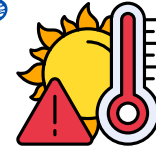




The Care Farms' Newsletter!



**Wiltshire
Wildlife Trust**

2025-2026 Finale

www.wiltshirewildlife.org/learning/care-farms

July 2026- Volume 19



Lakeside

What a roller coaster of weather our staff and students have dealt with this term! A brief warm spell early on, which had everyone planting seeds and watering madly, then everything turned cold and wet again. Nature around us went quiet, with fewer insects, no frogspawn around Newt Island and our poor bees struggling to find food.

Then summer arrived almost overnight, (along with happy insects), everything began growing well again and beautiful Lakeside was baking but silent, without students and most staff, in the June heatwave.

Upcycling continued, and one member of staff, together with students, created a wonderful sensory play water wall at virtually zero cost, whilst improvement of the composting area is ongoing. And finally, a huge thank you to Phoebe who came for work experience and liked it so much she kept coming and working hard all term.

The Willows

This term new signage has been appearing in various locations around the farm, carefully designed and created by our students. These bright designs have proved beneficial to our new students who are getting their bearings.

Students have put their woodworking skills to good use creating trellises and protective structures for their young crops on their vegetable plots - this has helped deliver a great harvest.

We also have numerous giant onions and garlic.

One student ran a 'guess the weight of onion' competition, and some staff and students were pretty close!

A special thanks goes to staff member Olivia who has been passing on her knowledge and skills to other staff to help them obtain their own pond dipping licences. Now with more trained staff students have been able to engage in pond dipping and learn more about our rich pond life.





Dudley

Staff member Gorgia's small dog has made a huge impression on lots of our students. They have made toys and feeding stations, baked treats, gone for walks and played endless games.

Festival Area



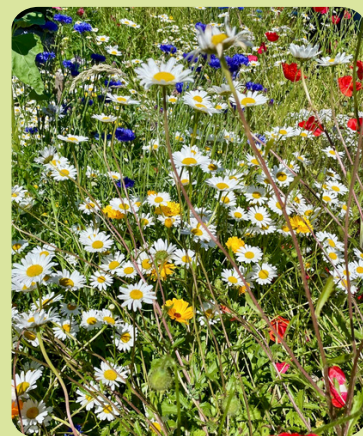
A new area has been created in the field at Lakeside. Originally the idea of one member of staff, many hands have been involved in what has been achieved

so far, and new ideas are still being included. A sunflower pathway has just been planted and we are looking forward to seeing it grow.



A big thank you

Once a week students from Fairfield College have been coming to spend some time at The Willows. They have done some vital maintenance up at The Whispering Woods and looked after the pollinator beds in our car park. They have also worked hard planting and maintaining the vegetable plot for our three pigs, who now have some lovely fresh veg to enjoy every day.



Our rescue hens



During the Easter holidays, 6 new hens arrived at Lakeside. They had spent the first year of their lives on an intensive egg farm so had very few feathers and were frightened.

The magic of Lakeside students and staff, plus beautiful new feathers, have transformed them. They now join in with everyone and lay lots of eggs for students to cook with.



New team member

Mack, staff member Elly's dog has joined the team. He has gradually been spending some time at The Willows and meeting some of our students.



Students' Woodwork



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