

Winchburgh Community Growing Group

Portfolio: *April 2024 - May 2025*



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Welcome to Winchburgh!

Home of the amazing Winchburgh Community Growing Group and Winchburgh Wombles!

Please read below our 2025 pillars towards our success...



WCGG - Pillars for success and growth



Environment and Sustainability
WCGG are fully committed to our environmental impact. Reducing waste, recycling where possible and re-using what we can. Giving back to the community through the love of growing and keeping our community clean with the support of Wombles. Aware of not using chemical pesticides and of our carbon footprint and environmental impact in Winchburgh and beyond.



Community Involvement
WCGG aim to tackle the issues in society and contribute positively for the good of Winchburgh. The 2018 vision continues to grow together with food and flowers educating, learning and working together for the good of the community bringing people together and involving other organisations, schools, groups, businesses and the local church's



Diversity and Inclusion
WCGG are committed to developing a diverse and enabled volunteer group from the widest talent our community has to offer and give equal opportunities to all with out exception. Our group welcomes and is open to everyone in the community as long as people respect each other and do what's best for Winchburgh



Wellbeing
WCGG value the importance of our volunteers and each other and strive to promote a positive health culture in order to enable individuals to feel comfortable and cope within the community. We aim to provide services and workshops to support mental and physical health and hope that everything we do helps improve our community



Operating Practices
WCGG will conduct our volunteering roles with the upmost respect for each other. Striving to do what's best for the community in an open, honest, ethical and 'as one' community group. We will seek to ensure we comply with all Health and Safety guidelines to keep everyone safe and follow any guidelines in place.

Did you know our logo has the shale bings in the background and was designed in 2018 from a pupil at Winchburgh Primary school?

Two years later our logo was redesigned when we launched the Winchburgh Wombles during lockdown in 2020! Both groups work side by side to keep the community looking it's best – This year we are celebrating the Wombles turning 5 and the growers 7 years old and both going strong.

<https://www.winchburghdevelopments.com/news/community-spirit-in-full-bloom-as-local-groups-celebrate-milestone-anniversaries/>

1) Introduction

Winchburgh Community Growing group formed in 2018 and has benefited the community in several ways:

- Bringing the community together through the love and food and growing in general
- Build, planted and maintain over 50 planters in local streets, businesses and church's
- Planters also located at Niddry Castle golf club, Winchburgh Nursery and two primary schools
- Three orchards are located at next to the Nursery, Barrats Park and Auldcaithie Park which is Scotland's largest placemaking projects when phase two is completed will make up 85 acres of park, café, park4run, cycle tracks, dog park and the award winning home of the Winchburgh Community Growing group.
- Supporting and introducing existing members of Winchburgh with people who have moved here
- Have several planters sponsored by local businesses / developers
- Sub partner group – Winchburgh Wombles who have collected thousands of bags of rubbish and are about to launch a live dashboard portal so everyone can see the bags and hours collected – The community is looking cleaner than ever and has been noticed by everyone. We share our stats with West Lothian Litter Pickers and monthly stats are available as sent to our community. Each 6 months rewards are given for every star (from our logo)

WCGG have received several grants/support to date from:

- Winchburgh Developments LTD
- West Lothian Council
- Cala Homes
- Scotmid
- Sainsburys
- The Orchard Project
- Tesco Bags for Help

- Taylor Wimpey
- National Lottery
- I&H Brown
- Winchburgh Development Trust
- Lovell Homes
- Wheatley Group



Auldcathie blank canvas – March 2022...



2) Horticultural Achievement

Winchburgh Nursery children popped along to the polytunnel today with Mandy, Martha and Debs to kick off an initiative called Grow with it. Mo from [RHS Community Gardening](#) has supplied the kit where seeds must be monitored as they grow  more on this over the coming weeks and months 



Marvelous Morag from [RHS Community Gardening](#) met with the amazing children from Winchburgh nursery yesterday morning - They designed their own plant pots then learned how to pot up, water and care for Dahlias 

Great work along with Mrs Baird & Mrs Burnett 



Keep Scotland Beautiful visited the village as part of "It's Your Neighbourhood." Sarah met Mrs Baird again and her team for a look around the amazing nursery grounds which have been developing over the years into a fantastic learning garden..

