

Inconsistent weather patterns.....

Yet again, the weather provides the talking point as the end of June provided a real mix of weather with some warm, cloudy days providing low light levels, then we had rainy periods, so, all in all the weather has been very mixed.....

When the sun does shine it has some warmth to it but is too infrequent.....

The ideal combination is plenty of wet weather and then warm sunshine but, really, we have had neither, so as a consequence it appears as though everything is a long way behind apart from the grass and the weeds!

Salad Leaves are colourful.....

Monday July 5th 2021.....



Here you can see some of the salad leaves that are growing in the poly tunnel – amaranth red and rocket are providing some tasty looking and very colourful leaves.....

**Amaranth Red
&
Rocket**

Poppies are stunning.....

Some of the poppies we have growing in and around The Bridge Garden area are simply stunning including the one's photographed below.....

We will definitely try to save the seed from these poppies – they are stunning!



Poppies look stunning.....

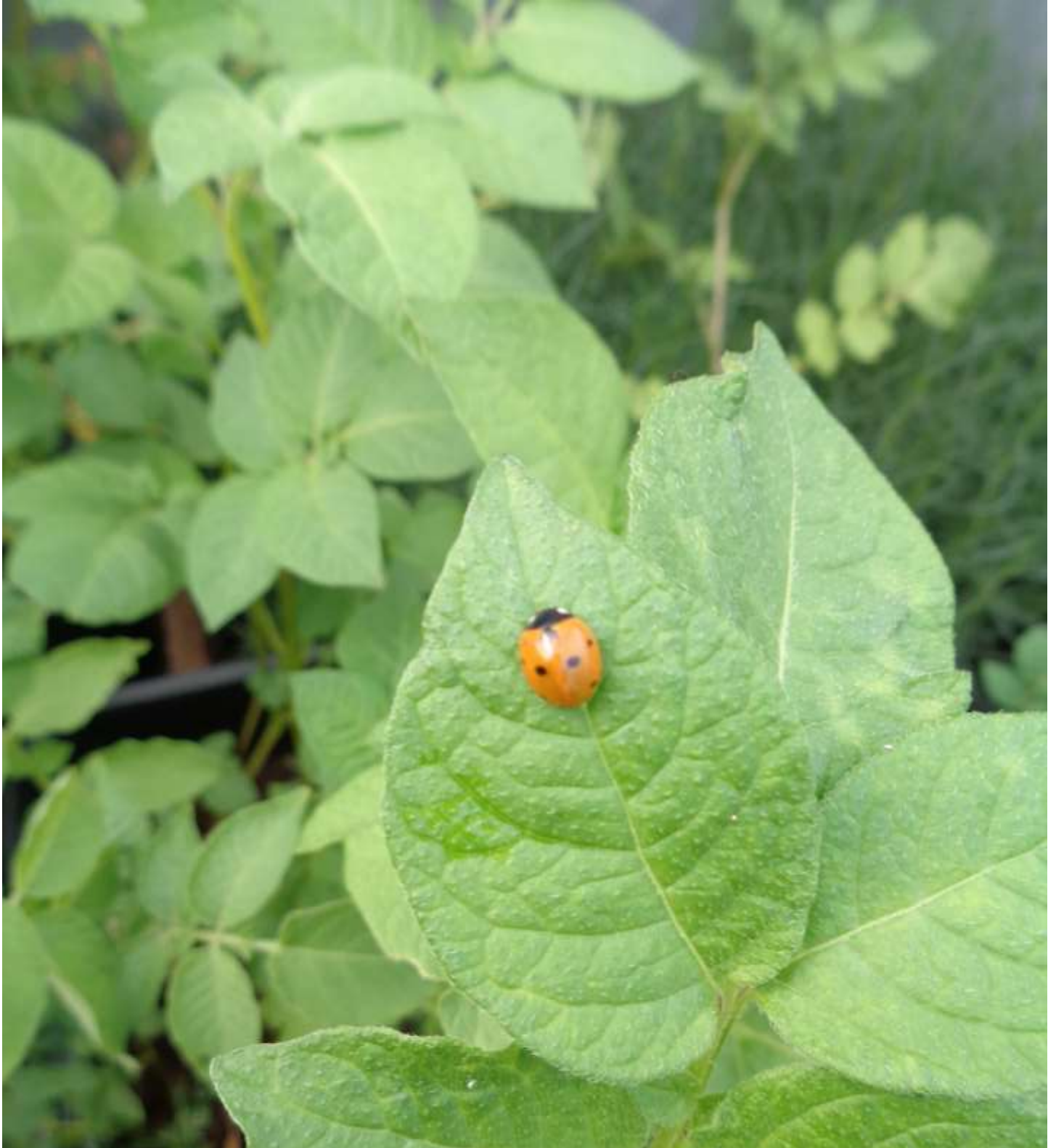
It always amazes me when I see poppies flowering at this time of the year, what really amazes me is the fact that a tiny poppy seed which is almost like a speck of dust is able to not only produce a plant but more importantly a flower that has so much detail within the actual flower structure and the delicate nature of the actual flower petals themselves. Also, the very nature of how poppy seed disperses so that we often as you can see from the school site now find poppies, excuse the pun are popping up all over the place.....



