

Allotment, Polytunnels and the No Dig approach at Top Farm

At the side of the farm we have a wonderful large allotment which includes grassed areas, fruit bushes, willow beds, raised beds and flower beds.

We provide horticulture sessions that run in conjunction with the sustainability of the farm; feeding the animals with fresh organic produce and providing a vibrant, colourful environment for all to enjoy.

At the start of 2021 we included into this a new large polytunnel and near the end of the year we will be refurbishing the existing polytunnel; this giving us more room to grow plants, wild flowers and organic produce. The benefits of growing in a polytunnel are the higher temperatures and humidity, crop protection and protecting plants from the great British weather, this meaning we will be able to grow a more diverse collection of fruits and vegetables throughout the year, extend the growing season. Oh and somewhere to get warm in the winter months!!

What else is new?

Along with the introduction of Moon Planting to the horticulture sessions which we provide we will also be including the No Dig approach.

Wondering what that is? Quite simply no digging.... A simple and easy approach to gardening which is also extremely beneficial to nature.

With the increase in agricultural intensification; which damages the soil over time through being worked too much; the no dig approach is the opposite, no digging is where soil is undisturbed so its organisms can work and multiply. Plants

and vegetables are fed with organic matter on the surface and weeds are reduced so more time can be spent planning, planting and growing rather than weeding. Enjoying the process and the natural environment at the same time.

What our sessions provide

An enjoyable hands on approach to horticulture and gardening, learning new skills from mowing lawns, cutting hedges to sample planting, sowing, propagation, caring for the soil, how to plant flower beds, harvesting food and vegetables and much more.

The combination of moon planting and no dig approach together are tremendously natural and we are eager to see the end results, how the allotment will take a new form and how it will increase the wild nature at the farm.

We hope you are too.

"It's really important for British wildlife that gardeners do their bit for aquatic life - freshwater plants, insects, amphibians and mammals all rely on our commitment."

Alan Titchmarsh