

RUMBLE MUSEUM

Newsletter
June 23
2021

ABOUT US

The Rumble Museum at Cheney is run by educational charity The Iris Project and spread throughout corridors and rooms. We run regular projects, talks and events, and have two active student Museum Councils.

We have been awarded full Museum Accreditation by the Arts Council. Find out more at www.rumblemuseum.org.uk

HAWKSBILL TURTLE SHELL ON DISPLAY

Over the weekend, we put a beautiful hawksbill turtle shell on display in Brighthouse. This shell was donated to us as part of the large African collection we received in December. The turtle was found washed up at Kalifi in Kenya.

It is named for its narrow, pointed beak. It has a distinctive pattern of overlapping scales on its shell that forms a serrated look at the edges. It is widely distributed across the tropical and subtropical areas, living amongst the coral reefs of the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

They can grow to one metre in length and have an average weight of 80 kg. Their lifespan is unknown but they reach maturity after about 20 years. Their predators are sharks, octopuses and certain types of fish.

These turtles are sometimes biofluorescent (meaning they glow in the dark) which may come from their diet.

Sadly, the hawksbill sea turtle is critically endangered. Their patterned shells are commonly sold as "tortoiseshell" in markets.

They have been hunted and harvested as early as the fifth century BC) and their shells are used for jewellery, combs, brushes, rings and musical instruments.

Today tortoiseshell is largely replaced with plastic imitations/reproductions.



BRITISH BUTTERFLIES MOSAICS

This term, the Museum Council students are exploring butterflies and moths through our collection of beautiful British butterflies on display in Brighthouse. The students are taking part in a mosaics project to brighten up the outside walls of the school and to show off some of the amazing native butterflies through eye-catching mosaics.

Each student has picked a favourite butterfly from the collection, and they are working every Monday afternoon with local mosaicist Clare Goodall to create mosaics of their chosen butterflies. These will then be cemented to the walls outside the school.

The students have chosen well-known butterflies such as the peacock, red admiral and brimstone, as well as some other stunning butterflies such as the comma, common blue, small copper, chalkhill blue, clouded yellow and orange tip. One butterfly chosen from our collection, the black-veined white, has sadly now become extinct in Britain.

As well as the mosaics project, the students will all be taking part in a Moth Night at Cheney on 10th July. We have a few places available on the Moth Night, and welcome any applications from students in any year groups who have a particular interest in moths to get in touch with me on lro@cheney.oxon.sch.uk

