



# THE GREENING WINGROVE SUMMER NEWSLETTER!



**"FOR THE PEOPLE OF ARTHUR'S HILL, SPITAL TONGUES, NEW MILLS ESTATE AND WINGROVE"**

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

VERTICAL VEG STREET kicked off again in March for the new growing season! It has been great to see new faces this year eager to learn all they can (no matter what the weather!) from the Vertical Veg expert, Mark Ridsdill Smith.

We are hearing lots of positive comments about all the noticeable signs of greenery popping up in residents front gardens – which is very encouraging!

We will be hosting our first VERTICAL VEG RE-VAMPS in the next couple of months. This will help residents bring their dream Vertical Veg gardens come true with volunteer help! Please get in touch if you'd like to help!

**FOUR STREETS ENERGY SURVEY** - The Project team commissioned Greening Wingrove CIC and Newcastle University to work with residents of four streets from within the project area, Milvain Avenue, Ancrum Street, Monday Crescent and Beaconsfield Street, on a community energy use survey. This will let residents see

how their energy use compares to their neighbours.

We hope to use the information captured from this activity to help identify those people who may need help to reduce energy use or who are struggling to heat their homes during the winter months.



A COMMUNITY COMPOSTING FEASIBILITY STUDY was commissioned back in March to look at opportunities in the project area. After speaking to residents and interested organisations, the recommendations of the study are now in! With your help, we want to work with residents to take these forward over the next six months. If you would like a copy of the summary and would like to find out more, please get in touch.

## GARDEN FESTIVAL 2015!

**The Greening Wingrove  
Garden Festival is back!**

This family fun-filled day will be taking place on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 1-4pm, at the Nunsmoor Centre.

Come and enjoy celebrating all things green and growing and lots more! See poster inside!

For your **FREE herb pot**, please cut out the voucher below and bring it with you to the festival.



## GREENING WINGROVE BEAUTIFUL SPACES

**Are you passionate about  
growing and creating a  
beautiful space in the  
Greening Wingrove area?**

Well, we are celebrating all Beautiful Spaces in Wingrove. So if you have, or know of, a Beautiful Space we want to hear from you!

Contact the project team (details overleaf) for further info on categories or log on to <http://bit.ly/1HdSAyw>

**We are accepting nominations  
until end of September 2015.**

Viewings will take place after the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of July.

## SAVE A BUCKET LOAD!

Vertical Veg Street is the WEA Greening Project's key growing activity, which is all about encouraging residents to grow food at the front of their homes to ...

- 🍷 SAVE MONEY
- 🍷 ENJOY EATING THE FOOD THEY GROW
- 🍷 HELP GREEN THE STREETS!

**Water butts** are great at capturing water and boosting productivity! We would like to hear from 250 residents or more, if they would be interested in owning a water butt. *We can't guarantee this opportunity until we know there is enough interest.* If you are interested, contact us or complete the online survey (web address below) or ask us for a paper copy

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SaveaBucketLoad>



## GETTING IN TOUCH ...

We'd love to know what exciting things are happening in the Greening Wingrove patch! Grown something amazing? Got a creative recycling project on the go? Want to share top tips on energy saving?

Please get in touch via...

**Email:** [hello@greeningwingrove.org.uk](mailto:hello@greeningwingrove.org.uk)

**Facebook, Google+ & Streetlife:** WEA Greening Wingrove Project

**Twitter:** [greenwingrove](https://twitter.com/greenwingrove)

**Insta:** [WEA\\_greeningwingrove](https://www.instagram.com/wea_greeningwingrove)



BEFORE



"FIRST GREEN GEM IS A WARMING EXAMPLE!"

The WEA Greening Wingrove Project is working with local community groups to create a string of Green Gems across the project area which demonstrate an element of sustainability or environmental activity. We are very excited to announce that the first in our series of Green Gems has been completed at the Robert Stewart Memorial (RSM) Hall.

