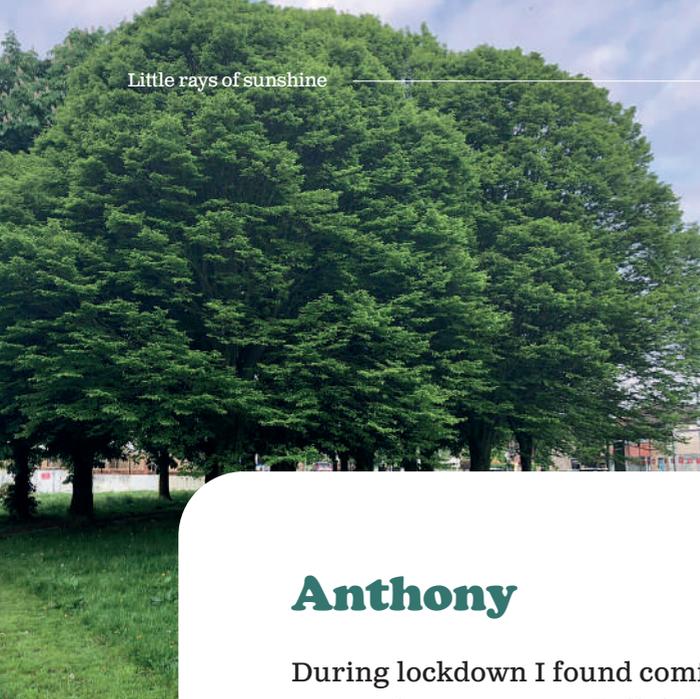
by Niamh age 11.

Throughout the seasons nature changes,  
From beautiful and blossoming to cold  
and you don't really know it's there anymore.

The leaves have gone, the birds have flown south,  
The air is crisp, and the hats, scarfs and gloves  
come out.

But seasons change back again, and the squirrels  
come out of their house.

Roses are red, violets are blue, nature is great  
and this poem is for you!



## Anthony

During lockdown I found comfort by getting lost in nature. Pollok Park was the perfect place for that. Wandering through the woodland trails, seeing all the wildlife and sitting at the gardens.

Pictures I have taken in the park are moments to remind me of what I can escape to, times when I found a moment of zen.





Village Storytelling Centre: Silver Linings





## **Gladys**

The Silver Lining for me during this pandemic is the way I had a good and meaningful time with my family especially my daughters Light and Grace.

It gave us the opportunity to explore more outdoors and know the open spaces available within our community. The kids became more independent, confident and much happier.

## Gowanbank Hub

As members of Gowanbank Primary parent council, Dawn & Leanne wondered what they could do to respond to the pandemic. With some help from Leanne's husband, they decided to set up the Gowanbank foodbank.

Through some support from Greater Pollok Services' Donna Foote and a £100 voucher, they started serving the community from a changing room in the school on the 17th of February 2021. Over the next few weeks the team saw a huge number of people who needed their support and realised that there was a need to grow. On March 18th, just one month after starting up, the team moved into their own space. One month later, Dawn, Leanne and Billy had delivered 13,000 meals.

The move enabled the trio to grow into a team of six, bringing on three new members of staff. Now named the Gowanbank Hub, the team are committed to going one step further in providing a service for the community and have set up a crisis call line in order to provide support for citizens in Greater Pollok.

**“ A woman approached the service and informed us that her father had passed away and after six months hadn't received her father's ashes due to an outstanding balance. After a lot of discussion, we were able to get her dad back. Myself and Leanne delivered her father to her and she was delighted we could allow her to grieve properly. ”**

While the team have struggles and new issues appear on a daily basis, serving the community of Pollok through this pandemic is truly gratifying for the them. Together, as colleagues in their new workplace, the team at Gowanbank Hub feel like they have a new family and a new home.



