

# Social Farms & Gardens AGM

## Overview of the Year April 2023 – March 2024

### AGENDA

- Approval of Minutes for the AGM 22 October 2024
- Report on SF&G's Activities
- Elections to the Board of Directors
- Presentation and endorsement of 2023/24 Trustees Report and Audited Accounts approved by Trustees
- Appointment of Auditors for 2024-25: The Trustees recommend reappointing the current auditors: Burnside Chartered Accountants, 61 Queen Square, Bristol BS1 4J

8 April 2025  
12.30 – 13.30  
Online

## Our Vision

People and communities reaching their full potential through community growing and nature-based activities as a part of everyday life

## Our Mission

To support people and communities to improve the health and wellbeing of people and planet through community growing and nature-based activities

# Business Planning and Governance

- Monthly Board Meetings
- Staff and Board working groups
- EDI training for all staff and board
- Salary review across full staff
- Demonstrating Fair Work First (Scottish Govt policy)
- Executive Team leading the organisation
- Leaving Greenhouse Head Office (Feb 2024)
- Focus on development of Green Care Quality Mark with Green Care Coalition



# Membership

## Total Membership at March 2024:

	01.04.23	31.03.24	+	%
England exc London	1669	<b>1833</b>	164	10%
London	251	<b>271</b>	20	8%
England	1920	<b>2104</b>	184	10%
Cymru	360	<b>418</b>	58	16%
Scotland	373	<b>400</b>	27	7%
Northern Ireland	143	<b>155</b>	12	8%
<b>Total members</b>	<b>2796</b>	<b>3077</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>10%</b>



# 2023-24

# UK wide Delivery

- Have a Grow campaign
- GreenME (UKRI / HORIZON) programme
- Green Care Quality Mark
- Composting in the Community network
- Gardeniser Training
- Monthly Member Webinars
- Regular newsletters
- Children's Summer Activities Scheme (Hilden Charitable Trust)
- Social Media dialogue



**Facebook: April 1st 2023 - March 31st 2024**

@socialfarmsgardens  
Likes/follows: +222 = 5,927  
Reach = 25,200 people



**YouTube: April 1st 2023 – March 31st 2024**

@socialfarmsgardens  
476 subscribers = +77  
140 videos  
34,362 views



**Instagram: April 1st 2023 – March 31st 2024**

@socialfarmsgardens  
Reached 4,800 people  
2,312 Followers

# Green Care Quality Mark

88 members have gained the award

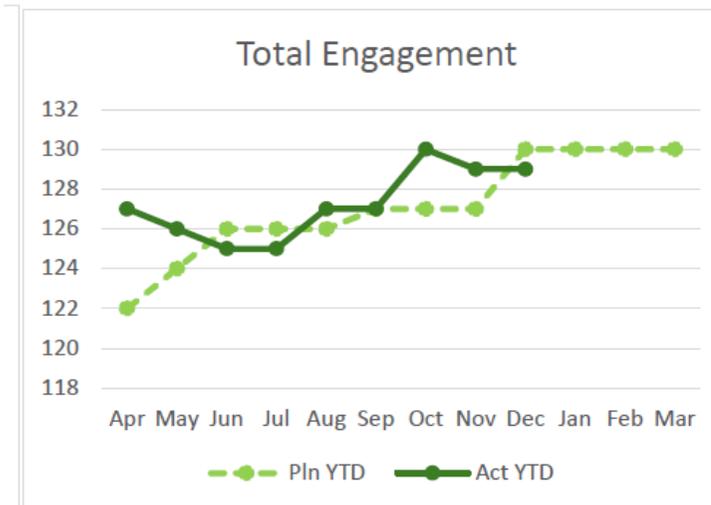
397 framework requests – the framework continues to be free



Social Farms & Gardens  
**Green Care Quality Mark**

**The quality standard for green care providers in the UK**

Social Farms & Gardens is the UK wide charity supporting communities to farm, garden and grow together. Join our network of 3,000+ grassroots groups for free at farmgarden.org.uk.



[Quality Mark](#)  
[Web Pages](#)



## Summer Activities Grants Funded by the Hilden Charitable Trust.

Generous funding saw us give awards of £1,500 to Social Farms & Gardens members for outdoor nature-based summer holiday activities.

We awarded £34,000 to 26 community growing projects in all four nations.

