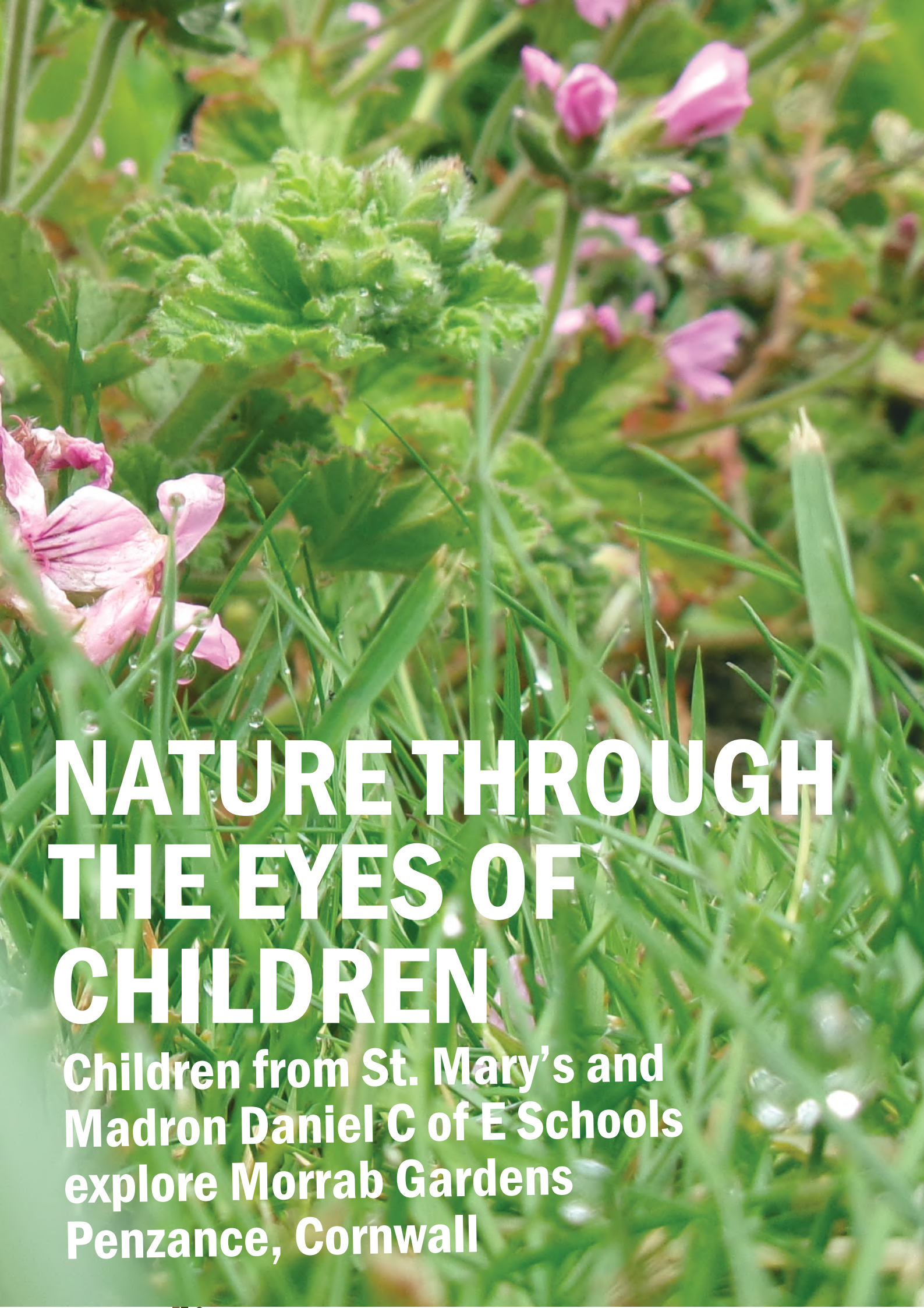




NATURE THROUGH THE EYES OF CHILDREN

**Children from St. Mary's and
Madron Daniel C of E Schools
explore Morrab Gardens
Penzance, Cornwall**



St Mary's
C of E School



Madron Daniel
C of E School

The Children's Nature Photography Project

In May 2026 children from Year 6 classes at St Mary's C of E School and Madron Daniel C of E Schools, spent a morning in Morrab Gardens to explore the area through photography. Morrab Gardens are beautiful sub-tropical gardens close to the school. After an orientation from Daisy Wright from The Gardeners' House, the children were provided with cameras and told they could photograph whatever they liked and/or interested them, and that we would then exhibit a picture chosen by them – allowing everyone to see the Gardens through their eyes. Each child has now chosen the picture they most want to share with the public, and explained in their own words why this picture is important to them and what they liked about the project.

