



## WOOTTON COURTEENAY GARDENING CLUB

### GVV Progress Report 2026

Firstly, thank you again for your generosity in donating funds to Good Vibe Veg, for educational purposes. In the past year this money has enabled us to host six more visits from St Dubricius School in Porlock, including all three classes covering ages 4-9 years old. The money has mostly been spent as wages for our time preparing and running these sessions.

These visits have all taken place on Friday afternoons as part of the school's Passion for Porlock activities, where they aim to get the children out of the classroom and doing something for/with the local community.

The sessions you have funded have seen the children harvesting a range of produce from the field and the polytunnels, including strawberries, mangetout, chard, garlic and onions. They also did some vitally-important tasting (they love mangetout!), and took some veg home for their tea! We dedicated a 30m bed to the school this year, and the children prepared the bed and, with our help, decided what they wanted to grow. They put up wigwams and sowed climbing beans under them, sowed carrots, and carefully planted out lettuce, chard, peas and potatoes. Unfortunately they weren't present to harvest much of it, which is something for us to work on for this coming year.

Other tasks the children have enjoyed include watering, weeding (especially tackling big docks!), wood chipping paths, turning compost and looking for creepy crawlies, and mulching the beds with manure. They also planted a small hedge with saplings from the Woodland Trust, to be both a habitat and a wind break.

We regularly discussed with the children the changes to the veg plot since their last visit, what was growing (or not!) and what plants need to thrive or survive. We also discussed how we try to grow food alongside nature, and the importance of healthy soil and pollinators, and showed them a birds nest found in the shed and an impressive grass snake skin found in a manure heap. Many children wanted to check on the dead hedge they had created the previous year, and were intrigued by the big bug hotel. And they loved seeing the solar powered sprinkler in action...and cooling down underneath it!

The sessions continue to be greatly appreciated by the school staff, and we receive lovely feedback from them about how much the children get out of these visits.

We are yet to spend any of the £400 received in October 2025, but may put this towards more visits (we have 3 already booked for St Dubricius for January and February), and a few more resources. We still have hopes of starting up an after-school Kids Gardening & Wildlife Club one day, which could be a fantastic use for the money WCGC donates. Watch this space!

Many thanks again for your continued support.

**Adam, Leighanne and the GVV team**