

Community Food Growers Newsletter

What's On Grow Borders in person meeting June 11th 10.30am – 12pm Eyemouth

We are delighted to be holding our next Grow Borders network meeting as another in person meeting at the Abundant Borders Community Garden in Eyemouth.

Please email: communityfoodgrowing@scotborders.gov.uk if you would like to be added to the Grow Borders mailing list or to get more information about the Grow Borders network. An agenda with directions will be emailed in early June.

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Greener Gateway Community Awards

Our Greener Gateway Community Awards are now open, and we would be delighted to receive entries from your community/school/enhancement groups.

Key deadline dates for entries are:

02 MAY | Schools Award
30 MAY | Settlement Awards
01 AUG | Border Biodiversity Award
01 AUG | Cultivating Communities Award
01 AUG | Sustainability Award

This is a wonderful way to showcase all the fantastic projects that you run in your communities. For more information, please see our website using this link [Greener Gateway Community Awards | Scottish Borders Council](#)



'Burnfoot Community Futures' Gold award and Best in Show.





Galashiels Community Gardeners

Spring blossoms are with us and the Galashiels Community Gardeners are blooming in a new location!

About six of us from the Galashiels Community Garden group are now volunteering at the Cornerstone Connects Hub Garden, on the Melrose Road.

In the autumn we had a successful apple juicing afternoon with the day centre users. Litres of apple juice were shared with Cornerstone staff, users and some of the volunteers. The centre was so impressed they have now invested in its own apple juicing equipment!

This year we have been clearing, cutting back overgrown vegetation, moving compost, planting wildflower seeds and preparing raised beds. The garden is popular with centre users, staff, gardeners and a wide variety of birds. Was that an owl calling?

The folks from Cornerstone joined us for an enjoyable sunny afternoon working in the garden.

They helped clearing ivy, moving fruit bushes, planting vegetable seeds and seedlings, and seemed to enjoy themselves. For us it has been great to share with them. We volunteers are very happy in our new location and hope the folks from Cornerstone who have been so welcoming will continue to enjoy working with us.



Grow Green Scotland

The Get Growing Scotland hub has a one to one free Help@ advisory service for community led food growing.

It offers both specialist and technical advice, and shares learning from helping groups across Scotland in settings ranging from a neglected street corner to a large open field. The service is free, proven to help groups progress, and can help save money and other resources. It covers a wide range of topics including: developing and growing a vision, sourcing and securing land, working together safely, governance, and navigating local planning. All queries from groups, new or established, are welcome.

www.growgreenscotland.org

Brighter Selkirk



COPS is a subgroup of Brighter Selkirk, part of the Selkirk Community Council, who have, since 2023 been promoting biodiversity in council-owned green spaces by planting mini orchards.



Having successfully planted two orchards one in Bannerfield in 2023 and one on The Green in February 2024, on Saturday 22nd March of this year we planted out third at the Glebe, a total of 19 trees our biggest enterprise so far. Local residents met over planting materials and chatted with tea and biscuits over their endeavors. The weather remained clement and it didn't rain!

Community orchards provide many benefits to the local community, and the environment. These include:- the bringing together of volunteers and neighbours through canvassing and

then again through the planting itself and planned maintenance, by increasing biodiversity for birds, bees and other insects through blossom and then their fruits in what would otherwise remain an area of monoculture, by the provision of fresh free fruit for local residents, and eventually through carbon capture.

We would like to thank the Borders Forest Trust this time for the grant funding to buy the trees, stakes and ties for this most recent planting and for the Community Council for compost obtained from the Recycling centre at the Pavilion in Galashiels.



Wilton Lodge Park Walled Garden



We now have two thirds of our tatties in, pea supports (which we made ourselves) up and our peas are in. All of our onion setts and shallots have been planted out and covered.

We have plenty blossom as well, particularly on the fan cherry trees against the wall. In the glasshouse our tomatoes are through along with dwarf marigolds, calendula, bergamot, thyme, dwarf echium, borage and sweet peas.