Why this project? Explorer and filmmaker Jacques Cousteau famously said "people protect what they love." Helping children connect to and fall in love with the natural world around them is the essential first step in recognising its true value.

We are very grateful to the staff from both St Mary's and Madron Daniel C of E schools for helping with and supporting this project; to Gardeners' House for their support and providing exhibition space, and to St Mary's Church for exhibition space. Thanks also to the Rights and Opportunities Foundation for their financial support.



Penlee Cluster
REACHING OUT TOGETHER



Gardeners' House
Celebrating our landscape and stories



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Thanks also to  **headland** for producing the exhibition panels.



Shyanne Lee, age 12

I held the Lily because it was blowing in the wind. I like it because I love that shape, it looks like a love heart, and I feel happy now when I see it. I liked the day, I liked everything: the flowers, the fish - we fed them, the squirrel and being with friends. I'd like to do it again.



Jace Hosken, age 11

There is one world with us and you are looking through the hole at a whole new world full of bright and colourful things. Basically, what inspired me was when one of my friends walked behind the leaves and I saw the hole and I took a picture of him inside. Then when he came out, I went in and looked through the hole and I saw this whole new world. So, I took this picture and when I looked at it, I thought this is one of the best I've taken, so I wanted to share it. I've not done photography before and I really loved it and I like being outside.



Jannatul Rodela, age 11

I don't know how I caught the sun but it looks really good. I wanted to capture the moment. It makes me feel good looking at it now because it looks breathtaking, and makes me think of being in a garden with a soft breeze. We have a garden at home but this was bigger and had so many trees. It made me realise that nature was much more beautiful than I had thought before. This was the first time in my life that I've taken pictures. I think I used a camera when I was little, but I don't remember. I have been in the Gardens before, but when you have the camera you look more closely and see the beauty.



Isla King, age 11

I like how when you get close you can see the details and the patterns. I saw it first because of the colour and how bright it was, and I like the raindrops on it. I feel happy because I took that picture. It is quite good. I've taken a couple of pictures with a camera when I was on holiday in France. I had a camera and there was a lake, and I took pictures of ducks. This was different because there was more time to look and think what shall I take? I definitely want to do this again.



Tracey-Marie Cooper, age 11

I chose this because maybe it will make people happy seeing it. I found it beautiful and it made me happy, perhaps because it is so bright. And there are dark leaves which make it more beautiful and more understandable, because they are darker and there is a kind of connection.



