



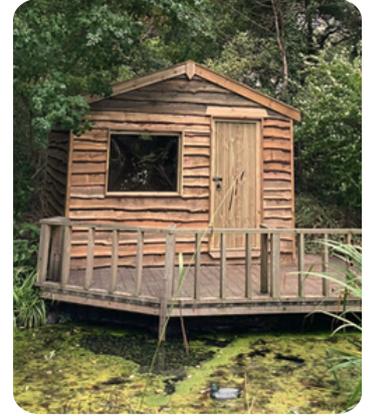
# The Care Farms' Newsletter!



**Wiltshire**  
Wildlife Trust

[www.wiltshirewildlife.org/learning/care-farms](http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/learning/care-farms)  
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## What's New!



### Lakeside

Wet weather and mud seem to have been a permanent fixture since Christmas, so wellies and even waders have been in regular use for jobs around our site. After two big willow trees were pollarded, students have been upgrading seating areas with logs, topping up footpaths with woodchip, and processing willow branches to make new boundaries to the fire circles.

Staff and students have worked together to set up our new hot composting system, which allows us to recycle all the waste from our animals and garden beds into fantastic compost to be reused on site. Students are collecting spent coffee grounds from Dragonfly Cafe to be composted too and everyone is very proud of the environmentally friendly and cost saving result.

Care of the environment has been taken a step further by one of our students who has worked with their keyworker to create a drum kit out of scrap. Music making is regularly enjoyed at Lakeside, and the drum kit has been an amazing addition.

### The Willows

The new indoor space in the woods has been named 'The Cabin' and has already proved to be a popular quiet space for students to take time to decompress or to do some bird watching and also for sharing positive peer interactions. With spring approaching the newts are making their way back to the pond and the students have been enjoying pond dipping activities.

This term numerous Christmas tree tops have been used to make some fantastic whisks - this has been a mindful craft activity for our students in the wet weather .

Some of the students have been busy willow weaving, with a great new shelter having been made around one of our benches and a shade created for one of the pig paddocks. It won't be long before the willow leaves fill out the structures and provide much needed shade for the summer months.





This term two of our students have demonstrated some of the amazing skills that they have been learning elsewhere.

Staff were entranced by the concentration, dexterity and attention to detail required in the demonstration of tying the beautiful fishing fly.

The coat hook was the first item made in a blacksmithing class. Our student explained that it requires several of the basic skills in one piece of work and that, having completed this initial piece, they then went on to design and create the much more intricate ring.



Some Lakeside students have been discovering what working for Wiltshire Wildlife Trust can involve.

They joined the Estates Team widening rides on one of our reserves and the Dragonfly Cafe team setting up the cafe for opening.



## Thank you Volunteers



We want to say a huge thank you to our team of volunteers (Alison, Tim and Phil), who come to The Willows every week. They have had all extremes of weather thrown at them over the last couple of months but that hasn't deterred them.

They have planted numerous seeds for spring, sowed some wildflower seeds and planted daffodil bulbs, which are already thriving.

They have also been busy with general maintenance such as fencing, laying woodchip and gravel paths, weeding, dead hedging, and bramble clearance.



## Nature photography by our students



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