



Somervale School 'Beautiful Future Team' Report



The Beautiful Future Team is a self-sustaining project which is predominantly organised and run by a wide variety of students of all ages, and from a multitude of year groups. The team has introduced successfully a range of projects, and has played a substantial role in the school and local community, becoming more environmentally aware.

The Gardening Project



This has been one of our most substantial and successful adventures to date. The team has effectively introduced a garden area, in which we can grow our own produce, this we then sell to the local community making the project self-sustaining.

We have successfully built our own compost area from wooden pallets which we stained, and old table legs. It has several compartments which are used alternately. Kitchen and garden waste is used to make the compost which is then incorporated in the vegetable patches.

In 2009 we purchased our own polytunnel which we bought with money that we raised, after cultivating and growing our own hyacinths. In this polytunnel you can find a diverse variety of vegetation, from Aloe Vera plants, to Tomatoes. We sell these plants either as the final produce, for example delectable ripe tomatoes, or as the plant itself for the consumer to grow.



We have landscaped four beds. This year we have successfully grown a varied range of vegetables, including Potatoes, Runner beans, French beans, Marrows, Courgettes, Broad beans, Radish, Onions, Leeks and spinach. This produce has been sold and used in the school kitchens.

We built our own herb beds from scratch using some of the soil which we had removed to make our vegetable patches. The herb bed has a wide range of herbs growing in it and also a selection of wild plants, including wild strawberries. These herbs are used by the food technology department, saving them money and air miles. We also have a team who cut and sell herbs in the staff room.



To add colour and wildlife to our area we have also constructed a flower bed that contains perennial species which are loved by insects. We also stock it with colourful annuals.



The team has a strong link with the local nature reserve which can be seen, through the fact that we have grown wild flowers for them. We have helped the reserve at many different times, with previous teams helping to create activities for children when the reserve was first opened.

The team also works with the local railway museum by making hanging baskets for them to display at the station.



The Potting Team



This team was responsible for the hundreds of beautiful Christmas hyacinths that were sold to raise the money for the polytunnel. They potted each individual bulb, nurtured each delicate plant and carefully hand wrapped each and every plant to be sold.

They still play a large role in the potting of new seeds and re-potting of plants however, this team and the Gardening team are working much more closely together. This year the potting team

has sold over £100 of potted spring bulbs. The money from this can be used to buy a path for our poly tunnel.

The Pond Project

Here at Somervale we also have two ponds that are teeming with life. These ponds are another important part of the team's work. This is because the ponds and the surrounding area are a perfect habitat and ecosystem for a variety of both common and increasingly uncommon species. For instance one of the ponds supports a healthy population of newts. This being said though these species would not be able to thrive as much without the care of the team, who regularly clean the pond, of both duck weed and litter that can inhibit the growth of these animals.



Community work

On June the 30th last year we hosted 'Gardening for all' an evening for the local community, which many local businesses and schools took part in.

Paulton, St Johns, St Vigor and St Johns and Trinity primary schools attended the evening and had their own activities. The Somerset smallholders came with several stalls. Marshfield ice cream had a stall which was a hit on the warm evening. The Cheshire homes had a plant stall, as did our own Beautiful Future team. Dockies' and local farmers also attended with the focus on local food production. BANES recycling team came along and made paper. The art department made willow structures and a science teacher made bird boxes from recycled products. Our media department made a video and

the school music department provided music. It was a fantastic sunny evening and the event was well attended.

Our team also attended an open farm Sunday 7th June at Church Farm in Stratton-on-the-Fosse, promoting our own project and raising awareness of the insects needed on the farm. The pupils gave mini talks and demonstrations to children of bugs on the farm. Again it was a very successful day.

In fact the whole Beautiful Future Team, which is composed of about 45 individuals work very closely together. Everyone knows each other by name and we are all very dedicated and passionate about what we do. We work closely with the local community and other schools, to teach younger students about the environment and have strong links with St Johns Primary School.



Written by Vicki Meek, year 9 and Kim Turner, year 12.