



Community Growing Project Newsletter May 2014

Hello, and welcome to the first newsletter of the Horshader Community Growing Project! It has been a very exciting and productive first few months, so read on for project updates and details of forthcoming events.

Project Progress

The solardome and polycrubs have now been constructed at the Grinnibhat South Shawbost site and at Dalmore. Raised beds have been installed in two of the polycrubs at South Shawbost and transplanting of young plants including lettuces, tomatoes, onions, peas, beans, cabbages, cauliflower, and broccoli has taken place. It's all looking fantastic, as you can see below!



Raised beds will be completed in the remaining three polycrubs at Grinnibhat and the polycrubble at Dalmore within the next couple of weeks. We have recently taken delivery of fruit plants and trees, which will be planted as soon as the raised beds are finished. Now that the produce is in and growing, it would be fantastic for those of you who have gardening expertise to come and share your knowledge and skills!

Come and Join Us!

Volunteering Opportunities: Whether you are waiting for an allotment, keen to enjoy the fruits (and veg!) of the project, or just want to make friends and get out in the fresh air, we want **YOU** to come and help keep all of this lovely produce growing. We welcome people of **ALL** ages, backgrounds, and levels of gardening know-how. Beginner gardeners: come along and gain useful skills and experience. Lifelong gardeners: use your knowledge and abilities to support your community project. Whether you have ten minutes to spare or a whole day, your contribution will make a real difference! If you are interested in joining our rota of volunteers, just get in touch with James or Meg using the contact details at the end of the newsletter.

Allotments: The allotment polycrubble at Dalmore is now fully subscribed, but there are still spaces available inside the polycrubbles at South Shawbost. Just let us know if you are interested in having your own growing space inside the polycrubbles - we welcome applications from all permanent members of the community.





Tool Sharing: We are always on the lookout for gardening tools and implements that we can recycle and use for the project - if you have any old tools that you would like to donate, then please let us know.

Survey Group: We are keen to find out how much of a difference the Growing Project will make to the community over the next couple of years, so we are looking for a selection of households to take part in a quarterly survey. This will just involve answering a few questions about your fruit and veg buying and eating habits, use of transport, and exercise levels. There will be a free gift every quarter for each household that takes part in the survey, so get in touch if you would like to be involved.



If you would like to take part in the Growing Project through volunteering, holding an allotment, donating tools, or becoming a member of our survey group, then please contact us using the details at the end of this newsletter!

A date for your diaries: Polycrub Open Day

We are pleased to announce that we will be holding an open day at the South Shawbost polycrubs on **Tuesday 24th June 2014 at 2-5pm**. This will be a great opportunity to visit the polycrubs and find out more about the project - and to get involved! All are welcome and refreshments will be available.

We are also in the process of scheduling a calendar of outreach events, so look out for notices in future newsletters for details of cookery workshops and talks.

New Facebook Page - and other ways to get in touch

The Facebook page for the Growing Project is now up and running! Come and join us for regular news, updates, and pictures at <https://www.facebook.com/HorshaderGrowing>

Should you wish to get in touch with us via email or phone:

- James Clark, Gardener: james@horshader.com
- Meg MacDonald, Outreach Officer: meg@horshader.com; drop in sessions at Horshader Office, Ionad na Seann Sgoil Fridays 9-1
- Horshader Office Number: 01851 710241



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