



The Care Farms' Newsletter!



July 2025- Volume 16

www.wiltshirewildlife.org/learning/care-farms



Summer Time
A taste of what
we have been
doing this term.



Lakeside

Our students have been busy in their garden plots. Early crops have been enjoyed and the potato harvest has begun. Students also grew lots of seedlings to raise funds for the Trust at Country Comes to Town.

Around the farm and reserve we have watched frogspawn become froglets, herons hatch and fledge, and ducklings, cygnets and goslings grow. A blue crocodile has even been spotted in the water around Newt Island!

It has been an amazing year in the apiary so far and on World Bee Day just before half term, the first honey of the season was available for tasting and students had a go at the waggle dance.

We are very grateful to Andy and Paul from The Churn Project Men's Shed for building two great benches for us and to the three volunteer groups who have helped with maintenance, extra protection around the chicken run (in gruelling heat), and planting up the roundabout to a design drawn by a staff member.

The Willows

Harvesting has been in full swing this term; we have seen some fantastic food grown on the student plots. The students have made the most of them, making crinkle cut chips, garlic bread & fruit smoothies. The raised pizza bed, where we grow tomatoes, onions, garlic and herbs, has been very popular with students. They pick their own ingredients to make home made pizzas during their sessions.

Elsewhere, volunteers from Wessex Water braved the heavy downpours during half term to construct two tepees and clear an area in the Whispering Woods to create a seating area. Despite the weather they all did a great job to help us enhance our imaginative play and quiet areas. Both have already proved very popular with the students.

A group from Fairfield College has been coming to The Willows once a week to complete their work experience. They have dug out a bed for growing vegetables for the pigs to eat and planted a fantastic pollinators' flower bed with sunflowers, borage and a mix of wild flowers, which is bustling with life.



Busy Summer Days



A student created this beautiful handmade book made from upcycled materials. Her inspiration to write a story came from walking in our woods. Since then she has written many more stories, expressing her feelings and creativity. These stories will be gathered together in this book. All this work is supporting her wellbeing.

Christian's Magic Spring Tomato

Soup (created by one of our students using food freshly harvested from the farm)

Fresh tomatoes

2 x Shallots chopped (including green stems)

1 x Yellow pepper chopped

1/3 Almost ready garlic bulb

4 Young broad bean pods chopped/1 x beetroot grated

2 Large spinach leaves chopped

Bunch of oregano, parsley & basil

Handful of chive flowers

2 White radishes

Knob of butter and a generous splash of olive oil

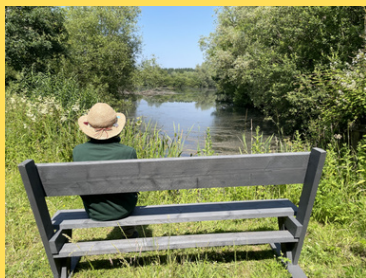
Method:

Fry the shallots in butter and half the olive oil, add the pepper and garlic until softened. Then put the tomatoes in with a splash of water, add the broad beans and bring to the boil. Add the spinach and herbs. Leave to simmer for 15 minutes add the seasoning and the remaining oil. Garnish with radishes and chive flowers sprinkles.



THANK YOU to Lakeside Volunteers

2 Beautiful benches



Loads of weeding



Painting the hen house



Breaking up pallets for students to recycle



Student Photos



Contact us

Dean Sherwin

deans@wiltshirewildlife.org

07887 758380



Social Farms & Gardens



Meeting the
core farming
Code of Practice

Follow us

www.facebook.com/WiltsWild

www.instagram.com/wiltswildlife



Photo credits: Lisa Hume, Sue Graham, Ruth Rich, Georgia Robins