



# GREENING WINGROVE

2012 -2017

---

Celebrating  
five years of  
community change

# FOREWORD

Workers' Educational Association (WEA) has been involved with Greening Wingrove right from the start, supporting the initial development of the project proposal, through to taking on responsibility for managing the BIG Lottery funded project, employing key staff members and reporting to the Lottery.

We've helped celebrate and promote the many great activities that have taken place as part of the project and shared them with the wider WEA across the country. We've learned lessons about working with wider partnerships, with different kinds and sizes of organisations and about how to enable people to engage with the issues of climate change and take sustainable, green actions.

We hope to take some of these ideas forward through future sustainability projects and the WEA Green Branch. We'll be continuing to deliver a wide range of education for adults in the Wingrove area, as we have done for many years, working in partnership with local organisations.

## Acknowledgements

Staff – Alan Barlow, Laurence Bonner, Abi Boston-Smith, Sarah Crompton, Tom French, John Hunter, Katrina Jordison, Alice Massey, Johurun Nessa, Helen Nisbet, Lesley Parker, Tom Scott, Anne Staines, Andrew Teasdale

## Booklet production

Gerard Hunwick (editor)  
Debbie Semple (design)  
Emma Wilson (Greening Wingrove logo)

# CONTENTS

Introduction	04
What is Greening Wingrove?	05
Key Statistics	06
Community	09
Nuns Moor Park	16
Growing	18
Tackling Waste	22
Saving Energy	24
Learning	26
The Future	27



Cllr  
Nigel Todd

---

Chair Greening  
Wingrove CIC

# INTRODUCTION

Greening Wingrove is about making our part of Newcastle upon Tyne a better place to live.

Seven years ago, a small group of residents, ward councillors, and staff from local voluntary and Council services, met to discuss our problems of litter and fly tipping. Not many people had responded to challenging this endemic grime. But the meeting changed everything.

Using an idea from Vancouver, Canada, we hit on the perspective of looking at an apparently intractable problem through a 'green lens'. Greening Wingrove was born!

As a result, fresh energies were unlocked, taking us in directions that eventually encouraged people to start dealing with the refuse mountain. The Council ward committee pumped life into Greening Wingrove, letting residents have a say in giving Wingrove groups and organisations, ranging from allotments to community buildings, money to implement their 'green' projects.

A newsletter was launched, funded via local co-ops, to publicise Greening Wingrove, and an informal steering group tried out ideas. Then we won the Lottery! Thanks to the BIG Lottery's Communities Living Sustainably scheme for exploring neighbourhood responses to the impacts of climate change, Greening Wingrove was able to take our imaginings to new heights.

**The rest was history, as well as the foundation for our aspiring 'inner-city garden suburb.'**

Please read and enjoy our story. Please join in our future.

# WHAT IS GREENING WINGROVE?

## Four key aims



Make the neighbourhood cleaner and greener



Encourage local people to grow and eat their own food



Help reduce household bills by saving energy



Support residents to reduce, re-use and recycle waste

## Community Capacity Building

Greening Wingrove supported a ground-up approach to achieve these aims, actively supporting local people, community organisations and businesses to make the difference.

A Community Innovation Fund encouraged residents to decide where money should be spent in the area. Community events, free give-aways, advice workshops, street sessions, regular resident surveys, employment and training of local people – all have contributed to the attempt to build a more resilient neighbourhood, a greener environment and a more connected community.

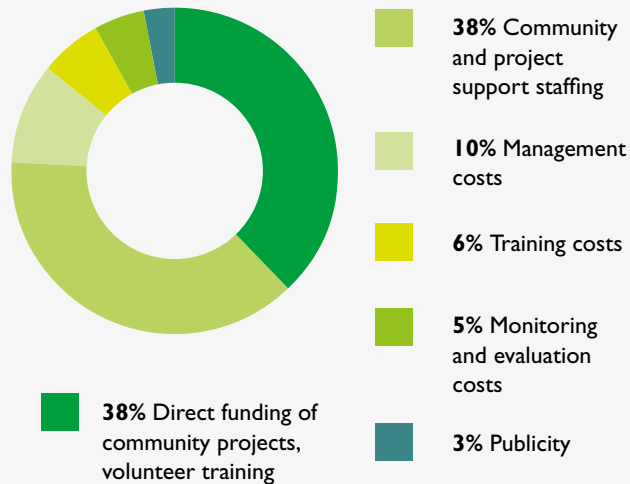
It was always the hope too, that unlike many projects, the benefits wouldn't just disappear when the funding ran out; that there would be something sustainable left behind in the community relationships that have been built and in the knowledge that there are others out there who share the desire and have the skills to improve the area we live in, for everybody's benefit.

# HOW WAS THE FUNDING SPENT?

**£980,000** was granted by the Big Lottery to fund the project over four years.

This is how the money was spent.

On top of the grant, Greening Wingrove has brought an additional **£120,000** of funding into the area.



- **£14,800 from Newcastle City Council** for developing community gardens, for community organising and anti-litter work
- **£35,750 from Locality** for community organisers
- **£12,400 from ISOS Housing (now Karbon Homes)** to engage residents in environmental issues
- **£28,000 from Northumbrian Water** for water saving advice
- **£25,000 from different funders** to support the Arthur's Hill CHAT Trust

# WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED?

**14,052**

engagements with  
Greening Wingrove  
projects



**6,492**  
attendances at

**256**

community  
events, festivals,  
workshops, advice  
and drop-in sessions



**2,557**

households,  
businesses and community  
groups benefiting from  
energy audits and advice



**883**

local people  
volunteering



**1,141**

people  
involved in new community  
growing initiatives



**237**

new trees  
planted or distributed  
to local households



**548**

local people and  
businesses  
pledging to reduce  
their impact on  
the environment



**21**

community-run projects funded  
through Community Innovation  
Fund, engaging **4,136** residents



**307**

new household and  
community growing  
sites established

**“Project funding has gone beyond just supporting activities.  
It has allowed an infrastructure to be developed.”**



“The social events in the park are always good fun, and have helped to develop a strong feeling of community in the area, that was lacking before Greening Wingrove was set up.”







# COMMUNITY EVENTS

There were 4,253 attendees at community events hosted by Greening Wingrove.



**Food festival**, celebrating our diverse community and the foods we love



**Four Apple Days**, celebrating the apple harvest and the start of autumn



**Three Garden Festivals**, celebrating growing and gardening



**Circus in the Park**, summer '17, celebrating fun, circus, workshops, food and music

**“I have got to meet a lot of people in my community, that I wouldn’t have if it wasn’t for the various events and activities organised by the Project.”**

The nine big, well-attended community events were organised largely by the Greening Wingrove staff, ably supported by volunteers and local community groups, schools, and centres. The events

brought in the largest numbers and most diverse groups of participants and helped to raise awareness of Greening Wingrove’s key aims, other activities and environmental sustainability issues.

# COMMUNITY INNOVATION FUND

A Community Innovation Fund, designed to build lasting benefits for people in the Wingrove area, encouraged creative ideas and fresh approaches to delivering the project's green aims.

A community voting process let local people decide how money was spent, to deliver projects that would meet local need and encourage people to work together. 21 project ideas were supported, which reached 4,136 people.

**“The Project has allowed small organisations to maximise their impact.”**

## Park Life

Fenham Association of Residents involved 50 young people from the Wingrove area in a short-term video project, based on Nuns Moor Park, showcasing their views and ideas.

## Craft Club

Westgate Road's First Step helped 22 migrant women volunteer an average of 60 hours each to form a craft club, using recycled

materials to make jewellery, cushions, bags and bunting, which were sold on stalls and on **Facebook**.

