

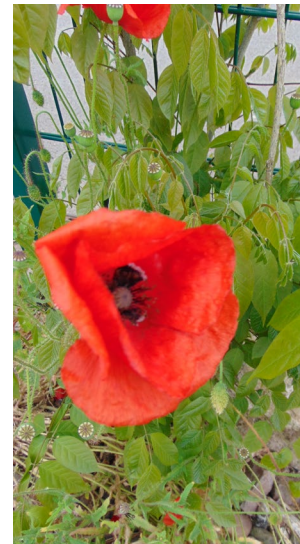
## Echo Eternal Curriculum Garden...

### New Garden Developments.....

Over the last few months there have been plenty of new developments in the Echo Eternal Curriculum Garden. We have planted a fruit tree orchard that has been funded by Smart Learner Driving School, likewise we have planted 20 Blackcurrant Fruit Bushes, again funded by Smart Learner.....

Also, we have developed and planted up two big herb gardens with a wide selection of both Culinary and Medicinal Herbs. Another development is a tropical garden has been dug out and is being planted up – some of the tropical planting is winter hardy but some of the plants will need protection during the colder weather. The last new area that we have been working on is to develop a garden area to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D – Day Landings. This garden will be featured in this Newsletter.....

### D – Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Landing Garden Area.....



D – Day Landing Flag

Union Jack Flags

Landing Craft on beach

Red Poppies

**A stunning piece of art work produced by Mr Sayed.....**



**So, so important that we recognise and respect all of the military personnel and the sacrifices that these people made – without their efforts and bravery, we have no idea how the war would have ended up. Never underestimate the organisation, desire and courage displayed by these people..**

# More D – Day Landing Garden Images.....



**Bunker.....**

**Red Field Poppies...**

**Red, White & Blue Themed Planting.....**

## **Hardly tropical weather but planting has begun.....**

**Another new garden area that we have been developing is to plant up a tropical garden space – despite our summer weather proving to be more autumnal than tropical, we have some planting in place although some of the tropical plants that we want to put out in this area have been kept inside the protective environment of the poly tunnel. As well as the cool temperatures, we have also experienced lots of windy conditions which are far from ideal for the banana plants that we have potted up - windy conditions just rip the leaves of banana plants. We also have some other tropical plants called**

**Here you can see our Canna Mango that really has a stunning flower.....**



# Banana plants are ready to go outside.....

Hopefully we will get some sort of summer weather in the next few weeks, hopefully months, indeed the Summer Solstice is Thursday June 20<sup>th</sup>.....

We have two potted banana plants that are ready to go outside, we have been reluctant to move these pots outside simply because of the cool temperatures and the windy conditions that will rip the banana leaves.....



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Banana plants have stunning markings that you can see in these photographs.....

## Question Time.....

Is a banana plant the world's largest herb? **Yes / No**

# Potatoes are making some strong healthy growth....



Here you can see that we have been chitting our seed potatoes..... Basically, this means that we are encouraging our seed potatoes to start to grow some strong healthy growing shoots before we plant them straight into the ground or into our buckets of compost.....



Now that our seed potatoes are ready to plant out, we have put a layer of compost on the bottom of the bucket. Next, we need to place our seed potatoes into the compost making sure that the growing shoots are facing up. Give them some growing space before covering them over with more compost.....



Now that our seed potatoes are planted in the buckets of compost, they are covered over, what needs to happen is that as soon as the potatoes produce some growing shoots, these shoots need to be covered over – this process needs to continue until the potatoes reach the top of the bucket.....

Here you can see plenty of strong healthy green growing shoots that have produced some strong potato plants.....

Plenty of water is required now and then once the potato plants produce some flowers, then usually a couple of weeks after flowering, the potatoes will be ready to harvest.....

**Potatoes are making lots of growth.....**

**Lots of potatoes planted all over the allotment.....**

**Planted direct into the ground and into buckets.....**

**Now that the potato plants are making lots of strong growth, this is the time that the plants need lots of water to help to swell the potatoes that are growing under the ground.....**



## **Onions and Garlic harvested.....**

Here you can see some of the onions and garlic that we have harvested.....

You can see that both the onions and the garlic are all relatively small, grown in a different way to our normal practice which has not worked looking at the harvest below.....

Also, the very wet weather all through the autumn, winter and indeed into spring might have had a bearing on the size of the harvest.....

Plus we also grew a different variety to what we have grown in recent years....

You live and learn - next time we will revert to our normal practice.....



## **Runner Beans are making strong growth.....**



Here you can see the two stages of growth from our runner beans – this variety is a dwarf variety that produces some stunning flowers just like the climbing varieties.....

We have four different pots and growing boxes filled with these beans which are called Hestia. Just like our potatoes, they will require plenty of water especially once they produce flowers.....

# Tomatoes are growing fast.....

Given the protection of the poly tunnel, the tomatoes that we have growing inside the school poly tunnel are starting to make plenty of growth and are producing plenty of green shoots along with plenty of flowers.....

