



## OVER 589,000 TAKE PART IN DANDELION PROGRAMME ACROSS SCOTLAND AS 'SOW, GROW, SHARE' SEASON CONCLUDES

- The Dandelion programme ran for six months from Spring to Autumn 2022
- Over 589,000 people took part in live events and hands on schools activities, with audiences and participants all across Scotland
- Over 1,000 events and activities took place across the country
- Live programme culminated with over 500 Harvest events, in the largest ever creative celebration of Harvest in communities across Scotland
- Over 89,000 pupils, plus their families and carers, took part in Dandelion activity across 468 schools
- Investment in communities and sectors all over Scotland supported over 1,000 paid employment opportunities in creative, community and event sectors, alongside professional development programmes for young people & artists
- Following a successful first season, Dandelion now looks to the future

**16.11.2022:** Dandelion, the major creative programme that has reached across Scotland encouraging people to 'Sow, Grow and Share' food, music and ideas, has seen **over 589,000 people** take part in its programme.

Launched in spring 2022, Dandelion's free programme followed the arc of the growing season, and aimed to make growing your own food as easy and accessible as possible for people of all ages and backgrounds. Its creative programme of festivals, events and installations has celebrated sustainability through community growing, while bringing together music and art with science and technology. Commissioned by EventScotland and funded by the Scottish Government, Dandelion is Scotland's contribution to UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK, and is one of 10 major creative projects that have been taking place during 2022.

Dandelion was created in lockdown and with a mission to build on the spirit of generosity and support that arose within communities during the global pandemic. The programme sought to reconnect people to the land on which their food is grown, how the food we eat is produced and the traditions that surround that, while creating opportunity for new thinking. In turn, it has created jobs, invested in communities, sparked new connections and provided a platform for people to take positive action in the face of the climate emergency.

Dandelion activities were presented all over Scotland, from city centres and towns to remote villages and rural locations, from the Borders to the Highlands and Islands. As its six-month season concludes, **1056 events** took place across the programme, at **556 locations**, delivered by the Dandelion team and partner organisations in communities across the country.

The programme culminated with the largest-ever creative celebration of Harvest staged across Scotland. This saw over **500 events** take place across Scotland in partnership with arts organisations, community groups and schools, in a joyous celebration of people and planet and opportunity to inspire positive social change. Communities came together to create a programme of free to attend events including meals, ceilidhs, and musical performance to celebrate Harvest. Events were delivered with local organisations, including 45 that were awarded support by a bespoke grants programme organised by Dandelion and partner BEMIS, to deliver Harvest celebrations for their communities.

Harvest rounded off a programme which began in April 2022 with the launch of Dandelion's 'sow, grow, share' mission. A digital short film marked the beginning of Dandelion, following the story of **musician and crofter Pàdruig Morrison** whose grandparents established an experiment in off-grid rural living on **Heisgeir** in the Outer Hebrides 75 years ago, growing their own food and living sustainably off the land. The themes of the film echo those of the wider programme, as it charts Pàdruig's return to the island in 2022 as part of Dandelion, featuring new music specially composed by him.

Central to Dandelion was the creation of **12 'Unexpected Gardens'** on previously unused or underused land, creating growing and event spaces at the heart of communities, delivered in partnership with local cultural organisations, including those established in underrepresented communities or areas of significant deprivation, where they provided investment and focus for local people. In addition, a '**Floating Garden**' comprising three vessels, toured the Forth and Clyde canals throughout the summer, visiting 11 locations along its journey, before being berthed by Falkirk's iconic Kelpies. Over the course of the summer, the gardens presented **482 free events and activities**, programmed by Dandelion's **11 Emerging Creative Producers** and supported by **18 Musicians-in-Residence** appointed to the gardens.

Alongside the creation of garden spaces for communities, Dandelion also encouraged audiences to get involved and grow their own food by giving away **80,000 free edible plant plugs and seeds** at a series of theatrical '**Free for All**' events designed to engage families and new growers. These took place at **20 locations** across Scotland where attendees were also given one to one advice and support from horticultural students from Scotland's Rural College.

Dandelion's specially designed '**Cubes of Perpetual Light**' - accelerated growing environments using developing technologies to grow plants - were experienced by visitors across the country as part of two tours. The first brought the cubes together to create striking music and mesmeric light installations, featuring 13 new music commissions from leading international and Scottish musicians inspired by themes of nature and sustainability, including Mercury-nominated and SAY Award-winner **Fergus McCreadie**, Grammy award-winning **Arooj Aftab** in collaboration with **Maeve Gilchrist**, **Maya Youssef** and Glasgow-born composer **Craig Armstrong**. The unique installations visited sites including the **Members' Garden of the Scottish Parliament** as part of the **Festival of Politics** and **Edinburgh International Culture Summit**, **Edinburgh International Book Festival**, **Inverness Botanic Gardens**, **Kelburn Garden Party**, and **V&A Dundee**. Cargo bikes carrying individual cubes also toured Scotland, visiting rural and urban locations, introducing Dandelion to communities and sparking conversations about where and how our food is grown. In total, over **96,000 people** experienced the cubes at **17 locations** across the country.