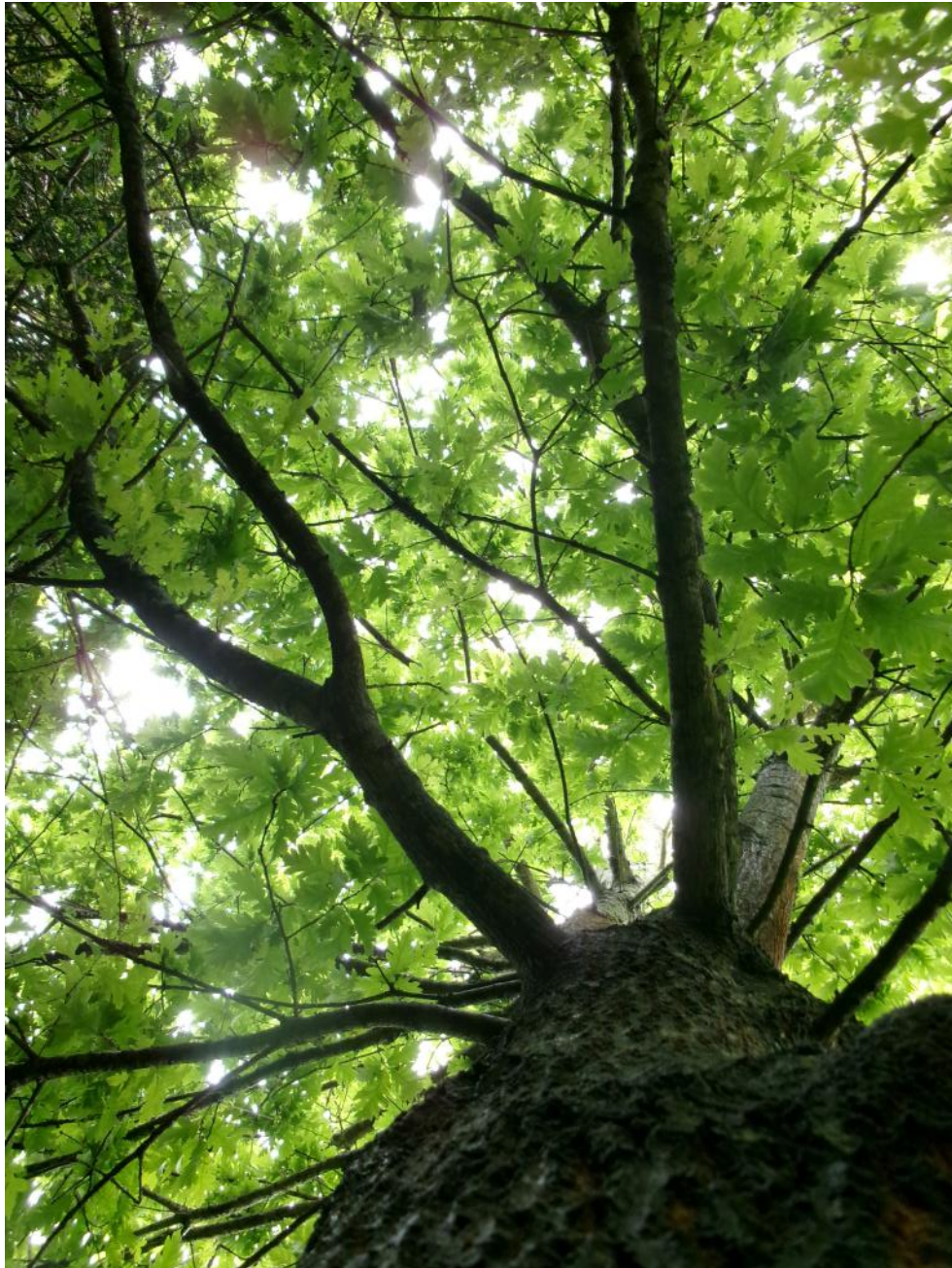
Coby Dixon, age 11

This was only as big as my thumb, but although it's small everything in life matters. I put the camera vertically on the ground and I let it focus and then took the picture. I didn't use the zoom. Now when I see it, I am surprised as I didn't think it would show that much detail, so I'm very pleased. I feel very happy, I didn't think it would look like this on a big screen and I want people to realise that small things in life will always have a purpose. It was a great day, very different to normal school days. I would like to do more because you see the world in a completely different way. I have a camera at home but I don't really take it out. I might do that more now.



Emily Millard, age 10

I took it because I really like birds and it looks so good. I really like the colours. It was not easy to take because you need a certain angle to get a good picture. But the robin was behaving very well, just being still and singing. When I look at it now, I think it's a good picture and it makes me happy to see it. I have taken pictures with a phone before. With this you actually get to go out and see different things, creatures and nature, so it matters, because some people don't see this amazing stuff. We need to see this because nature makes people happy.



Herbie Connor, age 11

I took this because I like the light seeping through. I put the camera so it looked up the stump and then took the picture. It didn't look so good on the camera screen, but here it looks great. It's my favourite, I like the light and how sparkly it is, how it makes some leaves look dark green and other parts light green. The morning was cool. When I was younger, I wanted to be a photographer. We used to watch a show where these kids meet one, and they showed his pictures of nature in places like the Sahara. I love going into nature and I often walk my dog in the woods or on the beach. I definitely want to do more of this.



Isaac Clarkson, age 11

I really like this because it shows a bunch of colours and it just spits out mother nature. I like how there is a bunch of plants in one big area and you can see different coloured leaves. I really like the white flowers in the bottom corner; they look very pretty. And I love how it's just one big area where nature can come together. First, I thought about zooming in but then I zoomed right out and got a good angle and it ended up looking amazing. And I look at it because sometimes you see nature for a single moment and you don't see that moment again - so take the chance when you have it.



Isla Leonard, age 10

I took this because it looked a lot like one of my family members and that's actually really funny that it looks like them. I love it! You can actually see a face, it is not just normal bark and I don't think anyone else has a picture like this. It makes me happy and excited because it is going to hang on a wall. I am very happy that I got the opportunity to do this because I've not done anything like this before and I've not seen anything extraordinary like this before. I did see other lovely things, but this stood out the most.