Ideally, once your tomato plants are established, you need to remove all of the side shoots and any growth that is not carrying flowers or fruit, so that then all the energy in the plant goes into producing fruit and then ultimately ripening the fruit. Essentially once the plant has reached its highest growing point, you will almost end up with a long, bare stem with lots of fruit.....



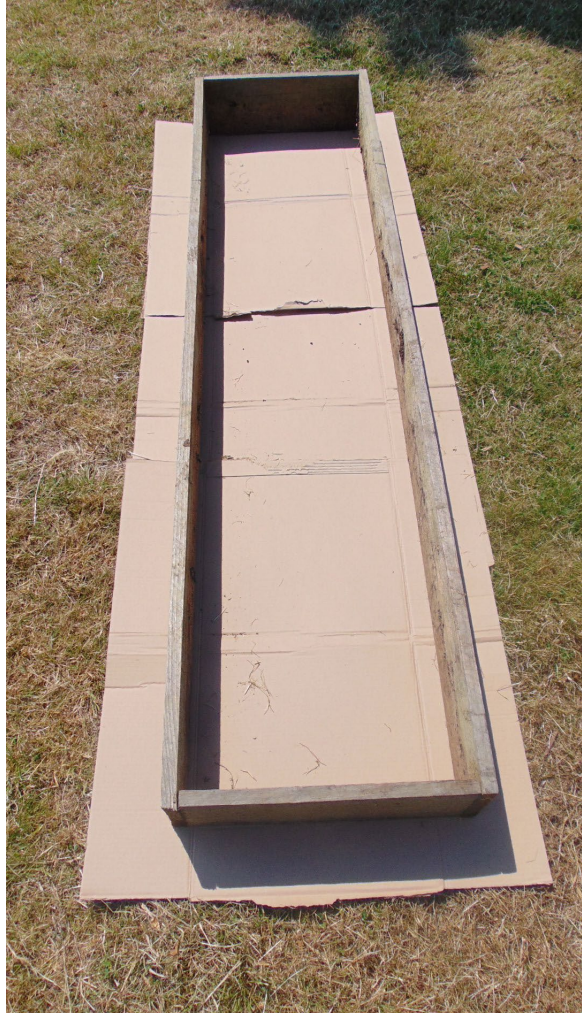
Here you can see a couple of the different varieties of tomatoes that we are growing plus another variety that has plenty of flowers as you can see here.....



# Home grown tomatoes.....

# Another new planned garden development.....

This is not strictly a new garden development but more so a re-vamp of some areas of the garden. We have been trying to build a pond area as an important part of the garden area but the site where we have dug the pond out has flooded consistently over the two winters since the pond was dug out. This flooding has prevented us from getting the pond liner in place. So, we are going to fill in the pond area and then look to build a raised bed pond in another area of the garden.....



These growing boxes have been moved from the pond area that floods, now they have been set up in another area of the garden.....

You will see that the growing boxes have all been lined with cardboard, this will be soaked and then covered with compost so that we are not disturbing the soil structure alongside creating a NO DIG growing bed.....

## NO DIG GROWING

## **Cucumbers are looking great.....**

**Just as the tomatoes that we have growing in the poly tunnel, we also have lots of cucumber plants growing too, these plants are just like our tomato plants, established and starting to make lots of growth plus there are lots of tiny cucumbers forming too.....**

**Cucumber plants produce both male and female flowers with the female flowers bearing the fruit. In this photograph you can see the tiny cucumbers that are forming – lots of fresh, juicy cucumbers should be ready soon.....**



## **Roses are absolutely stunning.....**

Currently we have two roses growing in the Echo Eternal Curriculum Garden which in the much needed sunshine have produced some beautiful flowers with a gorgeous scent to match. This rose is called Tranquility.....

Indeed, there are plans afoot to create a rose garden within the garden so watch for this development.....



**Pink Rose – Special Anniversary.....**



## **Pumpkins are starting to flower.....**

Despite planting our pumpkins out relatively late on, now that the plants have established themselves, you can see that the plant in the photograph is now starting to produce some flowers. We have several different varieties of pumpkins growing – this particular plant is Atlantic Giant which given the right growing conditions can produce some monster fruits.....

In this photograph you can see that this is a male flower because it has no fruit growing behind the flower. It is known that usually pumpkin plants produce male flowers first to alert the pollinators that there will be flowers to pollinate very soon, then the female flowers will follow soon after.....

Nature is fascinating! .....



## **Peppers are producing fruit.....**

Alongside the tomatoes and cucumbers that we have growing in the school poly tunnel, we also have peppers and chilli plants all growing well.....

There is no doubt that growing your own produce is not only good for the soul but also when you grow your own produce, you know exactly what has gone into your plants, you know that all you have put on your own crops is water.....

NO pesticides or chemicals – just water and letting nature do the rest.....

The most important consideration is the TASTE!! .....

Why not give it a try? .....

You could even grow some salad leaves or something like pea shoots on a window sill – there is really no excuse, give it a try, you might surprise yourself.

Here you can see a pepper plant with a flower with the start of the formation of a pepper – plenty of consistent watering is required now.....



# **Pepper plant.....**