

North Hull Community Rainbow Garden



Newsletter April-June 2024



Spring into Summer

During this quarter, summer has well and truly arrived!

- ▶ We've been sowing flower and veg seeds
- ▶ Planting up summer displays
- ▶ Seasonal service users have been returning to the garden
- ▶ We've received lots of visitors including a theatre company
- ▶ Welcomed new allotment families
- ▶ Maintained benches and other items around the garden
- ▶ Received generous donations
- ▶ The fire unfortunately tore down the shed and surrounding area

Garden stats

In the last three months, we've had 136 individuals through the gates, with 244 visits in total.

Our volunteers, service users and visitors have spent 200 hours and 55 minutes in the garden over this period. This equates to more than 8 days.



Massive thanks to everyone who gives their time to the garden!

Generous donations

We'd like to extend our thanks once again to Mel Bradshaw, who has kindly donated the cost of 2 years Allotment rental at the garden, along with £20 for seeds and plants. As a result, two new families have been able to take on a plot.

In addition, we received £1000 from a very kind benefactor who wishes to remain anonymous.

These donations make all the difference at Rainbow Garden, to ensure that we can stay open to support local people and to hold sessions to attract new garden visitors.



Volunteers Week

Staff and Trustees would like to say a big Thank you to all our Volunteers and Service users for their continued hard work and dedication, that they have given and continue to give to the garden. The garden wouldn't be the place it is, or look as beautiful as it does without you all.

You all have unique skills which you all bring to the garden which can be clearly seen as you take a wander around.



Easter crafts

Lots of families joined us to make Easter table decorations and leaf printing. Luckily, we had the gazebo at the ready as it was a very drizzly day.



Messy Play

The little ones have had a great time at Messy Play. We had a fully-booked session during the May half-term holiday, so we'd like to run more of these sessions during school holidays going forwards.



May half-term

We held another fully-booked craft session during the May half-term holiday. The children had lots of choice on which craft to do, shown by the masks and spoons below!



After-school Club

The children have been crafting butterflies, planting potatoes and veg seeds including pumpkins!



Paul's bench maintenance

One of our benches was a bit worse for wear, so Paul took it apart to paint the metal frame and wood, before putting it all back together again. Great job, Paul!



BEFORE



AFTER

Hull Truck Theatre - Sense and Sustainability

A team from Hull Truck Theatre visited the garden to take photos for the promo shots for this new show. As a thank you, they gifted the garden some tickets to the show, so that we could take our volunteers along.



Ravergers

Ravergers have returned to the garden for the first time this year. They broke down computers, fans and radios. We identified components and talked about their use. We split different materials including metal and plastics into different bins ready for recycling!



Garden maintenance

Jobs done around the garden this season include:

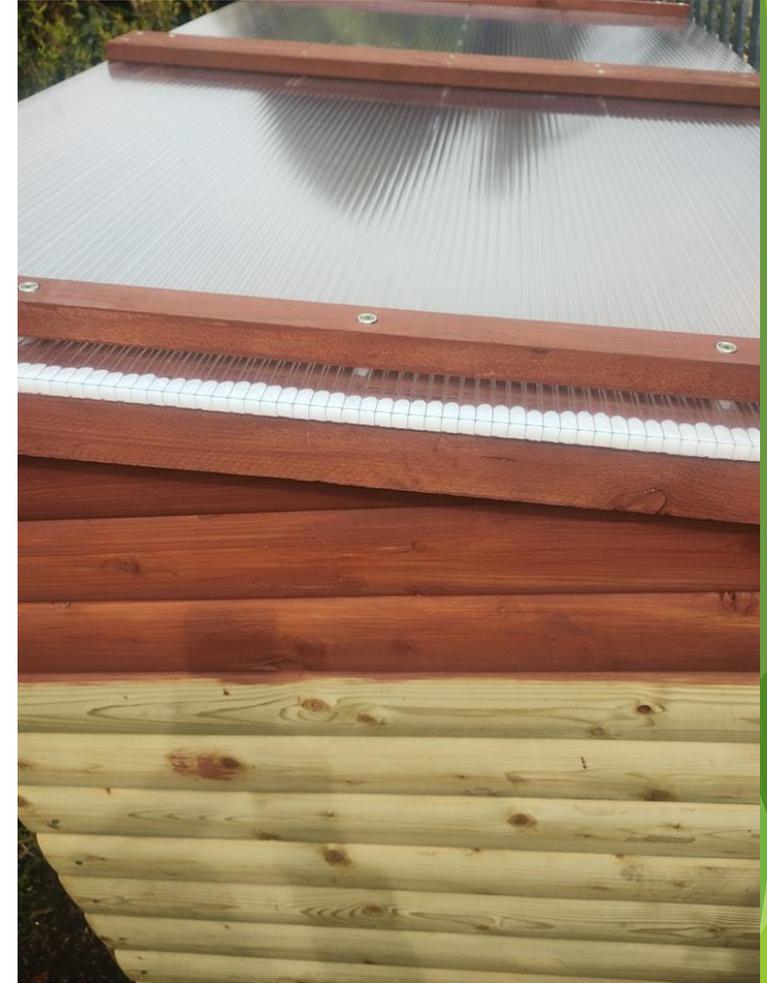
- ▶ Clearing seedlings out the greenhouse, ready for tomatoes to grow in there
- ▶ We got some help from a friend of the garden with a chainsaw, to cut back the cherry laurel and cut out some of the large stumps
- ▶ Washing pots ready for potting on seedlings
- ▶ Sowing veg seeds - tomatoes, pepper, kale and calabrese, beans, cauliflower & aubergine.
- ▶ University of Hull students Raveena & Charlotte helped us to weed the Levisham Close triangle - it was thick with thistles!



