

GROUNDWORK

Northern Ireland



“Grow Our Own”

A Seminar Series on Developing Sustainable Community Allotments

Event Description

Based on unprecedented community interest in grow your own initiatives **Groundwork NI** in conjunction with the **Department for Social Development** has organised a series of best practice seminars on community allotments. These regional seminars will act as a catalyst for those who are considering developing a community allotment.

The structured seminars will offer those with an interest in community gardening projects the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the benefits, challenges and sustainability issues in developing and maintaining a community based gardening project.

Date, Times & Locations:

- **Belfast:** Thursday 11th March 2010, 9.15am-4.30pm; Groundwork NI, 63-75 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast incorporating a site visit to Walkway Community Gardens, East Belfast
- **Derry/Londonderry:** Tuesday 23rd March 2010, 9.15am-4.30pm; Liberty Consortium, The Playtrail, 15 Racecourse Road, Derry/L'Derry incorporating a visit to on site allotments
- **Omagh:** Wednesday 24th March 2010, 9.15am-4.30pm; GK House, Lisanelly Heights, Omagh incorporating a site visit to Mullaghmore & Castlevue Community Association allotments

Costs: Thanks to support from the **Department of Social Development** there are **no charges for individuals/groups who wish to attend these information seminars**, lunch and refreshments will be served and transportation will be provided for the allotment site visits. **Places are limited and we would strongly recommend booking early to avoid any disappointment.**

For further information & bookings contact:

Aidan McLoone
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63-75 Duncairn Gardens
Belfast BT15 2GB



Department for
**Social
Development**

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Key Event Themes: Explanation of the Community Allotment concept; key benefits of a Community Allotment; a practical advice on developing a sustainable Community Allotment.

Who should attend?



- Community representatives within identified Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRA's)
- General public living in NRA's interested in having an allotment
- Members of the wider community interested in having an allotment
- Community and Voluntary sector representatives
- Relevant Council staff within Parks, Amenities, Leisure and Community Development
- Transition Council representatives from NI
- Relevant Government Departmental staff
- Relevant Rural Community Network staff
- Relevant Northern Ireland Housing Executive staff
- Relevant Housing Association staff

Event Key Note Speakers:



Pam Warhurst, Incredible Edible, Todmorden, West Yorkshire

Pam Warhurst and Mary Clear set up Incredible Edible Todmorden in 1997 with a coalition of local people, businesses and schools with the ethos of working together to increase the production and consumption of local food in the town.

In Todmorden the local community are leading the way in response to the challenges of climate change through a commitment to the production of food by local people for local consumption. Incredible Edibles' aim is to make Todmorden self sufficient in vegetables, orchard fruits and eggs by 2018, and ultimately to enable the town to source the majority of staple food locally including meat and dairy.

The movement began with a vision for the future of Todmorden as a town that cared about its food and environment. It has developed into a town-wide initiative supported by local people, businesses, farmers, schools, health services, the probation service and the local authority.

Initiatives like Incredible Edible Todmorden and the Transition Towns movement intend to secure our future food supplies in an uncertain world and global economy. In this they share goals with the Cittaslow towns all over the world. People are doing it for themselves and determining their own future. Pam has just been appointed as Chair of the Forestry Commission in the UK and was also a previous Member of the Board of Natural England, where she was the lead non-executive member working on the Countryside & Rights of Way Bill.

She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts & Manufacturing, and chairs Pennine Prospects, a regeneration company for the South Pennines. Pam has previously been the leader of Calderdale Council, Deputy Chair and Acting Chair of the Countryside Agency, a board member of Yorkshire Forward, and Chair of the National Countryside Access Forum and the Calderdale NHS Trust.

She was appointed CBE in 2005 for services to the environment.





Phil Dewhurst, Offshoots Permaculture Project, Groundwork UK

Phil Dewhurst has fifteen years experience in arboriculture and associated land based disciplines and has worked as the Offshoots Permaculture project Manager for Groundwork Pennine Lancashire for the past eight years. Prior to this he was the Tree Officer for the Forest of Burnley (Burnley Borough Council - Millennium commission programme) where he managed the planting, establishment and promotion of a unique urban arboretum. The planned planting of two thousand large specimen trees were exceeded with a final compliment of two thousand seven hundred specimens being established across the breadth of the Borough of Burnley.



Suzie Cahn, Director, Carraig Dúlra, Ireland

Suzie has been vegetable gardening all her life - even as a somewhat reluctant teenage assistant to her dad who has always grown his own. Later she grew for her own family. Her passion then took her as a volunteer into her children's school where she developed a school gardening and nature program which she was involved with for over 8 years. She then branched out into the community and set up a local voluntary group called Wicklow Community Gardening Group, which has now become a network of over 10 community gardens. Suzie continues gardening and teaches courses on her Organic and Permaculture small-holding teaching venue in Wicklow and on a new Permaculture course with Wicklow Vocational Education Committee. She believes that reconnecting with nature is vital for us all if we are to learn to live healthily and sustainably and truly care about our environment.

