

Summer
2023



Carbon Capture Gardening

Echo Eternal Curriculum Garden

This was the opening statement from the Summer Newsletter 2022.....

Summer has been hard work! [Summer 2022]

Without a doubt, this summer has been extremely difficult for a number of reasons not least the extremely hot temperatures and the total lack of rainfall.....

Contrast this statement to the Summer of 2023.....

So far, June 2023 was recorded as being the hottest on record since 1884!

What can we say about July so far is that it has been anything but hot!

Indeed, we have had some significant rainfall for the month of July coupled with some warm sunshine, plenty of crops are really enjoying these kinds of growing conditions. Read on to see some of the summer growth.....

Subway continue to support our schools growing work



Schools growing work

Orange Mint looks and smells sensational.....

So much lush green growth and the aroma is amazing!



Eryngium [Sea Holly] is an absolute bee magnet..

Our Echo Eternal Curriculum Garden has so much planting that provides the perfect habitat for the bees providing rich resources of pollen and nectar. Coupled with the fact that there are absolutely NO PESTICIDES or CHEMICALS used anywhere in the garden area, it is a safe place where the bees can feed and in turn pollinate our crops. A perfect relationship.....



More Bee Activity on our Sea Holly.....

There is so much bee activity in our allotment – garden area.....



Banana plants produce some stunning leaves.....

Banana plants produce some stunning leaves as they unfurl up from the middle of the plant – wrapped tight, given plenty of water and sunshine the produce some amazing colours from the leaves.....



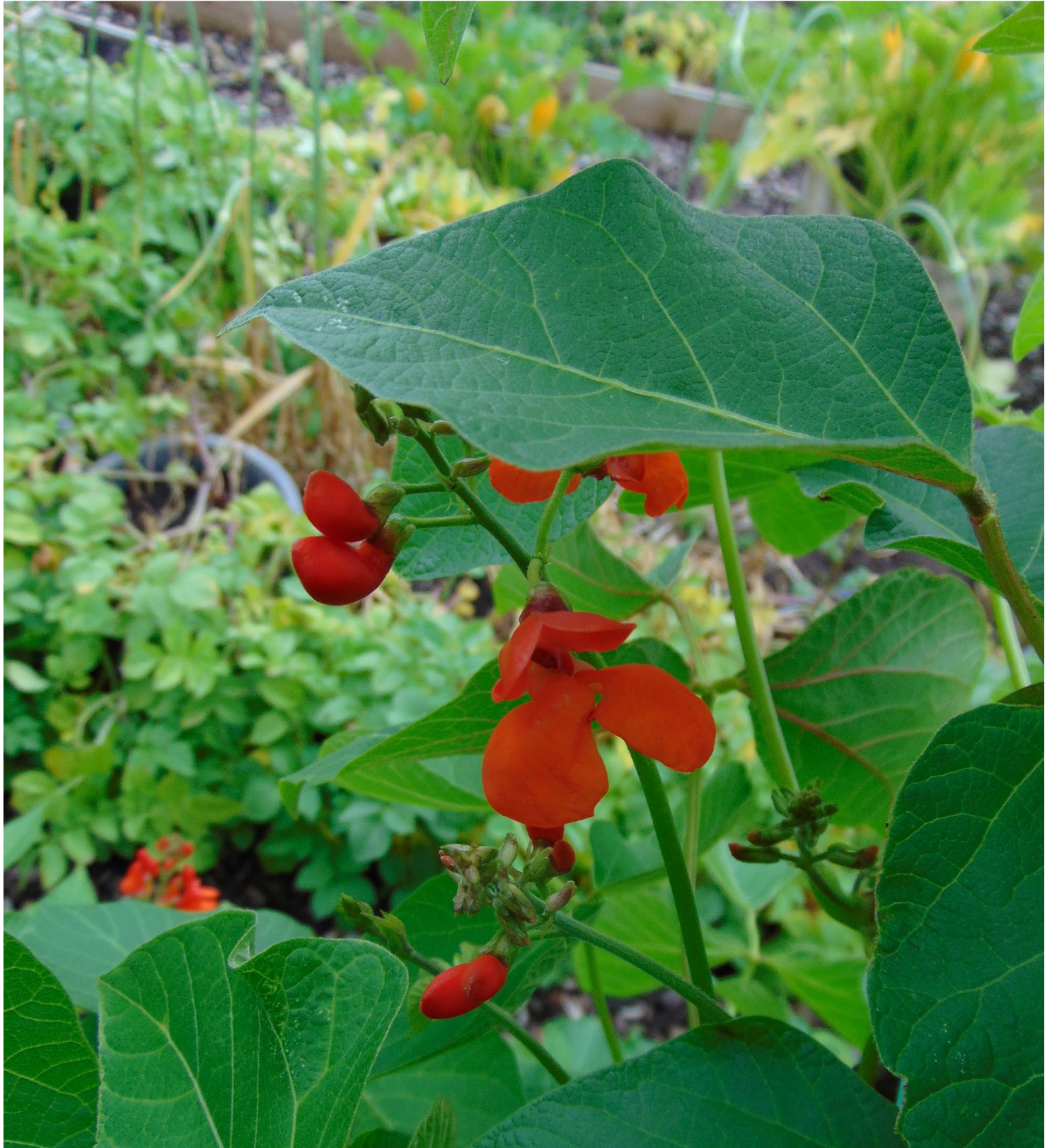
Another different banana plant variety.....