Next stop was meeting head Womble Aileen who supports the Wombles in keeping everywhere clean as well as reporting monthly collection figures.

Final stop for Sarah was a tour around the Auldcathie growing area which has really com... See more



Thanks to amazing Mo from [RHS Community Gardening](#) who taught the art of Kokedama making bringing along 70 kits for you! Lots of fun learning a new skill with something to take home 😊

Mo will be back again soon for bulb planting sessions!



All about bulbs today with marvelous Morag from [RHS Community Gardening](#) bringing various bulbs and educating on the different types and planting depths.. These will create beautiful displays come spring so thanks to everyone involved! 🌸

Edible bulbs planted today with more onions and garlic.

The new path is under construction too 🌟



🎃 That's a spooky wrap...Thanks to Magical Morag from [RHS Community Gardening](#) for teaching children how to decorate pumpkins with flowers from the garden and even gold! All amazing designs to take home for Halloween!

Some hot Smores treats, monkey nuts and sweets were all enjoyed today too 🍫

A special thanks to a family visiting Winchburgh during the week who came along and donated 8 Cherry trees to the growers for the community to enjoy with their spring blossom and delic... See more



Week 2 '25: 🌸 Spring is in the air with magical Mo from the [RHS Community Gardening](#) bringing joy with a free workshop on spring basket making enjoyed by volunteers of all ages on [#internationalwomensday](#)!

Seed sowing, planters planted and sun shining...



Week 6 '25: Marvelous Mo from [RHS Community Gardening](#) held an exciting and educational workshop on herb growing and hanging basket making! Lots of cuttings and seeds sown too! 🌸

🐟 Fish now live in the pond, Amy created a new willow harlequin and added some nice touches to the archways while Alfie loved his seat and biscuits inside the cathedral..



Thanks to [Deeside Willow](#) for sketching the plan for AuldCathedral which will be built in February consisting of an archway and birch tree centerpiece.

Exciting new addition to the growers area..



Thanks to all the volunteers who attended [Deeside Willow](#) workshops today! Amazing effort with the Fedge completed around the wildlife pond and the ambitious AuldCathedral build off the ground!

Outstanding buffet break by Irene [The Wee Winchburgh Cafe](#) enjoyed by everyone for a break in the cold weather.

We're back tomorrow morning for another session to work on Harlequin stain glass windows for the Cathedral and add the tricky rings around the roof to complete the structure... [See more](#)





Another big thanks to 25 new volunteers all helping to create the Harlequins for the cathedral and complete the roof of the structure.

Deeside Willow ran the workshop again today and will be back tomorrow to add the finishing touches. We appreciate them supporting all day and staying until dark to finish off 😊

Thanks to The Wee Winchburgh Cafe for providing the delicious buffet break 🥐



Only a few tickets left for FREE willow workshops this February in partnership with Deeside Willow plus enjoy a delicious buffet break from [The Wee Winchburgh Cafe](#) 🎉🎉🎉

E-tickets will be emailed once we hit capacity...

Book now:

<https://www.winchburghcgg.co.uk/willow-workshops>

#AuldCathedral



3) Environmental Responsibility

Operation ladybird release today to tackle the black fly aphids attacking sweetcorn in the polytunnel. Ladybirds are natural predators of these pests and have a full buffet to feast and grow bigger 🐞

This is a sustainable way to tackle the issue without using harsh sprays and chemicals...

Hopefully they find some nice spots to hibernate over winter after a feast and we have lots more next year to tackle polytunnel pests!



Great to see leek and potato soup on the menu today from [The Wee Winchburgh Café](#) after delivery of our veg box. Delicious Irene 😋🥣



We are now powered 24/7! Totally sustainable collecting power from the wind and sun... Our lights and electrics work meaning we can power hydroponics and irrigation to water the growing area / polytunnel as well as boil a kettle... Massive thanks to our volunteer Stephen who got all the kit we needed and to Allen & Matthew from [Ace Glasgow Limited](#) for spending all day and into the night installing the system! 🌟



Massive thanks to [Ace Glasgow Limited](#) who went above and beyond to complete the installation of our wind turbine/solar panel and Defib! Great work with Allen being joined with dog Teddy last night to finish off the works 🌟



Christmas trees recycled to use as mulch in park...

