

BATS AND SWIFTS CENTRE STAGE IN WILD WEST END 2021

The Greening Wingrove Wild West End Project has another Spring and Summer of activity up to October.

And we hope that project volunteers will be able to meet outdoors again, doing more surveying and wildlife conservation work in groups.

Wild West End Project Officer, Ruth Hayward writes: This year we will be focusing on bats, to build on the information we learned last year. For example, we found out that the wooded area around Nuns Moor Children's Centre is full of pipistrelle bats, who fly there to feed on the insects that live in the trees and long grass.

We will also be surveying for Swifts, especially in a part of Fenham where re-roofing works took place and the Swift nests were re-instated last year. Hopefully, the Swifts will not notice the new roofs placed over their nesting sites and will continue to use them!

We'll be sharing our survey information with Your Homes Newcastle so we can both work together to benefit the nesting birds. And we've not forgotten about hedgehogs!

See over the page for how you can help.

If you would like to take part in Wild West End, please contact Ruth on: wildwestend@greeningwingrove.org.uk



Nuns Moor Children's Centre woods - a bat café.



Wild West End is Supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund

GROWING GREEN COMMUNITIES

Greening Wingrove & Arthur's Hill is delighted to announce a new project! Growing Green Communities in the West End will be a larger version of our successful vertical veg growing scheme. And it starts in April.

Aimed at growing food for free, healthy eating and making the streetscape in the long terraces more attractive and less depressing, the new project will be fun and will bring more people together.

Growing Green Communities will offer 'make-overs', 'random acts of kindness', pop-up street events and more to transform some of the terraced streets into visible urban gardens, building on change that has been underway for several years.

It'll be supported by Mark Ridsdill Smith, our very own 'guru' of vertical veg growing, as well as an existing network of volunteers. There'll be a chance to learn the basics of community organising through sessions led by Tom Scott – one of Greening Wingrove's first Community Organisers – who will be returning to work with us. And we'll recruit a local person to a part-time job helping to co-ordinate the scheme.

Growing Green Communities will be funded by a grant from the City Council's Newcastle Fund, and it'll also link with our Wild West End Project to reach out to involve people from all our local communities. There are also likely to be on-line sessions for sharing gardening tips open to everyone.

We'll also be working with Durham University to engage residents in shaping the project.

Durham University's Clair Cooper writes: "Can you complete a short survey about the effect of gardening on your health and help us design the Vertical

Veg programme for summer 2021? By completing the survey, we'll send you a gift containing a selection of small packets of seeds for herbs and vegetables".

The survey will be online in February. To take part simply email your address to clair.l.cooper@durham.ac.uk. You will receive a seed pack once you have completed the survey and will be entered into a free prize draw for a free terraced front garden make over.

More details about Growing Green Communities will be available in March, but if you are interested in being involved, email gw.bikegarden@gmail.com or leave your contact details at the Bike Garden in Nuns Moor Park.



Vertical Veg in an Arthur's Hill street

NEW 'BUZZ' AT THE BIKE GARDEN

The Greening Wingrove Bike Garden at Nuns Moor Park has taken on a new lease of life since last September!

Although Covid-19 meant that we couldn't use the Pavilion for events, we found a new way of utilising the outdoor space.

Local resident Michael Page, one of our Greening Wingrove directors, set up his Northern Slice hot drinks stall in the Garden, and

people loved it (and him!). With more people using the Park during lockdown, the attraction of a quiet place and a delicious hot drink was very popular, but within Covid-19 social distancing. The Dr. Bike repair sessions with Kevin and Petra from Trusted Bikes CIC have also been busy, but by appointment-only for safety reasons. Lockdown boosted the appeal of riding bikes. We hope to continue the sessions.

Arthur's Hill back lane gardener, Chris O'Connor, has displayed his home-grown Bonsai plants in the Garden, and we even had a Covid-19 safe outdoor pantomime with Theatre Space (they want to come back).

