

November 2025- Volume 17

www.wiltshirewildlife.org/learning/care-farms

What's New!



Lakeside

We are delighted to welcome two new weekly volunteers who are helping with site maintenance, gardening and crafts. Thanks also to staff from Hercules who are coming twice in November. They have already moved some flower beds to open up space by the lake.

During the holiday the leaky Spy Shed has been repurposed as a tool store in Polytunnel 2 and replaced with a new building. Whether it will also have a new name is up for debate amongst staff and students.

The old tool store will, in time, be an extra indoor space.

Creation of a wildflower meadow has begun. Ground clearance and preparation was really hard work, but the seeds are now in the ground. Native bulbs are being planted too and we look forward to a beautiful addition to the site next year.

The old turf hasn't been wasted. Instead it is being used to create a natural balance beam/seating area.

And finally - students have been busy making Christmas crafts to sell on the fund raising table!

The Willows

Over the summer holidays we have been busy making improvements to the farm. The pigs have a new paddock to give them some extra space. Plus we also have a new shelter over the mud kitchen, so no matter rain or shine the students can continue to engage in sensory and imaginative play.

Since the start of term students have returned to their plots, where the vegetables planted earlier in the year have begun to thrive, we have had some huge courgettes and pumpkins and plenty of tomatoes and chard to name but a few. Our apple trees have really started to fruit this year too, the students have been foraging for ingredients and there is quite often a lovely smell of apple and blackberry pie or crumble coming from the kitchen.

Some of the students have been trying their hand at volleyball and cricket. Tim, one of our volunteers who is a keen cricketer has been sharing his knowledge and skills with the students.



100 Oak Trees Project



A team of volunteers from Wessex Water joined us for the day in the summer holidays and constructed two benches to accompany the tepees they built in the May half term. This term the students have enjoyed using them to play board games and have positive interactions with each other and as somewhere to enjoy a snack and a break.

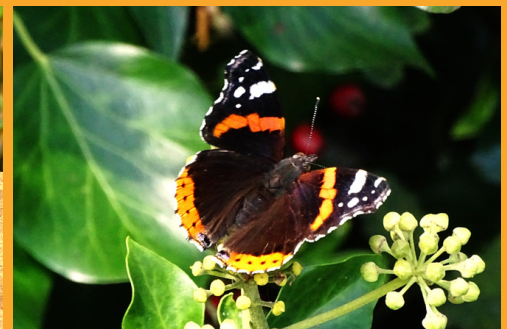
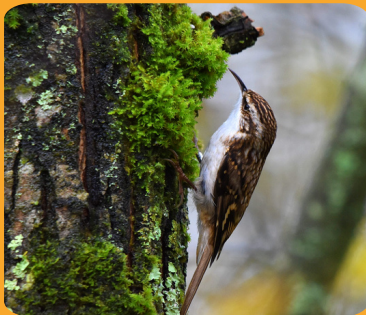
Lakeside staff and students are working together on a project to benefit Wiltshire Wildlife Trust reserves and projects in the future. They have been collecting acorns whilst walking around the Lower Moor reserve and planting them in containers in one of the polytunnels. The seedlings will be cared for and potted on as needed. Eventually, when they are big enough to cope, these young trees will be available to any of the Trust teams to be planted out where they can become a valuable addition to various projects and be enjoyed by wildlife and humans for several centuries to come.

The Willows now has a new tranquil indoor space in the woods overlooking the pond, where students can spend time to boost their wellbeing and connect with nature.

This, yet to be named space, will in time have seating and a table for wildlife engagement activities and nature identity boards including information on pond life which will come in handy when pond dipping.



Nature photography by our students



Contact us

Dean Sherwin

deans@wiltshirewildlife.org

07887 758380



Follow us

www.facebook.com/WiltsWild
www.instagram.com/wiltswildlife

