

Buxton School Community Garden Share Project

Ownership: The garden belongs to the school.

Access: Is via a secure gate within the school.

1. MAIN AIMS/PROJECTS:

- a) To maintain garden and projects within it for use as an outdoor learning environment
- b) To engage community volunteers for garden share project
- c) To grow crops to encourage full use of the garden
- d) To sow and nurture traditional crops for cooking, preserving and community/school use.
- e) To preserve the heritage of a pre 1950 allotment in the mould of a 'Dig for Victory' garden.
- f) To preserve the flora and fauna of the area by creating a variety of habitats, including bat and bird boxes, hedgehog hides and insect hotels. To this end we shall seek to create a bio-diversity amongst the different habitats using native flora and encouraging native fauna.
- g) To create a 'Wartime kitchen garden' with traditional plants.
- h) *To preserve the skills of beekeeping, honey collection and preserving (?)*
- i) To offer learning opportunities to the students at the school and the community through a range of activities:

2. STUDENTS: in and out of school hours:

- a) Science will catalogue, photograph and research flora and fauna to produce an 'Idiot's guide' to the garden. This will be used by visitors to the garden to help identify and learn about native species.
- b) School will research, photograph and produce a 'War time kitchen garden recipe book' using crops grown in the allotment.
- c) School science club will monitor the weather station and report to the school via a newsletter.
- d) Forms/Classes will observe wild life
- e) School science club will use a pollution monitor to monitor pollution and to create remedial activities to reduce pollution.
- f) School will research and produce descriptions of the various garden areas which will be discretely be displayed around the garden.
- g) School Art dept will use mural board and Woodland Art (such as wicker sculpture)
- h) SEN students will use sensory garden to learn about touch, texture and smell

3. COMMUNITY: (Adult volunteers from the local community (Community partners), Duke of Edinburgh volunteers, VProject@Buxton, students from Buxton school and other local schools during and after school.)

- a) Will be able to visit the garden for a variety of activities
- b) Will be able to adopt specific growing spaces and maintain another
- c) To sit and contemplate or chat with friends in the sensory garden.
- d) Specific project work with Transition Leytonstone and Organic Lea
- e) *Adult volunteers will learn how to manage a garden and how to keep bees*
- f) Create bat and bird boxes, hedgehog hides, insect hotels and woodland art.
- g) The adult volunteers and the school will ensure that the garden is secure by planting species with thorns or by creating water features which also act as barriers. (These will include: Hawthorne, Blackthorn, Holly, Roses, Pyrocantha, and Buckthorn).
- h) *The adult volunteers will collect honey, preserve it and market it*
- i) The adult volunteers will learn how to harvest and market their crops.

- j) The Duke of Edinburgh volunteers will learn supervisory roles and will learn team work, team building and will develop this community project as part of their DoE course.

4. **LEARNING PROJECTS** To offer to students and community access to project based learning around the garden. Proposed activities include open days or evenings at agreed times (depending on the season):

- a) *Bees and bee keeping (?)*
- b) Growing with Seasonal crops.
- c) *Honey, its origins, collection and preservation.*
- d) Harvesting and preserving nature's bounty.
- e) Herbs in a pot and their uses.
- f) A guided walk around the garden with our volunteers (using the guide books produced by the Science/Geography).
- g) Creating garden architecture.
- h) Planting and garden design for security – types of plants and features to ward off intruders.
- i) How to interpret the weather – old wives tales, their origins and the relevance today.
- j) 'Dig for Victory' a practical demonstration and explanation.
- k) Hedgerow harvest within our garden.
- l) Bats, species, origins and myths.
- m) Care and maintenance of garden tools.
- n) Basket weaving, fencing and bird nest building.

5. **SECURITY PROJECTS** For students and community partners to ensure environmental features such as ponds, prickly climbing plants, etc can be used as effective natural barriers to intrusion and will also serve as a buffer zone between the activity and adjacent dwellings:

- a. Landscaping shall avoid the creation of hiding places, with a precedence given to clear natural surveillance across the site and no opportunities for rubbish to accumulate
- b. The use of trellis and climbing plants above existing garden boundary treatments
- c. Avoid creating climbing aides around the perimeter of the garden, consider trees (branches), seating, ground levels, etc
- d. Create pathways at ground level using bark/ chippings rather than raised 'deck' style paths
- e. Any furniture/ features must be secured against misuse; seats must be anchored whilst large rocks, etc should ideally be bedded in cement to prevent their misuse as missiles
- f. Any gardening tools/ implements should be removed from the area after use and securely stored away from the garden.