



**Northumberland
Community
Enterprise
Limited**

RGH Lewis
The Nineveh Charitable Trust
Park Farm,
Frittenden Road,
Biddenden,
Ashford,
Kent TN27 8LG

Dear Mr Lewis,

In June 2017 the Trustees of the Nineveh Charitable Trust generously awarded Northumberland Community Enterprise Limited a grant of £6632 towards our Here We Grow Project; allowing us to work with local families encouraging future stewardship of horticulture and sharing knowledge.

This last year has been incredibly busy and an exciting time for our organization as we expand our services and scope, developing new partnerships and strengthening existing ones. We know this would not have been possible without the support received from the Nineveh Charitable Trust and would like to update you on progress.

We have attached a copy of our feedback report together with your questionnaire.

We hope you can see from our report the difference The Nineveh Charitable Trust's very generous grant has made to our project delivery and hope to be able to work with you again in the future.

Kind Regards

Brooke Burgess

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Nineveh Charitable Trust
Feedback Report

Here We Grow

The Here We Grow Project was designed to gently introduce our local residents to horticulture via community engagement in a friendly and fun way making horticulture accessible to families and people from all walks of life. We focussed on the following areas;

1. Educating children about the environment to establish early interest and encourage future stewardship
2. Educating adults about the environment and develop their skills and knowledge to enable them to follow a career in horticulture

We achieved our intended outcomes by rolling out family friendly workshops within our annual programme. Our activities ranged from making herb bouquets to growing our own pizza gardens. We have made butterfly feeders, planted wild flowers and held discussions on the importance of pollination, where a local beekeeper came along in his beekeeping attire to chat to local children who were keen to ask many questions and try on a beekeepers hat and protective clothing. We have litter picked and identified and cleared local green spaces by planting grass seed and at some wild flowers.

Our Volunteer Co-ordinator has worked with various organisations in order to achieve massive success with the project. We have built working partnerships with other local voluntary and charitable groups and set up a sub committee of loyal dedicated horticultural volunteers.

The success of our project has recently seen us nominated for a Travis Perkins Award which our staff will be travelling to Northampton to collect at an Awards Ceremony later this year. We will also again be applying for a High Sheriff of Northumberland Award for our work with young people for the 4th year in a row and plan on expanding our services next year as we are already working with Karbon Homes Housing Association to acquire a plot of land adjacent to our community Link Centre which will extend our garden. A row of garages is to be demolished leaving a void of waste land which we have approached asset management for and it is to be decided if upon demolition we will acquire the land.

Community Outreach - We have continued to collaborate with the Stobhill Community Forum to deliver horticultural activities at their annual Big Lunch; a community event aimed at all residents in Stobhill and their families.

Volunteering and Work Experience – Our project offers volunteering opportunities and work experience across our allotments and urban gardening allowing work age adults, even those who did not wish to undertake formal training, to develop new skills, knowledge and an experience of horticulture. During the grant period we had a total of 14 volunteers enrol with the project and 54 unemployed work age adults. To date 27 of our learners have moved into paid employment. 8 of these are horticultural roles. The remainder are more main stream jobs but our learners have taken with them lifelong horticultural knowledge and skills.

Over 50's Horticultural Activities - We have had many service users attend sessions aged 50+ and 2 groups of over 50's attending on a regular weekly basis. These interactions address social inclusion, confidence building and maintain health and wellbeing. This is all too important within our community as we have higher than average pensioner households and strive to combat social isolation.



We have continued working in partnership with Groundwork to deliver a Sensory Gardening group for individuals who have visual impairments as well as their carers. This has proved extremely successful and provides activities which improve the mental and physical health and well being of participants. The Sensory group has led to us carrying out sessional work for partner organisations such as teaching wreath making for Carers Northumberland and Northumberland Community Blind Association.

What the future holds.....

Following the success of the project, we wish to expand upon the size of our Community Garden and occupy a larger space. We have prepared grant applications for the construction of a secure storage facility, fencing and raised beds. We are approaching the Big Lottery and Reaching Communities for grants. Our team of loyal and dedicated volunteers meet regularly and are the driving force of Here We Grow. Please see some photos below of our work on the project:



