

North Hull Community Rainbow Garden



Newsletter October-December 2023



Autumn into winter

There's less growth during this season and as everything starts to wind down for the winter, it's all about prepping for the spring.

- ▶ We've finished up the last of this year's regular sessions, so we'll see everyone in the spring:
 - ▶ Ravergers
 - ▶ Messy Play
 - ▶ Womens Group
 - ▶ After-school club
- ▶ Storing Dahlias for the winter and sorting out spring bulbs for planting
- ▶ Sweeping leaves and cutting willow for wreath making and planting
- ▶ Weeding and litter picking in the surrounding street to support the community
- ▶ Pruning shrubs
- ▶ Buying new tools and trying them out straight away, of course!
- ▶ Clearing greenhouses for the winter
- ▶ Washing seed trays ready for the spring
- ▶ Fixing paving and laying new bark paths

Work experience

We've had two lovely work experience students at the garden, who have:

- ▶ Designed and painted a raised bed
- ▶ Weeded
- ▶ Washed & sorted canes for storing



Ravergers assemble!

In the last Ravergers session, the families took apart:

- A coffee machine
- Smoothie maker
- Music system
- Toaster
- Brenda's DAB radio
- And a mini fridge

Great recycling Ravergers!



Oppy Wood litter picks & Remembrance Service

Ahead of the remembrance service, we did litter picks at Oppy Wood in October. Thank you to everyone who joined us! Many hands make light work! Thank you to Reverend Rachael Garland from St Michaels delivered a moving service at Oppy Wood on 9th November.



Yorkshire in Bloom -Gold-

We're happy to announce that the garden was awarded a GOLD by the Yorkshire in Bloom judges. Thank you to everyone who helps to look after the garden and helped to achieve this award.



Halloween Crafts

We had a lovely day of Halloween crafts and games.

Thank you to the volunteers who helped to set-up, run the sessions and clear up afterwards. We couldn't do it without you!



Harvest time

We've been able to share plenty of garden produce this season, including willow, carrots, tomatoes, pumpkins and, of course, willow! Lots of individuals and community groups have been in to collect willow to craft their own wreaths.

Thank you for the kind donations to the garden.



Cottingham Green Fair

We had a stall at Cottingham Green Fair this season and had some fruitful conversations with the team from Rewilding Youth, who are based in East Hull. We're hoping that we might be able to partner up with them in 2024.



Messy Play

We had one last Messy Play session in October, where the little ones spent time looking around the garden for creepy crawlies.

Then sessions were put on hold until the spring. We spent some time cleaning the toys and storing them for the winter.



Garden maintenance

Jobs done around the garden this season include:

- ▶ Painting garden ornaments
- ▶ Taking down and chopping up the conifer
- ▶ Washing seed trays ready for spring
- ▶ Sieving and bagging up compost from the heap
- ▶ Pruning hedges - great timing as it's outside of nesting time and means we can use cuttings for our table centre decs session!
- ▶ Reusing compost from pots on garden beds
- ▶ Digging out and adding gravel to the new French Drain
- ▶ Clearing the greenhouse for winter
- ▶ Repainting the resident snakes
- ▶ Letting new volunteer Linda get stuck in



Freddie has been building a new pot shed

First he took apart our old one. The photos below show the new one being built.

Freddie is very precise and takes great pride in his work. The vast majority of the wood used has been recycled from old decking boards and elsewhere.



Before...



During...



Hope you're excited for the grand reveal next quarter!

Down on the Pumpkin Patch

It's always great fun growing pumpkins at the garden. It looks like most of them were painted this year!

Even our signage got a spruce up.



After-school Club

- ▶ In the last after-school sessions of the year, the children did some crafting with sunflower seeds they had grown.
- ▶ They also tried Crab Apple Jelly made from garden Apples.
- ▶ In October, they painted pumpkins they had grown themselves in the allotment area.



Roof replacement needed!

- ▶ Our shelter roof is in desperate need of replacement.
- ▶ The six corrugated fibre cement panels (no asbestos here) are at the end of their serviceable life.
- ▶ If you know of any roofing companies out there who might be able to help, please send them our way.



The Rainbow Garden isn't just about gardening...

Recently, one of our service users came in and asked if we could talk, rather than do gardening work. They asked if we would mind going for a walk to the shop and as no one else was expected for the morning session, off we went.

They talked and we listened and by the time we got back to the garden, they felt like doing some gardening. So, as we chopped the willow, they put it into piles before sweeping up.

It really does help to talk. As well as being a place for volunteers and service users to exercise through physical work, it's important to us that they feel comfortable enough to have a chat about anything they want.

We will always be a listening ear.

If you know of anyone who might benefit from some time at the garden, please let them know about our community space.

Christmas festivities

We had a get-together for our volunteers where we all got involved in carol singing, having tea and cake (of course!), a quiz and even a little dance!



We recently kitted out our regular volunteers with Rainbow Garden branded hoodies! They look super happy with them!

Christmas wreaths & table-centre crafting

- ▶ Every year we bring together volunteers and friends of the garden to make wreaths and centre pieces. The wreath bases are made of willow from the garden and all the foliage was cut from the garden too!





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 January 2024