Ladybirds are most welcome visitors.....

Ladybirds are always welcome in any garden space for the almost unsung nature of the job that they do for farmers, growers and gardeners alike.

Their carnivorous nature sees them in their short one – or - two - year life span being able to devour 5,000 aphids, black fly and green fly which are basically little bugs that suck the life out of plant stems rendering them dead eventually....



Ladybirds always welcome

Tomato plants are making lots of growth.....

Our tomato plants that are growing in the poly tunnel are making lots of really strong growth, growth that as you can see from the photograph has seen some of these plants having to be tied up and supported at the top of the poly tunnel framework. What we need now is some more consistent sunshine which will then start to ripen the green fruits that we have on our tomato plants.....



Fennel is looking good.....

Friday July 9th 2021.....

Our Italian fennel plants are making some strong growth again, they are looking healthy plus the flowers will produce some seed making fennel a plant that has many uses. Below you can see some of these plants.....



Bees are enjoying our poppies.....

With the poppies that are flowering all around The Bridge Garden area there is so much pollen for the bees to enjoy. Below you can see what we mean.....



Onions are looking great.....

Our crop of onions are looking great – it seems like the weather conditions during this growing season have been almost perfect for the onions with some nice big onions almost ready to be harvested. You cannot beat the fresh smell of onions that have just been dug out of the ground.....



Peas are looking good.....

The peas that were sown by the Gateway Girls gardeners are looking great.....

Fresh peas straight off the plant – no chemicals, no plastic and there are definitely NO Air Miles here. Below you can see some of the peas.....



Rocket seedlings have germinated fast!.....

Monday July 12th 2021.....

Below you can see some Rocket seedlings that were sown last week inside the protection of the poly tunnel – as you can see, they have germinated very quickly, indeed within a week. So, if we keep sowing weekly or every two - weeks we can get a crop of tasty salad leaves to enjoy throughout the summer months.....



Cucumbers are producing lots of flowers too.....

Our cucumber plants growing inside the poly tunnel are making lots of growth and producing plenty of flowers too, we want plenty of female flowers so that they will carry the fruit – the cucumbers. Below you can see a tiny cucumber that has formed just behind the female flower.....

Lots of water and sunshine is needed now.....



Evening Primrose Plants are in full flower.....

We have a big bank of Evening Primrose plants that are growing on the approach pathway to The Bridge Garden – this is a herb that has many medicinal benefits that come from the oil that is contained in the seeds.....



Outdoor tomatoes have fruit.....

Tomatoes – fruit or vegetable?

This is a question that is often asked and it draws plenty of debate.

Scientifically speaking, tomatoes are fruits, vegetables on the other hand have a slightly different definition, a vegetable must be part of a plant or the whole part of a plant itself while fruits are just the means by which certain plants spread their seeds – either way, you cannot beat a freshly picked home grown tomato....

Below you can see some of our outdoor tomatoes.....



Dwarf French Beans in flower.....

Friday July 16th 2021.....

Here you can see our Dwarf French Beans that are flowering with both white and purple flowers – these are two different varieties, the white flowers produce regular green bean pods and the purple flowers produce purple pods.....



Lupin seeds being saved.....

Natural seed dispersal is a natural phenomenon in how plants are able to reproduce simply by their seeds being dispersed by a number of different ways depending on the natural growing habitat of each particular plant.....

Actually, physically saving seeds is another really savvy way to garden, basically this is a free way to sow your seeds for the next year. Below you can see the lupin seeds that are drying naturally on the plant – we need to harvest them soon before they dry out too much and disperse naturally.....



