

# Community Food Growers Newsletter



## What's on - Abundant Borders

### Community Garden Events

2023	FEBRUARY	MARCH
<b>DAYS &amp; TIMES</b> Ayton 1 - 3pm Monday Hawick 10am - noon Tuesday Duns 10am - noon Tuesday Foulden 1-3pm Wednesday Kelso 1 - 3pm Wednesday Eyemouth 10 - noon Thursday	<b>TREE PLANTING</b> KELSO 15th & 22nd EYEMOUTH 16th <b>GRAFTING</b> EYEMOUTH 19th 10.30 to 2.30 <b>SEED SWAP</b> AYTON 27th DUNS 28th	<b>SEED SWAP</b> KELSO 1st EYEMOUTH 2nd HAWICK 4th (@ unit 4 Hawick) <b>POTATO DAYS</b> AYTON 20th DUNS & HAWICK 21st KELSO 22nd EYEMOUTH 23rd
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<b>EASTER OPEN DAYS</b> AYTON 10th DUNS & HAWICK 11th KELSO & FOULDEN 12th EYEMOUTH 13th	<b>MUSHROOM DAY</b> KELSO 3rd <b>HERBS DAY</b> DUNS 20th <b>WILLOW WEAVING</b> AYTON 22nd DUNS & HAWICK 23rd KELSO & FOULDEN 24th EYEMOUTH 25th	<b>HERBS DAY</b> KELSO 3rd EYEMOUTH 17th
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<b>SOFT FRUIT DAYS</b> AYTON 3rd DUNS & HAWICK 4th KELSO & FOULDEN 5th EYEMOUTH 6th	<b>GARDEN OPEN DAY</b> All of the Community Gardens will be open for fun and games on SATURDAY 5th	<b>HARVESTING</b> All of the gardens will be busy harvesting in September so look out for special events nearer the time
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<b>HARVEST FESTIVALS</b> EYEMOUTH 7th 12 noon til 4pm DUNS 15th 12 noon til 4pm <b>APPLE PRESSING</b> AYTON 9th DUNS 10th KELSO & FOULDEN 11th	<b>GARDEN TIDIES</b> All of the gardens will be busy with year end workdays so look out for special events nearer the time	<b>WREATH MAKING</b> AYTON 4th DUNS & HAWICK 5th KELSO 6th EYEMOUTH 7th

**ISSUE 16**  
FEBRUARY 2023

### In this issue ...

- Eat Sleep Ride
- Councillor Greenwell Garden Visits
- Greener Peebles News - An exciting start to 2023
- Brighter Selkirk News - Developing SBC owned Greenspaces in Selkirk
- Pollinators Along The Tweed



## Borders Organic Gardeners

It's back! Borders Organic Gardeners' famous

# POTATO DAY

SPRINGWOOD PARK, KELSO  
11am - 3pm SUNDAY  
5th MARCH 2023  
free parking  
Up to 100 varieties of potato tubers  
including HERITAGE and BLIGHT RESISTANT  
20p per tuber. CASH sales only  
GREEN FAIR with organic produce, crafts, advice and information, plants and seeds, children's activities, cafe

Borders Organic Gardeners  
Scottish Charity no. SC039605  
bordersorganicardeners.org

BOG  
POTATO DAY  
AND GREEN FAIR



# Eat Sleep Ride

After the success of our Great Winter Get Together, we are hosting another event on the 19th Feb, from 1-3pm, to celebrate best friends day. We want to bring people together, with warm drinks and food, to play a range of outdoor games with and against each other to test communication and connection, and enjoy a singalong to live music.

This is free to attend again, with foods and drinks supplied, but we ask anyone who wishes to come along they could bring something for the barbecue that they would cook for their best friend! All ages are welcome, if transport is an issue, we are happy to help with organising lift sharing or a Pingo Bus.

**Best Friends Day**  
19th February, from 1-3pm

We are hosting our next community event, running to celebrate best friends day!

We want to bring people together, with warm drinks and food, to play a range of outdoor games with and against each other to test your communication and connection and enjoy a singalong to live music. This is free to attend but we ask anyone who wishes to come along if they can bring something for the barbecue that they would cook for their best friend

All ages are welcome, if transport is an issue we can help with organising lift sharing or a Pingo Bus.

eatsleepridecic@gmail.com  
Eat Sleep Ride CIC, Quarry Farm, Lamberton, TD15 1XB

# Councillor Greenwell Garden Visits

On my visits to some of the community gardens around the Borders recently I could not have been more impressed with the enthusiasm of all the volunteers working away in some very challenging weather conditions, spirits were high and their knowledge of the projects they were working on was very impressive.

The award winning Walled Garden in Wilton Lodge Park, the Edible Garden in Innerleithen and the Greener Peebles Community Garden were all well attended by volunteers and garden users during my visit. What was really impressive was how all the projects had reached out to other groups within their towns to share their experiences and encourage everyone to become involved, I am looking forward to a return visit during the summer to see all the projects in full bloom.