Thanks to everyone who signed up for tree collection,
We raised an amazing £605 🎉🎄

All trees have been collected and you will have received a thank you slip.

Thanks also to BDS park maintenance team for hiring a van and collecting all the trees.



Old wooden furniture transformed with new lease of life...

👉 Massive thanks to George and his team from WLC who took away our picnic bench and chairs to their workshop and to Cassie, an art instructor who visited the area for inspiration creating these amazing designs!

Lothian Autoparts UK then professionally sprayed them with a varnish to protect the wood which they completed as a donation to the growers 🎉



4)Community Participation

Thanks to all the groups who visited today for the Keep Scotland Beautiful workshops. A great networking day with presentations and finishing with a tour of Auldcaithie District Park 🌱

Great to meet BUGS - Broxburn and Uphall Growers , Easter Breich Wood , Flourishing Forth, Friends of Lauriston Castle Estate , Scenic Sandbank Community Group. , Tidy Clean & Green Falkirk

Many thanks to Billy and Abercorn, Pardovan, Kingscavill and Winchburgh Parish Church too 😊



Another amazing club enjoying the community growing space each week 🌱



Tonight the cubs & leaders visited Auldcathie so they could complete their gardening badge 🌱. The evening started with showing the plans along with a tour before Hazel gave a talk on different gardening tools.

Cubs & leaders then learned about the no dig approach to growing, divided into teams for a snail/slugs identification game around the area before planting some wild flower seeds 🌿

Our activities ended with a free packet of seeds and copy of our book "Sow & Tell" includi... See more



Well done to all the 33rd West Lothian Scout Group - Winchburgh last night after their second visit to Auldcathie growing area this month. Braving the rain at the beginning they had a full tour of the community garden learning about no-dig and how to compost before spotting newts in the pond.

Last night concluded by getting hands-on creating a new permanent beech hedge which all help towards earning a future gold badge 🌱🌿



🐝 Grab some wildflower bee bombs to scatter across new areas of the park and take part in art activities with Lewi this Saturday from 11am by the community cabin...

🎉 Part of the official opening ceremony

🎨 Come and meet Lewi the mural artist - Lots of fun in the polytunnel...



☀️ Epic workshop today with volunteers learning how to make planters! The 3 hour session included a Gelato cone served by [Villaggio Gelato](#) 🍦! The day ended with a BBQ whilst admiring the 5 new planters that were created today 🍩🍪🍪

☀️ Special thanks to Nicky at [McFarlane Joinery Services](#) for taking the class and guiding everyone along the way 🍪



Container to cone 🍦 Marguerite picked some Rhubarb and turned it into a delicious special edition seasonal Gelato! The rhubarb, custard & ginger mix was first served as cones to volunteers yesterday and will be served up to volunteers each Saturday while it lasts!

Thanks for making this incredible treat for volunteers and using park produce [Villaggio Gelato](#)



Lovely new volunteers joined today and enjoyed a BBQ and meeting growing neighbours...lots of strawberry picking and kids playing in Jurassic park 🌱



One of the cubs loved yesterday so came back to plant peppers, chillies and sow peas with his brother 🌱

Lots volunteering big and small watering, wildflower patch created, compost bins built and lots of fun had in Auldcathie 😊😊😊😊😊



Vegetable sushi making workshop another hit as 10 tickets sold for this masterclass! Amazing

Don't forget to join us today at [Winchburgh Gala Day's Sunday Funday 1-4pm](#) to learn more about joining the growers or [Winchburgh Wombles](#)



Sunny Saturday cooking class...This covered a bit of the culture of sushi 🍣 eating, type of rice, health benefits, then demo of sushi rolling followed by the class making their own using spinach leaves from the WCGG polytunnel, filled with pesto and vegetables.

Participants tried their own sushi with a selection of home made drinks celebrating the season. The session finished with a quick tour around the WCGG site and each person left with chocolate mint leaves to make a cuppa at home.



