

JOIE DE VIVRE

David had recently retired after many years earning a living as a jobbing carpenter and now found himself at a crossroad in his life. How should he fill his time now? He had no worries concerning the cottage, that was paid for; money was not a problem as yet, perhaps it would be in the future, but there was a void in how to occupy his time and his mind. To this he gave a lot of thought.

So David went for walks and visited places of interest that he had always intended to do but had never gotten round to it. But, it was not enough until a meeting occurred that was to alter his thinking on how to occupy his mind.

This chance meeting with a neighbour transpired to be a discussion on birds and their habits. There had always been a presence of local bird life in the area and his neighbour suggested a few bird boxes might encourage even more birds to come and visit. This was the moment that David had been waiting for; he had at last realised the sense of incentive.

Now with a newly found sense of purpose and having a meticulous nature, he set to work to make a bird box and to fathom out its construction e.g. size and entrance hole and where he should site it.

The project was a huge success. More birds did indeed come; bullfinches, the shy wren, blackbirds and a whole family of tits with their distinctive blues and greens. So it came that David was being asked to make more of these bird dwellings as other neighbours began to enjoy a world of bird activity they had previously ignored.

David now enjoys his retirement and sometimes finds he is pressed for time as he has so many requests but, on reflection, he has joie de vivre – a state of mind he had striven so long to find.

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