

March /  
April  
2022



Carbon Capture Gardening

## Exciting times ahead.....

This is the time of the year when gardeners and growers start to get excited again, with spring now with us, warmer temperatures hopefully ahead of us too, this is now the real seed sowing time as the weather improves.....

But, a word of caution needs to be heeded as temperatures can fluctuate and so far there have been some huge fluctuations with a really warm spell of weather in mid – March followed by some really cold frosty days in April.....  
So, any seed sowing that is done will need protection.....

## Spring provides plenty of colour.....

There is nothing better than seeing plenty of spring colour as spring flowering bulbs give us plenty of cheer. Here you can see a selection of the stunning colours..





**More stunning spring colour.....**





## **Wild Garlic is thriving.....**

Here you can see our Wild Garlic that is thriving in the shaded part of the garden, now Wild Garlic has an extremely strong garlic aroma, the leaves taste absolutely gorgeous and the white flowers are really striking too.....



## **Comfrey is growing well too.....**



We have lots of herbs growing in the garden which have lots of different properties, some are medicinal, some are culinary herbs and some are perfect for making different kinds of compost and plant fertilisers.....  
Comfrey leaves crushed up and left in a bucket of water for a period of time makes a fantastic additive to our plants – despite the smell it creates when the leaves are crushed and left, comfrey is a great plant to grow, attracts the bees too.....

**Comfrey – plant fertiliser.....**



## **Peach blossom is stunning.....**

**We have three mini – peach trees growing in the new curriculum garden which are displaying some absolutely - stunning blossom – the vibrant pink flowers contrast with the bright red leaves.....**





**Angelica is looking great too.....**

**Here you can see Angelica plants that are growing after self – seeding.....**

**This is another herb that has many different uses.....**





## **Pond and Marsh area development.....**

Here you can see that we are developing lots of different pond and marsh type growing areas – the photograph below shows our bog garden that we are building. This bog garden is basically a wet area that marginal plants will thrive in, we have lined the space with a pond - liner but this liner also has some small holes in it so that any excess water will “drain” away slowly, there is also a layer of rotted organic matter topped off with a layer of gravel. Then, on the top of the gravel, we have added a thick layer of growing compost.....

Now we will look to plant this area.....



## **Marsh marigold flowering.....**



Here you can see our Marsh Marigold marginal plant that is growing in our newly developed pond area. You can see that the bright yellow flowers have already attracted a bee to this flower.....

## **Mini – Pond Set – Up...**

Another feature of this area is the Mini – Pond that we are setting up in this area.....





## **Pond development hopefully nearing completion.....**

The pond area that has basically sat all through the winter months full of dirty, brown clay coloured water has now been drained by using buckets, so now the sludge and the stones that are in the bottom of the pond are being removed so that we are ready to put an underlay material down and then the actual pond liner will go in before we fill the pond with clean water – rainwater hopefully but this will take a bit of time so we might have to use tap water.

This area will then be used as a biological science teaching area as well as being a therapeutic area too.....





**New curriculum garden now has a super looking sign..**



**Yellow tulips are stunning.....**





# Flowering Cherry tree has been planted.....

Here you can see the splendid flowering cherry tree that has been planted by Peter Lantos who made a special visit to the school on Monday April 4<sup>th</sup> – 2022....





## Easter colour.....

Below you can see the stunning colours that the wallflowers are providing which is even more stunning in the Easter Monday sunshine.....

An absolute riot of colour.....