Wilton Lodge Walled Garden



Greener Peebles Community Garden



The Edible Garden



The Edible Garden

# Greener Peebles News

## An exciting start to 2023



The new year got off to a great start in the community garden, with a very busy first Friday session for our monthly volunteer meeting, and plenty of enthusiastic horse manure barrowing and raking! Everyone was so happy to be back together after the holidays, and there was a real buzz about the garden.



In January we were also delighted to welcome local permaculture expert James Chapman for a first visit. We are very interested in developing permaculture design in the community garden, because of its biodiversity-enhancing and planet-friendly approach. We took part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch for the first time, and look forward to comparing our results year on year.



The fun continues with discussions of what to plant this year – just the names of the seeds we are buying make our mouths water! Who knows how the weather will affect the crops this year – it's part of the wonderful experiment that is gardening – but thanks to the efforts of our fantastic volunteers, and our funders who keep us in seeds, tools and compost (and much more), we are sure to produce a steady weekly harvest, small or great, for all involved, all year round.

# Brighter Selkirk News

## Developing SBC owned Greenspaces in Selkirk

We are at the outset of an exciting development in Selkirk. Our pilot project, for which we have received funding from SBC, is to create a small community orchard in an area of Bannerfield formerly used as a children's play park. There will be about 10 small fruit trees (apples and plums) planted, a few fruit bushes and a couple of benches. The people living nearby the orchard will be able to pick any fruit produced for themselves. This project would be a prototype for other small community orchards in the town in green spaces. We have already identified three further possible sites.

We would like children from the local school to be involved in the planting of the trees/fruit bushes. Most of the residents that we consulted, prior to seeking funding, were very supportive of the project and commented that it would be nice to see the site in use again, and some even volunteered to help.

**The main aims of this project are to:**

- Provide a free source of healthy food to people living near a given green space. The people living nearby to any project would have access to that area in terms of free food and will be encouraged to help maintain

the area in the future. Over time, our idea is to plant fruit trees in several green spaces and grow the idea of small community orchards

cont...





# Brighter Selkirk News cont...

## Developing SBC owned Greenspaces in Selkirk

- Build community – by involving children and local people in the project. Children are likely to protect the trees more if they have been involved with planting
- Fruit will be produced locally, sustainably and without the use of chemicals: a healthy product that can be picked straight from the tree for eating. There will be no food miles. Children will be able to see the development of fruit from a tree over time, rather than assuming food comes in plastic bags from a supermarket!
- Increase biodiversity in the area through food sources such as fruit tree blossom and fruit from bushes, perhaps wildflowers, (the odd hedgerow). This increase in biodiversity will help with pollination and make the area more interesting for people
- Increase carbon capture through tree planting

We will launch the project once the trees have been planted with a little party on the site, most likely around the end of March...**watch this space for updates....**

## Pollinators Along The Tweed

“Pollinators Along the Tweed” is a Buglife partnership project that aims to create a network of habitat for pollinating insects along the River Tweed B-Line by increasing and connecting the area of wildflower-rich habitat. Working with the local authority, landowners and communities, Pollinators Along the Tweed will create and restore 40 hectares (100 acres) of pollinator habitat across 50 sites.

### What will the project do?

Pollinators Along the Tweed will create a network of habitat for pollinating insects along the River Tweed B-Line by increasing and connecting the areas of wildflower-rich habitat.

Working with the local authority, landowners and communities, Pollinators Along the Tweed will create and restore 40 hectares (100 acres) of pollinator habitat across 50 sites.

Nectar and pollen sources will be boosted by the creation of wildflower-rich grassland and other flower-rich habitat, and nesting and egg-laying habitat will be created through insect banks, bee hotels and foodplant provision.



### How does this relate to Community Food Growing Projects?

We are planning to carry out habitat enhancements for pollinators at a number of community growing sites including:

- Drygrange Community Orchard and Forest Garden
- Norham Jubilee Field, where there is a community orchard and herb planters for communal use
- Tweedsmuir Crook Inn Community Hub, the garden contains an orchard and rhubarb patch
- We also hope to do some grassland enhancement that complements the proposed community orchard at Clovenfords

cont...

# Pollinators Along The Tweed cont..

## How can you get involved?

You can get involved with Pollinators Along the Tweed through a series of volunteering opportunities including habitat creation, pollinator surveying, as well as workshops, walks and talks.

### We are seeking volunteers to:

- Get involved with habitat creation and management
- Survey pollinators at project sites using the UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme
- Record and share pollinator sightings by joining the Pollinators Along the Tweed iRecord group
- Add their own pollinator sites to the B-Lines map

Information, advice and support is also available to landowners who would like to learn more about the project and improve their land for pollinators.



To find out more about getting involved, contact Charlotte Rankin (Conservation Officer) at [Charlotte.Rankin@buglife.org.uk](mailto:Charlotte.Rankin@buglife.org.uk)

### Scottish Borders Council are a key partner in the delivery of Pollinators Along the Tweed who is funded by

The National Lottery Heritage Fund, with match funding from AEB Charitable Trust, Craignish Trust, Fallago Environment Fund, J & JR Wilson Trust, Milkywire, NatureScot, Northumbrian Water Group and ScottishPower Foundation.

