

**February
2022**



Carbon Capture Gardening

Weather is always a talking point.....

Anything that relies on weather conditions whether it be everyday life, sport and obviously gardening and growing always have to face challenges, none more so during February where the temperatures have been so up and down, indeed we have experienced some really mild days but in this area no snow or much frost. But, the stand out for the month of February weatherwise has been the extremely high winds that we have endured, indeed being in a central area of the British Isles we have been relatively lucky with coastal regions suffering badly.....

Snowdrops and Primroses in flower.....



Iris reticulata look stunning.....



Crocus are colourful too

One thing at this time of the year, there are plenty of glimpses of colour popping up all over the garden areas.....

Snowdrops, primroses, crocuses, iris and daffodils are all giving us some stunning and wonderful colours which given the relatively mild temperatures are all in flower early too.....



Daffodils are flowering early too.....



New curriculum garden development continuing

Development work is continuing on the new curriculum garden with another pathway area put in place which also has some pallet planting staging set up which will be planted up in the spring..... Below you can see this development.....



New planting area set up.....

This area that has been set up will be a planting area which will be developed as a Greek style planting area – terracotta pots with lavender planted with perhaps an olive tree planted too. Also, a table and chairs will be set up in this space. Some wooden planters will also be set up.....



Spring flowering bulb planting is looking good....

The spring flowering bulbs that were planted in the autumn are all starting to force their way through which will hopefully provide a great display of colour.....

Below you can see some of these bulbs.....



We have also planted more spring flowering bulbs albeit a bit late, but if these bulbs do not flower this year, then we can look forward to spring 2023.....

Anenome blanda are starting to flower.....



Wet weather is causing some flooding.....

The area around the pond development is proving to be an area that floods which although is causing an initial problem because it is difficult to work on this are, but all is not lost because we can utilise this natural flooding to our advantage as we look to plant this area with pond marginal plants plus we have a perfect plant to go in this area – Gunnera Manicata which relishes wet and fertile ground..... Indeed, once established this plant really produces some massive leaves creating a fantastic feature plant. Below you can see this flooded area with the plant ready to be planted in the wet ground..... Also, you can see the pond that is “flooded” again – we really need to drain the pond and get the pond liner in place ready for the spring.....



Willow dome is starting to grow.....

Here you can see that the living willow dome that we have planted is now starting to produce some growing shoots – as it grows and produces plenty of leaf, it will create a natural sheltered area that can be used as a quiet space or an area where you can read or relax.....



Willow dome has been finished off now.....

Now that the willow dome has started to grow, plus it has survived the storms that we had to deal with over the week - end of February 19th, 20th and 21st....., we have now completed the design by covering the floor underneath the dome with wood chip which will create a space where anyone can use this space as an area where they can take some time and relax.....



**Willow
Dome...**

Stunning spring colour.....

Although we are still in the winter months, it does appear that the temperatures are nowhere near as harsh as they could be which is probably reflected in the early spring flowering bulbs such as iris, crocuses – see below and the daffodils that are flowering very early too...



Rhubarb is looking good.....

Our rhubarb plants are again enjoying the relatively mild winter temperatures as you can see from the photograph below as the rhubarb crowns are pushing through the ground giving us some really striking colour.....



More signs of new growth.....

There are lots of signs that spring is edging closer and closer, aside from the early splashes of spring flowering bulbs that provide some stunning colours, growing shoots are evident in lots of different areas of the allotment – garden areas.....

Below you can see our elder trees that are really advanced in showing plenty of new green growing shoots.....



Another curriculum garden development.....

Here you can see that we have developed a ranch style growing frame which we are planting clematis and honeysuckle alongside, which we will then train these plants to grow along this framework.....



