BELVILLE COMMUNITY GARDEN TRUST

BELVILLE BUGLE

Issue date: May 2023

Soup & a Blether feedback survey QR code (or click here!)

Hope everyone's been enjoying the better weather recently! Between our photography health walk, gardening club and allotment sessions, we certainly have! We also want to see what people currently think of our weekly community lunch, so please check the QR code to the right. Now, as usual, let's start with this month's Big Blether (with contact details below):

WHAT'S YOUR GO-TO PHOTOGRAPHY VIEWPOINT IN INVERCLYDE?

Visit or Post: 53-57 Belville Street, Greenock PA15 4UN
Email us at admin@belvillecommunitygarden.org.uk
Ring us at 01475 276034 or 07841 399873
Message us on **social media!** (Facebook's our go-to spot)
We're open from **9am-4pm Mon-Thu & 12pm-1pm Friday.**

WHAT'S ON

* = please book in advance

Mondays
Recovery Group (10:30am-1pm)
Garden Club (1pm-3pm)

Tuesdays
ESOL Classes* (11am-12pm)
Tabletop* (1:30pm-3pm)

Wednesdays
Bike Café (10:30an-3pm)
Knit & Natter* (1pm-3pm)

Friday
Soup & a Blether* (12pm-1pm)

WE ALSO DO:

- **Photography Health Walks**
- **Will-o'-the-Wild**
- **Sustainability Workshops***

We have plenty more activities & events available, please contact us for more information!

Belville Spotlight

Donna Gairns joined BCGT in 2018 as an administrator & social media communicator extraordinaire. Most recently she has served as our Volunteer Development Officer, supporting our hardworking volunteers on their Belville journey. Her main tasks also involve keeping Sally safe and making excellent use of her first aid training. As you can expect, that's not all what people have to say about her around the office:

Donna during an event back in March

"Calm, level-headed, if I'm ever in a crisis, I want Donna by my side" - Sally C.

"Helpful, kind, considerate, always has a smile, irreplaceable, and she's gonna be sorely missed." - Wilma H. & Janet M.

"Donna's always got emergency chocolate, which is always good!" - Adrian S.

As you can tell from one of those quotes, sadly, Donna will be moving to the Highlands later this year. We cannot thank her enough for everything she's done over the past 5 years!

Our People - Ian Lyall has been a Trustee of BCGT since 2019, having been brought up (and attended school) in Greenock, now living in Edinburgh. He retired as a Partner from an international legal firm after a 40 year career as a Corporate Lawyer. He is passionate about encouraging community activism and tackling inequality.

In addition to BCGT, Ian is the Deputy Chair of Bethany Christian Trust, a Scottish Charity whose objective is to end homelessness in Scotland, one person, one family and one community at a time. He is a Trustee & Board Advisor to other third sector organisations, with extensive experience working in this space. He's married to Pam with four adult children.

Dementia Training: At the end of April a number of staff at Belville took part in a training course provided by **Your Voice Inverclyde** to better understand how to assist those living with dementia. Pictured left is Ryan Stewart with his certificate. For more information on BCGT's work with helping those with dementia, please see our website's page on Dementia Friendly Inverclyde

Thanks for the course, Your Voice!

E-BIke tryouts: On May 10th, we hosted a morning tryout session for everyone to ride some e-Bikes (whether they're experienced or complete newbies), as well as having Dr. Bike (note: not a real person) on hand for anyone who needed some quick TLC for their bike.

Huge thanks to Dagmar from the Inverclyde Bothy for helping organise the session & providing the bikes. Everyone had a great time riding along the gardens!

(and thanks to everyone for not crashing into anything!)

Volunteers: Over the past couple of months we've had an influx of new volunteers, we'd like to personally thank each and every one of them for giving up their time to help us grow!

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact us, we're always looking for new faces to give us a hand with everything that we do!

The Gardens

With the weather becoming much nicer recently, we'd be bananas to not take advantage of it through dedicated maintenance of our gardens. Most of what we do is open to the public to join in, you need only ask! Here's what that includes:

Thanks to our Environmental Officer Don Thomas for taking photos of this session!

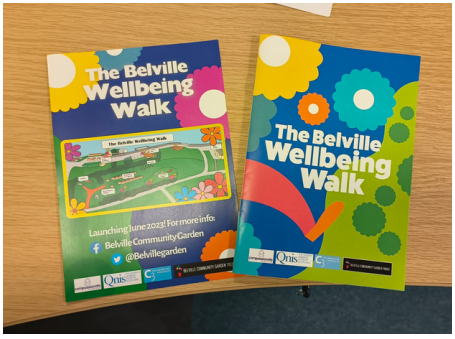
Allotment Sessions: On May 10th we hosted another Allotment session for anyone who wants to learn more about growing and raising their own food & plants!

If you're interested in renting an allotment bed here at Belville, let us know! And don't worry if you're a beginner to gardening or growing your own, or if you don't even have an allotment yet: These sessions are catered to suit anyone and everyone!

Speaking of growing food, our Apple orchard has started bearing fruit (even if they're currently very tiny!), expect a photo when they grow larger!

Accessible Planter Beds: The wheelchair-friendly beds are finally complete, and as you can see, they've already started being put to use, particularly in our weekly Gardening Club on Mondays.

At BCGT we're always striving to promote inclusion, and we'll be sure to let you all know what we'll be doing next to make Belville more accessible for all!



Wellbeing Walk: We'll be launching our new Wellbeing Walk on June 21st and we have a new flyer & leaflet to promote it as well as provide some helpful information & background into how the Walk came to be in the first place! These documents will also include a map of the flower signposts & what each one of them represents)

Please keep an eye out for these, and we hope to see you all exploring this new feature of the gardens soon!

Photography Health Walk

On May 3rd, we held another one of our fantastic tours of nature, this time at Battery Park in Greenock, so here are some photos for your viewing pleasure! This time, we've asked some of the people taking photographs to cherry-pick their personal favourites to display here! You can find plenty more on our Facebook page!

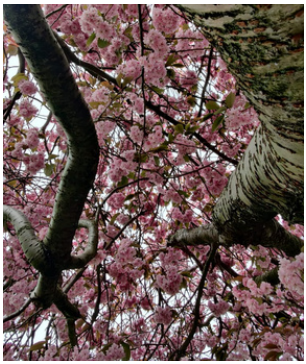


Photo credits, left-right: Don Thomas, Kasia Taczkowska, Chris McCann

This month's cute animal photo (well, photos) is of Adrian's photogenic pooch, Crumb!

We try to make sure the Bugle's humour isn't too crude, but we couldn't pass up the opportunity to have Crumb's back end feature on this issue's back end.

We'll be back with another issue at the end of June, but before you go, the little envelope icon below now redirects to our mailing list form!

(of course, don't expect it to work on paper copies of the Bugle)