Over the past three months, we have worked with the RSM to transform a cold and sometimes unusable community hall into a warm refurbished space which can be used throughout the year for community events, meetings and clubs. In the winter users had to wear lots of layers and coats and events were often cancelled when it was cold.

The project team commissioned CP Energy to undertake a feasibility study into energy efficiency measures and then appointed Fulwell Ceiling Contractors to install the following: a suspended ceiling with insulation, insulation on walls, four new radiators and new double glazed windows.

The space has been transformed and is light, bright and WARM! With help from the local Scouts group it has also received a makeover! The RSM will be developing information about insulation so that users can see what is possible in their own homes and will be able to understand the difference it makes.

Ann Honey, Church Related Community Worker at the RSM said, "We have only just realised since the work has been done, that the thermostat in the hall works! It's never been warm enough in there for the thermostat to turn the heating off!"



AFTER



## COMMUNITY INNOVATION FUND YEAR 2

Back in March residents had their say and five projects were chosen! Here's a rundown of the successful projects ...

- **THE ACTIVIST GARDEN** - Empowering local women to reclaim the park, to feel safe in visiting it. There'll be regular health walks, yoga sessions, planting and growing sessions, plus a vibrant Summer 'Activist Garden Party' on Sun 6<sup>th</sup> September
- **RECLAIM THE LANES PROJECT** - In partnership with the CHAT Trust, this exciting project is about artists working with local young people to reimagine their back lanes and look at how to improve these often neglected, unloved spaces
- **MY PLEDGE PLUS** - Building on the success of the Greening Wingrove CIC's CIF project last year, it's back bigger and stronger with the help of partners WEYES and IDC continuing to tackle waste, litter and fly-tipping that blights the area.
- **SUMMER HOLIDAY ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB** - Working with Fenham Association of Residents, the Nuns Moor Centre Trust will be offering fun practical sessions for young people to learn about green issues and develop new skills
- **NUNS MOOR PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN** - With the help of the local community, this ambitious project looks to reimagine the former bowling green in Nuns Moor Park as a vibrant community space and garden for all to enjoy.

Photo credits: The Magpie



UPDATE PAGE FOR THE GREENING WINGROVE COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY!



"THE GREENING WINGROVE CIC AND RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN BUSY!"

## GOOD NEWS FOR NUNS MOOR PARK?

Greening Wingrove CIC volunteers have been busy in Nuns Moor Park.

**The Greening Wingrove Bike Garden has been launched!** The former bowling pavilion been given a new lease of life and is available to hire by local groups and for private parties.

The Pavilion can be hired from £10 an hour. If you're interested get in touch.

We've planted **new community orchards**, including one in the Park as well as helping to start mini-orchards at Fountains Row, Spital Tongues, and at Wingrove, Moorside and Westgate Hill Primary schools.

The recent "Be Active Day" in the Park sparked lots of ideas on the future of the **Depot building**, including looking at the feasibility of a café (we successfully tried out a pop-up café) and ways of restoring the sensory garden.

The Greening Wingrove Community Orchard Group (anyone can join!) and the Time Exchange are busy designing the **new community garden** at the old bowling green.

And we're still aiming to hold a **public meeting** to share ideas, as well as shape a partnership to plan the future of the Park. It's been delayed slightly as we wait to see the City Council's plans for the future of Newcastle's parks.



## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The Greening Wingrove Community Interest Company (CIC) is working on future options. As a co-operative, owned and controlled by its members (open to anyone who lives in the Greening Wingrove area), we're keen to become a viable community enterprise. We could then do more for Nuns Moor Park, turn our area 'greener' and strengthen the campaign against litter and fly tipping. Support is coming from the WEA Greening Wingrove Project as well as from business advisers linked with Community Ventures at the Community Foundation.

