

Rainbow Community Garden news

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GARDEN STATS:

In the last three months, we've had 237 individuals through the gates, with 455 visits in total.

Our volunteers, service users and visitors have spent 160 hours and 40 minutes in the garden over this period. This equates to more than 20 working days.

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



VOLUNTEER GET-TOGETHER

On 2nd July, we invited all our Volunteers, Service Users and Friends of the Garden to come together at Unity in Community, whilst the garden was closed due to fire damage. Everyone had some cake whilst reminiscing about the garden and looking positively towards the future, as we begin to repair and re-build.

Generous donations



Our community has been absolutely invaluable during what has been a difficult time for everyone at the garden. We have gratefully received the following:

- Chairs from St Alban's Parish Church
- Seating from Men in Sheds
- Plants from Pearson Park Community Garden
- Bark chippings from Elaine
- Narcissus bulbs from Janet
- Printing from Unity in Community



We've also received a great deal of in-kind support:

- Men in Sheds helped to fix the raised beds
- Bruce cut down damaged planting with his chainsaw and disposed of it all for us
- Unity in Community have allowed us to hire space in their Community Centre on Endike Lane for some of our sessions



FOR MORE INFO
VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE @RAINBOWGARDENHULL

Back up and running



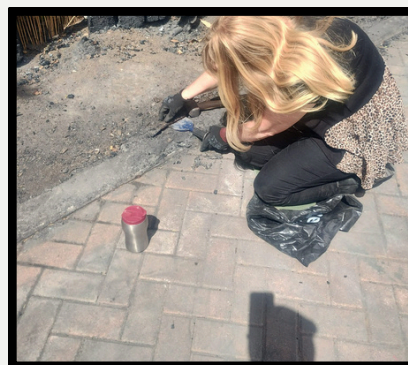
Once we had the go-ahead to re-open the garden, we first cleared away the remnants of the shed, its contents and surrounding items that were all damaged beyond repair.

We were then joined by a small number of volunteers who helped us to clear away the rest. This included removing plastic which had melted onto the block paving, removing burnt conifers and cutting back other foliage.

The local area team helped by installing new fences for the neighbours whose gardens were affected by the fire.

Though we lost a lot of plants, we're happy to report that some of those that we thought were lost, have indeed sprung into life.

"Fire is part of the cycle of regeneration, and after the flames, life returns richer and fuller."
Jeanette Winterson



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Garden Maintenance



Some of the jobs we have been doing around the garden this season:

- Clearing bindweed
- Maintaining the compost toilet
- Topping up bird baths
- Picking Caterpillars off the brassicas and Buxus
- Picking more Ceter
- Deadheading flowers – pic of Val
- Cleared the pond and cleaned the filter
- Tying in roses
- Pruning
- Daily sweep under the willow arch – great for leaf mould
- Digging out bamboo



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Harvesting

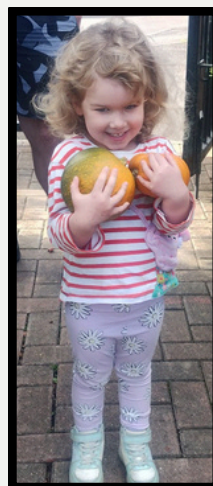


There has been lots of harvesting going on – in the allotment area, from the greenhouse and the raised beds.

The After-School Club loved eating their corn straight off the cob, pulling up perfectly straight carrots along with some wonky ones and some squash too.

We've harvested:

- potatoes – or spuds!
- shallots
- rhubarb
- broccoli
- onions
- pumpkins
- tomatoes
- corn
- grapes



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Healthy Holidays programme

Tie-Dye



This summer, we once again received funding from the Healthy Holidays programme. We held 21 sessions at the garden and at nearby Cppy Wood engaging 128 individuals in the following activities:

- music-making with Mambo Jambo
- crafts including paper marbling, tie-dye and comic-book design
- yoga with Jude Fox
- bushcrafts with Rewilding Youth
- makings bugs & landscape painting with Dom Heffer
- play sessions with The Herd
- book reading and crafts with Author Chrissie Lewis



The Herd - Pop-Up Play



Rewilding Youth



Healthy Holidays continued...



Dom Heffers
visual arts
sessions



Flour fights making the seed bombs →

Author Chrissie
Lewis reading
'Barbara the
Circus Bee' - set
in the garden and
commissioned by
Back to Ours in
2017.



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Celebration Day



We marked the end of our summer activities with the annual Celebration Day – attended by more than 70 local people. It was great to see representatives from local organisations and people who have helped since the fire alongside our regulars.

We were joined by vintage Songstress Ruth Getz, who donated her time to serenade attendees, along with a sing-along.

The face painter ensured that children and adults alike looked fabulous to mark the end of a great summer!



After-School Club



It's been time for the children involved in the After-School Club to reap the rewards. Earlier in the year, they sowed carrots, corn and squash, so it was time to pull them up from the raised beds.

Some enjoyed the corn straight from the cob – the best way in our opinion!

The older children was tasked with jobs requiring the secateurs – an important responsibility!



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Wellness programme



Earlier in the summer, we received joint funding from the University and North area teams to put together a Wellness Programme.

Practitioners Jude and Emma have enabled us to offer yoga and meditation to our regulars, along with new people who haven't previously visited the garden.

The sessions have cultivated a greater appreciation for nature and opened our eyes to new ways to help enhance our mental well-being.

These sessions currently run up to October, so get in touch through Facebook if you'd like to attend.



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Messy Play

It's been great getting the younger children back in the garden after the summer break – back to Messy Play – every other Wednesday.



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Green-Flag award



We're thrilled to announce that Rainbow Community Garden has once again received the Green Flag Community award for 2024/2025 by Keep Britain Tidy.

The judging criteria for this include:

- A welcoming place
- Healthy, Safe and Secure
- Well maintained and clean
- Environmental Management
- Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage
- Community involvement
- Management/Achievements

This is testament to the hard work of all of our volunteers, service users, families and people who enjoy the garden. With everything that has happened recently, it is a real positive for us and very uplifting.



Oppy Wood litter-pick



In late September, we grabbed our stash of litter-picking gear and headed up to Oppy Wood along with some of our regular volunteers.

We do this every year ahead of the Remembrance service for the Hull Pals.



For the people of Hull, Oppy Wood would be forever remembered as the place where the Hull Pals made their name. In fierce fighting around the French village of Oppy, Hull lost more men on the 3rd May 1917, than any other. The attack failed and the final casualties totalled 326.

Each year we remember and honour these men.



FOR MORE INFO
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We'd love to hear from you!



Do you have any comments or ideas about things you would like to see us do?

Perhaps you have an activity idea for next summer?

Would you like to volunteer yourself, or discuss making a referral from your organisation?

Partnerships, New Organisation
Referrals & Operations
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Garden, Volunteers and Activities,
Existing Organisation Referrals
Brenda Elm (as above)
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07915 972168



Head to our website using the yellow button above.

You can also email us at
info@rainbowgarden.org.uk

or follow us on Facebook
[@rainbowgardenhull](https://www.facebook.com/rainbowgardenhull)

A big THANK-YOU to our funders



Look out for our next
newsetter in January
2025