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The Frome Shed May Newsletter, 2024



There will be some happy robins, sparrows and bluetits nesting in their choice of the 25 bird box kits handed over to **The Wild Bunch** by this group (above) from the Monday Shed.

It was quite an effort, and they look happy to have completed it!

Two small, but beautifully formed, teams have volunteered to help out at the **Lions Summer Fete in Victoria Park** on Saturday 15th June from 12:30 to 16:00 and the **Children's Festival** in the town by the river on Sunday 21st July from 11:00 to 17:00. If you're out and about on the day please pop along and show your support. Our team will be manning some children's games.

Richard Whitehouse and Anne Jones have organised a **Lino printing session** on Monday 3rd June. This first session will be the preparation with printing taking place at the second session on Monday 10th June. All the equipment will be provided but there will be a small charge. Please sign up in the Shed.

Do you have a friend, relative or neighbour who you think would benefit from coming to the Shed? If you do why not invite them along to see if they would enjoy the company or opportunity to learn a new skill.

Machine Shop

Dear Shedders, the hose extension for the dust extractor has been extended by a few metres, please make sure you use it , especially when using the belt sander. That way we can keep the machine shop healthy foreveryone, we mustn't underestimate the dangers of wood dust.



Shed Allotment : the story so far

An Allotment run by Shed members started life at Welshmill in the Spring of 2019.

A group of around 8 people got together and worked really hard to clear the site of wire, old stakes and bits of buildings , weeds and broken glass.

Then it was fertilized with barrowloads of compost and muck, (wheeled laboriously all the way from the distant gate), and then there was masses of digging and handweeding to reduce the amount of pernicious roots.

We found and dismantled a shed being offered free in Warminster, loaded it into a van and transported it to Welshmill, all at our own expense, and constructed it on site.

Marvellous!

The work had been so hard by now that some people found they had more pressing things to do, and dropped out. Understandable.

The first year was a group gardening activity, but this was imperfect, despite various ploys at organising things, and food was wasted by nice people either not wanting to take more than their fair share – or by some not managing to get to the plot often enough !

Aware that we might get kicked out if the allotment was not kept up to scratch, we reorganised the next year, and each person became responsible for their own bit of the plot, whilst retaining the enjoyable group feeling when all gardeners were there at once. This worked much better.

Any over-abundant produce could be given to the food cupboard or brought to the Shed, and the whole allotment looked beautiful with a range of flowers and vegetables and odd experimental plants, as well as sweet peas, raspberries, redcurrants and strawberries.

It was a boon during lockdown, a sunny safe spot where you could chat with people over a loud hailer and pull a few weeds.

We built a couple of raised beds from palletwood, for two arthritic members who wanted to dabble gently with lettuce and herbs.

It has brought peace, exercise and social connection, and novices have learned from those with experience – just like the main Shed activities.

People's lives change, our gardeners have come and gone, at least 15 people have been involved so far.

A new acquisition this year is a small plastic greenhouse.

Every now and again we make a call in the newsletter for members to come and join us, at the moment we have a decent complement of gardeners, but have a word with Dave Lee, Marlene, Julia or Jacqui to see if they would like to take you along and give you a job!



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