Come grab a hot dog 🌭 meet artist Lewi or just enjoy the extended park...



Volunteers enjoyed toasted marshmallows with chocolate fondue and freshly baked pizzas by chef Rudi 🍕

Along with the fun lots of painting, planting, seed sowing, weeding, grass cutting, watering, rosemary bouquets and roller skating...

☀️ The kids all loved and had lots of fun with Lewi in the polytunnel where their art work now features ☀️



Flower power, hot dogs and growing together 🌸🌭🥕

Amazing volunteers in the community growing area... Fruit punch made fresh by the girls, some cakes brought along including Rudi's son who turned 8 today 🎉🎂🎈

Stephen managed to set up the Hydroponics and more produce planted and picked on a sunny summer Saturday 😊



Annual Winchburgh gala day parade for Wombles and Growers

(volunteers enjoyed kebabs home made and cooked by Shaminder on the BBQ along with donuts with jam and ice cream - Delicious combil!

Start of the King Edward potato harvest so all volunteers and passers through got a bag 🥔

Thanks to Malcolm and Pamela for donating bags of play balls for the pool 🎈

New volunteers enjoyed food today, copy of our book and a glass Taylor Wimpey water bottle... Join the volunteers next Saturday and chat with the Mutual artist 1pm - 4pm



Gala day float 1 of 3



Hundreds of free Gala Apples for the community on route around the parade





Winchburgh
Wormies

Proudly support
the growing
community
Winchburgh

MOVED
END

Great to have another visit from [Fiona Hyslop MSP](#) today meeting head grower John and head Womble Aileen. So much has changed in a year with some great discussions as we walked around the area. Fiona is going to grow garlic from a bulb given as part of today's visit 



⚠️ Volunteers grab a pizza the action making delicious ones and sharing! Freshly picked produce like basil, red onions and peppers added 🍅 🍅 🌿

Fun in the new ball pool, lots of planting, fun and light refreshments to end the school holidays 😊

Weekly maintenance tasks and some kite flying ended the day 🎈

Than... [See more](#)



Great session with our co-founder Vivian who visited Winchburgh Academy and ran a 'Food and Mood' session! An interactive session with the Food for Thought Group exploring foods that are good for our brain, sugar content in fizzy drinks, foods we eat when we are sad and when we are bored.

Great group and they will be visiting our growing group soon for a growing project..



◆ Autumn harvest well underway with amazing volunteers and Sarah's mum coming all the way from Portugal to help out! Pool patched up, polytunnel getting ready for winter, fun with bubbles, new path tested out and a big veg box for [The Wee Winchburgh Cafe](#) 🥑🥔🥕



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✿ The new accessible pathway is well under construction which will connect the South gate with the main central area 🌟





1-4pm tomorrow bulb planting in Auldcathie
4-5:30pm Vivian hosts another sold out fermentation class.
Volunteer treats too 🍻
(See website for full bulb planting details)



September is all about bulbs 🌸🧅🧅
Join tomorrow for onion & garlic planting! Mo from [RHS Community Gardening](#) returns on Saturday 14th with 1,000 daffodil bulbs to plant in the park. 🌟
Pop along 1-4pm and get involved - Open to all 🌟



Volunteers who have devoted countless hours in phase one of Auldcathie had the opportunity yesterday to plant fruit trees thanks to funding from [Scotmid Community Orchard](#)! These familiar faces can be seen each week in the park and also volunteering at our big events!

3 cherry trees and 3 plum trees planted...



Thanks to James from SRUC Oatridge Campus who is helping us take part in the RHS Community Gardening seed trial 🌱 Different varieties of Carrot were planted today to compare how they perform 🥕

Next we are trailering different varieties of lettuce 🥬



After the success and demand of Saturday's workshop we have released another date! Thanks to Vivian for running the amazing workshop along with support from Milly and Cara 🌟

Next course is on 14th September 4pm...

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/.../fermentation-and-health...>



Another sold out fermentation workshop class yesterday. Some pictures from the session 🥕🥕🥕





NEW!!!!

