



Newsletter

January 2021

Happy New Year to you all.

Who would have thought that we would have been starting the year with another lockdown. As predicted back in May 2020 the new normal is face masks, hand washing and 2 metre distance.

We are back operating after our Christmas break with most of our co-workers back but unfortunately no volunteers at the moment due to Covid-19.

It has been a while since our last newsletter so we have tried to give you news from last year as well.

Although there is still snow on the ground we are already planning the garden for this year's growing of veg, fruit and flowers.

MAY/JUNE 2021

2020's Open Weekend which was due to take place on the 23rd and 24th May 2020 did not go ahead but we did have lots of orders for veg plants and bedding plants which were delivered locally.



Gradually over these months we managed to start taking some of the co-workers back and also towards the end of June some of our volunteers as well.

JULY 2020

July saw us starting up our veg bags from the gardens. We had about 40 bags each week and these were delivered to each customer's door rather than drop off points this year. This was a little more time consuming but was tied in with delivering some of our co-workers home on a Thursday afternoon and also on a Friday just after lunch. This is something the whole team can get involved in, whether it is boxing up eggs, weighing out veg, placing the veg into a bag or even helping with the delivery of the bags.



AUGUST 2020

We also had lots of orders for flower bouquets or little posies of sweet peas. These flowers were delivered locally to individuals or also sold to some of the local florists or businesses.



We also bought another vehicle (a Peugeot Horizon) in August - this was bought to assist us with social distancing while transporting between gardens.



SEPTEMBER 2020

During September we had a Royal Visit - Her Royal Highness - The Duchess of Rothesay. This Royal visit was made with all social distancing measures in place. Belinda gave her a tour of the garden which lasted about 30 minutes. Whilst the whole team was working in the garden throughout her visit, Her Royal Highness met Tom and his Dad. Her Royal Highness was presented with a bunch of dahlias which Tom had picked from the garden.



OCTOBER 2020

October is a good month for the whole team to get involved in the picking of apples. The apples are then chopped, grated and put in the apple press for apple juice. The apple juice is then pasteurised and sold at various markets or direct to local customers. There are still some bottles left if you are interested in purchasing any.



OCTOBER 2020

And of course there is always pumpkin carving using the pumpkins grown in the garden.



NOVEMBER 2020

Was the start of us being really busy making Christmas wooden products. Our co-workers from Banchory Academy took samples of the items back to the school and came back with lots of orders. This was a great boost for us and also all the other orders that came in for wooden craft products and wreaths.



DECEMBER 2020 - GLEN TANAR

We were hoping to have Christmas Tree Sales and our Pop Up Shop at Glen Tanar for the 3 weekends in December but our Christmas Trees almost sold out in the first weekend so unfortunately we had to cancel the other weekends.



DECEMBER 2020

Due to Covid-19 and us utilising both Ballogie and Glen Tanar Gardens we were struggling to fit all the co-workers safely in one vehicle so we have purchased another vehicle, a Peugeot Boxster. We still have our van and the Peugeot Horizon.



ABOYNE FARMERS MARKET

Finally we managed to get Aboyne Farmers Market up and running this year. This was done with a lot of help and advice from Aberdeenshire Council's Environmental Health and the first market of 2020 was held in September 2020. Due to demand we also decided to hold the market in November, so all going okay for this year the market will run from April to December.

Fingers crossed for this year that the first market can go ahead on Saturday 10th April.



GENERAL NEWS

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The craft room is all finished on the outside and we are just trying to get the inside finished. We managed to source some free old kitchen cabinets so we are just trying to get these set up.

Although our veg bags from the garden are finished, we do still have a little veg left and we are carrying on with Veg/Fruit Bags mainly from a wholesaler and to use up the remains from the garden. If interested in one please get in touch.

Last year before we got too busy we were sanding, varnishing or oiling wooden garden furniture. If you have any garden furniture that needs sanding and varnishing or oiling please get in touch as this is something we can do before we start sowing seeds.

We would also like to thank all our volunteers for the time they spent in the gardens this year, this was less time than normal due to Covid but once again we are grateful for any time they can give us. Hopefully it will not be long before we see them all again.

AGM

This year's AGM will be held on 24th February 2021 via Zoom, more details will follow on our Facebook Page

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