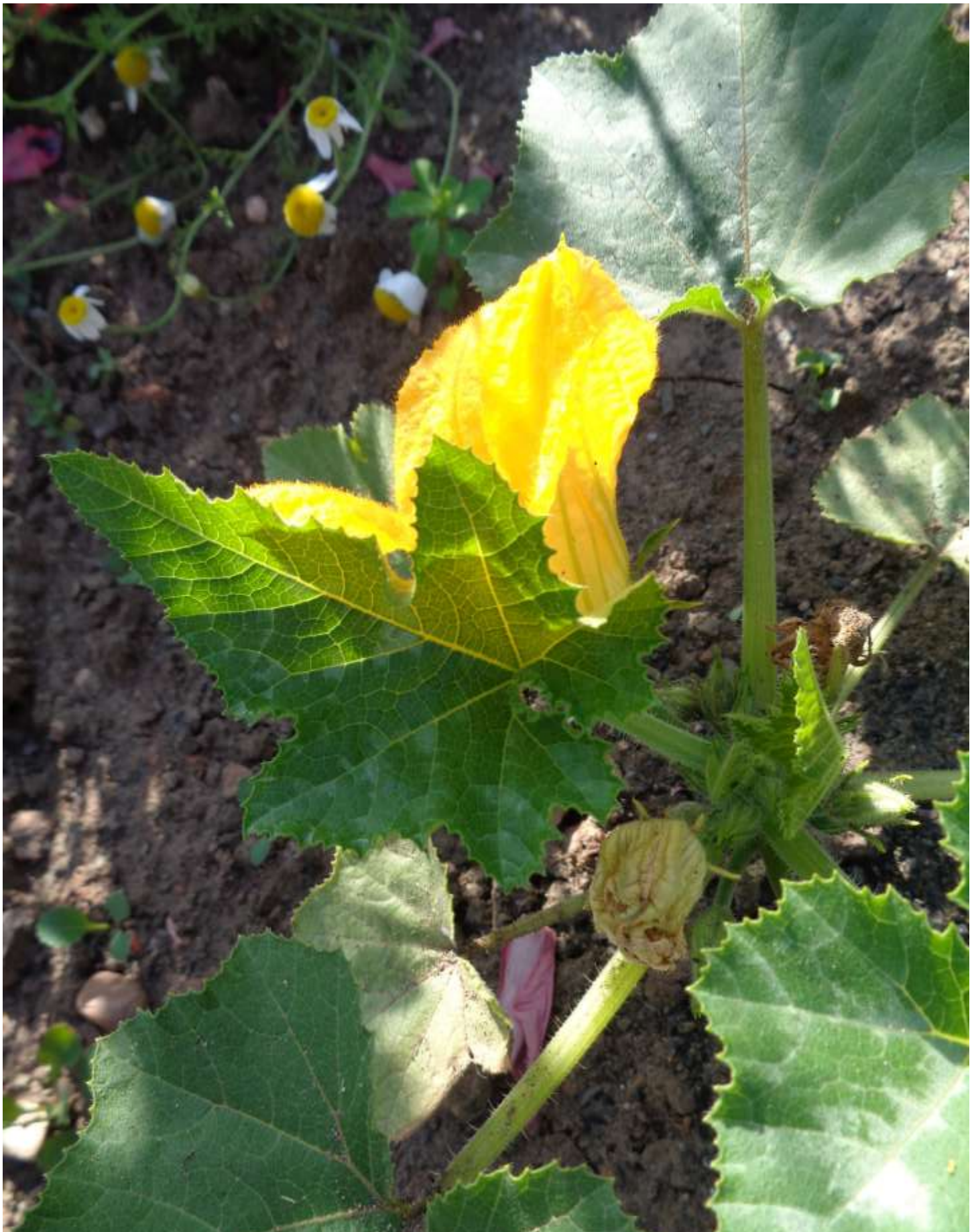
Golden Rod is looking great.....

Our Golden Rod has not only grown and provided plenty of cover but it is also providing plenty of colour too – yellow flowers that the bees really enjoy.....



Courgettes starting to flower.....

Our courgettes are just starting to flower – cucurbits, basically courgettes, pumpkins, squash and cucumbers all produce both male and female flowers, male flowers usually come first followed by the female flowers that carry the fruit that form just behind the flower.....



Solitary Bee Nester has visitors.....

Here you can see one of our solitary bee nesters in The Bridge Garden which we can tell has had two different types of solitary bees use it – the chambers where the female bees have laid their eggs have been sealed in two different ways. Leafcutter Bees seal the chamber with leaves and Red Mason Bees seal the chamber with mud. So, if you look closely at the nester, you can see that two different types of bees have used the bee nester – fascinating and clever too.....



Onions harvested.....

Monday July 19th 2021.....



Red Onions too.....



and Garlic as well.....



Purple Cascade beans have stunning flowers.....

Monday July 26th 2021.....



This variety of Climbing French beans are producing plenty of growth and also they are producing some stunning flowers too.....

Hopefully with the rain we have had at the end of July plus some more sunshine this will give us a big crop of beans to harvest very soon.....

**Climbing
French
Beans....**

Subway continue to support our schools growing work



Schools growing work

More Fyffes Growing Boxes to be set up.....



Asparagus bed is growing well.....



Runner Beans.....



Pumpkins are making some growth.....



Our pumpkin patch is an area that we have spent the past twelve months preparing with lots of compost added plus plenty of vegetation and a liberal helping of
REMIN ROCKDUST.....



The Bridge Garden