

GOOD FOOD STORY

Name: Jenny Robertson
Project: Lochmaben Community Gardens
Location: Mill Loch, Lochmaben



The project

Since writing a Good Food story for this wonderful community garden two years ago the group and the space have come on in leaps and bounds! What started as a small site on the corner of Mill Loch has grown into a large productive garden of raised beds on a disused piece of concrete.

As they are in the midst of harvesting this year's crop it seemed a good time for DG Community Food Network to visit and write a follow up story. Last year they were lucky enough to get funding from ANCBC and Seed Fund which enabled them to create the first raised beds and have gone on this year to get funding from George Hunter, Regionwide Community Fund and another Seed Fund round. This money has enabled them to put in more raised beds, benches and start to grow meaningful amounts of fruit and vegetables. Wheatley Homes have also been kind enough to fund a wheelchair friendly raised bed to make the garden accessible to everyone.



The community are starting to really get behind the project now and they have 240 followers on Social Media as well as some new regular volunteers. The local nursery children went out earlier in the year to help plant out the raised beds and the primary school have just been out to harvest some amazing tatties!

Lochmaben Community Garden also works closely with RH Youth who have helped with some of the heavy work and have also donated an IBC tank to help with watering in the warm months.

Earlier in the year the group held a great event to show people what was going on at the garden and engage people in activities from making beetroot brownies to building bug boxes.

Wildlife biodiversity is high on the agenda at the garden and they are looking forward to hosting another event early October for Climate Week.

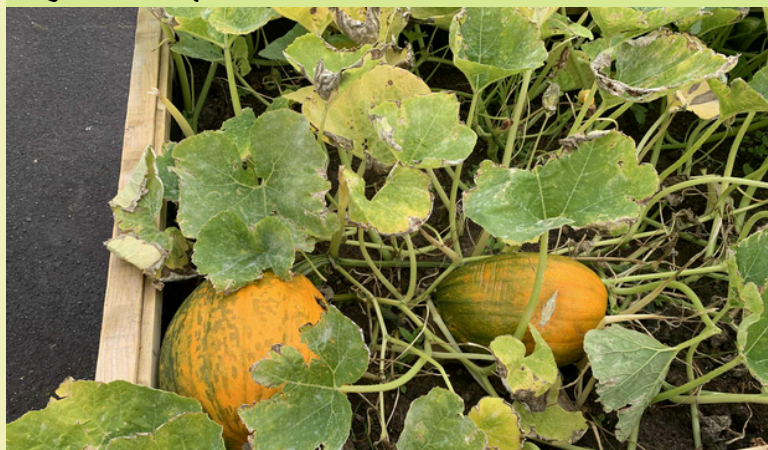


If you have any free time it is the most lovely place to visit, whether you get involved in the growing of food or just want to sit on one of the benches that look out over the Loch.

They are about to plant winter crops of garlic, onions, wild leeks winter, lettuce and Christmas Potatoes so there is still plenty of time to get involved this season.



The harvest this year has been amazing and is there for the community to help themselves. The group have also taken beetroot brownies to Lochmaben Warm Hub that have been made with the ones grown at the garden and there is lots of homemade leek and potatoes soup in the freezer ready to supply lunches there in the colder months. There has even been enough surplus to take to the Lochmaben produce market to give away for free or a donation!



Going forward, TSDG have helped the group to change their constitution so that they can now have the lease for the site in their name giving them more sustainability. The group are thinking about adding a sensory garden with some of the funding they have for this year and looking at more options to keep making things interesting. What a success they are making of the space they have!

