

Seasonal Summary - Winter / Spring 2026

Spring has been bouncing along beautifully in the community garden so far! Thanks to all of our brilliant volunteers and Grow Kids groups, we've been sowing, nurturing and planting all sorts of tasty veggies that are growing well and playing a very important part in this garden landscape - hello peas, beans, tatties, garlic and onions. Coriander and a variety of salad greens did very well in the new polycarbonate tunnel at the beginning of the year. We enjoyed a bountiful harvest of purple sprouting broccoli, and we are also trying out its perennial cousin, nine star broccoli. We are becoming big fans of perennial veg, and have created a second bed for more of them, including rhubarb, Jerusalem artichokes (apparently misnamed - they are in fact a species of sunflower native to North America!), and Korean celery, also new to try this year. The asparagus stalks are now pushing through the soil; another perennial highlight.

After a group vote last year, we named the new tunnel 'Takiwātanga', the Māori word used to describe Autism, roughly translating as 'in my/her/his/their own time and space'. The presence of this marvellous growing space and its special name have quickly become embedded in the garden and its community ethos. We are very grateful to all of the organisations that helped to fund Takiwātanga: Scottish Borders Council, Scottish Building Society, The Hedley Foundation, and Scottish Borders Climate Action Network.

We are also incredibly fortunate to have a dedicated group of watering volunteers, as well as a maintenance and grass cutting team, who all give their time and energy to help ensure the plants thrive and the garden is kept safe. This Spring we have also been delighted to welcome some more corporate volunteers from Scottish Building Society, who swapped their desks for spades and twine, and helped us make great progress tying in canes, weeding, and mulching in the raspberry beds.



What else have we been up to?

- **Imbolc Celebration:** At the end of January, local storyteller Katy Swift told us all about this Celtic winter festival and the legend of Brigid, and then showed us how to make candle cards with papers containing our Imbolc wishes, and a sheep's wool 'flame'. To put a little more fire in our bellies, we finished with a delicious vegetarian chilli meal made by the fantastic Food Punks.
- **Knit a Hat Skill Share:** Led by one of our Volunteer Leaders, Amanda, knitters of all abilities came together to share a morning learning how to make their own cosy beanie.
- **Imbolc Torches Workshop:** We finished a wonderful year of our Heritage project activities with an uplifting session making 'Imbolc Torches' with Helen. These fabulous slow-burning outdoor candles were made using last year's mullein seed-head stalks, saved candle stubs and dried summer herbs harvested from the garden. Wishes, intentions and hopes to build with the growing spring light were carefully sealed inside ready to be burned at the participants' chosen occasion.
- **Knots Skill Share:** Elise guided the group through some of the key knots that are useful to know for gardening.
- **Seed Share & Community Meal** We donned our waterproofs for this important event in our calendar and enjoyed sharing information and ideas with each other about what to grow and how to grow it. Our thanks to Meldon Seeds for their generous donation of seeds again this year, and to the Food Foundation who provided us with a delicious lunch to share.



Coming up:

- **Rhubarb & Sweet Cicely Crumble Skill Share: 12 June, 10.30-11.30**
- Join us to prepare a crumble using garden ingredients, to cook at home. Booking essential - please email info@greenerpeebles.org
- **'Pick Your Own' events: 19 Jun / 17 Jul / 21 Aug / 18 Sept, 10.30-11.30**
- Pop in to the garden with a bag, and see what's on offer to harvest in exchange for a small donation.

Support the Garden:

- **Become a volunteer:** We welcome new volunteers to the garden on Tuesday and Friday mornings, 10-12. The volunteering sessions take place year round, apart from two weeks over Christmas and New Year. There are other ways to volunteer as well, such as watering, or helping at markets and events.
- **Become a Member:** Membership of Greener Peebles is free, is a great way to show your support, and entitles you to a vote at the Annual General Meeting and any Special Members' Meetings. Application is by completing a short form, which will then be considered by the Board of Trustees.

Thank you for helping our community garden to thrive