



SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT MINISTER PATRICK HARVIE MSP VISITS DANDELION'S UNIQUE FLOATING GARDEN AT FALKIRK'S ICONIC KELPIES

- **Scotland's Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights visits bio-diverse, sustainably created Floating Garden**
- **Floating Garden is now berthed by The Kelpies until September, following a tour of Scotland's Canal network**
- **Mr Harvie also visited a neighbouring Dandelion Free For All event in Falkirk's Helix Park, where thousands of free plants were given away to members of the public**
- **The Floating Garden and Free For All are both part of the Dandelion programme, where people are being encouraged to 'Sow, Grow and Share'**

Scottish Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights, Patrick Harvie MSP has visited a unique 'Floating Garden', berthed at Falkirk's iconic Kelpies.

The garden forms part of [Dandelion](#), a major creative programme that champions 'growing-your-own' and sharing food, ideas, music, knowledge and community. Commissioned by EventScotland and funded by the Scottish Government as part of UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK, the project reimagines our relationship with food and the planet and the way we celebrate it, by 'sowing, growing and sharing' together.

The Floating Garden is one of 13 'Unexpected Gardens' created by Dandelion across the country in unusual spaces and is delivered in partnership with Scottish Canals to realise the Dandelion vision on the waterways of Scotland. The Floating Garden reached Falkirk this weekend having completed its tour of the Scottish canal network, travelling from Glasgow to Edinburgh throughout June and July.

During his visit, Mr Harvie met members of the Dandelion team and toured the Floating Garden, created from specially adapted canal barges and housing plants grown using both traditional horticultural methods and 'accelerated growing' techniques, using new technologies to nurture plants inside miniature vertical farms. The garden comprises two barges – the first converted into a 'floating allotment', complete with a polytunnel, shed raised beds and three of Dandelion's unique 'Cubes of Perpetual Light', 1x1m accelerated growing cubes, while the second is a 'floating ecosystem' drawing sustenance from the canal and in the process cleaning the water and feeding the plants.

Mr Harvie also visited Dandelion's nearby *Free For All* event in the Helix Park. Dandelion have been giving away thousands of plants at *Free for All* events in towns and cities across Scotland, inspiring people all over the country to 'Sow, Grow and Share', with members of the public invited to pick up their plants, learn how best to grow them and to enjoy a performance of harvest songs from across the world.

Active Travel Minister, Patrick Harvie said:

“The Floating Garden at The Kelpies in Falkirk is a fun and engaging project to encourage people of all ages to grow their own food in an easy and accessible way.

“It’s part of the wider Dandelion project championing different ways for us to reimagine our relationship with food and the planet, whether that’s through vertical gardens, or planting in unusual spaces like this floating barge at Falkirk.

“And with so many free plants given out at the Free for All event at Helix Park, I hope everyone will now be inspired to ‘sow, grow and share’ together.”

Dandelion Festivals & Events Director, Neil Butler, commented: (tbc)

Marie Christie, Head of Development, Events Industry at VisitScotland said: “The Dandelion programme is creating an incredible array of events across Scotland this summer, each finding unique moments to connect with communities all over the country through growing. The Floating Garden is another engaging example of this – taking new technologies and old ways of growing and reimagining them in a celebration not only of plants, but of our cultural traditions and connection to the land, or in this case, our waterways. It’s wonderful to see Dandelion taking the garden to Falkirk’s iconic Kelpies where it will be enjoyed by more audiences and visitors across the summer. We’re proud to support a project that is connecting so creatively with the audiences in this unique way”.

Cllr Cecil Meiklejohn, Leader of Falkirk Council said: “Falkirk Council is delighted to welcome Dandelion and their amazing Floating Garden to the Helix Park this summer. There’s no doubt that this project which celebrates creativity and food cultivation will be a wonderful addition to our summer events programme. Dandelion has strong resonance with Dig In, Falkirk’s Community Food Growing Strategy and, with cost-of-living pressures affecting us all, with increasing food prices, there has never been a more appropriate time to inspire people and communities to grow their own food.”

The [Floating Garden](#) will be in residence at The Kelpies all summer, leading up to Dandelion’s Harvest Celebration Event over the weekend of 10-11 September 2022.

Upcoming [Free For Alls](#) include events in Stranraer (16 July), Hawick (16 July), Helensburgh (21 July) and Inverness (23 July).

This activity forms part of a summer-long programme of art, music, food and science for the local community to enjoy. For more information on Dandelion, visit: <https://dandelion.scot/>

MEDIA CONTACTS

Images are available here to download: **(ADD LINK WHEN WE HAVE IMAGES)**

For further information on Dandelion and images please contact:
dandelion@mucklemedia.co.uk / 0131 228 9713

For further information about EventScotland and Unboxed please contact:
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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, events, workshops, installations, talks, 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 creativity taking place across the UK in 2022, designed to reach millions and bring people together. It features free large-scale events, installations and globally accessible digital experiences in the UK’s most ambitious showcase of creative collaboration. Produced by some of the brightest minds in science, technology, engineering, arts and maths, UNBOXED features ten major multi-site and digital creative projects that share new ideas and possibilities for the future. Events and activities take place from 1 March to 2 October 2022 – from the Outer Hebrides to Dover and from Omagh to Swansea, and across traditional and online media. UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK is funded and supported by the four governments of the UK and is commissioned and delivered in partnership with Belfast City Council, Creative Wales and EventScotland.

Other projects presented in Scotland in addition to *Dandelion* include [About Us](#) (which opened UNBOXED in Paisley on 1 March), [Dreamachine](#) (Edinburgh), [Green Space Dark Skies](#) (Cairngorms National Park,) and [StoryTrails](#) (Dundee and Dumfries).

For more information about UNBOXED and the 10 projects, please visit www.UNBOXED2022.uk

ABOUT EVENT SCOTLAND

- 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.

- EventScotland has commissioned *Dandelion* on behalf of the Scottish Government.

- For more information about VisitScotland see www.visitscotland.org or for consumer information on Scotland as a visitor destination see www.visitscotland.com.

ABOUT SCOTTISH CANALS

- Scottish Canals is responsible to the Scottish Government for the management and development of five of Scotland's canals as well as the surrounding estate and The Falkirk Wheel. See www.ScottishCanals.co.uk or follow @ScottishCanals for more information
- The Forth & Clyde, Union and Monkland canals in the Lowlands, the Crinan Canal in Argyll and the Caledonian Canal in the Highlands, together extend over 137 miles from coast to coast, across country and into the cities of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness
- Built two hundred years ago to fire the Industrial Revolution, today the canals contribute to the Scottish Government agenda of developing a Greener; Healthier; Smarter; Safer and Stronger; and Wealthier and Fairer Scotland by acting as a catalyst for sustainable economic development, regeneration and tourism; contributing to education, biodiversity, heritage and promoting active living and healthier lifestyles
- Today Scottish Canals is utilising these 18th century assets along with innovative technology to tackle modern problems. Through working with partners to create pioneering systems, Scottish Canals is helping to combat flooding and driving positive transformation in some of Scotland's most disadvantaged areas
- The Forth & Clyde, Union, Monkland, Caledonian and Crinan canals are recognised as Scheduled Monuments and attract 22 million visits per year. See www.scottishcanals.co.uk for more information

UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK is funded by:

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