We're planning to build on the experience and would welcome your ideas for what you'd like to see happen. There's a short survey on our website. Please use it to tell us what you think: <https://greeningwingrove.org.uk/take-our-survey/>



Greening Wingrove Bike Garden

WELCOME TO GREENING WINGROVE & ARTHUR'S HILL

We hope that you find this newsletter interesting. Any resident over the age of 16 years can join Greening Wingrove Community Interest Company.

We're also looking for more people to join our Board and make it more representative of our part of the City. The CIC Board is voluntary, meets once a month, and shapes the direction taken by the CIC. It's a friendly group. If you'd like to know more, do let us know.

And our Annual General Meeting, when we report on the past year, elect our directors, and think about the future, will take place on-line on Saturday, 20th February 2021, 11.00 am.

If you would like to know more about who we are and what we do, or would like to be involved, or attend the AGM, please get in touch by e-mailing: gw.bikegarden@gmail.com or calling 0191 273 6418.



This newsletter is Supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (Covid-19 Emergency Fund).

KEEP IN TOUCH

Greening Wingrove & Arthur's Hill is on social media.

It's a way of keeping up to date with what we do, as well as seeing what people are talking about locally when it comes to the environment.

Our website is on www.greeningwingrove.org.uk

And we manage the following Facebook pages:

- The Greening Wingrove Bike Garden
- Friends of Nuns Moor Park
- Greening Wingrove Action on Litter

GREENING WINGROVE & ARTHUR'S HILL NEWSROUND

GOOD NEWS FOR GREENING BACK LANES!

Residents on Simonburn Avenue in Fenham were pleased when their small funding bid to the City Council's Wingrove Ward Committee was granted, meaning work on greening their lanes can begin.

This project, writes local resident Kay Hattam, also offers help to others who are interested in greening their own lanes in the way of a 'How To' Guide and 1-2-1 support if needed. Although the project is halted during the lockdown, residents plan to gather as soon as they can to plan and get planting. A positive step forward in continuing to tackle back lane problems, as well as strengthening the community and improving our carbon footprint.



TOP IDEA FOR SPRING!

If you enjoyed growing micro greens as part of Vertical Veg last summer, and want to be more ambitious this year, then this is the time to think about where in your back yard or garden you could put a recycled 'ladder' or shelf to make more space. Is there a place in your backyard or balcony that catches then sun? <https://verticalveg.org.uk/how-much-can-you-grow-in-six-foot/>



Photo: Mark Ridsdill Smith

BINS AND BACK LANES

Our Facebook page, Greening Wingrove Action on Litter, has hosted many posts about problems with litter, fly tipping and overflowing bins in terraced back lanes for the past six months or more. These have helped to get some action, but the problems keep happening. Greening Wingrove & Arthur's Hill CIC's board asked for a meeting with the City Council some time ago. This was to find ways for solving the problems. It's now possible that the Council will hold a meeting in early March. If you live in the Arthur's Hill and Wingrove terraces, and would like details of the meeting, please get in touch via: gw.bikegarden@gmail.com, or leave your contact details at the Bike Garden in Nuns Moor Park.

ALLOTMENTS BENEFITS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AT FENHAM ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENTS (FAR)



Growing Gnomes at the FAR allotments?

Those of us fortunate enough to have spent time on an allotment know the positive effect of gardening, writes Mark Gowland, Project Manager at FAR Community Centre. But during this difficult time, the lockdown restrictions have opened up new possibilities to young people. In an era where young people are confined to social media and various learning portals for their social interaction, allotments present a tactile, and equally important, safe retreat. The benefit of having such spaces at FAR enabled our Community Centre's youth workers to provide valuable contact with young people. And the open space afforded safe social distancing. The therapeutic benefit for young people that allotments offer, and how this brings a positive change in their perception of the environment, was very clear. Allotments have a transformative effect on our minds and bodies but at a time when we are all looking for a release, we feel so privileged to have a beautiful shared space in our neighbourhood.

