

Shared harvest in deprived neighbourhood

Families from the Wayfield estate in Chatham have been sharing their first year harvest after advice from Master Gardeners Liz and Kelly.

Potatoes, radishes, beans and peas were on the menu as families met at the weekly gardening club throughout the school holidays.

Set up in 2013 with funding from the Deprived Neighbourhoods Approach, the Wayfield Community Garden is used by the Sure Start children's centre and primary school on the site.

Liz works with families who live in an area of considerable deprivation. One of her keenest young gardeners is a boy of eight.

Liz said: "After coming to the gardening club his family bought some strawberry plants to tend at home. Billy brought in his first strawberry for me to try! Some of the children had never seen radishes before, or eaten peas and beans from the pod.

"It's definitely making a difference to them," Liz said. "They are curious, so we have dug up an onion to see the roots, and they have tried raspberries off the canes. They are asking to make a pizza garden next year."

The potato harvest was recently shared with families reporting back that they had eaten them as baked potatoes, a frittata and in a salad.



Master Gardeners Kelly and Liz