

Gardening

Growing herbs, fruit and vegetables

Ash Tree Farm in Dartmouth is running three taster sessions in gardening this winter. Creating a Multi-Purpose Kitchen Garden took place on 28th February. There were two sessions, attended by 16 people. Using the farm's own extensive kitchen garden as an example, tutor and the farm's owner Ms Rogers gave practical advice on growing herbs, flowers, fruit and vegetables together. Learners were treated to a power point presentation and a classroom-based discussion, as well as practical demonstrations on the working of a kitchen garden, – such as composting and seed sowing techniques. They were given comprehensive handouts that explained, informatively and clearly, all the steps to creating a kitchen garden. These were used for reference and discussion throughout the day.

Learners examining the construction of a greenhouse at Ash Tree Farm



Kitchen Garden movement

The course was clearly very well-organized and very informative, and all the participants reported that they got a lot from the course. Learner Alan Jones really appreciated tutor Ms Rogers' professionalism. 'Our tutor has a wealth of experience based on a lifetime of being in horticulture'. Nina Rogers said 'Brilliant! We need more like this.' 'Absolutely fantastic course' said learner Felicity. Alan Stockbridge reported that he 'is now a convert' to the kitchen garden movement. Sheila Starey summed up the group's enthusiasm by asking 'Please may we have more courses and practical hands-on fruit-growing?'