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'ANYTHING GROWS' AS DANDELION REVEALS LOCATIONS OF UNEXPECTED GARDENS ACROSS SCOTLAND

Twelve Unexpected Gardens will spring up as part of creative programme Dandelion, showing that even the unlikeliest of places can bloom

A series of specially created 'edible' gardens are set to transform patches of unused land and unexpected places all over Scotland as part of a unique nationwide "grow your own" food initiative. Bringing new life to community libraries, waterfronts, car parks and even tidal sites from the Western Isles to the Borders, the Unexpected Gardens are set to be a highlight of [Dandelion](#), a new creative programme, taking place from April to September 2022.

Commissioned by EventScotland and funded via the Scottish Government, *Dandelion* is Scotland's contribution to [UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK](#), a nationwide programme of creative events and engagement. Driven by the concept of 'Sow, Grow, Share' – not just food but ideas, music, scientific knowledge, and community - *Dandelion* takes a unique approach to growing. Bringing together artists, scientists, performers, and technologists to present events and programmes throughout Scotland, including the Unexpected Gardens, *Dandelion* will culminate in hundreds of harvest celebrations later this year.

Each Unexpected Garden will host a programme of events unique to each location throughout the summer, programmed by a creative producer. A local Musician in Residence will also be appointed to each site, with [applications now open](#), to create a new piece of work to be presented at the culminating Harvest event in September.

Additionally, the gardens will be visited by *Dandelion's* specially designed [Cubes of Perpetual Light](#), part-artwork, part-miniature vertical farms, the cubes will grow hundreds of seedlings under LED light, showcasing the latest technological innovation in horticulture.

Partnering with creative community organisations in locations across Scotland, *Dandelion's* Unexpected Gardens will even include one stunning 'Floating Garden' which will tour the Forth and Clyde Canal, and the Union Canal.

Consisting of two barges and floating ecosystems that will be delivered in collaboration with urban water scaping specialists, Biomatrix, the Floating Garden will engage community networks across central Scotland, from local growers and schools to members of the public, audiences can follow the tour to experience the gardens in all their glory. One barge will

carry one of *Dandelion's* striking cubes, whilst the other will host a miniature allotment, complete with its own garden shed.

Launching from Glasgow in June, the Floating Garden will pass through Bishopbriggs, Kirkintilloch, Auchinstarry, Bonnybridge, Polmont, Linlithgow, Broxburn; Ratho and Edinburgh before docking at the Helix, Falkirk until September 2022.

Other sites include Findhorn Bay Arts' gardens in the centre of Forres. The unique gardens will respond to the town's main square and multiple alleys, promoting the growing of mushrooms which will thrive in the dark shadowy entryways. Also in the Highlands, arriving in sites across Caithness, Lyth Arts Centre's garden will roll off a trailer and become home to a performance and workshop space.

In Fife, the Leven Programme will convert the car park of The Centre – a community space – into a garden site. Elsewhere, Cove Park in Argyll will look to the water as they use tidal sites in Loch Long and Gare Loch to focus on food and flora native to the area such as sea buckthorn and seaweed.

Elsewhere in Scotland, Edinburgh Agroecology Group will develop a garden site at Lauriston Farm, RIG Arts will take over a site behind South West Library in Greenock, Taigh Chearsabhagh in Uist, Fèis Rois in Alness, The Stove Network and Stranraer Development Trust, Alchemy Film & Arts in the Borders and a partnership of organisations in Dundee are also dusting off their green fingers to get involved!

Neil Butler, Festival and Events Director, *Dandelion* said: "We're excited to announce today the locations of our Unexpected Gardens and look forward to watching each of the gardens come to life as they grow. Sustainability lies at the heart of our programme, and we can't wait to see people from all over Scotland sowing, growing, and sharing food, music and ideas."

Fiona Dalgetty, Futures Director, said: "As part of *Dandelion*, we're excited to work with a local musician or band who will help provide the soundtrack to our Harvest. Our Musician in Residence role is a great opportunity for artists who are passionate about the environment and the climate crisis to share their voice. Music has the fantastic ability to forge emotional connection and unify people from all walks of life and hopefully create an understanding of the environmental challenges facing our times."

Paul Bush, Director of Events at VisitScotland said: "We are thrilled that gardens across the whole of Scotland will be enjoyed by local people and visitors as part of the *Dandelion* programme throughout this year. It's wonderful to be part of a project that celebrates such creativity and aims to connect with the widest range of audiences and participants."

Dandelion is one of 10 major creative projects commissioned as part of UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK, which is taking place across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales in 2022. The UK's most ambitious showcase of creative collaboration includes free large-scale events, installations and globally accessible digital experiences, and an extensive learning programme, which aims to reach millions of schoolchildren. Five other projects from the UNBOXED programme will present activities in Scotland, in addition to *Dandelion*.

UNBOXED's Chief Creative Officer, Martin Green said: "UNBOXED celebrates creativity in its widest sense, placing it at the heart of people's everyday lives, as Dandelion is doing across Scotland this summer. As a project, Dandelion is literally about sowing seeds for the future, which we hope will inspire local communities and the next generation. It's part of a programme of five brilliant projects taking place in Scotland as part of UNBOXED this year, which combine art, science and tech, offering amazing events and experiences for everyone."

To find out more about your local 'edible garden' visit dandelion.scot.

