

**December
2020**



**The Bridge Garden
Newsletter No 44**

Another calendar year nearly at an end.....

Obviously we are now into the last month of the year which will bring an end to a year that will be remembered or indeed will go down in history for obvious reasons – thankfully we have been able to carry on the garden work all the way through these troubled times.....

Fennel looks stunning.....

The fennel that we have growing in The Bridge Garden looks absolutely stunning as it glistens with the frosty weather settling on the foliage. Truly spectacular.....



Fennel bulbs.....



Broad beans are looking strong.....

The first sowing of Broad beans are producing plenty of strong, healthy growth....
Also, they have come through a few frosty nights in the first week of December...



Copper Beech looks stunning.....



Calabrese Green Sprouting looks great.....



Bridge Garden students preparing growing areas.....

The Bridge Garden students have been busy preparing their growing bed areas in readiness to start some planting work – the bottom end of the garden has a very invasive weed that has some very long roots so we are trying to remove this weed as best as we can so that our growing beds are prepared and ready.....



Kale looks fantastic.....

Considering our crop of Kale was virtually decimated by cabbage white caterpillars back at the end of the summer, the recovery and the continued growth of these plants has been amazing – indeed this kale looks super healthy and super fresh..... Below you can see the kale crops that we have growing.....



Another Kale variety – Cavolo de Nero.....

This is another variety of kale that we have growing – again, this crop suffered at the hands of the caterpillars but again has made a super recovery.....



Peppermint Chard is still growing well.....

Most varieties of chard are really tough and will survive all sorts of weather, here you can see some young leaves that really do produce some stunning colours.....

The stems are almost like sticks of peppermint rock.....



Cornus stem colours are stunning.....

Now that our cornus shrubs have shed all of their leaves you can really appreciate the stunning colours that the branches and stems produce, in the late autumn sunshine the colours really are stunning.....



Bridge Garden students planting garlic.....

The Bridge Garden students who have been busy preparing their growing bed spaces have now started to get some planting work done. Limited to what can be planted at this time of the year, the students have planted some Garlic.....

The Garlic variety is called Marco, indeed it is reckoned that garlic improves its taste if it is subjected to a spell of colder weather.....

Below you can see some of the Garlic cloves ready for planting.....



Garlic planted earlier.....



Verbena bonariensis seed heads look stunning.....



Eucalyptus tree is looking spectacular.....

Our eucalyptus tree is looking spectacular as it grows “skywards,” this is a tree that has many uses both in the pharmaceutical industry and also as an antiseptic, a repellent and also is used extensively in floristry.....



Christmas tree growing well.....

The Christmas tree that we have growing in The Bridge Garden area is growing very quickly, obviously Christmas trees are at the forefront of many people's minds at this time of the year, but these trees look spectacular all through the year with their rich green colour.....



Holly provides another seasonal reminder.....

Here you can see the holly that we have growing along the garden perimeter fence which as you can see has plenty of red berries – not only a timely seasonal reminder but also the holly berries are a rich source of winter food for the birds....



Fennel is such a versatile crop.....

Fennel is a fantastic crop with all parts of the crop having a use – the bulb, the stalk, the feathery fronds and the seeds can all be used whether it is for culinary or medicinal reasons. Below you can see some flower heads which will produce the seeds that play a very important role in medicinal usage.....
Yet another very versatile herb which we have growing in our garden area.....



Fennel.....

Path clearance work.....

At this time of the year, there is little to do from a planting and growing point of view but this is the perfect time of the year to look at both clearing areas, looking at what needs tidying up and getting ready for the time when we can start both seed sowing and planting work again. So, we have spent some time clearing the pathway that leads through The Bridge Garden area – here you can see some of this pathway clearance work.....



Winter Solstice is here now!! – Monday December 21st.....

This is the time of the year when gardeners, growers, in fact anyone who likes the outdoors has a sense of relief, although the first day of the winter solstice which falls on Monday, December 21st, 2020 signals the official astronomical first day of winter in the Northern Hemisphere and the shortest day of the year. Thankfully from now on once we have passed the winter solstice the days of sunlight grow longer until we reach the summer solstice – the first day of summer and the longest day of the year. So, from this day we can look forward to longer daylight hours, bit by bit...

Thank you.....

Subway continue to support our schools growing work



Schools growing work

Littlehurst
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Garden Centre



All of these businesses have supported our Schools Growing Work throughout 2020. THANK YOU for your much valued support.....