

# North Hull Community Rainbow Garden



Newsletter January-March 2024



# Winter into Spring

Spring is upon us! It's a lovely reminder of how beautiful change can truly be!

- ▶ We've been sprucing up the garden, ready to accommodate the new season and everyone who visits the garden:
- ▶ Lots of prep and fresh paint jobs for the shed, bird boxes and garden gate
- ▶ Sowing seeds for our new cut-flower area
- ▶ Freddie has continued on the potting shed build
- ▶ The first childrens sessions of the year
- ▶ Warming up in the shed - we now have a propex heater!

# Garden stats

In the last three months, we've had 56 individuals through the gates, with 167 visits in total.

Our volunteers, service users and visitors have spent 308 hours and 55 minutes in the garden over this period. This equates to more than 12.5 days.



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

# Work experience

Ollie has been carrying out work experience at the garden, helping out with:

- ▶ painting bird boxes
- ▶ weeding paths and beds



# Getting toasty warm in the shed!

At the start of the year, our Operations Manager Alan got on with fitting our new Propex Heater in the shed.

After all these years of being freezing through the winter, the team can now seek a bit of warm solace in the shed, alongside their cups of tea.



# Pond life

Frog watch is on! Treat this is a before and after check...

**BEFORE**



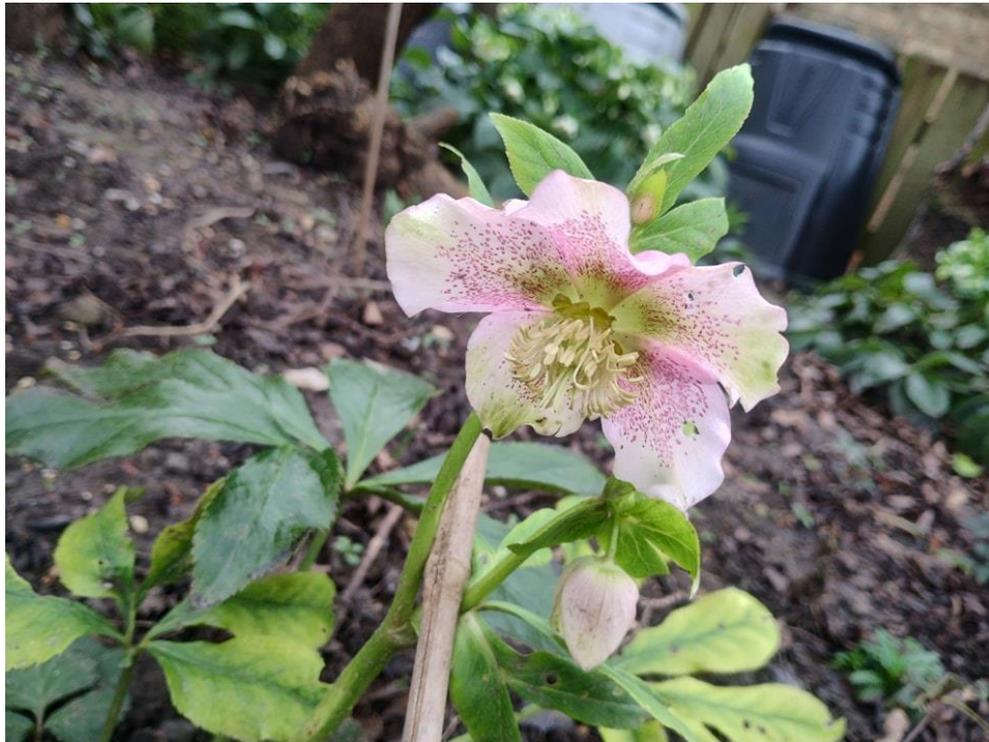
**AFTER**



# Colour is coming back to the garden

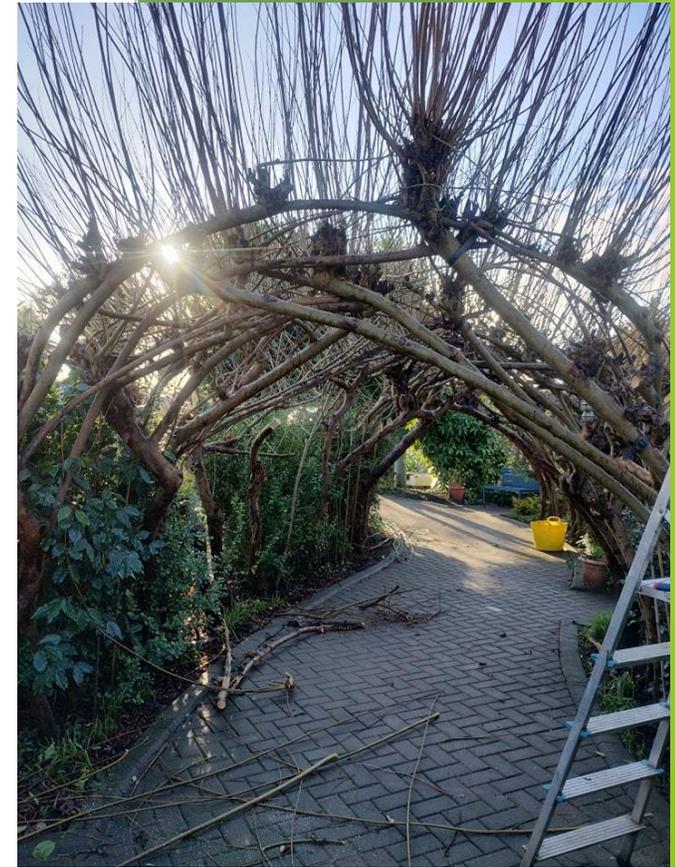
We're starting to see some colour in the garden once again. The tulips are now flowering, reminding us that Spring is here.

Our volunteers have been cutting back foliage on the Hellebores, revealing the flowers.



# Willow troubles

The Willow arch has been around as long as the garden has been open and it's starting to show its age. We've had to pull out some rotten sections, saving what we can. The team have been working to take some weight off the top, to keep it as safe as possible.