Elsewhere in the programme, two free, three-day music festivals, programmed in association with Celtic Connections, took place in Glasgow's Kelvingrove Park and Inverness' Northern

Meeting Park. Across the two weekends, almost **67,000 audience members** attended the festivals, with performances from Scottish and International artists including **Del Amitri, King Creosote, Les Amazones d’Afrique, Karine Polwart, Newton Faulkner** and **many more**. In the spirit of Dandelion, alongside the live music, the festivals featured talks, workshops, schools activities and a creative programme for all ages that encouraged audiences to actively engage in conversations about sustainability, climate action and our planet.

In addition to creating public points of connection, Dandelion sought to empower the next generation and support Learning for Sustainability in schools across Scotland. The Dandelion Schools Growing Initiative, delivered in partnership with Keep Scotland Beautiful, enabled **468 schools** and **89,101 pupils** across Scotland to take part in a 6-month STEAM project that culminated with Harvest events in playgrounds across the country. The schools programme explored community and cultural connections to the land and to the food we grow, and pupils planted their own crop, which included sowing **258,000 potatoes** in **2,000 tonnes of specially made growing mix**. The programme saw pupils learn about both traditional and cutting-edge methods of growing with **131 Dandelion growing cubes** gifted to schools and education establishments, placing new technology into the hands of future custodians & innovators. More than **3,000 pupils took part in a live digital music lesson** where they learned Scots songs relating to Harvest from folklorist **Steve Byrne**, as well as learning a new Gaelic song written for Dandelion by **musician Julie Fowlis** and **ethnologist Ragnaid Sandilands**. The resources created for schools remain freely available to access on the Dandelion website.

Through its extensive programme of events and activities, Dandelion has invested in people, places and communities across Scotland. Designed to be delivered in partnership with individuals, communities and existing organisations across the country, in total, the programme worked with **26 Delivery and Hub Partners**, including national bodies such as **Keep Scotland Beautiful, Scotland’s Rural College**, and **Scottish Canals**, alongside local arts partners including **RIG Arts** in Greenock, **Fèis Rois** across the Highlands, and **Lyth Arts Centre** in Wick, and **100s of community partners** across different sectors and locations, for example **GalGael** in Govan, the **Inverclyde Shed** and **The Leven Programme, Fife**. This ensured that Dandelion’s funding was invested far and wide across the country, creating new opportunities for partners and fairly distributing support.

In turn, **over 1,000 paid employment opportunities** were created through Dandelion across sectors including arts, events, agriculture, education, and community. This included commissions and contracts for **287 artists**, cross-sector paid opportunities for students including the **‘Tattie Team’ - 33 students from Scotland’s Rural College** who delivered over 7000 hours of work in the community via paid roles, and creative opportunities including **12 Emerging Creative Producers, 18 Musicians-in-Residence, and three Ethnologists**.

As this initial season draws to a close, Dandelion now looks to the future, shaping plans to deliver parts of the programme beyond 2022 including supporting Unexpected Gardens and schools to continue creatively sowing, growing and sharing across future seasons, building on the work that has been established this year.

**Dandelion Directors Neil Butler, Fiona Dalgetty, Angus Farquhar, Jenny Howard-Coombes and Donald Shaw said:** *“We’re proud of what has been achieved in this first season of Dandelion, its reach and the connections made with people across Scotland. Dandelion has been an immense undertaking, involving 100s of people and partners. Our aim was to spread the funding as widely as possible, and we have been lifted by the generous public reaction and*

*level of engagement. In difficult and uncertain times, the act of growing and sharing food, ideas, music and cultures has resonated with people across Scotland.”*

**Culture Minister Neil Gray said:** *‘I’m delighted to see that so many people have engaged with the variety of Dandelion events and activities on offer across Scotland this year. Alongside the high levels of participation, this ambitious and creative programme will encourage communities to continue to harvest the benefits of what they have sown for years to come.’*

**Marie Christie, Head of Development, Events Industry at VisitScotland said:** *‘Dandelion has been an incredibly diverse and exciting addition to Scotland’s events landscape this year, fusing ideas and imagination from right across the creative spectrum. With events and engagement opportunities taking place all over the country, its programme has been a wonderful invitation for communities to come together, sharing food, music and ideas in both traditional and innovative ways. It’s been wonderful to support such a unique programme that has inspired hundreds of thousands of people across Scotland to think positively about how we can all play our part in shaping a sustainable future.’*

**Phil Batty, Executive Director at UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK, comments:** *‘Dandelion brought growing, science, art and community together for a truly inspirational project that not only captured people’s imaginations, but provided free opportunities right across Scotland for people to come together. Like many UNBOXED projects, Dandelion created a space to explore through creativity, what a more sustainable future might look like. With so many young people getting involved, I’m sure it has inspired a generation to continue their community growing for years to come.’*

**ENDS -**

### **Notes to Editors**

#### **MEDIA CONTACTS:**

For further information on Dandelion, please contact: [dandelion@mucklemedia.co.uk](mailto:dandelion@mucklemedia.co.uk) / 0131 228 9713.