## Community Orchard

A thriving heritage orchard of 119 trees was planted in Nuns Moor Park with cherry, pear, quince, hazelnut, gage, medlar, mulberry, walnut and 35 varieties of apple you won't see in a supermarket. The work was carried out by local volunteers and supported by Greening Wingrove CIC and the LEAF fund.

## Friends of Nuns Moor Park

A group of local residents came together to form this group, which has the sole aim of maintaining the park as an attractive community space. Volunteers do regular park litter picks, look after the plants and shrubs, plant trees and act as guardians for this 130 year old park. They have done a survey, finding out what is important to park users and meet regularly with the City Council to develop a management plan for this important leisure resource.



**21 project  
ideas were  
supported,  
reaching  
4,136 people**





## Green Radio Show

West End radio station Spice FM hosted a six month weekly radio show, publicising and marketing the work of the Greening Wingrove project, to its large, mainly south east Asian audience. More than 50 people involved in Greening Wingrove projects appeared on the show. The legacy was continued with a new show, reaching all of the West End.

## New Mills Neighbours Garden Project

Organised by Edible Elswick, this project aimed to develop friendships and build trust among neighbours on the New Mills estate through gardening. Qualified gardeners ran mini-makeover sessions, passing on simple 'everyday' skills to local residents allowing them to grow their own food and maintain their own garden spaces. Combined with a programme of communal green space improvement, the project left behind a more attractive estate and a new network of people devoted to its upkeep.

## Bike Club

This pilot project run by the Arthur's Hill CHAT Trust aimed to explore the potential for a commercially viable social enterprise promoting cycling and health, run by local people for local people. Working primarily with the Roma community, the project trained young people in cycle maintenance (one up to Gold standard level) and safety skills, and produced an eye-catching mural that adorns the Bike Garden in Nuns Moor Park.

59 people were involved in sessions and learning from the project has helped establish regular cycling activity in the park. Its number one rule has been "Talk About Bike Club".

## Wingrove Maker Markets

Co-ordinated by Your Back Yard, Wingrove Maker Markets provided training and support enabling local people to use their skills to develop marketable food products, and craft items made using recycled materials.

Participants learned business skills and were able to test what they had learned with a community market, where they could sell their products. Four are now actively considering self employment.

## Reclaim The Lanes

Building on earlier work with local residents, this scheme, supported by Newcastle University and CHAT Trust, aimed to improve the appearance of back lanes by involving children and young people.

Focused primarily on the back lanes between Stanton Street and Tamworth Road, young people helped brighten up the area with murals, planters and re-painting, as well as contributing to mini-festivals through art and music, attracting 1000 attendances.

## The Activist Garden

Following concerns from local women who did not feel safe going to Nuns Moor Park or taking their children there, the Brighton Grove Angelou Centre set about 'reclaiming' it as a safe and welcoming place.

The project involved running a series of women and children's events including a summer 'activist garden party', regular health works, female 'park rangers' to do a safety audit of the park, as well as regular planting and growing sessions – all designed to make the park a more welcoming place for local women to enjoy.

## My Pledge Plus

A partnership between the West End Youth Enquiry Service, Islamic Diversity Centre and Greening Wingrove CIC, this project aimed to build on interest among local residents and businesses, by working with children and young people from the local area to develop their knowledge and skills of environmental issues.

Through a number of different creative activities, they were able to put their new-found knowledge to good use by sharing it with family and friends both personally and through art, pledging to recycle more.

## WINCH – Wingrove Cycle Hub

Developed by Sustrans, WINCH connected local people to cycling activities and training opportunities at Nuns Moor Park.

## Nuns Moor Park Junior Rangers

Scotswood Natural Community Garden ran a junior Nuns Moor Park ranger programme with volunteers training 5-11s to learn park maintenance skills and help them have 'a sense of belonging', based on their role in ensuring the park is kept tidy and welcoming for all.

