

Danegrove Allotment

FROM MEADOW TO GARDEN



Over the past year, the Danegrove summer meadow, which had been abandoned for a number of years, has slowly been turned into an allotment. The transformation is not yet complete and it will take a number of years for the ground to be nutritious enough to give abundant crops, but we have started.

Twelve months ago, the grass was knee high, trees were growing through the bordering fence and there were numerous over hanging branches. However, with some substantial strimming and the hard manual work of Mr Stevens, Mrs Noon, Mrs Henderson and myself, we managed to create 2 beds which the children could plant in.



OCTOBER 2025

Once the plot was partially cleared, 1500 litres (thirty 50 litre bags) of compost were put onto 1.5 beds and the children could start planting. The rest of the ground was covered so as to inhibit weed and grass growth. The children used their measurement skills to measure the plot and weed fabric, and then they worked as a team to cover the ground.



MARCH - APRIL 2025

As part of their science topic, the children planted French green beans and runner beans, and whilst they did germinate, they failed to mature into flowering plants. However, Ms Lam generously provided us with numerous tomato, sweetcorn, courgette and chilli seedlings which the children eagerly planted. Additionally, with some leftover seeds, the children were able to plant a few extra vegetables.

We have managed to harvest enough tomatoes and courgettes for various batches of pasta sauce, a courgette cake, some salads, tomatoes and potatoes for all of year 4 (last year's gardeners!) to try.

Chilli



Tomatoes



Potatoes



Lettuce



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But we need your help!



We are looking forward to being able to plant a greater quantity of produce this year and hopefully start generating enough for the children to taste, to use in food technology projects and for them to sell the surplus.

Whilst we have built our own compost bins, we are not currently generating enough green and brown scraps to put into them and start to become self-sufficient. As such, with 5 more beds still to create, we need a LOT of compost. Whilst we can purchase this in bulk, it has to be delivered in an articulated lorry, which cannot reach us.

Does anyone have any ideas how we could get it in?

Do we have any van drivers that could collect and deliver onto the field?

There are still some overhanging branches that are just too high for us to cut down. If anyone has any experience or expertise and could help, we would really appreciate it. The fence also needs to be reinforced as the foxes keep slipping through and digging up seedlings or knocking them over.

Finally, if anyone has a rotavator (tiller), so that we are able to avoid digging the new beds manually, that would save a lot of people some achy backs. If not, all hands (or those with forks and spades) will be needed on deck!

If you can help in any way, please do get in touch with the office - Office@danegrove.barnetmail.net

