



## Community Growing and Food Network

Did you know that Durham Community Action facilitates a Community Growing and Food Network?

The Community Growing and Food Network brings together like-minded organisations who run projects, or have an interest, related to growing and food. It enables community groups and organisations from all sectors with similar visions to connect, communicate and collaborate, supporting each other and sharing good practice.

Network sessions are held five times throughout the year with a mixture of online and in-person presentations; there is a different theme or chance to hear from a project or organisation at each session. Participants can also discuss topics of interest and share experiences and updates.



Our most recent network session on 25<sup>th</sup> April was an in-person event at Wharton Park in Durham City. It was centered around the theme of “Biodiversity and Climate Friendly Growing” and was a partnership event with Food Durham.

Attendees from a range of community organisations gathered together to learn more about producing food and garden activities that are good for biodiversity and is climate-friendly. The Wharton Park countryside ranger took us for a tour of the parks biodiversity projects and volunteers at Friends of Wharton Park Community Garden gave an overview of their community garden. Everyone also had the chance to be involved in

some practical activities to encourage wildlife, such as making wildflower seed bombs, bee posts and lacewing hotels.

“Many thanks for a very enjoyable and useful session, which was highly informative and provided much food for thought”.

“I am glad I attended the event as it was great to network with others”.

The Network session was held during Good to Grow Week (22<sup>nd</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> April). This is a yearly campaign ran by Sustain to encourage community gardens to celebrate the new growing season by opening their doors to volunteers and community members to help out in their local area, while supporting and enjoying all of the valuable community spaces around the UK. Good to Grow Week is a great way to get the garden ready for the growing season.

If you would like to read more and get involved next year, visit [here](#) for further details and to register.

In Consett, Benfieldside Community Garden got involved in Good to Grow Week and organised various open days and events for the community to get involved in their local area. You can hear Christine from Building Self-Belief talking about their project at Benfieldside Community Garden and the impact it had by listening to [our podcast](#). Alternatively you can listen to Building Self Belief's full podcast [here](#).



**DURHAM COMMUNITY ACTION**  
COMMUNITY GROWING AND FOOD NETWORK

Welcome to the Community Growing and Food Network Facebook group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/communitygrowingandfoodnetwork>

Come and join the group, regularly updated with events, funding opportunities, and find out what everyone is doing with their projects!

To find out more about the Community Growing and Food Network, visit our [webpage](#), [Facebook group](#) and sign up to the [mailing list](#) for the latest news and network meeting invitations.