# Programmes

**Northern  
Ireland**

**Scotland**

**Wales**

12 projects and policy  
activity. Additional  
contract delivery

**London:**

Organisational  
Development training  
and Networking

**England:**

Webinars, grants,  
and advice service



# Northern Ireland

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## Growing Resilience: Digging Deeper networking and skills sharing

A five-year project enabling community growing volunteers to connect, share skills and support each other. Working together can strengthen individual resilience and benefit the community growing sector as a whole. Research shows that shared networks (social capital) can mean better health and wellbeing. Funded the National Lottery Community Fund.

## Growing Resilience Across Ireland

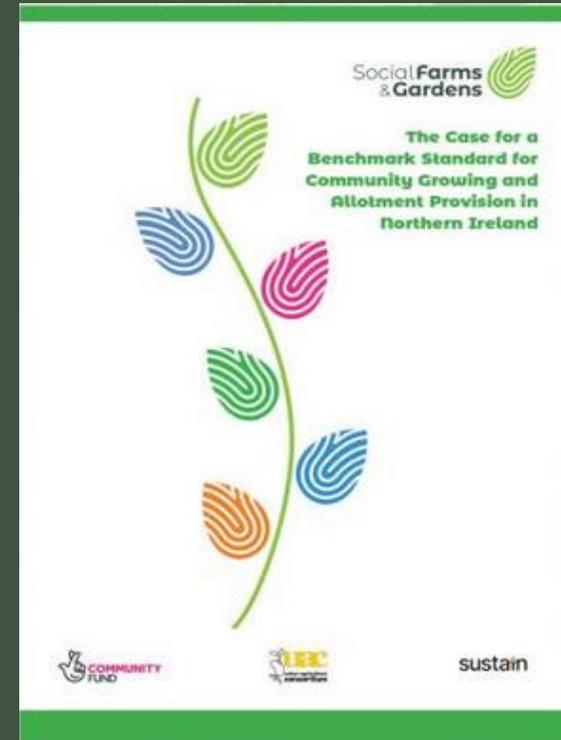
funded by the Community Foundation Ireland, a cross-border partnership project between SF&G in Northern Ireland and our sister organisation in Ireland, Community Growing Ireland. This project recognises an all-island/bioregional approach in matters of the environment and natural resources.

## Sustainable Food Places

Contract with Ards & North Down Council. Micro grants distributed using the Participatory Budgeting Model.

## Community Growing Benchmarking Report

We set out recommendations for a community growing benchmark in Northern Ireland. Key standards were successfully included in Belfast City Council's community plan.



## Close up – Northern Ireland

Discussing public land for  
community food growing  
with Claire Hannah MP

Beth from the Food  
Ethics Council, Mura  
from Belfast City Council  
Climate Team, and  
Patricia from Social  
Farms & Gardens  
admiring the new Brink  
community garden



