



Green-Fingered Students Develop Skills through Pub Garden Project

Taverham students are creating a kitchen garden at a popular Norfolk pub as part of an education programme to develop their horticultural and cookery skills.

Norfolk County Council is working with The Hunny Bell pub and Stody Estates to give students from Taverham High School the chance to develop the pub's garden and produce food to be used in the kitchen.

The project was the brainchild of Henry Watt, owner of the Animal Inns chain, which includes The Hunny Bell in Hunworth. He approached Norfolk County Council's outdoor education team at Holt Hall, keen to work with young people to create an organic garden for his customers to enjoy. The students also have the opportunity to learn cooking skills from The Hunny Bell's chef Andy Snowling.

Henry said: "It is a pleasure to be working alongside such a committed group of people whose sole purpose is to offer a unique experience to these young individuals. To see them create their very own garden and watch it evolve whilst learning a few cooking skills from Andy and his team is hugely rewarding for us all at The Hunny Bell."

The young people are all students at Taverham's ACE Centre, which works with students needing alternative education provision. The group visits the garden every Friday, alongside the Roots and Shoots team from Holt Hall Environmental and Outdoor Learning Centre. The Roots and Shoots team has already recreated the Victorian walled garden at Holt Hall and is using the Hunny Bell project to reach a new group of young people. Those taking part will work towards a Level One qualification in horticulture called The Step Up Course. They will learn about how to design their own garden, grow their own fruit, vegetables and herbs and cook them.

It is also hoped customers at the pub will also be inspired by the project, giving them ideas on how to develop their own gardens and providing a relaxing place for them to enjoy an evening out in the country.

Alison Thomas, Cabinet Member for Children's Services at Norfolk County Council, said: "The young people on this project are seizing the opportunity to learn more about gardening, food and cookery. This is a fantastic scheme that gets them outdoors developing skills that will be with them for life and which could be nurtured into a range of careers.

"It is great to see Holt Hall's team working within the local community to widen the learning opportunities already available at the hall and we are grateful to Henry Watt for giving Norfolk's students access to this great opportunity."

Glynis Killington, Manager of Taverham High School's ACE Centre, added: "The project is an extremely positive part of school life for this group of boys, they gain so much from it. Working together, supporting each other, learning skills for life, working with many

different materials. They will also be helping local artist Peter Talbot to create a lasting piece of artwork which will be the centrepiece for the garden.”

For Further Information

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