Belville Bugle

BELVILLE COMMUNITY GARDEN TRUST

Issue date: October 2022

Campfires are S'MORE fun with marshmallows!

Ah, Autumn. When the leaves turn a fine shade of not green, the kids are back in school and not running around the kitchen talking endlessly about Pokémon (just kidding, we miss you guys, come help out during the October break!), and the October Bugle's here!

As always, let's start off with the Big Blether! Our favourite response for last month's question included:

"Food poverty could be solved just by sharing. Offer unused food to your neighbours, donate some of your shopping to your supermarket's food collection"

This month's Big Blether question is:

WHAT DOES "COMMUNITY" MEAN TO YOU?

As always, let us know your answers! Contact us by any of these methods:
By **post** or simply **coming in** for a chat: 53-57 Belville Street, Greenock PA15 4UN
Email: admin@belvillecommunitygarden.org.uk
Give us a **ring**!: 01475 726034
Drop a wee message on **social media**! (links at the end of page 2)
Our opening hours are **9am-4pm Mon-Thu** & **12pm-1pm Fri**.

WHAT'S ON:

Mondays
Garden Club (1pm-3pm)

Tuesdays
Tabletop* (1:30pm-3pm)
Carers' Cookery Course (2pm-4pm)

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

Thursdays
Failte Family (1pm-2:30pm)
Carers' Cookery Course (10am-12pm)

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

Last Tuesday every month
The Gay Agenda (6:30pm-8pm)

Every other Wednesday
Growing Workshops (1pm-3pm)

BELVILLE SPOTLIGHT:

Lee with a planter he made from Lisa's old shed. We here at BCGT encourage upcycling wherever possible

This month's spotlight is focusing on our very own Lee Stanton!

Lee's been with us for a little over a year now, and volunteers for us at the Cabin. We also hear he's a keen footballer! Lee's cabin colleagues John and Robert were also happy to give some compliments for him:

"It's been great for his wellbeing & confidence, and friendship, working with people he can trust has been a big thing for him. He's very conscientious and does the job to the best of his ability, and he's very keen to learn" - John

"He's a keen worker and always taking on new skills, he's very willing & he's generally an attribute to Belville" - Robert

As usual, someone else will be in the spotlight next issue, now, about the stuff around the cabin that Lee does...

*** = please book in advance**

THE CABIN

The **Cabin** has sat right opposite to the community beds since October 10th 2014 (which makes it about a decade away from being able to purchase alcohol), and is where we build all sorts of stuff for both Belville Gardens and the larger Inverclyde community.

During the pandemic, the Cabin expanded to include a canopy (pictured top-right, with Ryan giving a thumbs-up!) to allow for more outside space and air-circulation. On top of that, we also regularly have volunteers help out around the gardens (pictured right is John welcoming a group of volunteers from RBS who helped out in late-September).

Below are some more projects that the Cabin Crew have worked on.

We've built raised beds by the compost bins and a memorial bench right outside the office.

The photo to the right of the memorial bench has John, Robert and Lee checking the measurements of an L-shaped raised bed to place at St. Margaret's Court on Grieve Road, where they put the finished product together and fill with compost on-site. They've also encouraged local residents to help spruce up the area to help Inverclyde look better one space at a time.

The Cabin offers outdoor projects of all kinds based on your needs, whether you want a fence, raised bed, or a memorial bench, please let us know! (contact details are on the front page!)

We also hold events of all kinds at the cabin & the gardens, including:

Remembering Together. On September 7th, BCGT and Rig Arts came together to host a gathering for people to talk about their ongoing experiences with Covid-19.
We'd like to thank everyone who attended, we understand talking about this sort of thing is never easy, but you're all always welcome at Belville any time for a chat.

Play on Pedals. In early September we had our first session where children under the age of 6 learn to ride bikes while playing games. These sessions are free and helmets & balance bikes are provided.
The next session is on October 1st but we'll have more soon!
(Please note these sessions need to be booked in advance.)

Garden Club, as always, runs every Monday. We've also recently launched our new **Growing Workshops**, where people can learn about composting, growing fruit and veg, preparing and maintaining raised beds for growing produce, and preparation for winter. Anyone's welcome, please phone the office ahead of time so we can get an idea of numbers.

Tabletop is back! (okay, not "garden"-related but it did get its start in the gardens with window boxes) Our regular Tuesday afternoon gathering for those with reduced mobility took a break over the summer but since we've restarted, they've made tote bags, cards, and more! (We may or may not have got all the crafting materials out and said "Go nuts!")

Okay, this is kinda also cheating because the garages aren't at the Cabin, but they're close enough geographically so...

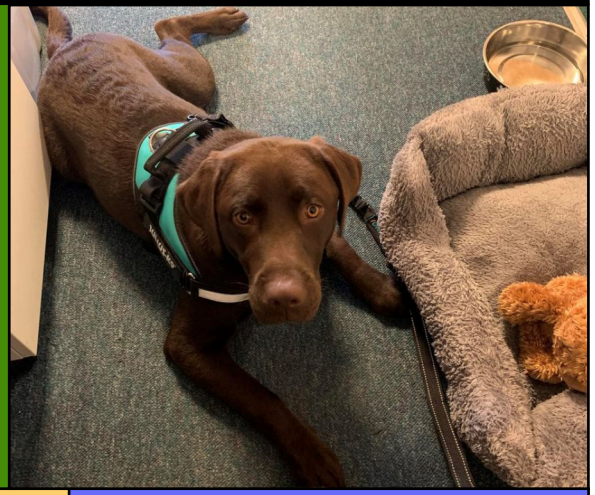
Last month we touched on our **Bike Café***, and our go-to bike mechanic Chris has been very enthusiastic with talking about what's on offer at the garage. To quote some feedback from one of our visitors:

"I enjoy the Bike Café because it's time out for me, I get away from everything plus I'm learning a new skill from Belville" -John Jenkins

You can find the Bike Café at the garages right underneath 10 Belville Street on Wednesdays between 10:30am & 3pm!
*(note: not an actual café)

Would've put a meme in the back of the Bugle here but we've had enough (attempted) comedy from the editor for this issue, so instead, here's an adorable picture of Donna's Labrador, Freya!

We've also got some upcoming events here at the office happening soon, please take a look at the posters below for more info:



Next issue should be ready for November,
Or at least very late October (I need to sort out my Halloween costume… *scuba breathing*)

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