**Making Phenomenal Changes**

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**My answer  
is simple...  
Darcy, age  
4, got me  
through.**



## Julie

My answer is simple... Darcy, age 4, got me through. I am lucky as have a good space for play and adventure indoors and outdoors. Storytelling has helped Darcy to have a love for stories. We got a bit fed up re-reading the same thing even though we have many books and thankfully The Village helped with new stories and books.

Nature is also a great asset. It helps to destress. Darcy's love for people and company was difficult for her at times but having a wee cat called Tabitha visit daily really helped fill a wee gap. She will never forget Tabitha the cat. I also made peg bags out of Darcy's old dresses. Every dress has its own wee memories.

## Woodacre Nursery

**I went a walk in the woods with my brother.**  
- Maisie



**I learned to go on my bike.**  
- Max

**I had an indoor pool party with my sister. We were meant to go to Blackpool but it got cancelled.**  
- Brandon



**I was on TV for making a picture.**  
- Jackson





**I learned to ride my bike  
I need to wear an Ironman  
mask to go to the shops.  
- Jack**



**Helping my gran plant  
new plants.  
- Eesa**



**I celebrated my birthday and  
had a party. I also got two new  
kittens, Rascal and Madam.  
- Mila**







## Siobhan

I got Hetty the hedgehog in February 2020. She was only 8 weeks old when I got her. She was really huffy and scared when she first got here but during lockdown she has become my little best mate. She waits for me to get home from work so I can take her out so she can sleep next to me on the couch.

We spend every evening playing and she goes into a huff if I need to go out one evening. Everyone tells me I spoil her but she's brought a lot of happiness and smiles in a time of so much uncertainty and anxiety. She has such a little personality which I didn't expect when I first got her, she's very cheeky and playful, she likes to steal things such as hair bands and runs away with them.

She went from being too timid to come near me and balling up straight away to walking across my face and head butting me out the way!



seeing  
babies  
the day



# my during y

## **Le'Anne**

My Silver Lining from lockdown has been seeing my babies during the day. I usually worked long hours and hardly got to see them.

## **Fiona**

We missed swimming in Neilston pool so we have started wild swimming in Balgray reservoir. It's fantastic.

**We missed  
swimming  
in Neilston  
pool...**





## Marie

We wanted to share our Silver Linings for this wild time. Life is so hectic. We feel like day by day it's routine, deadlines and tasks to get through. It's been commutes, dropping at school gates and throwing stuff into shopping trolleys at breakneck speed. When lockdown kicked in, there was initial fear about how this could overwhelm our family. We've not been immune from the loss and pain of losing loved ones. But there has been one silver lining. Time.

We've found the time to stop and be with our children. No commutes to work, no spending hours ironing uniforms and work clothes, no checking the clock and batch cooking for the week. Instead we've taken the time to just... well, be present. We've grown herbs and wild flowers. We've painted together, built dens, camped in the living room, trekked through the woods behind our house, watched old movies, learned to ride bikes, played in massive paddling pools and trampolines, made YouTube videos and so much more. It's been exhausting and fulfilling in equal measure. We have watched the planet take a breath and one day, while out walking, our 5 year old stood back in awe at a blossom tree. We all stood and looked. Would we have done that before? I'm not so sure. That has been our silver lining.



**DEADLINES**

## Lorraine

Lockdown is hard for all but after losing my daughter and husband last year it got even harder for my family.

It has made me think a lot more of loved ones who you have and what you have left in life. Because of my losses, it makes me feel for all those lives that have been lost due to corona. It's heart breaking but you have to be strong as those families would have to.

Lockdown for me has showed me how strong I am when I thought I was weak.

**Lockdown  
for me has  
showed me  
how strong  
I am when  
I thought I  
was weak.**

a pizza pizza  
gh. dough. do  
pizza pizza  
dough. doug  
zza pizza  
ough. dough.  
a pizza pizza  
gh. dough. do  
pizza pizza  
dough. doug

## **Sharon**

During lockdown I have been learning how to make pizza dough. I bought an Ooni pizza oven and have made lots of pizzas. They taste amazing. I have been going on local walks through Pollok park with my daughter. She has been finding lots of exciting ways to go. I found it hard working from home, having to work and home-school my two children.