# Sharing what we don't need

We've been sharing tools, wood, paint and other items with local people. We don't like to see stuff going to waste, so it's nice to see other people using them. We offer items through our Facebook page and the Olio app.



# The Fairy Garden

After chopping down the unwanted Conifer, Paul and Alan have been working on getting the stump out. Here you can see Paul stripping off the bark, so that we can use the stump as part of our new Fairy Garden.



# Love Nature

Our volunteers helped to cut willow ahead of the family Love Nature session during February half-term.

From around the garden, children foraged teasel tops, acorns and grass seed heads to make Willow Hearts and Mobiles.



They also made bird feeders!



Some of the children made a den out of the incomplete potting shed.

# Garden maintenance

Jobs done around the garden this season include:

- ▶ Topping up bird feeders
- ▶ Renovating the Cherry Laurel
- ▶ Mending shed guttering
- ▶ Allotment weeding
- ▶ Sanding down the shelter frame
- ▶ New coat of stain on the mud kitchens
- ▶ Greenhouse tidy
- ▶ Painting the shed
- ▶ Tidying the tool shed
- ▶ Bird box painting
- ▶ Making leaf mould



# Potting shed progress update



The sides have been built.



The door is on!  
Complete with it's temporary carrier bag handle for the door-pull.



# Easter crafts

21 children and adults joined the Easter Bonnet making sessions at the garden this holiday - and we got some sunshine too!

They made some Easter cards for their loved ones too.



# Part of the local community

As well as working on the garden, we do what we can to help our local community.

Recently, that has included litter picks on Endike Lane and helping a neighbour to the garden clear his own garden space. We carried out some pruning in his garden some time ago and unfortunately he's been too ill to clear up the branches, so we helped him to finish the job.





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!



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Look out for our next newsletter in April 2024