Other key seminar contributors include:

Marella Fyffe, Transition Omagh

Marella was born and reared in the Republic of Ireland moving to live in Omagh in Northern Ireland in 1985. She has been running her own business since then with a passionate interest in environment and community. This interest has been a reoccurring thread throughout her professional life. Marella has gained significant qualifications and work experience in community, environmental management, business, and voluntary sector; she has a vast range of experience built up over the past 25 years in the environmental sector.

John McCormick-Chair, The Organic Centre

John has been a self-employed organic market gardener since 1991, running a box scheme for the greater Belfast area. Previously, John worked as a farm manager at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum and as a gardener with the Camphill Communities of Ireland. He is the director and current chairman of the Organic Centre in Leitrim, Republic of Ireland. John is the devolved nations' member of the Soil Association for Northern Ireland. John is horticultural advisor to GROW Community Gardens.

Siobhan Craig, GROW

Siobhan has over 20 years experience in the Community & Voluntary Sector both in NI and the ROI. Committed to community development and environmental education, she is a founder and coordinator of Grow, a charity dedicated to the development and promotion of community gardens and food initiatives. Prior to this, Siobhan ran a number of charities, primarily in the youth and adult education sector. Siobhan has a legal & ICT background and been a member of a range of public bodies including the Big Lottery and the Children's Law Centre.



Reg Maxwell-retired Area Manager Belfast Parks Department-Belfast City Council

Reg has over fifty years horticultural experience and has recently retired from BCC where he worked within the Parks Department for thirty-eight years. He is a member of the NI Heritage Gardens and the Royal Horticultural Society. Reg has also exhibited and won at the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show, London. As well as undertaking lectures on various horticultural topics at national and international levels he also makes regular contributions to various magazines and publications. Reg is a regular voice on the radio as a member of the Gardeners Corner team at BBC NI.

Sinead Keenan, Project Coordinator, Community Food Initiatives, Healthy Food for All

Sinead has an MSocSc in Sociology (UCD) and a research and policy background in food poverty, social exclusion, homelessness and advocacy. She has worked in the community and voluntary sector for six years with a focus on food issues and homelessness. She was involved in the establishment of the initiative and managed the developmental phase of the initiative. Sinead returned to her post as Project Coordinator of Healthy Food for All in February 2010. Her role is to implement the Healthy Food for All programme, as well as to develop policy that will tackle food poverty across the island of Ireland. She is responsible for identifying and promoting best practice regarding food policy at local, regional, all-island and international levels. She liaises and networks with relevant statutory, private and community interests in both Northern Ireland and the Republic.

Claire Holmes, Community Food & Nutrition Team Dietitian

Claire Holmes is the Dietitian leading the Community Food and Nutrition Team at the Western Health Action Zone who work to address food poverty issues by supporting community based food initiatives. The team provides training and support for community based tutors delivering Cook it! - a six-session healthy eating and cooking skills programme produced by the Health Promotion Agency (now the Public Health Agency) specially for use in Northern Ireland and particularly aimed at people for whom cost is an important consideration. Claire is chair of the NI Health Promoting Dietitians group and sits on the Healthy Food for All Advisory Group.

Judy Meharg, Principal Landscape Architect, Groundwork NI

Judy has worked for Groundwork Northern Ireland since 2000. She manages a team of 7 landscape architects; she works on a range of landscape schemes and has a managerial role in overseeing multiple project programs. Judy has worked on a range of projects, which have included small-scale sensory gardens to larger scale parks and sports facilities. She is keen to promote the services that Groundwork NI can provide in terms of the development of community allotments in Northern Ireland.

Mark Roberts, Director, Liberty Consortium, The Playlist, Derry/Londonderry

Mark has been employed by Liberty Consortium for the past 6 years and has overseen the capital development of the Playtrail project since its conception in 2002. Now a hugely successful community play & educational facility, the Playtrail welcomed in excess of 74,000 visitors in 2009 and the Playtrail's 'Green Finger's Project', a community allotment scheme funded by the Big Lottery Fund, continues to grow from strength to strength.

Rachael Davison, Centre Manager, Walkway Community Gardens

Rachael Davison is employed as Centre Manager in Walkway Community Association, East Belfast. She has worked in East Belfast for 18 years and has been involved in developing various environmental projects, the latest being Walkway Community Associations Vegetable Garden, opened in July 2009.

