

**February  
2020**



**The Bridge Garden  
Newsletter No 34**

## **Weather again is the talking point.....**

Once again, the weather is proving a topic of conversation with storms seemingly almost a part of our everyday weather now – Coventry being central in terms of our geographical location, thankfully means that we do not have to deal with coastal weather issues but even so the rain some days has been unrelenting!!..... It seems like the rain has been interspersed with the odd couple of colder days with some frost but certainly so far this winter we have had no snow at all..... It seems like the weather patterns are very unseasonal, nature and our wildlife must be confused but no doubt nature will balance itself and adapt accordingly.....

## **Typical winter scene so far.....**



This is an all too familiar sight in recent weeks, the area that has been dug out is in readiness to build a pond in the garden but the way that the weather is we will just have to wait until the weather dries out until we can continue preparing this pond area.....

## **A natural pond!!.....**



## A more typical winter scene.....

Below you can see a much more typical winter scene with snowdrops providing a welcome boost of colour.....



## Stunning blue crocuses.....



## Daffodils in flower in mid – February...



Snowdrops and crocuses flowering in February – yes, but daffodils, this is an example of the weather being so mild so far this winter.....



## **Rhubarb looks great.....**

With the relatively mild weather our rhubarb plants are really advanced in terms of growth for this time of the year, indeed some of the plants are close to producing enough stalks ready to be picked. Normally at this time of the year you need to force rhubarb to get an early crop.....



**Subway continue to support our schools growing work**



# **Schools growing work**



## **Tender Herbs are still in leaf.....**

Another tell tale sign that the weather is relatively mild is that we still have a lemon balm plant that is still producing plenty of tender leaves.....

This is a plant that at this time of the year is not only normally dormant but usually has no green leaf showing at all. Look at the photograph below.....



**Angelica, Lavender and Chamomile.....**  
**More herbs.....**





## **Gunnera Manicata starting to produce new leaf.....**

This is a plant that thrives in wet, marshy type conditions producing some massive leaves almost akin to rhubarb type leaves but much bigger, so watch this space to see how big these leaves really are. Some people don't like this plant because it can be very invasive but the area where this is growing will not cause any issues.... Here you can see the new shoots that are coming through.....



## **Dandelions in flower.....**



We seem to be constantly making comments about the mild weather which is borne out here by the sight of seeing a dandelion in full flower on Monday February 17<sup>th</sup>..... Great for any pollinators that are active but also further evidence that the climate is changing.....



**Daisies in full flower too.....**



**On the very same day that dandelions are spotted in full flower, we can also see plenty of daisies again in full flower.....**

**Garlic is making some strong growth.....**



**The garlic cloves that were planted out two weeks ago have quickly established themselves and have started to make some strong growth...**

**Garlic.....**



## **Rhubarb plants two weeks on.....**

We have already commented that our rhubarb plants are really advanced, the photograph below shows the same plants two weeks on with lots more strong healthy growth.....



## **Rhubarb.....**



## **Blackcurrants are showing signs of growth.....**



We have lots of soft fruit bushes and plants in various different areas of the garden – allotment area which includes blackcurrants, gooseberries, raspberries and also growing inside the poly tunnel we have lots of strawberries..... In the photograph you can see some of the blackcurrant bushes that are showing lots of new growing shoots.....

## **Blackcurrants**



**Lots more spring colour to come.....**





and more colour too.....



**Hyacinth's...**  
**Tulips.....**

More daffodils in flower.....





## Echo Eternal Seed Sowing.....

As part of the Echo Eternal project that the school is involved with, school students set up a stand at Coventry Cathedral on Monday and Tuesday February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. The stand had a garden theme which allowed Cathedral visitors who were visiting the Echo Eternal Exhibition to plant a seed and write a label with a name of a person that they would like to remember or to write a message on a label..... Below you can see some of these seeds which have started to germinate along with the labels that the visitors to the stand wrote.....



# Seed sowing at Coventry Cathedral



## **Garden pond development work.....**

We have been trying for some time now to develop a garden pond in The Bridge garden but for a number of reasons we have never got this job completed, so during the February half term we have made another attempt to get some more work done on this project.....

Below you can see the area where the work has started.....



# **Pond development**



## **Pond development continuing.....**

Here you can see some of the work that has been done to clear the surrounding area around the pond – this area now that it has been cleared will be covered with a weed suppressant membrane which will then be covered with some natural materials such as rocks, stones and some logs which will create a natural habitat which will hopefully attract and provide a habitat for insects and lots of amphibians...With the actual pond, we are going to dig it out so that we create different levels which again will hopefully create a habitat that will provide a home for creatures that will benefit our garden environment..... Below you can see some more of this development work.....



## **Bridge Garden pond.....**