



October 2024 - Volume 14

www.wiltshirewildlife.org/learning/care-farms

Soggy Start to September!



The staff and students have been dodging the raindrops for the first few weeks of term. That's not stopped them from getting straight back out with their favourite activities.



What's New!

Lakeside

Over the summer holidays, a new outdoor rabbit enclosure has been built and we have welcomed 4 rescue bunnies. Staff and students have been busy enriching their lives by creating digging boxes, platforms, tables and tunnels.

Our chickens also have an updated outdoor area and the girls are always busy scratching around the site, especially in any newly dug raised beds.

Students have been harvesting from their garden plots and many have been busy cooking. Tomatoes, apples & blackberries are readily available and the pumpkin harvest later this month will be wonderful. Just in time for Halloween!

A student has upcycled a broken bench to create a seat to watch the pigs from.

And finally thanks to Terri for entering lots of bee related items into the Kennet Bee Keepers' honey show and for winning lots of prizes.

The Willows

After the wet winter last year, work to make the Pig Pen more accessible has been completed. 'Animal Friends' funded some temporary fencing in order for us to rehouse the pigs while the work was carried out. The pigs now have two separate pens that can be rotated throughout the year and an area of hard standing, so no matter the weather students and staff can spend time feeding and grooming the pigs and not be knee deep in mud!

The Willows apiary is going from strength to strength and now boasts 2 healthy colonies of honey bees! Many of our students have visited the apiary for their first bee keeping experience and are excited to learn more.

Elsewhere on the farm work has started to redevelop the sensory garden for the students to enjoy. We will keep you updated on its progress.



Down on the Farm...

This Autumn we catch up with Ethan
from The Willows



What do you enjoy about the Care Farm?

"Pigs and pumpkins"

If there is anything you need to know about pumpkins Ethan is the person to go to! He has grown lots of different types from smaller varieties for eating to large ones great for carving. He also loves to spend time with the pigs and at the fire circle.

How does it make you feel coming to the farm?

"Happy"

What new skills have you been learning?

"Bees"

Ethan has started to learn about beekeeping, going over with staff to feed and check on them.

Autumn recipe to try at home

Tomato Soup (Serves 4)

1-1.25 kg ripe tomatoes

1 medium onion

1 small carrot

1 celery stick

2 tablespoons olive oil

2 squirts of tomato puree

1.2 litres of hot vegetable stock (2 stock cubes)

Fry up the chopped carrots, onions and celery until soft

Quarter the tomatoes and add to the pan

Stew over a low heat for 10 minutes

Add the puree and vegetable stock

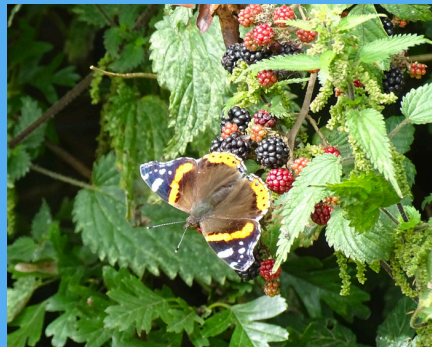
Stir together and simmer for 10 minutes

Take off the heat and blend

Be careful of the steam!

Our students have been making this soup with vegetables from their plots - delicious!

Nature photography by our students



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