## **Red Tulips are absolutely stunning.....**

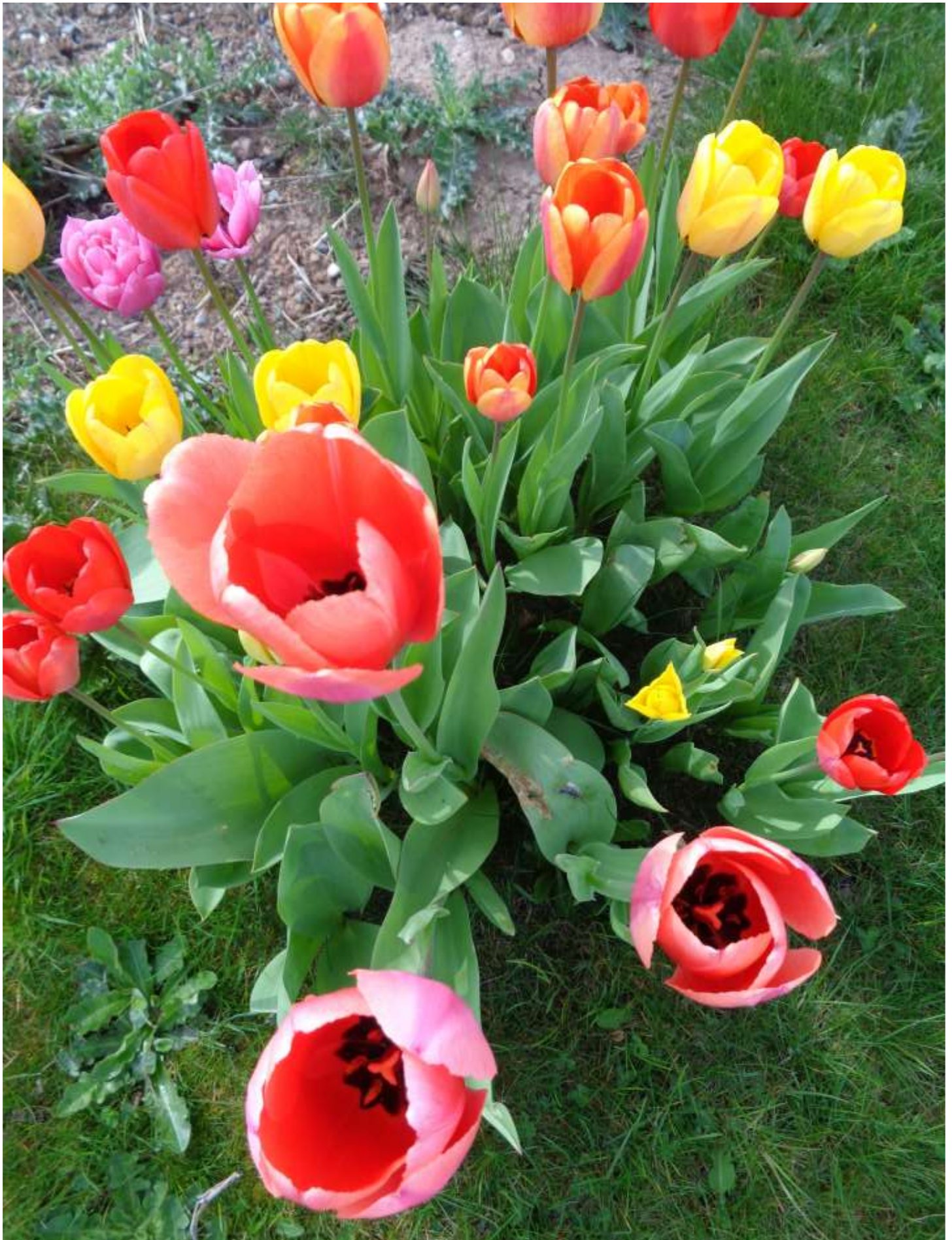
**There is no doubt that spring provides some absolutely stunning colour, with the added bonus of the easter sunshine, these red tulips really are providing some beautiful colour in the Echo Eternal Curriculum Garden.....**





**More splendid colours.....**

Here you can see a fantastic display of mixed tulips – splendid colours.....



**Fantastic colours.....**



## **Borage has self – seeded.....**

**Borage is a herb that once you have it, you will always have it as it will readily self – seed and will literally grow anywhere!**