## Fiona

Our Silver Lining is wee Barry the dug! On 19th April all the way from doggie death row in Romania. He was smelly, afraid and didn't know what to do with toys. On the second anniversary of our chocolate lab Rocky's passing we decided we would use our extra time at home to foster a dog in need of love and a family.

He quickly settled in and happily frolics in the garden with our 3 kids now. He has brought us much joy since he arrived and I have noticed how much more everyone has been smiling since he joined our family.

We love him and can't imagine our family without him now! (We failed as foster parents. We knew very quickly after her arrived that he was here to stay!) Welcome to the Rich Family wee Barry the Lockdown Dug!

*Photo by Andy Gunn*



**Our silver lining is  
wee Barry the dug!**



## Pauline

SWAMP Media has been a godsend for my daughter as she hasn't seen any friends since stopping school in March. SWAMP have been doing a zoom session with different themes every Thursday so my daughter Keira Rose who is age 8 can keep in touch with all the friends she has made in SWAMP.

Also on a Saturday, Cit from SWAMP does the fun factory, they have been doing this since lockdown started in March 2020 and can't wait until they can actually go to the new SWAMP.

*Photo by Andy Gunn*



## Alison

The most rewarding thing about Lockdown has been discovering the wealth of local walks, and experiencing the nature and wildlife that you find there.

For my two kids, Kathryn and Leo, both whom have with Aspergers our walks have been a wonderful way to blow off steam, get fresh air and discover new things.

It also lets me de-stress as working full time from home, schooling and entertaining kids and keeping a house in a reasonable state has been a really tall order.

Recent woodland walks have included Hurlet Hill, a viaduct off Glasgow Road that leads you on a tree lined path beside a stream towards Barrhead, Waulkglen Reservoir which is just magnificent and the amazing Dams to Darnley park.

Dams to Darnley is probably a favourite as it is teeming with bird life, little wriggly tadpoles and ducks.

We have been really lucky to see Herons on a few occasions. Even though we have lived in the Hurlet 14 years we never knew half of these places existed so that's been a wakeup call that there is so much more that the world can show us.

## Louise

I was looking at my MapMyRun app last night and I was shocked (and proud!) to see that I have ran 101 miles since the start of March (2020). I can't believe it! I've always thought that I disliked running but in the absence of the gym I started trying to find ways to enjoy it. I started doing short distances and even now I don't run that far. But I finally 'like' running.

I've always used exercise (the gym) to maintain and improve my mental health, and running has helped me during this time by allowing me to continue to exercise in ways that 'work' for me.

I would say that this achievement is one of the positives of lockdown for me and in the future I'm going to try to combine both running AND the gym into my life.







## Gaynor

This is my wee rescue dog Zuzo who is 2 and her new best friend wee Leo, my 10 year old neighbours wee rabbit. They have been inseparable the last couple of months. They wait at each other's back door in the mornings and play all day and night around the backs of each other's houses. It's so cute seeing this every day.

It has made me and kids so happy. They are actually lying in the bed together just now while I write this.

## Greater Pollok Services CIC



Over 35 years, Sadie and Donna have supported the community of Greater Pollok through a range of volunteering projects, however this was taken to a new level as the pandemic hit. Across the area, people stepped up to offer support to the most vulnerable, but there was uncertainty about how to find everyone who needed a helping hand. As the founder of Greater Pollok Services, it made sense that Donna would support those who wanted to help to become a network of support as the Greater Pollok Volunteers.

**“ It was an easy set up to be honest as everyone was ready to respond. The only thing I did was pull together health, welfare and housing officers on a WhatsApp group and set up a volunteers WhatsApp and Facebook group. ”**

The team received referrals from a range of local services and linked with the Red Cross so that shielding residents signed up for support. Soon, they were receiving calls from families across Scotland and England concerned about their relatives in Greater Pollok. This allowed the team to support people in a variety of ways; from putting on

washings to setting up referrals for gas & electricity. Sadie even set up a shop in her own utility room! In April 2020, the team received funding from SWAMP which helped to provide a shed for storage as Sadie's house was overwhelmed with donated food.

