

# Community Food Growers Newsletter



## What's on - Abundant Borders

Abundant Borders have held our annual Seed Share events in Ayton, Duns, Kelso, Eyemouth and Hawick in late February/early March.

The events were well-attended with plenty of knowledge, as well as seeds, being shared. Also in February we had two tree-planting sessions at the Kelso garden and established an orchard - thanks to funding from the Tweed Forum. Plans are also underway for a tree-planting session in the new Eyemouth garden later in March to establish an orchard of 36 fruit trees - thanks to funding from the Tree Council.

Also in March will be our annual Potato Days:



### EVENTS DIARY MARCH

1	SEED SWAP/ GIVEAWAY KELSO COMMUNITY GARDEN 1-3pm
2	SEED SWAP/ GIVEAWAY EYEMOUTH COMMUNITY GARDEN 10-noon
4	SEED SWAP/ GIVEAWAY UNIT 4 CORNUCOPIA, HAWICK 10 - 3pm
20	POTATO DAY AYTON COMMUNITY GARDEN 1-3pm
21	POTATO DAY DUNS COMMUNITY GARDEN 1-3pm
21	POTATO DAY HAWICK COMMUNITY GARDEN 10- noon
22	POTATO DAY KELSO COMMUNITY GARDEN 1-3pm
23	POTATO DAY EYEMOUTH COMMUNITY GARDEN 10-noon



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# Greenspace Programme Officer Visits

I travelled over to Berwickshire in February and went to visit two privately managed allotment sites, Chirnside Allotments and Cockburnspath Allotments. Both were fantastic community led projects, with very different styles of allotments. Chirnside allotments were set up by a group of residents who wanted a space to grow. They rent their land from a local landowner and have 14 allotments so far, with a view to develop more when the neighbouring development of houses have been finished. Each allotment has a shed included and a stipulation from the landowner to have no fencing gives the space a friendly open feel. It was wonderful to see how a poster up in the village asking for allotment interest has managed to spark such a positive space for local people to come and grow together.



Cockburnspath Allotments



Composting bays at Cockburnspath in construction



Chirnside Allotments



Chirnside Allotments

Cockburnspath Allotment group secured their land through a community asset transfer and have developed it into community allotments, a pond area and a community garden. They are currently building an impressive community composting area. The composting element is to help local people get rid of their garden waste without

having to drive to Duns to the nearest recycling centre. The whole site is thriving, with a polycrub, poly tunnel and allotment plots. It was wonderful to visit and see what can be achieved by likeminded people coming together and forming a group with a view to creating allotment spaces.



# Community Food Growing News

## Greener Peebles

We received a great boost recently when we were awarded a Loving Our Volunteers award for 'Best Group 2022' at a ceremony in Melrose. We would like to thank Volunteer Centre Borders for this award, which is now proudly displayed in our Barn, open during volunteering sessions for all to enjoy.



Seed sowing is now top of the agenda, and to this end we held a Skill Share with the aim of helping participants feel more confident about sowing seeds on their own. It led to requests for another Skill Share on the next stage of planting – pricking out, potting on, and planting out.



Our 'How To' resource on Seed Sowing is available on our website [www.greenerpebbles.org](http://www.greenerpebbles.org)

## Borders Organic Gardeners

Borders Organic Gardeners would like to thank anyone who attended our Potato Day at Border Events Centre in Kelso on 5th March. Over 1000 people joined us and made its success.

We had over 80 varieties of seed potatoes for sale as well as onions and shallots and potato experts were on hand to give advice. The Green Fair had an excellent range of stalls and the café was kept busy all day. Children's activities were popular too. Surplus potatoes were delivered to schools who had requested them and will help children learn about growing food.

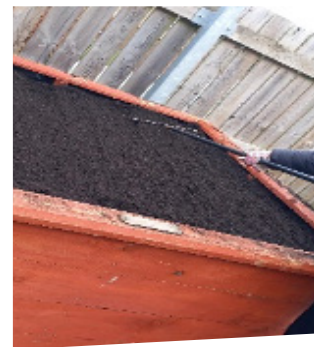
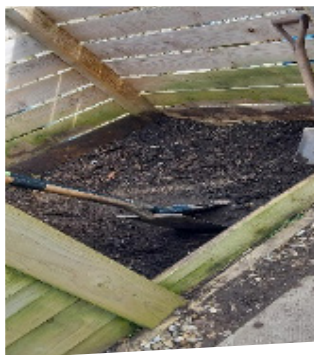




**BURNFOOT**  
Community Futures

# Burnfoot Hub

Our volunteers have been busy over the past few weeks clearing out and tidying up and we've got rid of a lot of rubbish that's been lying around. The nice tidy garden, our empty growing beds and the many seeds we have ready are filling us with enthusiasm about the new growing season and we can't wait to get started again.



We've also did the really mucky job of digging out and emptying our very first compost bin. We're very impressed at the finished result and have lots of bags of compost and leaf mulch which we made ourselves. We reckon getting excited about making our own compost must make us proper gardeners!!!

We were just as excited when we took delivery of our SBC compost last week. A huge thanks to Amy and everyone involved in organizing this for us, it's appreciated by us all in Burnfoot. One of our young volunteers discovered a new use for it and had a great time building Castles with it as he filled up the beds in our Poly Tunnel and Planters.

Here's to new beginnings, lots of potential and a bumper harvest ... HOPEFULLY!!

## Compost Deliveries have started to arrive



Thanks to Burnfoot Hub who are the first group to share their compost photographs, delighted to hear that the delivery drivers were helpful and dropped it at the two specified locations. Looking forward to sharing more of your compost photographs in April's newsletter.