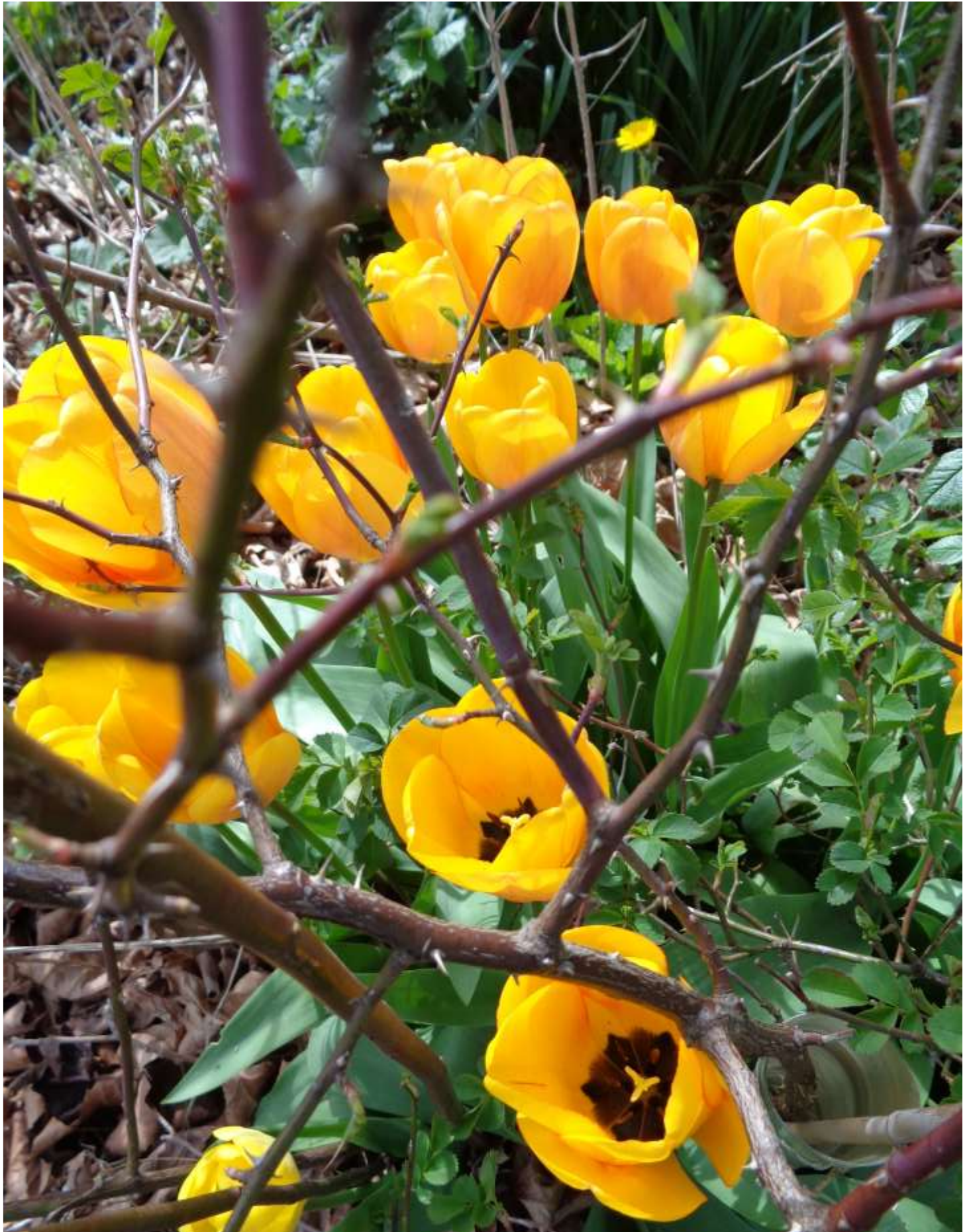
**Loved by the bees – a really - easy herb to grow.....**





## More stunning colour.....

These yellow tulips also look stunning too – tulips all planted together as one colour really stand out – if only these spring colours lasted for a longer period but if you get your garden planning right, there should be colour following on for the summer months into the autumn too.....





**Forget me nots and Cowslips are naturalising.....**

**There are plenty of perennial plants all starting to flower.....**



**In our garden areas, we have planted lots of plants that are both perennial and most definitely bee - friendly.....**

**The colours of flowers are important too because scientific research has shown that bees are especially attracted to blue, purple and yellow flowers. So, if you look at the colours of flowers on this page and some of the other plants that have been planted then you can see the planning that has gone into our garden planting work. Also, the Nepeta that we have growing has masses of blue – purple coloured flowers so this is another bee attracting plant.....**

**Nepeta.....**



## More stunning tulip colours.....





# Amazing colours and flower detail.....

It really is fascinating to see both the amazing colours and the detail you can see in a flower – to think that a flower bulb contains everything that it needs to produce such colour and detail.....

The Easter period has most definitely provided plenty of bright sunshine that has proved the perfect backdrop for the amazing flowers.....

Below you can see some more examples.....





## **Apple blossom is gorgeous.....**

**There is no doubt that fruit tree blossom produces some stunning colours.....**

**Here you can see one of our apple trees that has produced some really striking colour's – this is from one of our Bramley cooking apple trees.....**





**April is seed sowing time.....**



It is generally thought that the months of April and May are the two months when most of the seed sowing work is done....

Although a word of warning on this concerns the fluctuating temperatures that we often experience during this period....

As long as you can protect any seeds that are sown especially at night when the temperatures often dip down very low.....

Here you can see some of our Dwarf French Beans that we have sown – these young plants are being protected inside the school poly tunnel.....

**Seed Sowing..**

**Seed germination.....**

Subway continue to support our schools growing work



**Schools growing work**



## **A tell – tale sign in the garden.....**



Here is a tell – tale sign that the soil is warming up as the weeds are growing at a pace now.....

In this photograph you can see a big area of stinging nettles – these are weeds that we can put to really good use.....

Nettles are not only weeds but they are beneficial in many ways....

The provide a habitat for lots of butterflies, plus they can be used in lots of other different ways which include food – nettle soup and nettle tea plus they also have plenty of medicinal benefits.....

Just avoid getting stung by nettles!

## **Wild garlic is flowering now.....**