Alarnie Etchalls, age 11

I took the picture because it looks really beautiful and cool, because it has yellow and green and white and black, and it has little insects and bugs. I saw it, I hadn't seen this flower before and not in any books. I knew it was a lily, but I had not seen one that colour and in the water like that. It just makes me happy and thoughtful. It makes me think all about nature. I loved the morning taking pictures with my friends. I have never done anything like that before.



Anaabia Noufal, age 11

I just loved the way it is showing itself. It expresses so many feelings like happiness and calm. It is just a beautiful thing of nature. I feel confident because it is beautiful and I feel grateful for nature. This was the first time I have done anything like this. It made me feel different in a good way. I have been in Morrab Gardens before but not with a camera. It made me feel great that nature exists. Nature gives us food and our basic needs, and from this flower you get beauty and confidence.



Lulu Freeman, age 11

It looks so clear and it has raindrops on it. I saw it in a group and this stood out because it was a bit brighter and had more details than the others; and if you look at it in a different way you can see different shapes, not just a flower. You can see the sun, and look again and there is an animal: head, feet and tail. It makes me happy to look at it because of all the bright colours. I have got a camera and I take photos, and I have done one or two of the sea and rocks, but none stand out like this. Now I really want to do more: going out into nature and taking photos. I enjoyed the morning a lot.



Asher Graham, age 11

I took the picture because you don't see squirrels that often, well, you do, but it's not so easy to get pictures of them because they move quite a lot. This made me happy because it was my goal to get a squirrel picture. I have seen them in the Gardens before. I used to ride my scooter through and see squirrels, but I have not done photography there before and this was very fun. When I see the picture, it makes me happy. I would definitely like to do this again.



Mona Lisa Lee, age 12

He was sitting there and we found him. There were two but I got this one. I took the picture because he looks so cute. I hope we are going to get a ginger cat at home. It is a good picture. Finding the cat made me enjoy the day.



Ezra McGrath, age 11

This picture was taken by Ezra and chosen for exhibition by his friends, while he was absent. This is how they explained their choice:

I like it because there are a lot of leaves altogether.

Because it expresses nature.

It's a very good photo, it explodes, it's a leaf explosion.

I like it because it's not like something you would see in Penzance, it's more like you would see in a tropical country. And I like the shade and the wide leaves, and I like how the sunlight beams through the gaps. It makes me feel awake, like when you get to the best part of something, that kind of feeling.



Oscar Hughes, age 10

We had just put some fish food in, and the fish came up, and I took as many pictures as I could because I found it interesting. You don't normally see them so clearly. And when I look at this one now, I find it interesting even though I don't know its name. I enjoyed the morning, it's something we don't normally do, neither the walk, nor taking pictures and it was really fun.



Christopher Neale, age 11

I love this plant because it is shinier than the green plants. I like the middle because it reminded me of this school – our school logo, which is a rainbow. The whole plant made me think of the logo. I missed the plant at first and someone told me to go and look, and I thought it was beautiful. When I was deciding what angle to take it, I chose this one because of the contrast with the green plants. It's shinier because of the way the sun is shining on it. The whole thing is a bit dark, a bit light, green, flowers and rocks, bits and bobs... I think people will like it.

**Renesmee, age 10**

We put fish food in the water and all the little fish came, and there was this giant one that came to the surface. It was really pretty with lots of colours, so I zoomed in and took a picture of it. I love the picture because it's not blurry like some of the others and there are loads of fish, not just one. I don't usually like fish, but seeing them all eating – I have never seen so many fish in one place before. I love the ripply effect and the sun is on it. I named the big fish Bob.



Kacey Salmon, age 11

The robin was standing really still and stayed there for about three minutes. It started off on the chair and moved to different spots, and the colours are really nice. I was standing still and just moving the camera. It was the first time I have taken a picture of a bird. I had already taken a picture of that plant and the robin jumped onto it and I zoomed in. I think we like birds because they are all different colours. I see flowers around a lot, but birds I don't see close, they are mostly in the air. So, I was glad to get this. It makes me feel good to see it now.



Rory Joey Mitchell, age 10

I thought the leaves looked really nice in the bush; they really stood out to me. I felt really happy when I took this and it looks really nice. It makes me feel nice knowing I took a picture like that. I've never done anything like this before and I really enjoyed it. I have got a camera so I am going to take more pictures. For example, there is the Madron Wishing Well near me, I can go there.



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