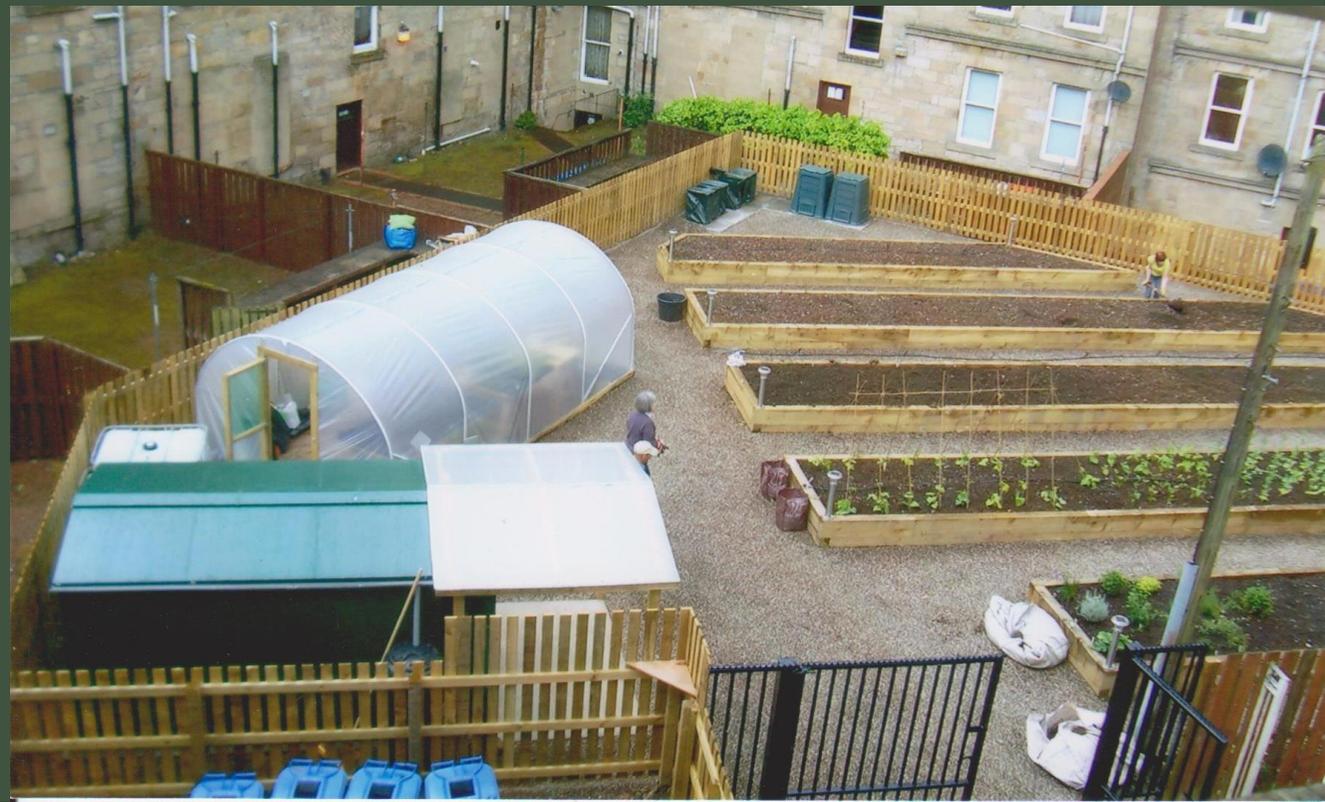
# Scotland

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Karen Moore

- Community Land Advisory Service
- Membership services
- Advocacy with stakeholders



# Close up – Scotland

CLAS provided one to one support to over 20 communities, helping groups to start new food growing projects, in a wide variety of settings. One to one support to navigate the process is valuable. The groups say that they saved money and effort and likely speeded up the process of finding, securing and developing a site.

*"It was great to speak to someone so positive and reassuring about our situation, and thanks for your support, advice and expertise."*



# Cymru Wales

Ffermydd a Gerddi  
Cymdeithasol



## Grant Funded Projects

- Carmarthenshire
  - Food System Development Project
  - Sustainable Food Places (Soil Assoc)
  - Local Food Partnership (WLGA)
  - Machinery Ring
- Edible Cardiff
- Camau Gwyrdd
- Community Land Advisory Service
- Tyfu Powys
- Future Farms (BLFF, SPF and ACPW3)

## Contract Work

- Planning Advice for Commercial Growers (Lantra)
- Local Places for Nature Garden Packs (Keep Wales Tidy)
- Food Conversations (FFCC)
- Assured Growing (DTA)
- Vale Mapping (Food Sense Wales)
- Food Cardiff capital grants

# Close up – Edible Cardiff

- 6 groups received £450 of financial support to run Spring Festival events
- 11 groups received veg plug plants to give away in their communities worth £600 in total
- Gatherings held in Spring and Summer, both well attended with site tours and guest speakers
- Partnered with the RHS to deliver the Prisons Community Plant Sharing Project. 10 Cardiff groups received a share of plants grown by HMP Cardiff and participated in specialist training delivered in partnership with Grow Cardiff and Cardiff Salad Garden
- Final Celebration event in September with a fun awards ceremony
- Coordinator contributed to Hafod Housing consultation and presented at a Food Cardiff Gathering
- Administered grants totalling £18.5K to Cardiff based groups in partnership with Food Cardiff January – March 2025
- Secured Vale Mapping project from January – March 2025



# Close up – Future Farms

Date and Funder	Project Aim	Outputs/Outcomes
Summer 2023 Our Food 1200	Feasibility study	Viability of small-scale commercial horticulture
Aug 23 – June 24 Foundational Economy (WG)	Planning submission for rural enterprise dwelling	Planning submitted – new planning guidance adopted by PCC and BBNPA
June 24 – Feb 25 Shared Prosperity (UK Govt via Powys CC)	Implementation of planning application and recruiting growers	1 packing shed built 3 growers recruited to start business Training, market development, networking
Oct 24 – Mar 25 ACPW3 (Welsh Gov)	Build three homes	3 homes built – lower spec than proposed



Multiple consecutive funding streams – SF&G lead body.

Broad partnership – new and existing partners including Landworkers Alliance, Shared Assets, Lantra, Cultivate (SF&G member), Our Food 1200, Powys County Council, Black Mountains College.

