



GARDEN PROJECT

2025-26 PROGRESS REPORT

The past year has seen a variety of gardening activity across Style Acre's shared market garden, hubs and gardening maintenance social enterprise 'Green Acre'.

WANTAGE MARKET GARDEN

Working alongside Sustainable Wantage, Style Acre gardeners have continued to practice sustainable gardening methods. Spring saw the gardeners plant up and tend to some new raised beds with pollinator friendly flowers, the gardeners chose lots of annuals for pollinators such as phacelia and calendula. The team also planted a variety of vegetables and herbs. An open day offered a plant sale, children's activities, seed swap and mint display.

People we support enjoyed being active and outdoors, learning new things and sowing, growing and harvesting garden produce. Autumn saw a fantastic harvest of potatoes, tomatoes, squash, beans, chilli peppers and lots of fruit from the trees. An Autumn plant sale and wildlife day raised funds for the garden and offered wildlife crafts, pond dipping, bug box building and a garden trail. The team also came together to cook up and share soup using fresh herbs, peppers, garlic, tomatoes and a roasting Crown Prince squash using garden produce.

SUPPORTING NATURE

We worked with our local wildlife trust to deliver workshops with the theme 'putting down roots' to learn about planting activities and pollinators. A new nature buddies scheme in partnership with the wildlife trust will support people to learn about, experience and enjoy nature based activities. Supporting nature is integral to the Market Gardeners activities, people are supported to make and use bat boxes, bird boxes and bug hotels for use at the garden, their homes and to sell at garden open days.



GREEN ACRE

The team has continued to expand and has worked for many different customers so far this year. The gardens tended to have included Wallingford Community Hospital and the Crowmarsh allotments, the team also maintain gardens at 12 Style Acre supported living houses.

The majority of work comes through word of mouth and there is strong demand for the teams skills and their friendly approach. Many people we garden for are elderly and living alone and a visit from the Green Acre team is reported to brighten their day.

Our support team ensure that gardeners are trained, safe, happy and challenged in their work, whilst supporting customers and logistics. In October the Green Acre team were fortunate to receive some tool sharpening training from a volunteer from Sustainable Wantage. A polytunnel at the Wantage Market Garden was turned into to a workshop and people learned about different types of cutting mechanisms on garden tools, and the process of keeping them sharp and well oiled. The team really enjoyed learning about a new skill.

SUMMARY

We continue to see people come to learn about gardening and enjoy it's therapeutic benefits – people enjoy the process of growing, the outdoors and connecting with others as part of a friendly inclusive team in a safe space.

Thank you for supporting this project!

'I like being outside, I feel happy because I love gardening and learning new things. I feel excited that I'm going to be paid.'

'I enjoy gardening and like the people I work alongside. I love planting and enjoy harvesting, it's very rewarding. I like socializing. When I'm here I feel happy and very calm'

'R loves the 'safe space' of the garden. He knows where everything is and generally which tasks need doing. On the way to the garden this morning I said 'we are gardening today' and he said 'I am happy' independently, not led by me and I think that says it all. He's been coming here 12 years and the sense of belonging and community is huge!'