

Community food growing post lockdown

10:30 Welcome, Sofia Parente, Sustain/SFP

10:35 Overview of where we are and what happens next

- Sarah Williams, Sustain
- Chris Blythe, Social Farms and Gardens
- Q&A

11:05 Community gardens case studies

- Kiloran Benn O'Leary, Story Gardens,
- Mila Campay, Calthorpe Gardens
- Sam Smith, Penrose Roots
- Q&A

11:30 Community Harvest and opportunities for widening engagement

- Fiona McAllister, Sustain
- Zainab Hazel, Cordwainers Grow
- Fiona McAllistair and Sarah Williams, Sustain
- Rachel Monaghan, Ageing Better
- Q&A





Community food growing post Covid-19: What happens next?

Sarah Williams





Pre Covid-19

- Climate change and biodiversity
- Protecting land
- Peri-urban land
- Health and social prescribing

Our response

- Listen
 - Survey
 - Meetings
- Respond
 - Information
 - Ideas/ Workshops
 - Community Harvest
- Representing the network
 - Meeting with local networks
 - Councils and Funders





What next:

Practical

- Guidelines
- Home growers

Building back better

- Learning
- Bolder
- Diversity



What are our members saying?

- Almost all farms and gardens have been operating under some form of restrictions
- 51% Have experienced some form of financial impact as a result of COVID – substantial impacts on income, especially in those who are more commercial in their approach
- Many are collaborating with other local organisations and finding new ways of working.
- 36% plan to grow more food this year



Practicalities:

- Think its expected that this will not be a quick fix or solution
- Likely that COVID 19 will be around for some time in one form or another
- Possibilities of further changes and lockdowns if it spikes again
- How to mitigate for these changes?
- The need to re-open and get up and running again.

New Resources



The food, community & environment sector

- Greater community activity around food – This needs to continue.
- More Collaboration which again needs to continue.
- Different ways of having community conversations
- Nature Recovery Network/Green Recovery – Defra/Natural England.
- How can we ensure that the impact of COVID and the focus it has placed on our sector can be built on?
- Greater realisation of the value of nature...parks use for example.
- Will play a bigger role in the future (hopefully)

Conclusions

- The future is whatever we want it to be, we can grasp the opportunity presented by the crisis or let it slip
- COVID 19 has raised greater awareness, focus and opportunity for the food, community and environment sectors.
- We will not see a sudden return to normal, with lots of people wanting to use the services urban farms and gardens provide..it will be gradual
- The more we can do to prepare now, the better placed we will be.



**Thank
You!!!**

Story Garden – Kiloran Benn O’Leary



















Our volunteers are slowly coming back





We allow only 5 volunteers working at once in the garden





We are hoping that in the next few weeks we will be able to allow more volunteers in our garden





We will be carry on supporting our community and growing together



Penrose Roots, Luton

Sam Smith



Community Harvest

Growing Food for
your Community



www.capitalgrowth.org/community_harvest





Background

- Survey at the beginning of Covid-19 (113+ responses)
- People wanted to grow food for those in need
 - Food bank
 - Community group
 - Local network
- Funding Bid from Sustain





The initiative

- 50 gardens across London plus projects in Manchester & Reading
- Community gardens and home growers
- A collective of community gardens showing how much food we can contribute to our local communities
- Between now and end August



Support from us

- **Training:**
 - Getting Started: planning beds, selecting crops & soil health
 - Maximising yields
 - Virtual tours of gardens
- **Drop-ins:**
 - Check in with each other virtually, share ideas, support
- **Materials:**
 - Compost, seeds & tools
- **Mentors:**
 - Matchmaking
- **Local Leads:**
 - Projects supporting the initiative on the ground in local areas





#CommunityHarvest

Contact us:

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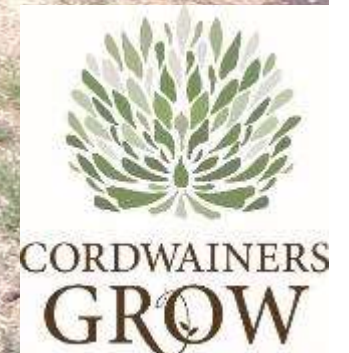
Outside London

ren@sustainweb.org



Outdoor Classroom, Victoria Park

Zainab Hazel



**CHILDREN WITH VOICES**

**CFH**

COMMUNITY FOOD HUB

**FREE
HEALTHY
FOOD**

**FIGHT
HUNGER
AND POVERTY**

**REDUCE
FOOD
WASTE**

GET INVOLVED TODAY!

WILTON ESTATE COMMUNITY HALL, GREENWOOD ROAD, EB 18D

MONDAY 11:30am - 4:00pm THURSDAY 12:00noon - 3:00pm

CONTACT US:

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Age-friendly and inclusive volunteering

Rachel Monaghan – Programme Manager

ageing-better.org.uk



**CENTRE FOR
AGEING
BETTER**

Two thirds (67%) say "being able to make a positive contribution to society", such as by volunteering, will be important to their happiness at 65+.

Figures provided by YouGov. Sample size 2153 GB adults aged 40-60.

Age-friendly, inclusive volunteering is:



Flexible and responsive



Valued and appreciated



Enabled and supported



Meaningful and purposeful



Sociable and connected



Makes good use of people's strengths

Age-friendly and inclusive volunteering grant programme

- <https://www.ageing-better.org.uk/our-work/age-friendly-inclusive-volunteering>
- <https://www.sustainweb.org/publications/growingconnections/>





Thank you

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