Seamus Reid, Centre Manager, Mullaghmore & Castlevue Community Association

Seamus has been a member of MACCA since 1994 and has been the Community Garden Project Manager from 2004 to the present day.

If you require further information on any of the events or would like to make a booking then please contact Aidan McLoone, Marketing & Communications Officer, Groundwork NI on 028 90749494 or email

aidanmcloone@groundworkni.co.uk

Please note all contents of this document are correct at the time of going to press but may be subject to change by Groundwork NI



Seminar 1 Outline: Belfast: Thursday 11th March 2010,
9.15am-4.30pm; Groundwork NI, 63-75 Duncairn Gardens

09:15am	Arrival & Refreshments
09:30am	Introduction to "Community Allotments" by Groundwork NI Director, Sylvia Gordon
09:45am	Best Practice Guest Speaker, Suzie Cahn, Carraig Dúlra, Co. Wicklow
10.20am	Question & Answer Session
10:35am	Sinead Keenan, Project Coordinator, Community Food Initiatives, Healthy Food for All
11:00am	Comfort Break Tea & Coffee
11.15am	John McCormick, Chair, The Organic Centre
11.45am	Reg Maxwell, Community Allotments-A Belfast Perspective plus Belfast City Council representative TBC
12.15pm	Cookery Demonstration with Nick Price, Nicks Warehouse
12:45pm	Lunch
01:30pm	Best Practice Site Visit to Walkway Community Garden GWNI Project
1.45pm	Tour of the Walkway Community Garden with Rachael Davison
2.00pm	Presentation by Rachael Davison & Groundwork NI Staff on the challenges and practicalities of developing a Community Allotment
2.45pm	Workshop on devising a Community Allotment
03:30pm	Feedback Session & outline of further support available via Groundwork NI team
04:30pm	Close



Seminar 2 Outline: Derry/Londonderry: Tuesday 23rd March 2010,
9.15am-4.30pm, The Playtrail, 15 Racecourse Road, Derry/L'Derry

09:15am	Arrival & Refreshments
09:30am	Introduction to "Community Allotments" by Groundwork NI Director, Sylvia Gordon
09:40am	Aideen McGinley, Chief Executive, ILEX The Urban Regeneration Company
09:45am	UK Best Practice Guest Speaker-Pam Warhurst, Incredible Edible,
10:20am	Question & Answer Session
10:35am	Phil Dewhurst, Offshoots Permaculture Project, Groundwork UK
11:00am	Comfort Break Tea & Coffee
11:15am	Community Allotments-A Derry/L'Derry Perspective-Guest Speaker TBC
11:45am	Mark Roberts, Director, The Playtrail, Community Allotments
12:15pm	Claire Holmes, Community Food & Nutrition Team Dietitian-Western Health Action Zone & Live Cookery Demonstration
12:45pm	Live Cookery Demonstration & Lunch
01:30pm	Best Practice Site Visit to Playtrail Community Allotments
1:45pm	Tour of the Playtrail Community Allotments with Mark Roberts
2:00pm	Presentation by Mark Roberts & Groundwork NI Staff on the challenges and practicalities of developing a Community Allotment
2:45pm	Workshop with the group on devising a Community Allotment
03:30pm	Feedback Session & outline of further support available via Groundwork NI team
04:30pm	Close



Incredible Edible
Todmorden



The Organic Centre
An tIonad Orgánach
www.theorganiccentre.ie



walkwaycommunityassociation.
part of your growing community



Seminar 3 Outline: Omagh: Wednesday 24th March 2010, 9.15am-4.30pm; GK House, Lisanelly Heights, Omagh

09:15am	Arrival & Refreshments
09:30am	Introduction to "Community Allotments" by Groundwork NI Director, Sylvia Gordon
09:45am	UK Best Practice Guest Speaker-Phil Dewhurst, Offshoots Permaculture Project-Groundwork UK
10.20am	Question & Answer Session
10:35am	Siobhan Craig-GROW
11:00am	Comfort Break Tea & Coffee
11.15am	Marella Fyffe-Transition NorthWest, Omagh
11.45am	Seamus Reid, Centre Manager, Mullaghmore & Castlevew Community Association
12.15pm	Claire Holmes, Community Food & Nutritin Team Dietitian- Western Health Action Zone
12:45pm	Live Cookery Demonstration & Lunch at GK House, Lisanelly Heights
01:30pm	Best Practice Site Visit to Mullaghmore Community Allotments
1.45pm	Tour of the Mullaghmore Community Allotments with Seamus Reid
2.00pm	Presentation by Seamus Reid & Groundwork NI Staff on the challenges and practicalities of developing a Community Allotment
2.45pm	Workshop with the group on devising a Community Allotment
03:30pm	Feedback Session & outline of further support available via Groundwork NI team
04:30pm	Close



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