The Greater Pollok Volunteers continued to gather momentum. They worked alongside SWAMP, providing a Rickshaw service to Tesco, then later by delivering prescriptions and food parcels to local residents who called the G53 Together helpline. Local Councillor, David McDonald, linked the volunteers with Mel Milaap's food bank and soon they were delivering 300 meals a week!

Sadie explained another challenge the pandemic has thrown the service's way: **“Mental health issues have really built up because of COVID-19. Whether it's younger people or people who have just moved into the area people have really felt the isolation.”**

By reaching out to the Village team, they found a new way to support the community by setting up mobile phones as part of a befriending service reminding people that they aren't alone.

The Greater Pollok Services are now one of four organisations in the South of Glasgow who provide a home shopping service to families who are isolating. They have done Greater Pollok a great service throughout the pandemic and continue their work in the G53 area as we emerge from this period.

You can contact the team through the following platforms:

**Facebook:** Greater Pollok Services

**Twitter:** @GreaterPollok

**A special thanks to the following volunteers who have been invaluable throughout the pandemic:**

Laraine, Marie, Jack, Sean, Annabelle, Iiona, Paula, Aqeel, Courtney, Pauline, Nicole, Christine, Gary, Lisa, Scot, Waleed, Christine, Donna, Sadie.

**It's allowed  
me to  
nurture my  
son Allan's  
interest in  
nature.**



## **Alison**

My Silver Lining during lockdown has been my garden. It's allowed me to nurture my son Allan's interest in nature. We've been enjoying sowing annuals, growing our own vegetables from seed, making a bug hotel and frog houses.

Allan also really enjoyed making seed bombs and pictures using petals and leaves. For me personally, seeing the garden change and mature has helped keep my anxiety and depression under control and I have developed a deeper appreciation for nature.

## Woodacre Nursery



**Building a tower  
using Lego blocks.  
- Khadija**

**I was playing with  
my paddling pool but  
mine burst and I got  
my cousins Mason.  
- Harris**



**When lockdown eased I  
went to Lego land with  
my Mum and we played  
with all the Lego.  
- Mason**





**Making cards for  
Gran and Grandpa.  
- Olivia**



**Making play dough.  
- Leo**

**Arts and crafts I helped  
mum make dinner.  
- Kinsley**



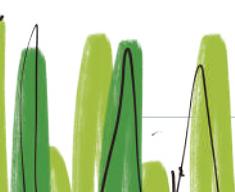


## Karen

My son Sam is 4 and our Silver Lining during lockdown is that we started gardening and growing our own fruit and veg. We recorded it all on an Instagram page which now has nearly 3k followers.

We live in Corkerhill and we've met a lovely and supportive community of gardeners through our page now too. We learnt all about nature and planting for wildlife. Sam loves the hungry caterpillar book and his nursery based his home learning on it so it was a win-win.

We're currently growing Tomatoes, Butterhead Lettuce, Peppers, Chilli Peppers, Pak Choi, Rocket, Carrots, Pea Pods, Runner Beans, Cauliflower, Spring Onions, Beetroot, Parsley, Coriander, Basil, Thyme, Dill, Rhubarb, Apple Strawberries, Red currants, Blackcurrants, Blackberries and Potatoes. We are both loving it. We're planting most things in flexitubs & recycled fruit pots. Gardening can be done anywhere even your windowsill.



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# Activities

## Keileih

During lockdown I spent my free time connecting with nature, I went for lots of lovely walks with my dog and explored and discovered new natural spaces in my local area. I planted some cacti and also adopted some from a friend which has become a new hobby as well as passing time by making candles and wax melts. Having some new hobbies and interests helped me get through lockdown, and has helped create some beautiful memories during a challenging time.

