

**Summer  
2022**



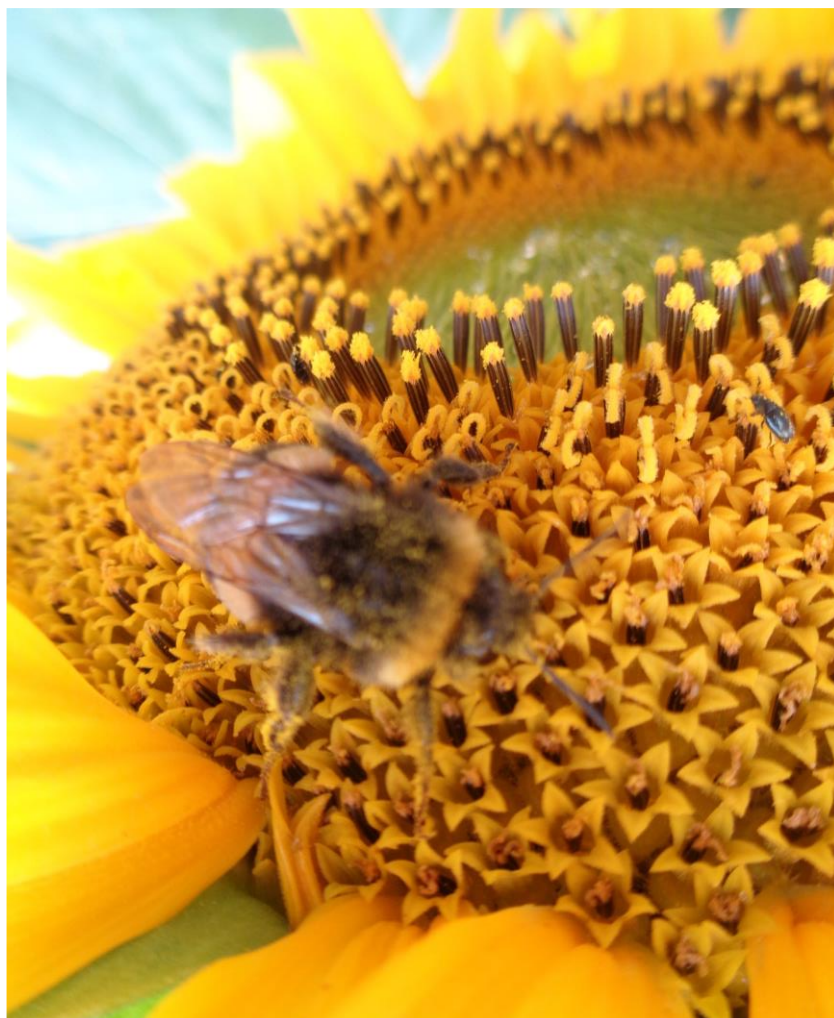
Carbon Capture Gardening

## *Echo Eternal Curriculum Garden*

**Summer has been hard work! .....**

Without a doubt, this summer has been extremely difficult for a number of reasons not least the extremely hot temperatures and the total lack of rainfall.....

**Sunflowers are stunning – loved by the bees.....**





## **Poppy Seed Heads look spectacular.....**

**Below you can see that our Ornamental Poppies that have provided some spectacular flowers in the early part of the summer have now finished flowering and they have produced some stunning poppy seed heads. We will remove these soon and look to sow some of the seeds in other areas of the garden.....**





# Pumpkin patch is huge.....

Pumpkin plants by their very nature put out great big long vines as they grow, often these vines have several fruits growing on each vine. Given plenty of water and lots of sunshine these fruits can grow very quickly. Here you can see our pumpkin patch that has spread over a big area.....





## Perennial flowers are colourful.....

Here you can see some of our colourful perennials – crocosmia, verbena and our sedum that is just coming into flower. Sedum is a real favourite of the bees.....





## **Hot weather has been brutal.....**

Working in the Echo Eternal Curriculum Garden during the first few weeks of the Summer holiday has been challenging to say the least, the extremely hot weather has created the obvious challenge of watering, plus the extreme heat has scorched the grassy areas to the point where it is resembling more like straw.....

Early starts have helped before the heat gets too much, plus keeping the poly tunnel watered in The Bridge Garden has also been a challenge, with cucumbers and tomatoes growing, they need regular watering, even at week-end's too.....

## **More Garden Developments continuing.....**

The composting bays, water butts and the “old leaking” water butts that we are using to grow in have all been moved to behind the bike sheds so that we can open up the perimeter fence for some exciting developments that are being worked on, plus this opening up of the perimeter fence allows a clearer view across into the Echo Eternal Curriculum Garden. Below you can see this new area set – up.....





## **This is the view into the garden now.....**

Now that the compost bays and the water butts have been moved, this is the view across into the Echo Eternal Curriculum Garden. Certainly, this view is currently dominated by the pumpkin patch, under the giant leaves there are some sizeable pumpkins growing, they could really do with some heavy rain but who knows on that one. We will try and keep them watered the best that we can.....





