

# GOOD FOOD STORY

**Name:** Jif Hyde and Lee Paton

**Project:** Soup and Sweet

**Location:** Auchencairn



## Describe your project

Lee

Basically we've got people who make soup and food and stuff for free, people pay 5 pounds for a meal, we pay the hall rental with it and the rest of the money accumulates and we can spend it on other things. It's a fairly simple formula and it works.

## What's on the menu?

Lee

We always do at least one vegetarian usually both gluten free and one whizzed up. And we try and make soup that's different colours so we don't get confused. And then there's the sweets.



## Why did you set it up?

Jif

We started in 2016.

It was because the pub had closed and there was nowhere for people to meet and eat, so it kind of predated the shop doing food or anything. So that's where my notion came from: for people to get together and eat.



## What are your challenges?

Jif

It keeps you on your toes cause you don't know how many people are going to be here. When we first did it, it made me quite stressed and I would have emergency pudding possibilities brought with me so I could make something up. Sometimes people would be told there was soup but no pudding or vice versa.

If you haven't got your two usual people who make soup you have to find someone else to make the soup. It's been a gradually changing group people who've been involved so finding people who are willing to make soup can be a challenge, but that's all really.



## What are your future plans?

Lee

We'd like to do it more than once a month but we don't have the energy! I think this format works really well and could keep going forever. It went quiet for a couple of months after covid and we didn't know if it would pick up again but it did.

## What do you think needs to change around food in D&G?

Lee

Obviously we could do with growing a bit more of our own in Dumfries and Galloway but that's bit of a tall order.

Jif

And have it easily available for places to actually use it and particularly get it in schools, local food in schools.

