

GOOD FOOD STORY

Name: Jon
Project: Space to Grow
Location: Old Church Depot, Moffat



Describe your project

Space to Grow is a community organisation that has a garden and buildings in its care. The garden is a beautiful space for people to grow food in raised beds, ground plots and a polytunnel. People grow food for themselves and also share surplus within the group and wider community.

There are some great new raised beds made out of larch by a local trades person and these are really good for accessibility and wheelchair access. Whilst membership is quite full there are a couple of ground plots not being used if anyone would like to join the group! Space to grow is a lovely place to socialise or just sit quietly as there indoor and outdoor seating areas .

In the space there is a small orchard of fruit trees that are establishing and all of the crop from these are shared amongst the community. The fruit is also turned into jam and this skill is being taught to people who come to the garden! The orchard was planted as a Forest Garden and it is hoped that in future crops can feed into a community fridge at Space to Grow.

The indoor space is shared with Bird Box who work in the same way as a Men's Shed but was set up for women, the project is now used by all genders and teaches woodworking skills to a wide range of people.



How did you get started?

Space to Grow evolved from Moffat CAN which started around 2009. Funding had dried up and it was a struggle to keep going.

Jon came on to the board in 2015 and they decided to take a different approach that moved away from funding in 2018. The group have a membership fee for some of the growing spaces and also have solar panels that generate an income so they are now financially sustainable.

What are your plans for the future?

We are still working on the building renovation plans and the model for us to facilitate other community groups to run projects instead of running them ourselves.

With that said we are very interested in setting up a community fridge to share what we grow and what can be made from the produce, jams for example. A pizza oven would be a lovely addition for socialising and sharing food!



What are the challenges?

Funding for larger projects can be difficult and we are trying to renovate the large building we have to create a working hub for the community, however, this is slow.

Energy gets depleted in the group and it would be good to have some new board members to help us drive forward!



What does sustainability mean to you?

All aspects of sustainability are important to us and we are financially sustainable. The social aspect of our group increases health and wellbeing. Access to healthy food contributes to local resilience. Connecting people to food through growing it themselves is so important and people take pride in what they have grown which makes it taste all the better!

We contribute to the climate change conversation through the low impact way we grow. We have solar panels and compost all our waste that is then fed back into the garden. There is a rainwater collection point that is piped through garden and connected to taps all the way down so people don't have to carry water. Parts of the garden use 'No Dig' methods and grow willow. We also have a pond that attracts wildlife and pollinators which is great for biodiversity and helping our crops to grow!

What good food changes need to happen in D&G?

We need more projects like Space to Grow!

You can contact Space to Grow via:
Email - office@space2growmoffat.org

And find them on Facebook:
FB - [Space to Grow](#)