## **Poly – tunnel is productive.....**

The Poly tunnel in the “original” Bridge Garden is becoming more productive as the summer goes on – obviously with the hot sunshine, the temperature has risen very quickly so watering has been key so that the tomatoes, cucumbers and the grapes are ripening quickly. Indeed, the grape vine has benefitted from the location of the poly – tunnel with a measure of shade from the trees on one side of the poly tunnel, plus the leaves on the grape vine have provided plenty of shade too, this has allowed the grapes to ripen without them becoming scorched.....





## **Tomatoes are ripening quickly too.....**

Heat from the poly – tunnel provided by the sunshine plus plenty of watering has created the perfect growing conditions for tomatoes. Here you can see some of the different tomato varieties that are ripening.....



## **Orange Mint has established very quickly.....**



Here you can see our Orange Mint plants that have established very quickly, this is another mint variety that goes into our collection of different mint varieties..... A tour around the garden will show how many varieties we actually have.

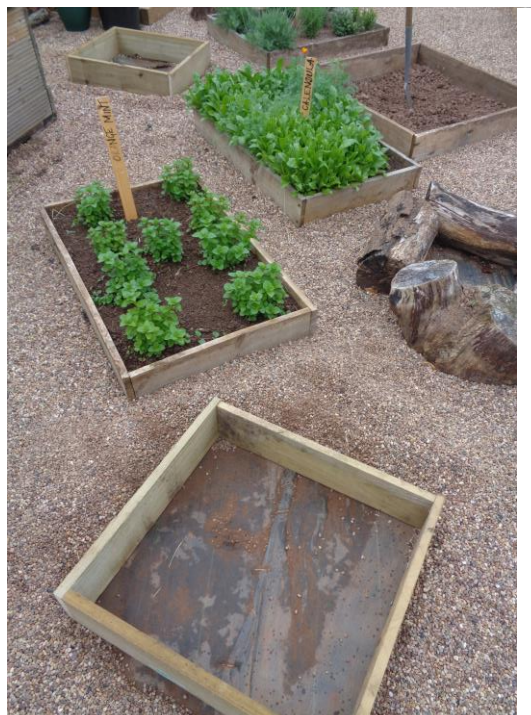


## Sweet corn crop has been destroyed! .....

Yes, I don't use the word lightly, but a rat has found our sweetcorn crop and has literally destroyed it – look at the photographs to see the plants have been broken down and when you look more closely, you will see that the cobs that were really developing nicely have been devoured – horrible creature!! .....



## New growing areas.....



We are continuing the development of the garden area by adding some new growing areas which we will plant up or sow some seeds.....

Ready for planting.....



## Weed suppressant membrane set up.....

Now that the compost bays and water butts have been re-located, we have laid a weed suppressant membrane down the outside of the perimeter fence.....  
This in time will be covered over with either wood chip or gravel.....





## Super harvest.....

Here you can see some more of our harvest – this is the most enjoyable part of growing your own crops, plus they taste much better too.....

You can see Patty Pan Squash, Zucchini and Courgette – De Nice a Fruit Rond.....



Subway continue to support our schools growing work



# Schools growing work



## Roses are stunning.....

We have some absolutely stunning roses in full bloom in different areas of the school garden – here are two photographs of a couple of stunners.....





Another stunner.....





## Hot weather has created a few issues.....

Following on from the extremely hot and very dry summer, there are some signs that nature is in a somewhat confused state. To see acorns falling mid – way through August is a sign that nature is out of sync. Under normal weather conditions, acorns would not fall until mid to late September, so trees that have been deprived of rainfall are almost “shutting” down early thinking that it is autumn and they are losing some leaf and dropping their seeds.....





## **Living Willow Dome looks great.....**

**Our living willow dome has made some super growth throughout the spring and summer months even through all the hot summer weather – we have been busy weaving the new growth into the dome so that the growth thickens the whole dome. Indeed, underneath the dome it is so cool – naturally cool by all of the leaf growth. What we need to do now is create some seating under the dome.....**





# Pumpkins are all shapes and sizes.....

Here you can see just a few of the pumpkins that we have growing in lots of different areas of the garden – they are turning a super orange colour too.....





# **Our Fruiting Hedge has plenty of fruit.....**

**Below you can see some of the fruits that are growing in our fruiting hedge that is growing along the pathway that leads down to the original Bridge Garden.....**

**Here you can see sloes, elderberries and rose hips – all natural fruits.....**





# Herbs are looking fantastic.....

We have some absolutely fantastic herbs growing in The Echo Eternal Curriculum Garden – below you can see our Orange Mint which has made so much healthy looking green growth plus it smells great too.....





**Look at this Pineapple Mint.....**



**and Moroccan Mint too.....**





**Rainbow chard is stunning – the colourings in the leaves**

