

## Small Grant Fund Case Study

### EATS Rosyth

#### What activity did you run?

We ran an Apple Week including a film evening with apple and parsnip soup as well as apple crumble. We showed two short films, Fields of Hope and Growers. We also had a presentation by Carolyn Bell from Fife Council on the Food4Fife strategy. This was followed by discussions about climate action, on acting / growing locally and how to overcome barriers to reducing our individual carbon footprint.

Other activities included apple-based dishes in the Living Room café, celebrating them coming from our own orchard. We did apple pressing in the orchard with local school children and the EATS Educates team.

There was a Fruit tree maintenance workshop with Kit Cubitt, linking in with the 'Fruit Tree for Every Garden in Fife' campaign, including lots of information about caring for trees in a changing climate.

We held an Apple Festival Day in the orchard with: apple pressing, apple baking competition (3 categories), tours of orchard and garden, tasting some of our apples, talk and demonstration on preserving apples as well as eco-friendly crafts and an apple treasure hunt.

We were also a stop off point for activist Kate Rawles on her bamboo bike. These events created opportunities for natural conversations related to the climate emergency, reducing food miles and buying/growing/preserving locally produced food.

#### Who were your main audience?

25 people attended our film evening. There was a great mix of people in the audience, some already involved in climate action and/ or community growing, others new to these discussions

Fruit tree care workshop – 17 people attended. Over a third of them had never been to the Centenary Orchard before.

Between 170 and 200 visitors came to the apple festival, including all generations and a great turn out from our local community. Some people were volunteers from the Greenspaces and the EATS Hub or their friends and family, others were visiting us for the first time. We were particularly pleased to see that some of the young

## Small Grant Fund Case Study

adults who had come to visit us with their school had returned on the Saturday to show off our project to their family and that all generations enjoyed the event.

### What did you learn?

We learned a lot! Event organising is fun and worthwhile but also a lot of work. It was great to see everyone, staff, volunteers and wider community, come together to make these amazing events happen.

The film night was a real success and showed that people are keen to engage on environmental topics - especially if some free and tasty food is available. Some really interesting conversations happen if we provide a time and a good stimulus.

We could easily have 3-4 film-based events at EATS Rosyth in order to delve deeper in these conversations over the coming year. It was also good to collaborate with Carolyn Bell, who not only came to speak on the night but also helped spread the word by making a short film to advertise it.

We were very lucky with the weather and the fact that the community respected our signs not to pick all the apples before our event on the Saturday. If we were to do a repeat of the Apple Festival, it might be good for us to do it in the middle of September instead.

Feedback for the film evening was really positive and people appreciated the opportunity to make new connections. We also had a lot of positive feedback for the apple day.

“Fresh apple juice straight from tree to glass, nowt fresher than that for sure”

“The home cooking looked incredible”

“We had a great time here on Saturday. My kids loved every activity”

“We had so much fun with the art and gorgeous food”

“Thanks so much for putting on this event!”

### Has your project increased your community’s capacity to tackle the climate emergency?

The film evening sparked some great conversations and also some consternation – isn’t it appalling that vegetables grown in Scotland get washed in England before travelling back to Scottish supermarket shelves?!

Thanks to Carolyn Bell’s presentation on the Food4Fife strategy attendees were better informed about the local landscape.

There was a varied audience on the film night, which helped to remind everyone that

## Small Grant Fund Case Study

climate action and social justice must go together – buying fresh, seasonal and local food often remains a privilege, some will stay loyal to the big supermarkets for convenience or because they like seeing the friendly delivery drivers, others will opt for non-perishable, processed foods because they can't afford multiple deliveries a month and don't want to waste fresh food.

At the end of the evening, everyone was able to share a pledge as they've been inspired to take action. For example, start baking their own bread, explore a simple self-watering system for their balcony crops, share inspiring recipes for "gluts", look into seed-saving etc.

On Saturday morning, Kit raised awareness regarding the challenges of the Scottish climate and the need to adapt to changes in the weather and seasons. He gave some hands-on tips for fruit tree care, including the use of natural mulches.

In the afternoon while the emphasis was on celebrating all things apple, lots of people engaged with conversations surrounding local food and shared lots of ideas around cooking and preserving apples- the apple juicing and tasting was popular with people showing a real appreciation for the importance of local orchards, growing heirloom heritage apples. The dried apple slices and apple sparked interesting conversations around energy costs involved by different methods of apple preserving. Similar conversations also took place with the groups visiting our Greenspaces during the week, including school classes. It is hard to quantify how much action people will take as a direct result of this particular series of events, but it helped put EATS Rosyth on the map and talk about the climate festival. It was a successful way to create an opportunity for conversations and some simple fun, close to nature. Some interesting exchanges surrounding cycling and the use of public transport in our area also took place.

### Find out more

<https://www.eatsrosyth.org.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/rosythcommunityhub/>

# Community Climate Grants



## Small Grant Fund Case Study



# Community Climate Grants



## Small Grant Fund Case Study