# More...



## Matilda

This is my Silver Lining experience through the lockdown. Every Thursday my two youngest children who are autistic were very eager to create a new video scenario to thank all our wonderful key workers and they did it incredibly!

I was so proud of how well the children did. My wee lockdown heroes. They have kept me sane. We even went viral on the NHS Applause page!

We also welcomed Buddy the rescue dog into our home. He was nervous and so were the children as they used to have a phobia of dogs. Now they wouldn't be without him and they've all overcome their fears together.



home 1

Walkies  
with   
my dog

R A I

# baking

## Amy

Lockdown was something new to adjust to. I had to work from home, spend lots of time with my family in my home and go on lots of local walks with the dog! I also did lots of home baking and trying out different recipes. Where I stay is not far from the airport so there was always RAF planes flying over during their training exercises. Some of them were huge! As much as lockdown was a challenge, it was good to experience some different scenes and ways of living.





## Stacey

I explored all areas of my home from parks, walk ways, forests and nature trails that I never knew were there. I saw many different animals and trails that led me to different parts of my area, met loads of new people on my walks and walked a few good miles!







## Susan

I worked from home and kept in touch with our children and families via email or phone.

My son was home and gave us lovely family time together and I also got back into cooking. It was very hard not being able to see my daughter, extended family and friends for such a long time.

Thankfully life is slowly returning to a new normality and it will be great to be able to hug my daughter and be back at work seeing our children, families and colleagues again.

## Woodacre Nursery



**Going on walks with my sister and enjoying the sunshine. Playing in the swimming pool. Taking my babies out a walk in the pram.  
- Millie**

**I had a pool party with my family.  
- Martin**



**I had fun seeing the trains and even got my own scotrail train toy and tracks. Arts and crafts and using play dough.  
- Jayden**

**I made a card for Dad's birthday. I played in my paddling pool with my sister.**

**- Hassan**



**I baked cakes with my mummy, they were yummy, they were Paw Patrol cupcakes.**

**- Anna**

**Lots of arts and crafts, playing in my garden on the trampoline, having a teddy bear picnic with friends, having fun on my balance bike.**

**- Amelia**





## Shuxin

The Silver Lining of the lock down for us is that Theodore and his daddy get to practice basic work of “kungfu” in the woods privately without being considered a family of lunatics by passersby.





During the  
period of  
lockdown  
it was  
difficult  
to find  
something  
that...