National and UK wide recognition including BBC Food Programme and discussion in Senedd.

# London

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Professional Development through bespoke training and networking events **by and for** members with the London Association

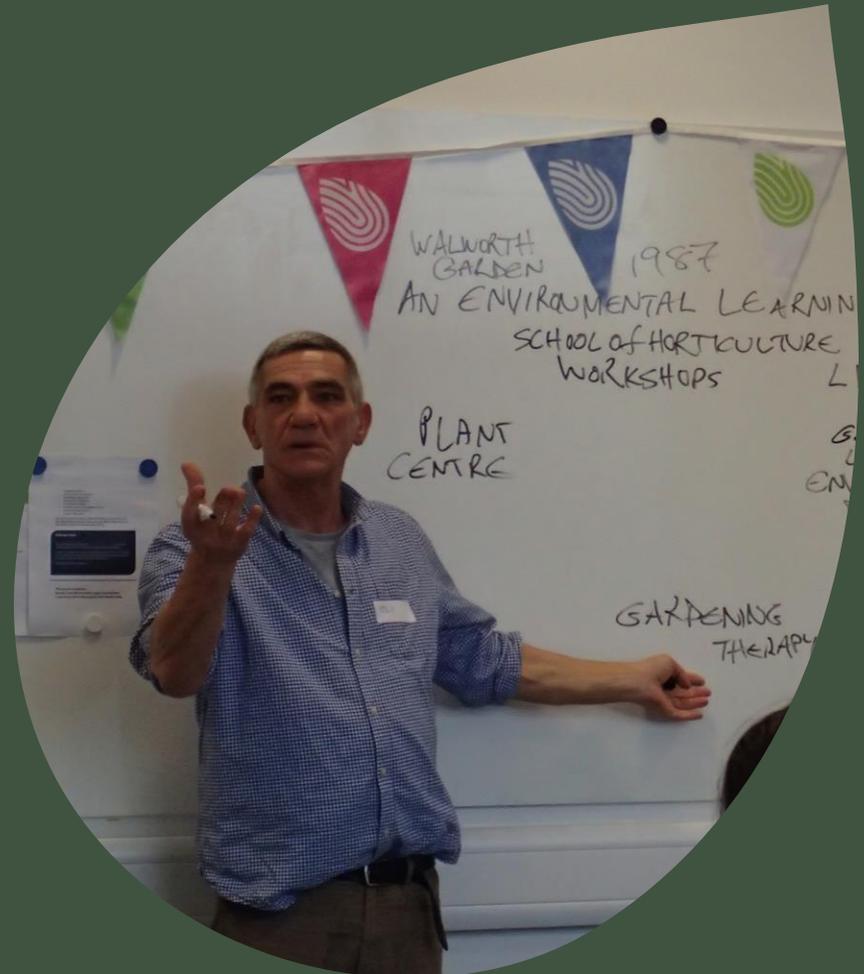
London Harvest Festival

Direct delivery in Newham to engage communities in sociable gardening and workshops

Sharing expertise between members and advocating for the sector

Funded by:

- **Kusuma Trust UK.**
- **London Legacy Development Corporation.**
- **Populo Living**



# Kusuma Trust UK

## Professional Development

Training and Networking Tours designed and delivered by members alongside London staff in a £40K year long programme. Themes included:

- **Winning Support and Convincing Councils**
- **Income Diversification: Beyond the Corporate Volunteer Day**
- **Co-Designing Community Gardens Databases for People and Plants**
- **Emotional Resilience on the Ground**
- **Community Gardens Showcase and London Harvest Festival event organised by the London Association.**

*Credit to London Development Officer  
Richard Choksey for training design this year.*









# Gardeniser London

Five-day Gardeniser training for 20 trainees across five London member sites. Funded 50% by Kusuma Trust UK and 50% by LLDC.



# London Legacy Development Corporation and Populo Living



Events for Carpenters Estate residents  
and East Londoners such as:

- Weekly neighbours gardening club.
- Free trips to Kew.
- Free training including Anti-Oppression,  
and First Aid.
- Fun events to introduce people to  
community growing.
- A new Stick Man trail in Newham.









NOS 52-74  
DORAN WALK









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Average Score across all London  
Training and Networking events  
= 9.3 out of 10

# Thanks to our funders & partners

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Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot



Ariennir gan  
**Lywodraeth Cymru**  
Funded by  
**Welsh Government**



The **Hilden**  
Charitable  
Fund



# Social Farms & Gardens AGM

April 2024 – March 2025

DATE  
TIME  
VENUE