

Greenies Field Update October 2021



What a year! The weather has been perverse, to say the least. But, in spite of having constant rain when there should have been sun, and vice versa, we have had a cracking harvest this year. Onions grew to a fantastic size. Each family had two large bags full to take home. Some people even had a go at plaiting them in the stereotypical French way. The potato harvest was pretty good though we had to dig them up early since the dreaded blight started to take hold. Purple beans, which turn green when cooked, were delicious, as were the green dwarf French ones, the runners and the speckled Borlotti beans. We had peas and tomatoes, as well as barrow loads of courgettes. Yes, some of them got a bit bigger than we expected and became marrows, but we had planted six different types for variety: there were white striped ones, round yellow ones, and the white frilly patty pans, which are really squashes, but need to be eaten when small. And talking about squash, we have an amazing pumpkin patch. None of the pumpkins looks like the traditional orange ones that are used for Halloween which are not good for eating. Our range goes from the Blue, which has dense flesh and cooks beautifully, to the quirky looking Turks Head.

We have just had a delivery of two truckloads of cow manure, our 'soil conditioner', and are building up muscles distributing it across 30 or so beds. Tasty leeks, spinach, chard, beetroot, parsnips and carrots are still being harvested. The sweetcorn crop, the essential to the annual sweetcorn barbeque, was pilfered, just like last year. Only this time, we are pretty convinced it was badgers, and not deer. Cunning creatures, badgers. We made a big effort with netting and cage constructions, but they got in anyway. The orchard had some summer pruning, and we did well with the apple crop.

The whole site continues to be a place of calm, with the sense of being in natural surroundings, in nature. There is a definite sense of mental as well as physical wellbeing connected to what we do. The produce, wildflowers, trees and wildlife all make it a magical place to be in. We are in negotiations about getting involved with local GP practices for social prescribing, as a commitment to the Lady Bay community. Another project is to get a webcam set up so that the Field can be accessible to those who can't get there. That's for next year! If you would like to visit or join us, please call John on 0115-982-2351/07973-614-344 or Ann on 0115-982-5339/07940-335-215. Our details are in the Greenies section of the Lady Bay website.

Stevie