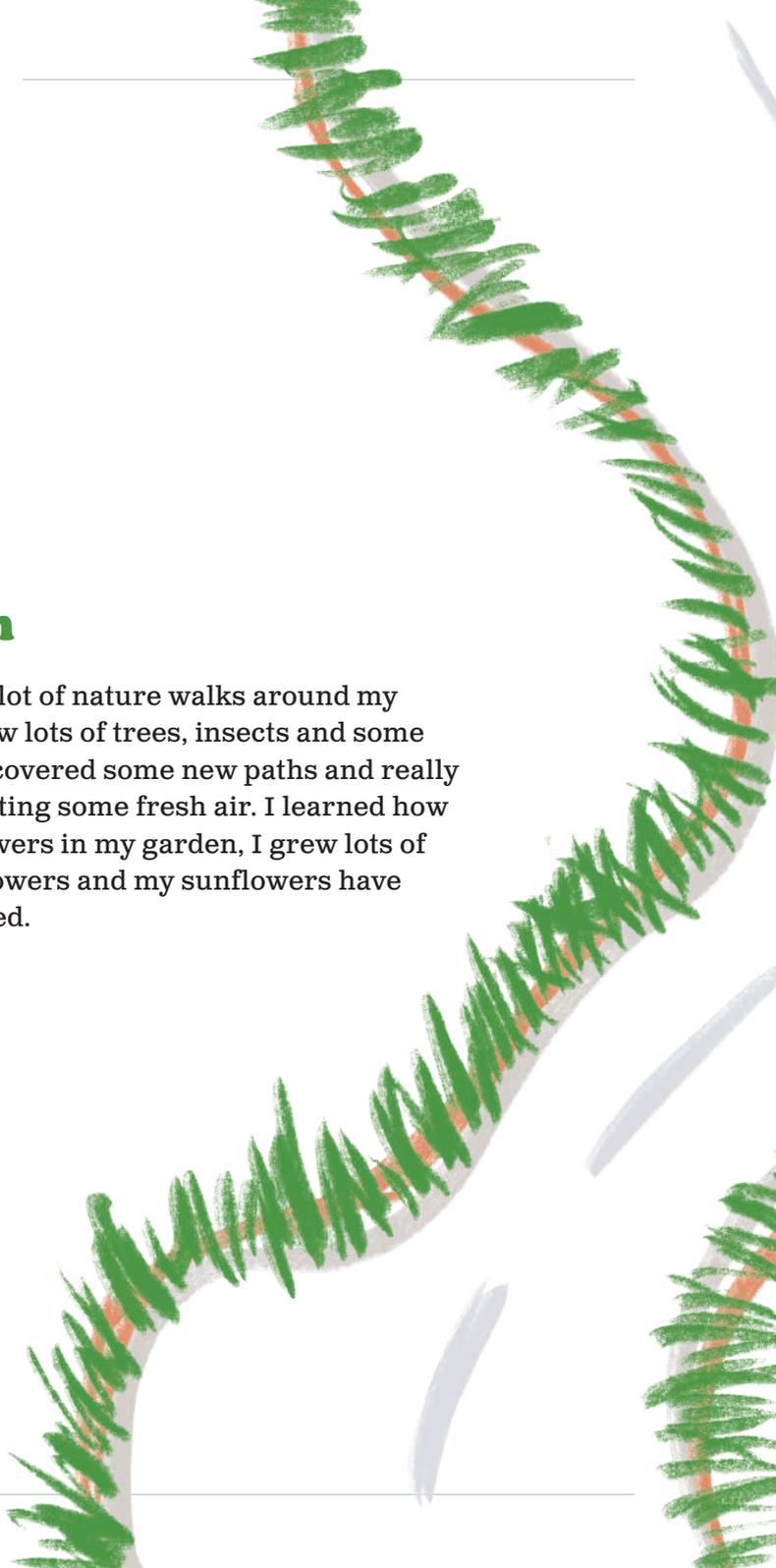
makes  
you feel  
happy   
and  
excited!

## Ellie

Right in the midst both me and my boyfriend found out we were expecting a baby in December so it has been a huge motivator for me to feel excited coming out of lockdown and going baby shopping and counting down the days until the baby arrives. Although attending appointments and scans is so exciting it was sad not to be able to experience this with my partner. But knowing that we could eventually go together to a scan was really exciting for us! This definitely made our time in lockdown much more special.

## Gillian

I went on a lot of nature walks around my village. I saw lots of trees, insects and some cattle. I discovered some new paths and really enjoyed getting some fresh air. I learned how to plant flowers in my garden, I grew lots of different flowers and my sunflowers have now bloomed.









## Emily

During lockdown I went on walks exploring my local area and parks. I discovered new areas that I had never seen before. I saw lots of animals on my walks and explored some nature trails. I even ran a 5k!

## Woodacre Nursery



**Making cards for my friends at nursery, I made a robot called Robbie, I played in my new swimming pool. – Olly**

**Hill walk, learning new dance moves, I went on a bear hunt and a cycle. – Harleigh**



**Science experiments and making magic potions. Playing in the back garden in my swimming pool. – Lucas**

**Out on my new bike. I celebrated my birthday with a bouncy castle in the garden – Carson**



**Making cookies, doing counting games. – Mariam**

**Water fight. – Rayhan**





We hope that this book has brought a smile to you. If you wish to share your Silver Lining with us, use the hashtag **#VillageSilverLinings**.

### Get in touch with us



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