

## News

### Food news for Kingston pupils from their twinned South African school

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Food news for Kingston pupils from their twinned South African school St Lukes Church of England Primary School in Kingston is to receive a surprise visit from a top South African horticulturalist who has been working with its twin school near Pretoria to set up a much-needed community food garden.



Joh Nzira, African Permaculturist, is shown rhubarb in the container garden, by a pupil of St. Luke's School, Kingston.

For some years St Lukes has raised funds for computers and other equipment for Lotus Gardens, and recently joined forces with a British charity, Thatu, to help start a much-needed food garden.

On Friday, John Nzira will take a break from setting up a special African garden at the Chelsea Flower Show to report on progress at Lotus Gardens.

John is especially skilled in gardening in dry conditions and has been showing Lotus Gardens pupils and teachers and members of the community how to cope with their harsh growing environment.

John will also see St Lukes' container food garden has been started as a direct result of learning about what was being achieved in South Africa.

Margery Povall, Chair of Thatu explained: "John and his team from Ukuvuna are advising and helping in the creation of a community food garden at Lotus Gardens outside Pretoria. These gardens are important in many ways – they provide much-needed nutritious food in very poor communities and they teach how to produce food in very difficult conditions.

Thanks to John's guidance, the first crops of spinach and beetroot were harvested and sold within two months of the initial planting."

The Lotus Gardens community food garden is one of the first two that Thatu, a recently established British charity, is funding in disadvantaged communities in South Africa