WINCHBURGH 'BUILDERS DEN'



WINCHBURGH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH WINCHBURGH COMMUNITY GROWING
GROUP, ARE STARTING A BUILDERS DEN
NEW FOR SPRING 2025!!!

📍 BASED AT
AULDCATHIE
PARK GROWING
AREA

DRAWING
DESIGNING
CRAFTING
PAINTING
SOCIALISING
OVER A HOT
DRINK & BISCUIT

IDEAL FOR MEN
THAT LIVE IN
WINCHBURGH WHO
WOULD LIKE TO
CONNECT WITH
THE LOCAL
COMMUNITY AND
LEARN NEW
SKILLS,
BUILD PLANTERS,
BIRD/BAT BOXES,
BIRD FEEDERS ETC

leighlauder@winchburgh
cdt.org.uk

07939 926577

- 💡 If you've never volunteered before come and join our fantastic volunteers as we fill new no dig beds, plant lots of seeds, onions, rhubarb and tatties 🥔
- 💡 If you've got a ticket for tomorrow join the [The Orchard Project](#) as they teach the art of pruning.
- 👉 Saturday sessions run weekly 1pm - 4pm



Week 3 '25: Busiest volunteer day to date with two sessions running simultaneously! 🍎 Thanks to Nick from the [The Orchard Project](#) who ran a free workshop on fruit tree pruning and the trees where in need of some professional care, loads learned!

👉 Lots of busy bodies across the growing area and a few new volunteers too...Tatties, rhubarb, onions, peas planted, polytunnel cleaned out ready to be re-skinned on Monday, pea patch created, watering from the hose, new mini pond, dr... [See more](#)



Massive thanks to [First Tunnels Polytunnels](#) who arrived early today to completely re-skin the polytunnel after it's damage from the recent storms! The growers also have new side ventilation and two new doors!

Thanks to Matthew and his team for this kind offer in supporting the growers to keep growing! 🌱



Massive thanks to local Paul at [Fitz Timber Supplies LTD](#) for a very generous donation of timber sleepers to the growers which have been used to create raised beds in the newly skinned polytunnel! 🌱



Some photos of yesterday's Easter Egg-stravaganza...



Official event map of Easter Sunday - These will be in place across the park with our amazing volunteer marshals around to assist 🌟

⌚ Sunday 20th April 12pm - 4pm



Pick up a copy of this week's West Lothian Courier to read all about Easter in Auldcathie 😊



A great story in the Herald about AuldCathedral created by over 50 volunteers and [Deeside Willow](#) in February 🌱 Please pop in and take a seat...



i

HERALDSCOTLAND.COM

New York-inspired cathedral built in Scotland's fastest growing town

A former mining village which is now Scotland's fastest growing town has added a new cathed...

Week 11 '25: Lots of little helpers making new raised outdoor planters, weeding beds, watering and having fun! ☀️ Hot day with watering, polytunnel irrigation, training tomatoes and salad picking...



Week 12 '25: First BBQ of the season today and we were joined by new Winchburgh business [Speights Coffee](#) who treated volunteers to delicious iced and hot coffees from an Italian Piaggio



Lots of new volunteers today getting stuck in, more planters built, kids painting their own designs on them, watering, weeding, planting and having fun in the sun!

Summer vibes ☀️



Week 13 '25: Volunteers busy in the growing area and at 3pm the sushi workshop was held in the polytunnel! Becky from local business [bexbox](#) also attended 🍣



We have a life saving defib in the park. Our core volunteers have taken a course on how to use it too.

Thanks to everyone involved in making it happen with the kind donation from [Taylor Wimpey](#), full story...



DAILYRECORD.CO.UK

Housebuilder donates defibrillator to Winchburgh Community Growing Group

The defib is accessible 24 hours a day at their community garden in Auldcathie Park in Winchb...

Did you know you can do a free 15 min online course to save a life thanks to British Heart Foundation:

[Link to course](#):

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/.../how-to.../learn-cpr-in-15-minutes>



5) Future events and plans for 2025

WCGG & Wombles will continue to grow the park and keep our community area clean.