## Children's Environmental Summer Club

The Nunsmoor Centre ran a summer club which challenged young people and children to think more deeply about their environment and the community they live in through weekly fun activities.

## Youth Club

A Friday evening youth club established by the CHAT Trust has been running in Nuns Moor Park Bike Garden throughout the summer.

Open access, the sessions attract young people who regularly use the park as a Friday evening hangout. Creative arts and music activities are provided, often combined with barbecue food.





# NUNS MOOR PARK BIKE GARDEN

Two workers were employed to develop the disused and run-down Nuns Moor Park bowling green and pavilion, into a community garden and meeting space, which would be financially self-sustaining.

The bowling green has now been landscaped into an attractive garden with raised growing beds, paths, wildlife areas, and a substantial play area. The pavilion has been converted into a functional meeting space. A team of volunteers also created an outdoor clay pizza oven, which has proved popular at community events. Young people from the local Roma community designed a mural, and new community noticeboards were put up.

“It’s made Nuns Moor Park more of a hub of the community where activities happen that are open to all.”

Time Exchange and the Greening Wingrove Orchard group have provided regular gardening, growing and community activities and acted as advisors on planting.

One of the priorities in the design of the garden was to encourage bees and butterflies, to help pollinate fruit trees in the newly planted heritage orchard, so careful attention was paid to introducing plants which would attract them.

The space is now known as the Bike Garden and is available for community and private event hire. It has become a hub for regular cycling activities, youth clubs, a choir and gardening sessions. It also acts as the focus for seasonal festivals and events.

“Seeing some of the flowers and veg grown in the bike garden has encouraged me to try some in our garden too.”









# VERTICAL VEG

Vertical Veg has been one of the highlights of Greening Wingrove's activities in the last four years, with more than 800 attendances at growing sessions held in different localities across the area.

Special drop-in 'pop-up' street sessions made this one of the most visible aspects of Greening Wingrove's work, and it has helped leave a lasting legacy in the area by brightening up the streets and encouraging residents to think creatively about the often small spaces available at the front of their homes as growing spaces, for food, herbs, flowers and plants that encourage wildlife.

The hands-on sessions have drawn in people from diverse backgrounds, some with no or little experience of growing, as well as those with lots of knowledge, allowing residents to share what they know, meet with neighbours and have fun at the same time.

Free plants, seeds and growing equipment have been distributed to scores of attendees and the sessions have led to many growing their own fruit and vegetables to eat at home. A film [#mint](#) has been made, which features local people in familiar locations and captures some of the magic of Vertical Veg.

If you want to get involved in growing by your front door or in your backyard, or learn some handy growing tips, check out [www.verticalveg.org.uk](http://www.verticalveg.org.uk)

“A great way to grow tasty fresh food, right on your doorstep.”

Vertical Veg founder Mark Ridsdill-Smith

“People just walk by and join in the sessions.”

Chelsea Grove resident Laraine Hannah

“It's been amazing to see all the green fronts of houses popping up in the area.”

Stanton Street resident Berta Matilló

# COMMUNITY GROWING

## Community Food Growing Project

Provided local residents with opportunities for food growing through local events, demonstration projects, private gardens and yards, back lanes, street planting boxes and a local community garden. One-to-one support at people's homes was offered through the Time Exchange community gardener. It supported local events and activities, made plants and seeds available and provided seasonal gardening advice.

## Local Garden Maintenance Scheme

Time Exchange has been looking at the viability of establishing a garden maintenance business for the area, one which could help those on lower incomes, and provide local employment.

## Water Efficient Growing

A permanent living display of water efficient growing has been set up outside the Time Exchange centre on Stanton Street. It demonstrates how it is possible to virtually eliminate the need to water your house-front garden, by making use of rainwater.