10 sites are currently taking applications for the role of Musician in Residence, for more information, and to apply please go to dandelion.scot/opportunities

The full programme of events taking place at each garden will be released in Spring.

Dandelion

April – September 2022

dandelion.scot

UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK

March 1 – October 2, 2022

Unboxed2022.uk

ENDS

NOTES FOR EDITORS

For images please visit: wetransferlink

- For further information on Dandelion and images please contact:
dandelion@mucklemedia.co.uk
0131 228 9713 or call Katie on 07792884852
- For UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK
UNBOXED media enquiries: Jeanette.ward@unboxed2022.uk / 07729 930 812
- For EventScotland / Unboxed in Scotland enquiries contact:
liz.wallace@eventscotland.org / 07708 795320

DANDELION UNEXPECTED GARDEN PARTNERS

Sites across Caithness including Wick and Thurso in partnership with Lyth Arts Centre

- North Uist, in partnership with Taigh Chearsabhagh Museum & Arts Centre
- Alness in partnership with Fèis Rois
- Forres Town Centre, in partnership with Findhorn Bay Arts
- Leven Community Centre car park, Fife in partnership with The Leven Programme. The Leven Programme is a collective of organisations including Green Action Trust,

- Fife Council, ONFife, Leven Community Centre, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, and Mountfleurie Primary School
- Argyll in partnership with Cove Park
- South West Library, Barrs Cottage, Greenock, in partnership with RIG Arts
- Lauriston Farm, in partnership with Edinburgh Agroecology Coop and North Edinburgh Arts Centre
- Community gardens across Hawick, in partnership with Alchemy Film & Arts
- Dundee, in partnership with University of Dundee, Creative Dundee and Dundee City Council
- Grassy knolls at Burns House, Stranraer, in partnership with The Stove Network and Stranraer Development Trust
- The Floating Garden in partnership with Falkirk Community Trust and Scottish Canals

ABOUT DANDELION:

- *Dandelion* is an ambitious creative programme running from April to September 2022 across Scotland, demonstrating the power of collective action in a major 'grow your own' initiative. The project aims to make growing your own food as easy and accessible as possible to people of all ages with events and activities taking place all over Scotland - from the remotest islands to the centres of cities – including festivals, music, and cooking, reaching audiences around the world through online films, and digital activities. In September these activities culminate in hundreds of harvest festivals across the country, reimagining this traditional celebration for the 21st century.
- *Dandelion* has been created by team members based across Scotland including Cosmo Blake, Sustrans; Fiona Burnett, Scotland's Rural College (SRUC); Neil Butler, Wrap The World; Fiona Dalgetty, Fèis Rois; Angus Farquhar, Aproxima Arts; James Johnson, getMade Design; Pàdruig Morrison, musician, and crofter; Tanveer Parnez, BEMIS Scotland; Donald Shaw, Celtic Connections; Nicola Strachan, James Hutton Institute; Caroline Thompson, Inclusion & Evaluation Specialist.
- Commissioned by EventScotland and funded via the Scottish Government, *Dandelion* is Scotland's contribution to *UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK*.
- For more information visit www.dandelion.scot and join the conversation on [instagram.com/dandelionscot](https://www.instagram.com/dandelionscot), [facebook.com/DandelionScot](https://www.facebook.com/DandelionScot), and [twitter.com/DandelionScot](https://www.twitter.com/DandelionScot).

About UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK

- UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK is a celebration of all our creativity taking place at over 130 locations across the UK, and online, in 2022. It includes 10 major creative projects designed to reach millions of people throughout England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, as well as internationally.

- UNBOXED has been created by some of the brightest minds from across science, technology, engineering, arts, and maths, with live and online events, experiences, and activities to excite, inspire and bring people together. It also includes learning and participation, and international programmes, which aim to contribute to a global conversation about creativity and collaboration. More than 300 creatives are already working on the 10 commissions, with more paid opportunities as they are developed and presented.
- UNBOXED is backed by £120m investment from the UK Government, the Northern Ireland Executive, Scottish Government and Welsh Government. It is being co-commissioned by and delivered in partnership with Belfast City Council, Creative Wales, and EventScotland.
- The UNBOXED programme kicks off in Paisley on 1 March with About Us, 13.8 billion years of our history and how we are all connected from the Big Bang to the present day.
- Other projects presented in Scotland in addition to Dandelion include Dreamachine (Edinburgh), Green Space Dark Skies (Cairngorms National Park, more site to be announced), PoliNations (Edinburgh, August) and StoryTrails (Dundee and Dumfries).
- For more information about UNBOXED and the 10 projects, please visit www.UNBOXED2022.uk

About EventScotland

- EventScotland is working to make Scotland the perfect stage for events. By developing an exciting portfolio of sporting and cultural events EventScotland is helping to raise Scotland's international profile and boost the economy by attracting more visitors. For further information about EventScotland, its funding programmes and latest event news visit www.EventScotland.org. Follow EventScotland on Twitter [@EventScotNews](https://twitter.com/EventScotNews).
- EventScotland is a team within VisitScotland's Events Directorate, the national tourism organisation which markets Scotland as a tourism destination across the world, gives support to the tourism industry and brings sustainable tourism growth to Scotland.
- For more information about VisitScotland see www.visitscotland.org or for consumer information on Scotland as a visitor destination see www.visitscotland.com.

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