MUTUAL AID

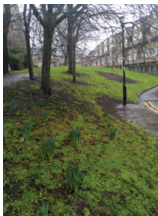
Greening Wingrove & Arthur's Hill has been glad to support the Arthur's Hill and the Wingrove Mutual Aid groups during Covid.

We've been able to help with the costs of leaflets, as well as providing tables and seed kits for Freecycle events. Mutual Aid has done a terrific job helping local residents with food, emergency money, recycling laptops for children to use, and other support. And who would have thought it'd be possible to turn disused phone boxes into community larders on Brighton Grove and Westgate Road!

If anyone would like to donate to local Mutual Aid, there's a Solidarity Fund via: <https://opencollective.com/arthurshill-solidarity-fund>. And if you have a lap top you would like to donate, please contact: arthurshill.mutualaid@outlook.com

WATCH THIS SPACE

Our Northumberland wild flower project has been very popular. Over 150 seed kits were given out to residents who asked for them, and some sites have also been sown. We found several bare patches of ground that the seeds quite like around Avison Street and Douglas Terrace in Arthur's Hill. Will they grow? We'll see.



Avison Street

SPRINGTIME AT FENHAM POCKET PARK

Recent work on opening up Fenham Pocket Park and connecting the site to the library with the removal of the barrier between the library ramp and the new area, refreshing the surfaces and some additional planting is nearing completion.

The Pocket Park group's Imogen writes: We also have a lovely new logo designed by a local graphic design student Millie, and have planted lots of spring bulbs kindly donated by Morrison's Cowgate Champions - which we can't wait to see in a couple of months time. There are plans for further planting, benches and we are keen to get more of the local community involved in helping develop the new site and maintain the park.

Please join our Facebook group 'Fenham Pocket Park' for regular updates and news of planting, litter picking and events very soon.

We are always looking for new people to join Mark, Helen, Stu, Daniel, Armelle, Mags and the Pocket Park community - everyone is welcome!



Fenham Pocket Park

WILD WEST END HEDGEHOGS: THEY WALK AMONG US

The Greening Wingrove Wild West End Project Officer, Ruth Hayward, gives advice on hedgehogs:

The Wild West End has had many reported sightings of hedgehogs. They've been seen in gardens across Fenham, Wingrove and Spital Tongues, at Spital Tongues, Moorside and FAR allotment sites, and on school grounds, including Sacred Heart Primary and High Schools, Dame Allan's Primary and High, Wingrove Primary, and in and around Leazes Park.

MAKE A HEDGEHOG HIGHWAY

During the winter we can plan how to protect our hedgehogs once they are out of hibernation. Did you know that hedgehogs travel on average one mile every night through our gardens looking for food and a mate? They need to be able to get around, and the more they can travel through gardens the less they will end up on the road.

Have a look at the fence between your garden and your neighbours. Does it have a gap 13cm by 13cm? This is big enough to let a hedgehog through, but not dogs (sorry dogs!). Chat to your neighbour and once both agreed, make a hole in it! Make sure that neither of your gardens has hazards for hedgehogs, such as a pond with steep sides.

For ideas see <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/link-your-garden/> Please send photos of your hedgehog highway to Wild West End and tell us what street you are on. Let's see if we can connect all of our gardens!



www.hedgehogstreet.org

PROVIDE A HEDGEHOG BOX

Can you provide a hedgehog box in your garden so the females can safely have their young without being disturbed?

A recommended box is the Royal Hedgehog House from Ark Wildlife. You can also more cheaply make your own. The Wildlife Trusts have an easy to follow guide on line <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-hedgehog-home>

Or, more simply, make a log pile, as hedgehogs will nest in it.

Finally, please do keep sending in sightings of hedgehogs; including the date, time and location to: wildwestend@greeningwingrove.org.uk We would also like information on your first sighting of hedgehogs this spring.