Potting shed progress update



Freddie has been painting the interior and exterior of the shed, ready for the pots to go in.



And the roof is on!

Rainbow Fairy Garden & Wellness Programme

Plans are afoot for Rainbow Gardens very own Fairy Garden, in the hidden sanctuary that is the communal space. Volunteers have been doing A LOT of weeding, the before and after of which can be seen below.

This is also the area that will be hosting the Wellness Programme – Yoga and Meditation running from June until September thanks to funding from North University and Orchard Park area teams.



BEFORE

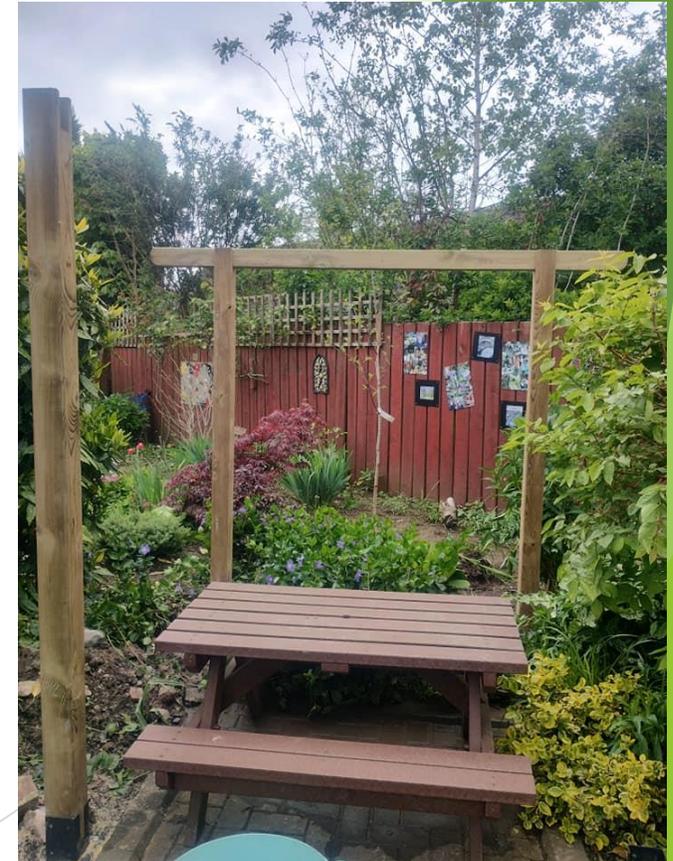


AFTER

New pergola

When installing the new pergola, Ops Manager Alan came up against a big old lump of concrete, which had to be removed before he could begin. Luckily, he had the tool for the job so it proved quite simple.

Behold our new pergola! This will look great with some climbing plants making their way up the posts.



Down the allotment

Ahead of the growing season, our volunteers have been helping to clear the communal plot on the allotment. We've also seen some next-level netting from one of the new allotment holders – that should keep the pests at bay!

Other people have been planting veg and here is Alan planting some strawberries, just in time for Wimbledon!



Garden fire

The Fire Service were called out to the garden in the early hours of 14th June. The level of fire damage is very upsetting, but thankful that no one was hurt. The shed and shelter have been completely destroyed, as well as the outdoor seating area. This was a supportive space where we shared laughs and tears over cups of tea, while sheltering from the weather.

The garden has been closed for several weeks to support police and fire investigations, while ensuring the site is made safe for the community. Since then, the team have been in to clear the space, and we are looking to open the garden once again for a volunteer session on Thursday 4th July.

Thank you to all of those people who have been able to donate to our [fundraiser](#), which will be used to rebuild, repair and re-plant.





Do you have any comments or ideas about things you would like to see us do?
Would you like to volunteer yourself, or discuss making a referral from your org?

We'd love to hear from you!

Partnerships, New Org Referrals, Operations

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A big thank you
to our funders.
We couldn't do
it without you!



Hull

Clinical Commissioning Group



Look out for our next newsletter in July 2024