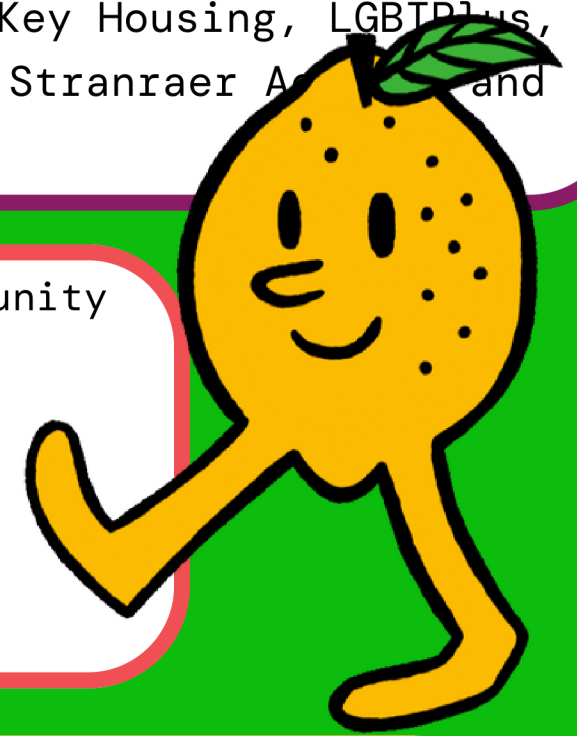


The Unexpected Garden at Stranraer, situated on a stretch of land affectionately known as the Grassy Knoll, overlooks the former port and Loch Ryan. The coastal garden takes inspiration from Stranraer's maritime identity and history, with residents playing a key role in the design, transformation and maintenance of the space. The aim for the garden is to provide educational activities and skill sharing, and to encourage knowledge exchange and community engagement through crop swaps, produce markets and performance events. This would provide not only a community engagement but an outdoor space to link with other organisations and events, as well as a pathway to pursue growing courses and work opportunities. As the garden continues to grow, the space will continue as a year round outdoor event space, with a future potential community hub for workshop space in the winter months. There has been community demand for future events, and a local steering group is being developed with groups such as Key Housing, LGBTPlus, Millenium Centre Youth Group, Apex Foodbank, Stranraer A and Incredible Edibles.



The Unexpected Garden, Stranraer

Garden

Summary of the garden

Main aims of the garden

The gardens' 5 Core Values around community engagement:

- Climate Change
- Mental Health
- Nutrition
- Food Poverty
- Sustainability

Their needs for the garden

- work experience and placement opportunities
- educational support for the garden and community
- collaborative growing
- providing links to education for those interested
- Additional information and resources for digital engagement (social media, community growing forums, QR codes in the garden)

Main contacts for the garden

Who is involved

Stakeholders:  
The Stove Network and Stranraer Development Trust

Unexpected Garden Main Contact:  
Nikki-Marie Vjatschslav  
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Stranraer Development Trust Contact:  
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# dandelion

## Stranraer



One of the Unexpected Garden Stranraer's installation pieces that occupy the site is a large moored ex-fishing boat, flourishing with plants and being used for Harvest Festival 2023 to give away plants to visitors



# dandelion

## Stranraer



Images on the left: photos of the garden during Harvest Festival 2022. Images on the right: planters before and after on the garden site

