

Bulletin 1 – 2019/20

This is the first bulletin of the **Edible Garden** at St. Mary's for the academic year of 2019-2020. There has been a long gap in writing one for which I apologise. My main excuse is that Sam and I are building a house in Bridport and that we have a new granddaughter and another one on the way!

Changing scene on raising funds

Home in Bridport and Transition Town Bridport apply for money every year to continue to run the Edible Garden and the part time employment of Tia and Mitch in the school. This has been difficult recently where the usual fund providers have been far more stretched. We have only been partially successful in raising the money, but we are very grateful for Dorset Council's Micro grant, Kitson & Trotman and Dorset AONB.

However, we have a brilliant project theme this year of **Growing an orchard and hedge**, increasing trees and shrubs in the grounds. This has the triple aim of tackling climate change, enhancing bio-diversity and creating wild foraging areas for food.

Furthermore, there are plans from the Eco club and School Council to hold a sponsored litter pick to raise funds.

Edible Garden (EG) Team meeting

We have held a productive and stimulating meeting with Tia, Mitch, Emily and myself. Emily is a new regular Wednesday volunteer and a parent with two boys in the school. We confirmed that on the **25th March 3.15 and 26th March 3.15** we would have a **Community Planting event**. Soon we would like to produce a flyer to share to the community on social media and in the form of a printed flyer, for the families. There are Bridport Garden and Orchard groups that have public Facebook pages too. We are member of the Bridport Gardening Club too. And there are local newspapers too. We felt we could really promote this and have as many people as were interested, as long as it was well organized and there were lots of volunteers

Action Minutes (For discussion)

- On both occasions to provide hot/cold drinks and some homemade cake. Erect a gazebo to give cover in case of bad weather (Sam). Ask the PTA to help - Annie Foote? Amanda/Mel too?
- To receive the community young and old to help plant the wild berries and nut hedge (free from Woodland Trust) and the Orchard of 30 fruit trees (presently Tia is ordering them at a cost of £250 approx) and the protection with cardboard guards.
- To prepare the visitors properly that they should bring their own spade/fork and wear boots. And to give them clear instructions on how to lever a slip, planting, mulch and add a guard. Ideal for a family to do together.
- On the second day (26th/4) to plant the orchard which needs more experienced people as these are bigger, valuable trees with just a root ball
- We like the idea of having a wish/prayer to bless each tree and to tie this in with a sponsored engraved sign to give name of family and name of species on each tree (Ask Footeprints?)
- It would be perfect if there were some children's drawings/words on the flyer and also that there are lots of activities about trees beforehand. Woodland Trust have a link to planning activities; it can be found at <http://treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/?id=0>

- There is a need for a quantity of mulch which the team will try to get free from Forest and Treecare, as well as spent hops from the brewery
- A Future Sponsors list needs compiling (Sarah) and a special invite to them to come and see in March
- We would like a professional photographer(Robert) to capture these occasions and share

Future Events during the growing season

The EG team would like to be part of the **Bridport Food Festival** again this year. The main event is at Askers Meadows on 20th June. Traditionally the school has held a Open day on the Friday 19th June

We felt this should be linked to growing trees this year. First thoughts are:

- Join with the Forest Schools programme
- Use the cleared woodland area for activities – crafts and play
- Invite a falcon display to perform(costs?)
- Invite The Word Forest Organisation charity (raise money for ‘mothers of the forest’ Africa)
- Food cooked on fire, baked in cob oven
- Forest fruits and flowers recipes

We would love any more ideas and names of people to contact

Other ideas/actions

Visit to the Dorset Wildlife Trust, Kingcombe

Wassailing in the Autumn

Research the boggy ground area and find a natural solution for a new habitat

Check progress from the Borough Surveyor re the making of the Tree House.

PLEASE RESPOND WITH QUESTIONS OR THOUGHTS

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