This variety is called Musa Basjoo – the leaves are so lush.....



Summer is a busy time in the garden.....

Despite the very unpredictable summer weather we have experienced so far through, June and July there are still plenty of crops growing, some perhaps not as advanced as they should be, but nature has a way of catching up, not unlike last summer when we had the extreme heat at the start of the summer which slowed down lots of crops, and then the second half of the summer almost into early Autumn crops produced almost a second wave of growth and production. Below you can see our runner beans that have produced lots of flowers but as yet no beans.....



Hestia Runner Beans.....



Here you can see another variety of Runner Beans that we are growing.....

This variety is pot grown and is called Hestia.....

They produce plenty of Runner Beans off dwarf plants, usually a heavy cropper too, given plenty of water and sunshine.....

Here you can just see the small beans are starting to form, so hopefully we will be able to harvest some fresh, tasty beans very soon indeed.....

Nature at work.....



The big growing bed that is planted with Lavender in the garden has been in flower for a few weeks now proving to be an absolute haven for many different types of pollinators including bees and butterflies.....

Pollinators are essential to the balance of nature and the eco-system.....

Without the pollinators, there are many fruits and vegetables that we would not be able to enjoy so we need to create a pollinator friendly environment.....

Lots of runner beans are ready to harvest.....



Poly tunnel tomato crop has been huge.....

We have had a huge crop of tomatoes in the poly tunnel, despite the up and down weather, all of the different varieties that we have grown have cropped very heavily. The different varieties as you can see are not only different shapes and sizes but also they have provided a rich array of colours too – trust me, home grown tomatoes straight off the vine have a marvellous taste too.....



Verbena Bonariensis are so pollinator friendly.....

We are always striving to provide lots of pollinator friendly plants and flowers in our allotment – garden areas. One such plant is highlighted here, verbena bonariensis is growing all over our allotment area, a plant that will grow in most conditions, indeed it will readily self – seed into cracks in tarmac and concrete, almost anywhere. It stands tall in the wind and it will flower endlessly through all conditions.....



Our pollinators are so important in our allotment and garden areas.....

They are absolutely crucial to our food production.....

At least a third of our food relies on the pollinators to produce this food.....

Rainbow Chard and Beet Leaf.....

Here you can see a bed of Rainbow Chard and Beet Leaf that has produced some really vibrant leaf – the colours are so vivid. They taste good too.....



Fennel is standing tall.....

Fennel is a beautiful striking herb that is standing tall with some beautiful flowers, fennel flowers have plenty of medicinal properties.....

Likewise fennel seeds have many, many different properties too.....



Calendula is so bright and colourful.....

Yet another herb that grows readily in our allotment – garden and another herb that has many culinary and medicinal properties.....

Calendula readily self - seeds, indeed it is relatively easy to grow too.....



More developments to come.....

Pond / Marginal area developments.....

Rockery / Alpine area developments.....

More Raised Beds being built.....

A greater commitment to NO DIG Growing.....

A Green Herb Wall will be built.....

A Fruit Tree Orchard will be planted up.....

School Frontage Development.....