If anyone else would like to help (or can persuade generous donors to think of Greening Wingrove!), please get in touch. And you can always join the CIC for free. Call 0191 273 6418 or visit <http://greeningwingrove.org.uk/about-the-community-co-op/why-its-good-to-join/>



## LEANER AND GREENER

**Litter and fly tipping are big problems for the Greening Wingrove neighbourhoods.**

But more people are getting involved in the Greening Wingrove CIC's "My Pledge" anti-litter campaign. Brought together by local residents, there have been monthly street clean-ups in Arthur's Hill, getting a positive response from many neighbours.

Help with the street clean-ups has also come from Home Group staff volunteers, members of the Westgate Baptist Church, Islamic Diversity Centre, and the Apostolic Church. It all helps to shift attitudes to keep Wingrove tidy.

Thanks to funding from the Council's Wingrove Ward Committee, the WEA Greening Wingrove Project's Community Innovation Fund, and the national voluntary organisation, Locality, we're now able to employ a new Community Organiser, Katrina Jordison, to help expand "My Pledge".

The aim is to extend the street cleans and other activities into the Wingrove Road area, and to parts of Spital Tongues, where several informal street cleaning activities are already taking place and residents have told us they'd like to step up the campaign.

Please get in touch if you'd like to help.

## SPOTLIGHT ON ...

### A GREENING WINGROVE (CHAMPION)

Dave Webb is an active local resident and Director of the Greening Wingrove CIC. A pioneer of Vertical Veg Street, he was also part of the team successful in bidding in this years' Community Innovation Funded (CIF). Dave is a strong advocate for change in the area.

#### Biggest achievement?

Growing runner beans! This compares to my attempt to grow raspberries, which is pitiful. I'll keep trying (and they'll keep dying).

#### Funniest experience?

Don Morrison singing a "he's our leader" song during a community clean up session with Nigel Todd.

#### What's got you excited right now?

Our successful CIF project 'Reclaim the Lanes', aims to improve the back lanes as spaces for socialising and kids to play in safely. At our next event, we're hoping for an experimental mix of DIY musical instrument making, creating wall hangings and some very special outdoor food. We want people to bring their bins along and start to clean up the street so we can have more fun!

#### Favourite landmark in the Greening Wingrove patch?

The Nuns Moor Park Community Garden, or it will be. I'm hoping it'll become a base for musicians and local residents using the park.

#### What's up and coming?

Pretty much everything! The challenge at the moment is to keep moving forward and to generate some income to sustain all this in the future. As always, we need more hands on deck, so get in touch if you have ideas and/ or want to help out.



## THE WEA GREENING WINGROVE PROJECT TEAM IS GROWING!

### MEET ALICE!



We're excited to let you know that we have an **ADDITIONAL MEMBER OF STAFF ON THE PROJECT TEAM!**

Alice Massey is our team's new Project Organiser, working closely with our Community Champions and helping to develop our volunteer opportunities. Having volunteered for us as a Community Champion herself, as well as being an active member of the local community, Alice is looking forward to meeting lots of you over the coming months!

Alice trained and worked in the North East as an industrial chemist but took a step sideways at the turn of the century and started to work in the community. Over the last decade she has worked with a variety of organisations including the Children's Warehouse, the Newcastle Literacy Trust, Children North East, BAN Waste, Community Waste Network NE, Groundwork NE, Transition Towns, the Blakelaw Partnership, the RSPB, and recently established a "Friends" group to look after the church gardens at St James and St Basil's.

Alice says "I am really excited to be working on the WEA Greening Wingrove project. I am particularly interested in working with **(COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS!** So please say hello and if you have time come see me and we can grab a cuppa (I'll provide the biscuits)".

### COMING UP...

- **Greening Wingrove Garden Festival** – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 1-4pm at the Nunsmoor Centre, Studley Terrace
- **Vertical Veg Street Session on Feeding container plants** – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August, 6-7.30pm at 1 Chelsea Grove

...AND FINALLY... THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

*This newsletter has been printed on recycled paper. Please recycle after reading too!*



supported by



LOTTERY FUNDED



Workers' Educational Association



Newcastle City Council



The co-operative membership



Time Exchange



BECON



Newcastle University