Images and footage are available at this link: [Dandelion dropbox](#).

#### **THE DANDELION PROGRAMME**

Dandelion reached audiences and participants all over Scotland. Here you can find out more about the various programme strands, and where to find more information online.

#### **Unexpected Gardens**

The Unexpected Gardens were established on underused land at 13 sites across Scotland, delivered in partnership with local arts and community organisations. Locations and partners included:

- 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

- Centre 81, Garelochhead and Cover Sailing Club in partnership with Cove Park, Argyll
- 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
- Govan Garden, in partnership with GalGael and Tenement Veg
- 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

More information on all the Unexpected Gardens is available online at [Unexpected Gardens](#).

### **Dandelion Festivals**

Dandelion's free Festivals took place in the summer, from Friday 17 – Sunday 19 June, Kelvingrove Park Glasgow, and from Friday 2 - Sunday 4 September, Northern Meeting Park, Inverness.

More information about both Festivals, including details of the line-up and creative programmes, are available online at [Dandelion Festivals](#).

### **Free For Alls**

These plant giveaway events took place across Scotland from May to July 2022, at the following locations: Rankin Park, Greenock; Govan, Glasgow; City Square, Dundee; Leven, Fife; Kelvingrove Park, Glasgow; The Kelpies, Falkirk; Lauriston Farm, Edinburgh; Promenade, Stranraer; Hawick, Scottish Borders; Hermitage Park, Helensburgh; and Bught Park, Inverness.

'Mini' Free for Alls were also staged along the [Floating Gardens](#) tour of the Forth, Clyde and Union Canals at the following locations: Glasgow, Bishopbriggs, Kirkintilloch, Kilsyth, Polmont, Linlithgow, Broxburn, Ratho, Fountainbridge Basin in Edinburgh, and Falkirk.

More information about the Free for All events can be found online at [Free for Alls](#).

### **Cubes Around Scotland: Installations & Bike Tours**

The Cubes of Perpetual Light toured Scotland as installations across June and to 2022, visiting the following locations: V&A Dundee; Kelburn Garden Party; Edinburgh International Book Festival; Scottish Parliament Festival of Politics; Edinburgh International Culture Summit; and Inverness Botanic Gardens. Cubes also travelled the country on cargo bikes, visiting communities in Falkirk, Greenock, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Stranraer, Hawick, Forres, Inverness, Thurso, AIness and Wick.

More information about the Cubes Installations as available online at [Cubes of Perpetual Light](#).

### **Harvest Celebrations**

Harvest celebrations took place across the weekend of Friday 9 – Sunday 11 September, in community spaces, schools and at Unexpected Gardens across Scotland. However, due to the passing of HM The Queen on Thursday 8 September, some events were rescheduled to take place later in the year, between September and November 2022.

More information about Harvest is available online at [Harvest](#).

### **Dandelion in Schools**

The Dandelion Schools Initiative worked with 468 schools across Scotland from Spring 2022, with pupils learning more about growing using both traditional methods and Dandelion's accelerated growing cubes. They also grew hundreds of thousands of potatoes from seed and learned more about our connection to the land and the cultural traditions of Harvest.

More information about the schools programme, including schools resources can be found online at [Dandelion Schools](#).

### **ABOUT DANDELION:**

- *Dandelion* is an ambitious creative programme running 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, 2022 saw 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 culminated 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; Jenny Howard Coombes, Dandelion Executive Director; James Johnson, getMade Design; Pàdruig Morrison, musician, and crofter; Jenny Niven, Freelance cultural producer and director); Tanveer Parnez, BEMIS Scotland; Donald Shaw, Celtic Connections; Nicola Strachan, James Hutton Institute; Caroline Thompson, Inclusion & Evaluation Specialist.

- Commissioned by EventScotland and funded by the Scottish Government, *Dandelion* is Scotland's contribution to *UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK*.

- For more information visit [www.dandelion.scot](http://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://twitter.com/DandelionScot).

### **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](http://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](http://www.visitscotland.org) or for consumer information on Scotland as a visitor destination see [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com).

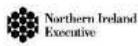
## **ABOUT UNBOXED: CREATIVITY IN THE UK**

**UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK** is a celebration of creativity taking place across the UK in 2022. It includes 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 are taking place from 1 March to 20 November 2022 – from the Outer Hebrides to Southampton 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 included [About Us](#) (which opened the UNBOXED programme in Paisley on 1 March), [Dreamachine](#) (Edinburgh), [Green Space](#) [Dark Skies](#) (locations across Scotland), and [StoryTrails](#) (Dundee and Dumfries). For more information about UNBOXED and the 10 projects, please visit [www.unboxed2022.uk](http://www.unboxed2022.uk)

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