Many mini projects are growing including further partnerships with the church garden, more bee and bug hotels, willow workshops, on site food making with more use of our community cabin as we continue to bring the community together with free events at Halloween and Christmas with our Winchburgh Wonderland. The ideas on the table are endless and WCGG will ensure everyone is involved to make this one of the biggest and best community projects in Scotland. Our Easter event attracted almost 3,000 people to visit the park, our biggest event number to date.

Our main focus this year is purchasing more sleepers to build up the no dig beds in a step style, 1, 2 and 3 tier heights which will look good, provide seating and allow the kids to paint them as they become sponsored by local businesses/house builders. Year 3 is our big year for growing now that a large section of the garden has been transformed to be able to grow more food. We continue to work with our community in a big way holding workshops, events and having a relaxed vibe as we welcome more volunteers us. We are on 17th June launching the Winchburgh Builders Den or “Men’s Shed” working in partnership with Winchburgh Community Development Trust.

We also have support from park maintenance company BDS who are able to transport items to the growing area in a fully electric transit van and part funded the willow cathedral. Alongside this we are working with West Lothian Council CJ team to help deliver some of the labour intensive items such as path building, digging trenches for willow and any ad-hoc requests we must help transform the area faster than volunteers ever could.

6) Longer Term

Auldcathie continues to attract residents who have lived in Winchburgh all their life and people who have just moved to the area – We continue to strive to keep bringing people together over the love of growing no matter what skills they have.

The benefits to growing and eating local are well published and WCGG was formed to allow food to be grown literally right up your street! The pandemic, Brexit and continuing war in Ukraine further highlighted the need and benefits to being self-sufficient. Low food miles mean anyone can pick some fresh mint and potatoes and walk home to make a delicious dish picking from a recipe featured on www.WinchburghCGG.co.uk

"Taste the difference" is a slogan Sainsbury's use for some of their products, WCGG supporters who pick from the planters know that taste the of locally grown and eaten food can't be beaten – From Park to Plate!

WCGG was formed as a response to the community of Winchburgh growing and ensuring cohesion. It's important to bring people together and sowing, growing and eating is a passion shared by the community new to growing and residents with years of knowledge and experience. The local council have supported the efforts allowing planters to be placed on council land along with developer's land ensuring food is fresh and accessible to all. WCGG attended soup and a chat hosted by WLC in 2018 which has helped them develop best practice and create a picture of growing group in West Lothian, soon to be published is a report. Working with local businesses, churches, schools and residents to bring everyone together over the love of growing. During covid and 1st lock down WCGG supported people at home, delivering 100s of free tomatoes, strawberries, seeds, potatoes and trees for the community to adopt which have been planted in Auldcathie park. Elizabeth Borthwick looks back in this book to 1982 when Winchburgh had an active flower show giving out prizes to residents and schools. In 2025 we expect WCGG and the Wombles to reach new heights and look forward to welcoming everyone along to share the success of our amazing community based in Winchburgh.

7) Finance

Winchburgh Community Growing Group actively seeks for funding from various sources and reports back our achievements. Lovell are another new house builder we met with May 2025 and are building a new relationship with them to get funding, free wood from building site and volunteers hours from them.

WCGG currently have raised over £67,000 over the past 7 years and have £1,393 in accounts.

7) Press Releases

Wind turbines / solar - <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/winchburgh-sows-seeds-more-sustainable-34935451>

Cala Support - <https://www.falkirkherald.co.uk/business/consumer/calas-community-pledge-for-the-people-of-winchburgh-5099811>

Taylor Wimpey Support - <https://www.scottishconstructionnow.com/articles/taylor-wimpey-east-scotland-volunteers-plant-550-trees-in-winchburgh>

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/housebuilder-donates-defibrillator-winchburgh-community-34860957>

Willow Cathedral - <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/25123790.new-york-inspired-cathedral-built-scotlands-fastest-growing-town/>

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/new-york-city-inspired-willow-35158001>

Growers and Wombles previous Birthday party - <https://www.winchburghdevelopments.com/news/community-spirit-in-full-bloom-as-local-groups-celebrate-milestone-anniversaries/>

8) Videos

Drone from Easter Event - <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/19oPR9qa1Z/>

Lookback video 2024 - <https://www.facebook.com/WinchburghCGG/videos/1601316044096322>