

Community Food Growers Newsletter



ISSUE 24
OCTOBER 2023

What's on

The National Veg Summit comes to Edinburgh this autumn.

Join Nourish Scotland for a day of veg-centred discussions, exhibitions, cookery demonstrations and, of course, eating at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre. The Summit is your invitation to be part of a crucial conversation – and the next step – in Scotland becoming a Good Food Nation.

The Good Food Nation Act sets out an ambitious plan for the future of Scotland's food system - we can't do this without thinking about veg. To kickstart the conversation the summit will host an interactive

dialogue centred around the question: What would make it easier for everyone to eat more veg in a Good Food Nation?

Expect exciting speakers, interactive exhibitions and cookery demonstrations, and, of course, a veg-centred lunch! There will also be a "Best Scottish Veg Display" competition, showcasing the incredible vegetables being grown across Scotland. Entry details for the veg competition can be found by registering on the Eventbrite page below.

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Where: Edinburgh International Conference Centre

When: Tuesday 31 October
10 – 2pm



Book a place



National Veg Summit

31st October
Edinburgh

discussions | celebration | veg feast | veg competition



Community Food Growing

Cockburnspath Allotment Association

The Cockburnspath/Cove allotment and community garden open day on 26th August.

An excellent day with a very good turnout for our small community. Not a lot of food growing going on, but it showcased what we harvested, the

produce in the allotment plots and entertained at the same time. Events like this one bring more people into the gardens and provides a trickle of

new growers to replace the trickle of growers who unfortunately leave.





Greener Peebles

In September we held a celebration event to mark 10 years of the community garden. Every place tells a story, and the journey of this community food growing and sharing space in the middle of the town is a story of vision, hard work and community spirit. We thank all those who have given their time, ideas, experience, muscle and enthusiasm over the last 10 years to make the garden what it is today – a valuable, welcoming and enriching greenspace in the middle of the town for all to enjoy.

The event got off to a great start with the Where's the One? drummers, who always get us in the mood to party! Local caterers Food Punks created a delicious lunch of barbequed veg, salads, and apple crumble, all made with ingredients from the garden. The band Portnawack and the Woo provided more marvellous

music and entertainment. The Food Foundation made wonderful cakes, and we finished with some circle dancing with Gillian Limb and friends before we got down to the business end of the day with our AGM. We look forward to the next 10 years and the developments they will bring!





Drygrange Community Orchard

September has been a busy month in the community orchard. We have been round all of our 120 fruit trees (mainly apples) to give them their summer pruning. This encourages fruiting and stops the trees becoming too tall to collect from. We have also cleared round their bases using a scythe to improve access. The crop this year is pretty good but not as large as last year.

The adjacent meadow has been cut using the Allan Scythe and the resultant hay raked and rolled to dry it. The volunteers on our Rake and Cake Day, then gathered up the hay and chucked it over the fence into our Forest Garden. This reduces the fertility in the meadow which is good for biodiversity. Thanks to Buglife and their Pollinators along the Tweed project for their help and cake!

The third stage in the process was to take the hay inside the fence and use it to mulch the fruit trees, giving them extra nutrients and suppressing weeds. We had help for this from the Borders Forest Trust volunteers. Many thanks, it was a great collaborative effort. Our community orchard is now in great condition. Our hard work is bearing fruit. Literally!

Note: Our Apple Day this year is going to be Saturday 28th October (10-4), when we will pick our remaining apples, sort the best out for the Food Bank and press the rest into delicious apple juice.

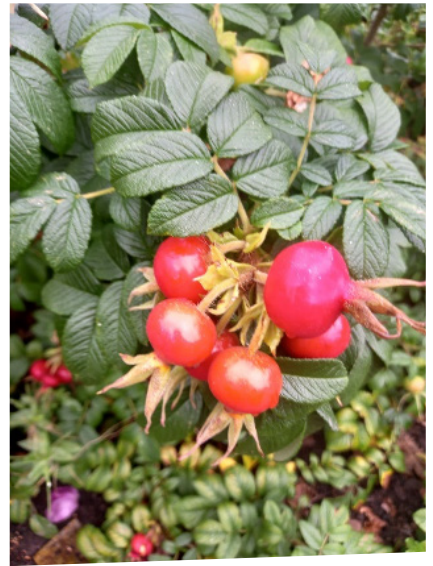


Harvest photographs Wilton Lodge Park Walled Garden

Following on from last months newsletter we have some more fantastic photographs of the wonderful harvests that are being grown across the Scottish Borders.



Harvest photographs cont...





Greener Gateway Community Awards

We were thrilled to have four entries in the Cultivating Communities awards at the Greener Gateway Community Awards this year.

All entrants showcased their excellent projects, and we are delighted to share that Cockburnspath Allotment Association won the trophy. Every project that entered was of a very high standard and it was a joy to celebrate the hard work that the groups have achieved. Thank you to all who took part.



Brighter Selkirk



Burnfoot Community Futures



Cockburnspath Allotment Association



Greener Peebles