



GETTING THE BALL ROLLING ON DUNDEE'S UNEXPECTED GARDEN

Fairmuir Park Bowling Green is to become one of 13 Unexpected Gardens around Scotland, installed by creative programme Dandelion, showing that even the unlikeliest of places can bloom

An edible garden is set to spring up at the heart of Dundee as it is announced today the University of Dundee and Creative Dundee will partner with creative programme Dandelion with support from Dundee City Council and Friends of Fairmuir to grow an Unexpected Garden at the former Fairmuir Park Bowling Green.

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.

Dandelion will transform the valuable community greenspace which was formally Fairmuir Bowling Green into a vibrant and engaging Unexpected Garden for the community, encouraging new growers and budding gardeners to get green fingered. The development will also celebrate existing gardens, connecting them in an energising cross pollination of communities. Alongside their partners and emerging Creative Producer Eilish Victoria, the new Unexpected Garden will use the knowledge they take from growing the garden to create an almanac, presenting the seasonal rhythms of edible plants and flowers for both people and pollinators.

Dandelion's latest Unexpected Garden will become a unique growing and learning space for the people of Dundee to come together with social spaces carved out within the planning, where locals, volunteers and visitors will be able to share food and get to know one another in the unique environment. Each Unexpected Garden across Scotland will also play host to a Musician in Residence, as part of a programme of events set to take shape around the garden this summer for the whole community to enjoy. Programmed by Eilish Victoria, the exciting calendar of events will culminate in a Harvest event for the community in September.

Professor Mel Woods from the University of Dundee is co-lead of the Dundee Unexpected Garden and previously led the award-winning Grow Observatory. Mel believes that own grown food helps people and communities connect and sharing fresh and seasonal produce can produce deep and lasting benefits for our own wellbeing as well as the health of the planet.

Professor Mel Woods, University of Dundee said: *“Dundee is becoming very well known for its vision and commitment to own grown food, and particularly to supporting local residents in realising their ambitions for local community gardens. We’re hugely excited to support the transformation of the former bowling green at Fairmuir Park and working with Friends of Fairmuir to celebrate food and creativity in Dundee”.*

Linda Findlay from the The Friends of Fairmuir group said: *“We are delighted that the former bowling green has been chosen as Dundee’s Unexpected Garden. Being part of Dandelion will help propel us forward and enable us to provide a significant amenity for the community. We are excited to see the space transform and are looking forward to working with the Dandelion Team to make that happen.”*

The 13 gardens, which are spread all across Scotland from Stranraer to the Highlands, 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.

Dandelion’s Unexpected Gardens will even include one stunning ‘Floating Garden’ which will tour the Forth and Clyde Canal, launching from Glasgow in June.

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.

Neil Butler, Festival and Events Director, *Dandelion* said: *“We’re excited to be able to announce the location of our Dundee Unexpected Garden and really look forward to watching it come to life as it grows alongside the 12 other gardens across Scotland this summer. 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.”*

Marie Christie, Head of Development at EventScotland 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.

The full programme of events taking place at each garden will be released at the end of April.

Dandelion

April – September 2022

dandelion.scot

UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK

March 1 – October 2, 2022

Unboxed2022.uk

END

NOTES TO EDITORS

For images please visit:

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For full list of garden locations and partners, see below:

- Sites across Caithness including Wick and Thurso in partnership with Lyth Arts Centre
- 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, Friends of Fairmuir – at Fairmuir Bowling Green
- Grassy knolls at Burns House, Stranraer, in partnership with The Stove Network and Stranraer Development Trust
- Govan Garden, in partnership with GalGael and Tenement Veg
- The Floating Garden in partnership with Falkirk Community Trust
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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.

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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