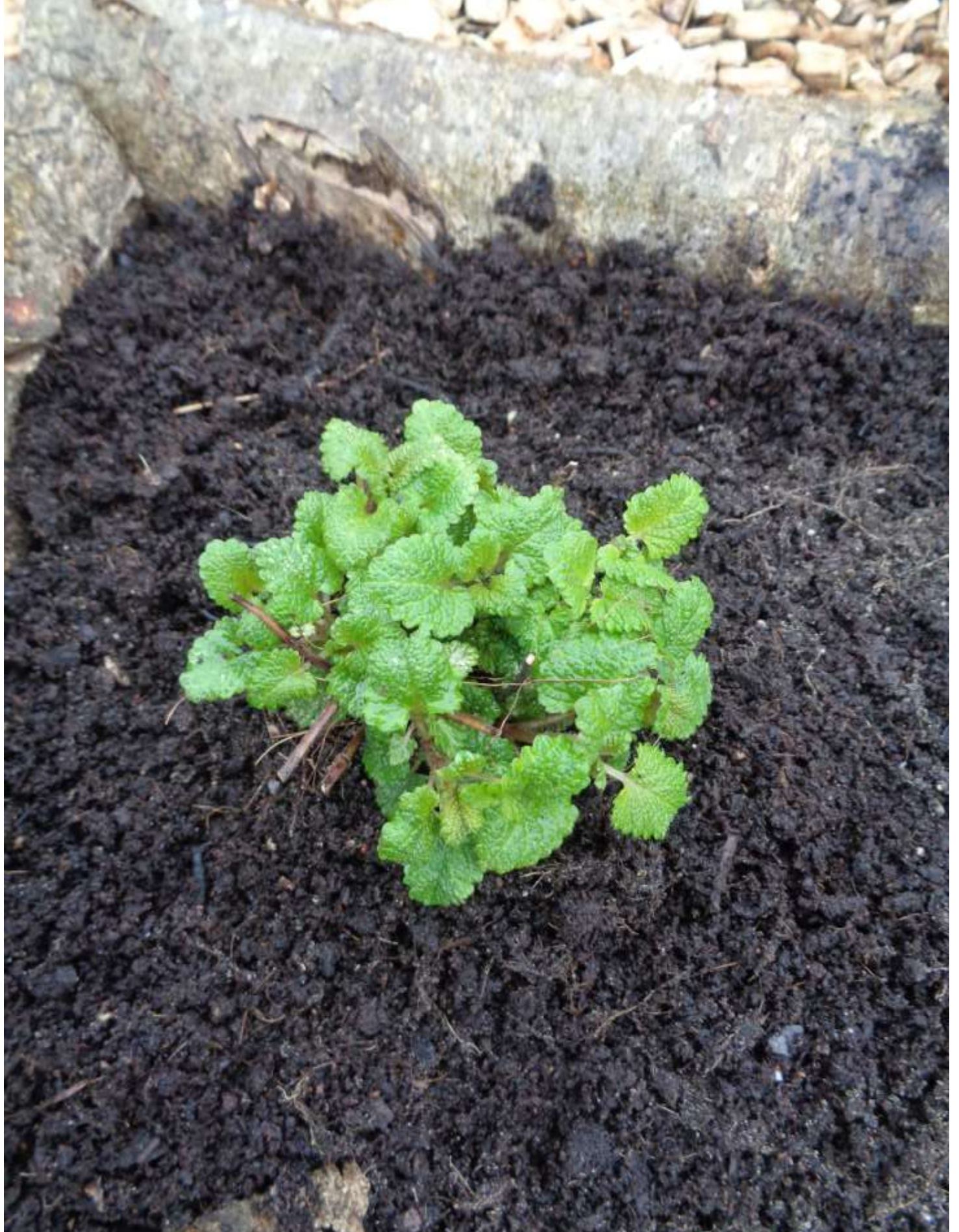
Lots of late winter colour.....

With spring just a matter of weeks away, there is plenty of colour in lots of different parts of the garden, as well as the spring flowering bulbs that are in flower very early this year, we also have lots of Primroses in flower that are really providing some stunning colours.....
Below you can see a selection of these flowers.....



Lemon Balm has been planted out.....

Below you can see some fresh vibrant looking herb plants – these are Lemon Balm which we have grown from seed.....
Lemon Balm is a really strong aromatic herb with many uses.....



Business support.....

All of these businesses provide invaluable support to our schools gardening – growing

Subway continue to support our schools growing work



Schools growing work



Littlehurst
Nursery and
Garden Centre



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Carbon capture growing



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