



The Carlops Community Garden Group was formed on the Rock Field in March 2022, just as we were coming out of lockdown. Since then, the garden has grown from strength to strength. We meet weekly during the spring and summer months on Wednesday evenings, 6.30pm – 8pm, to do some gardening and, as part of these sessions, enjoy tea, cakes, and blethers in the shed – including forming plans of action!

We have applied successfully for grants, enabling us to buy the shed, a water butt, a metal store, tools, a number of planters and soil. Some planters are ‘rented’ by individuals for £10 per annum, and others are looked after by the CCGG, from which the community of Carlops is welcome to harvest produce. Last year our cauliflowers, broccoli, leeks, carrots, kohlrabi, courgettes, peas, beans, salad leaves and potatoes won a clutch of prizes at the Carlops Rural Products Show. Since then, the number of individuals renting the planters has increased, and we’re delighted to report that we repeated our success at this year’s Rural Products Show!

The CCGG rents the Rock Field from Gerda for £1 per annum. We ensure that the community planted hedge, which shelters the field from the A702, is trimmed annually, and that the field is mown. We have also engaged the SBC Community Payback Team to repair the bridge which crosses Carlops Burn within the field. We paid for the materials, and they provided their invaluable services free.



The community orchard and berry bushes are thriving, as are the West Linton & District Beekeepers Association bees. The hives are located beyond the ditch, and produced many jars of delicious Carlops honey last year. We hope we'll have as many this year too! The WLBK hold education sessions around the hives: <https://westlintonbka.wixsite.com/website>

HALLOWE'EN PARTY



The shed has proved to be a great success. Open to everyone, it is used by Carloprians for various activities, including a Hallowe'en party last year, and the West Linton & District Beekeepers Association meet there every Sunday morning. We will have to coat it with wood preservative before the winter, and plan a community painting day for this.

We now have a football pitch on the field, and regularly hold gatherings around the bonfire area. The old climbing frame reached the end of its life and has been dismantled. The newer one is still holding its own, but upkeep is required to keep it safe. The football pitch is proving popular with the younger generation, and if anyone has a suitable mower to keep it regularly cut, this would be greatly appreciated! (Peter Woolverton has regularly kept the paths through the field and orchard mowed, and has helped with the football pitch too, but his mower is currently out of action.)

Various running costs have to be met, including insurance, as well as elements of maintenance, and we welcome the generous donations made by Friends of the Field. If you would like to become a Friend of the Field, please make your contribution to:

Carlops Community Garden Group

80-22-60

25320467

And email Annapye@btinternet.com to be added to the list.

VEGETABLES IN ABUNDANCE



PRIZE-WINNING MARIGOLDS



PRIZE-WINNING ORGANIC VEGETABLE BOX



PRIZE-WINNING LEEKS





Best wishes from us all at the Carlops Community Garden Group:

Patsy Campbell

Anita John

Debbie Kohn

Lindsay Mann

Kate Morss

Gerda Stevenson

Hannah Walters

Anna Woolverton

September, 2024