## Street Planters

More than 100 street planters in the area are looked after by the Time Exchange and its volunteers. Weekly supervised sessions

allow residents to learn hands-on gardening skills and improve the appearance of the neighbourhood at the same time. New herbs and flowers have been introduced, and even vegetables into some. Many residents have taken up the 'Adopt A Planter' challenge and now take sole care of street planters near them.

## The Cherry Orchard

Almost 120 cherry trees were given away to local residents. They are now in people's back yards, at the front of homes and in gardens across the Wingrove area. They help improve local air quality and encourage wildlife to the area.

## Friends of Nuns Moor Park

A group of local volunteers hold regular planting and maintenance sessions of flower beds in the park, which have proved to be a good way of introducing young ones to the world of growing.

## School Food Growing

Greening Wingrove worked with 60 children from Moorside Primary School, stimulating their interest by involving them in growing their own food in the school.





**“It has helped me to grow more food. I have grown new veg I had never eaten before, as well as familiar ones. It has taught me new methods I didn’t know about.”**

# TACKLING LITTER

Litter and waste in the area has long been a concern for local residents, organisations and businesses. This became and remained a focus for the community and Greening Wingrove.

## Working In Schools

Working in partnership with the Nunsmoor Centre Trust and Moorside and Westgate Hill Primary schools promoting litter prevention and recycling in the local area through events and workshops. The clean green team project worked directly with children, and their parents and carers. The Islamic Diversity Centre delivered projects on the importance of cleanliness and respect for the environment.

## Listening To the Community

Three community organisers were employed to listen and work with the community on specific concerns, and take forward their ideas to address them. They put a lot of effort into meeting local people directly and visited every household in the area, some many times over, to make sure as many points of view were heard as possible.

## Resident Street Clean Ups

One of the strongest themes that came from residents was the appearance of the area. This quickly led to a monthly resident-led community litter pick, now in its fifth year and sponsored by local housing provider Karbon Homes. In the 12 months to July, 133 volunteers collected 365 bags of litter (one for each day of the year). The success of this experiment has led to residents setting up their own litter picks in different parts of Wingrove, with support from Time Exchange. Meetings have been held with the City Council to discuss how the community can work with them to solve problems.

## Business Action On Litter

Greening Wingrove has engaged with local business owners in developing a pledge to keep our shopping streets cleaner. The work is ongoing, but the hope is that a voluntary code of conduct can be signed up to by local businesses.

## National Recognition

The enthusiasm of 8 year old Wilf Groves in keeping not only his local neighbourhood clean through regular litter picks, but his school too, led to him receiving a national Points Of Light award, which recognises outstanding individual volunteers. Wilf has talked to more than 500 of his peers at different school assemblies and even developed his own 'we won't put up with litter any more' slogan.

“The biggest impact Greening Wingrove has had on me personally, is the visiting to my house of someone who tells me they have spoken with neighbours who think similarly.

That has helped give me confidence in talking to other neighbours about problems like tackling litter, dog mess and anti-social behaviour.”



# REDUCING WASTE, RECYCLING, SAVING ENERGY

## Hotbins

A trial of super-fast composting hotbins at 12 sites across Wingrove, including one with the Stanhope Streets Residents Association; encouraging people to club together to recycle their vegetable and food waste and use the compost for their gardening.

## Love Food Hate Waste

Three community training sessions focused on raising awareness of how to use leftover food.

## Working with schools

Working with local primary schools, designing and delivering classes with Key Stage 2 pupils looking at waste, climate change and what people can do to reduce their impact on the environment. The resulting new teaching resource pack can be used by any school class teachers.

## Saving Water

1,930 homes and businesses in the area benefited from 'water audits' advising how to save water. 779 homes had water-saving shower heads fitted, and 519 water-saving devices were put in as part of the Every Drop Counts campaign run with Northumbrian Water. Water butts were also given out so residents could use rainwater for watering plants or cleaning their yards.

## Green Gems

Money was put aside to invest in energy-saving modifications to community facilities, leaving behind a lasting legacy of more fuel-efficient buildings and showcase projects. Investments included the fitting of efficient insulation and energy-saving fuel systems, combined with comprehensive energy use audits. Among those benefiting, or putting on efficiency displays were local primary schools, Bike Garden, Robert Stewart Memorial Church, Edible Cycles, CHAT Trust and Time Exchange.



## Saving Fuel And Money

The area has some of the highest 'fuel poverty' levels in the city and a project, sponsored by the Wise Group, aimed to have an impact on this, by offering household energy efficiency assessments (sometimes with the help of a thermal camera which could quickly identify where heat escaped).

Advice on energy saving was given, checks that people were on lowest tariffs and support for those qualifying for a Warm Homes fuel discount.

Smart energy meters were installed in 200 homes, allowing residents to quickly see how much electricity they were using.





# COMMUNITY LEARNING

Passing on skills and knowledge ran like a golden thread through the whole project. Much of the learning was delivered through projects backed by the Community Innovation Fund, but there were also structured courses leading to qualifications, and more relaxed learning opportunities.



## Community Living Rooms

Informal sessions, often themed (ie crafts, cookery, debt advice etc), often led by local residents, held at different locations across Wingrove; where people could get to know their neighbours and learn new skills over a beverage and a snack. Ideal introduction for those new to the area.

## Structured Learning

Courses on sewing, photography, racism and a level 3 teaching qualification were delivered through the Workers' Educational Association, often in partnership with others.

Energy efficiency courses were created for those learning English and delivered by ESOL tutors.

## Fix It Sessions

A re-use/recycle initiative, with opportunities for people to bring household items that were no longer working and get them fixed, and at the same time learn a little about how to fix them in future.





# GREENING WINGROVE – BEYOND 2017

It was always the intention that some of what Greening Wingrove started would continue after core funding ran out this year.

Ready to take that work forward is the Greening Wingrove Community Interest Company.

It will continue to work with local people, local organisations and other partners to make the area a better place to live for all its residents and to encourage investment in its future.

It is keen to involve those who want to play a part in shaping and contributing to those goals.

If you are interested, visit **[www.greeningwingrove.org.uk](http://www.greeningwingrove.org.uk)** for latest news and event information about things happening in Arthur's Hill, New Mills, Spital Tongues, Wingrove and Fenham.

## Get In Touch

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

To hire the Nuns Moor Park Bike Garden for a meeting or event, email **[gw.bikegarden@gmail.com](mailto:gw.bikegarden@gmail.com)**

If you are interested in volunteering, check out the area's **Time Exchange**.

If you would like to find out more about adult education classes in the area, contact WEA at **[northeast@wea.org.uk](mailto:northeast@wea.org.uk)** or check out our webpages **[wea.org.uk/northeast](http://wea.org.uk/northeast)** or via social media **[@WEANorthEast](#)**.

**“You can see a legacy in the way that community is mobilising... people are getting more vocal... it’s kick-started conversations and action.”**

### **Some of the organisations and groups contributing to the Greening Wingrove project**

Angelou Centre, Becon, Co-operative Group, Edible Cycles, Edible Elswick, Fenham Association of Residents, First Step, Gaia, Islamic Diversity Centre, Forestry Commission, Karbon Homes, LEAF, Locality, Magpie Community Media, Morph Creative, Narec, Newcastle 49th Scouts, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle University, New Mills Tenants and Residents Association, Northumbrian Water, Nunsmoor Centre Trust, Robert Stewart Memorial Church, Samosa Sisters, SCAN (Newcastle University Students Union volunteers), Scotswood Area Strategy (Scotswood Centre), Scotswood Natural Community Garden, Spice FM Radio, Stanhope Street Residents Association, Sustrans, West End Housing Co-operative, West End Women and Girls, West End Youth Enquiry Service (WEYES), Wise Group, Wylam Nurseries, Your Back Yard, 100 Trees.

### **Main Sponsors**

