

# Hucclecote Community Garden

WINTER 2025

## OUR GARDENING YEAR: 2025



Hucclecote Community Garden

### Winter Closing

The garden closed for the winter at the end of November. We plan to re-open on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 (weather permitting). Hucclecote Crafters will remain open throughout the winter months on Tuesday mornings from 10.30am to 12.30pm and on Thursday afternoons from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

### Hucclecote Crafters

The workshop in the garden has gone from strength to strength this year. It has been fully kitted out with woodworking tools, and electricity was installed thanks to grants from EDF and the Rotary Club of Gloucester.



As well as working on their own projects, the Crafters have worked on ones for the garden. They made a plant display board from a pallet, and then enthusiastically took up the challenge of building a **costermonger's barrow** to show off our plants and produce. It was blessed by Jane on our last day before closing for the winter.



What a lovely way to finish the gardening year!

As we come to the end of the growing season, it is time to take stock of what we have achieved in the garden this year; **but more importantly to thank those who have been involved.** Whether you are a volunteer gardener, a raised bed owner, a visitor, a grant-making body or a club that has used the garden, you have helped this special place to thrive. Thank you.

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An important early development this year has been the laying of a **path** from the car park to the main gate, making access much easier and safer.

The garden has been **extended in size**, giving us extra space on the west boundary adjacent to 36 Larkhay Road and to the Gordon Rooms. Both extensions have involved the erection of new fencing, improving the look and feel of the garden. It is planned to grow flowers and shrubs in these areas.

The **vegetable garden** did well, largely thanks to Kate and Anita, in spite of a lack of water over the summer. The **fruit garden** thrived in the hot sunny weather. The damson tree had perhaps its best year ever.



Nearly all the **raised beds** were used. It was encouraging to see the variety of vegetables grown and harvested.



We held a very successful **open morning** in June, selling garden produce, plants and bric-a-brac and providing teas and cakes. The resulting profit made a significant contribution to our running costs for the year.

The garden was open on two days in July as part of **Hucclecote Open Gardens** in support of the local Guides. We also

experimented with additional opening hours in the school holidays but had few extra visitors so are continuing with just our usual opening hours for the time being.

We took part in a survey commissioned by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) to assess the impact and development of community gardens. Its resulting report 'Space to Grow' highlights the importance of such places for individual and community physical and mental health and well-being. Alison was interviewed by the RHS for the survey. All data in the report is non-attributable.