

Banerjee's Story

For the Banerjee family, the TVERC event at Heyford Meadows was not just about identifying plants and insects; it was about connection between science and curiosity, past and present, parents and children.



“It seemed like a relaxing, nice walk. I’ve always wanted to come to these events, but somehow never made it. This time I thought my parents might enjoy it, and I could spend a half-day with them before heading to work.”

For the Banerjee family, attending their first Heyford Meadow event, a Noticing Nature activity organised by TVERC, was more than just a walk, it was a shared experience that connected generations. Daughter Debalina had spotted the event on Eventbrite and thought it would be a perfect outing for her visiting parents. What made the day special was how each family member found something meaningful.

Debalina was struck by the use of the iNaturalist app: “I go on certain hikes, but I don’t usually know the names of the plants. The app was very useful and it was fascinating to see how the organisers identified things differently, looking at the size and shape of leaves, not just the flowers. That was something I hadn’t noticed before.”

For her mother, the event was a journey back in time. Having studied Zoology and Botany in college, the walk brought back fond memories: “For her, it was like walking down memory lane, when they used to go on college field trips a long time back. She was very happy.” She delighted in recognising familiar species and discovering new ones, noting similarities and differences between the plants of tropical regions and those in Oxfordshire. Even spotting grasshoppers felt like a small but joyful connection across continents: “I was surprised to see that there are grasshoppers here just like back home.” Her father also enjoyed the outing as a social gathering and a chance to share in his family’s enthusiasm for nature.

Reflecting on the experience, Debalina felt the event could attract even more participants with a little extra promotion.

Their story shows how TVERC’s simple, well-guided nature walks can spark learning, rekindle old passions, and create new family memories, all while deepening people’s appreciation of local biodiversity.



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