

Network Development Grant: Greening Arundel Case Study



RHS Affiliated Societies
Online Forum June 2024



The Gift That Keeps On Giving

Donated plants
from RHS
Hampton Court
2023



Seven fold
increase at
our allotment
by 2024



....and Transforming



Arundel

- Small market town in West Sussex
- Situated on the river Arun
- Bordering the South Downs National Park
- Boasts a castle, cathedral, churches, museum, theatre, lake, Wetland Centre. Lido etc
- Population of 3,500
- Two primary schools
- A care home



Greening Arundel



- An alliance of 15 organisations formed in February 2023, includes three levels of government, plus the South Downs
- Supported by the 30 member Green Team of volunteers: roughly 100 hours per month
- In 2023, obtained funding from Arundel Town Council, the South Downs Trust, the Sussex Ornithological Society, GTR/Southern Rail and the Royal Horticultural Society



Network Development Proposal

- To build synergy, enhance sustainability, and harness collective potential for a cleaner, greener Arundel
 - Rent an allotment
 - Purchase a green house
 - Buy plants, seeds and soil
 - Hold public training events on green space management and wildlife welfare
 - Develop informational, promotional and educational materials



Achievements - strategy

- During the summer of 2023, six working groups developed a five-year strategy and two-year action plan endorsed by the Town Council
 - Increase bio-diversity and bio-abundance
 - Improve the environmental value of green spaces
 - Protect and nurture endangered species
 - Reduce environmental damage
 - Increase community engagement
 - Strive for sustainability



Achievements - allotment

- Rented two allotments (plants and trees)
- Obtained and assembled a free green house



Achievements – bio-diversity

- Native hedgerow, pollinator-friendly plants and wildflowers along two 120m beds and in the forecourt at the train station watered by Aldingbourne Trust



Pollinator Garden,
Quayside bed and six
upcycled cattle troughs
planted with herbs,
edible flowers and
pollinator-friendly plants
watered by local
businesses and
residents



Achievements – public events

- Bring Back Our Birds (B-BOB) October 2023 = 60+ attendees led to 60 nest commitments
- Foraged and Found Rewilding Supper November 2023 = 45 attendees
- Haven for Hedgehog event January 2024 = 47 attendees and formation of Hedgehog Club
- Wild About Your Garden event May 2024 = 59 attendees and 26 sign-ups for wildlife monitoring and reporting



Achievements - training

- Two bird spotting and reporting sessions
- Two insect monitoring and reporting sessions



Achievements - youth

- Young people grew nasturtiums from seed and college students volunteered for a day



We held a Sunflower Festival at both primary schools



Achievements - promotion

- Articles in the Sussex Gazette, Bell Magazine, SOS newsletter, South Downs News and the *RHS Community Gardening News*
<https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/community-gardening/news/articles/greening-arundel>



Achievements - B-BOB

- Tapped into huge passion
- House Martin Tower installed in Community Orchard
- Following a scoping exercise and public event, 66 nests were installed across 38 locations in 3 clusters!
- Almost £1,500 of public donations received in phase 1



Lessons and Tips

- Build a shared vision and work towards common goals, while delivering individual wins
- Attract knowledge, experience, skills, ideas and energy to plan, deliver, monitor and report
- Tap into latent passion
- Give credit, keep momentum and bring rewards
- Add value where it matters
- Seek multiplier effect – become sustainable



Thanks and Contacts

- We are grateful to the Arundel Gardens Association for facilitating access to the RHS
- Thanks to the RHS for the Network Development Grant, which has been instrumental in galvanising the Greening Arundel alliance – giving us the confidence, credibility and resources to move ahead
- <https://www.facebook.com/ArundelGreenTeam/>
- Contact: greenteam.arundel@gmail.com

