



Annual Report October 2021 - October 2022

Hello! We are Incredible Edible Skipton, a volunteer run community group, growing food for anyone to pick for free and creating growing spaces around Skipton. By learning and sharing how to grow, harvest and utilise fresh seasonal food, we strive to bring people and communities together... all whilst making Skipton more beautiful, supporting nature and tackling climate and biodiversity emergencies.

Currently we grow food at our Allotment, Duke St, The Ginnel, St Andrews Church, Christ Church and Middletown Rec Community Orchard. These sites around town have raised beds which are planted up with fruit and vegetables, free to pick for anyone passing by! We host volunteer work sessions to look after the Allotment and our sites, along with events throughout the year.

Another year has passed and this year has seen more volunteers, new locations for beds, Open Day events and lots of vegetables grown! Thank you to all our volunteers, committee members, partners and funders for a wonderful year.

Here is a summary of what we have been up to this year...

Our last AGM saw Cath step down as Committee Chair due to moving away and we welcomed new committee members, Angela and Richard. The committee members this year were..

Olivia McEwan - Committee Chair

Ann Parkinson - Secretary

Paula Solloway - Treasurer

Angela Monaghan - Committee Member

Richard Annable - Committee Member

Summer Lawson - Committee Member (stepped down June 2022)

Our volunteer sessions have been consistent this year. We held them on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, along with Wednesday evenings during the summer, changing to mornings as the nights got darker. During these we have been tending to the allotment, increasing growing areas, planting more fruit trees and perennial plants and creating flower beds. This is along with looking after beds at Duke St and The Ginnel and the Community Orchard. It has been lovely to see regular volunteers come along and be able to share vegetable harvests!





New beds:

We bought and installed two raised beds at Christ Church and one more for The Ginnel. These beds were planted up by a group at the Church and the Scout group at the Ginnel. Thank you for volunteers' help to fill them both with lots of top soil and compost! Especially Tesco staff who came along to Christ Church and made light work of the shovelling! They both went on to grow lots of vegetables, with Christ Church proving popular for passers by to pick veg.



Seed sowing:

Our polytunnel was put to good use with seed sowing in spring. We grew lettuce, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, beans, courgette, pumpkin, squash, strawberries and more. The seedlings were then distributed around town to Duke St, St Andrews, Christ Church, The Ginnel and the allotment. The seedlings did amazingly well in the polytunnel and we are pleased with how effective it is!



Visit to Todmorden:

In April, committee members took a visit to the original Incredible Edible in Todmorden. We arranged a tour which took us around all their sites and it was great to see how they use growing spaces and all the artwork which accompanies them. With the Todmorden group seeing up to 50 people attending volunteer sessions and creating such beautiful spaces, they are definitely an inspiration for us and we are keen to learn from other groups to develop ours further! Thank you to Hannah, our lovely tour guide.



Compost Talk:

Thank you to the Yorkshire Rotters who came to our Allotment in March. We learnt all about the importance of soil and best ways to turn waste into compost. Since then we have revamped our compost bays and are now making an effort to make our own compost.



Sheep Day:

We got involved at Skipton Sheep Day in July and raised £97.06 on our stall. Volunteers ran a human fruit machine, which proved very popular with everyone. A massive thank you to all of the volunteers for manning the stall and especially Angela who pulled off everything!

Displays around town:

Along with Sheep Day, we have shared displays a few times this year at the Middletown Allotment Associations plant sale, Making Skipton Greener event and a display at the Library. Our display boards have done a great job of getting the message of what we are doing out there!



2022 Open Day:

Our open day this year welcomed lots of people to visit the Allotment. We set up sign making, provided hot drinks, soup and cakes, trialled our new apple press and took a tour up to the Orchard on Middletown Rec.



Funding:

Our application to the Roger Stott Foundation at the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust for upkeep of the Community Orchard on Middletown Rec was successful. We have received funding of £1249.96 for tools, an apple press, a gazebo for events, signage for the orchard trees and a fruit tree pruning course.



Going forward into the future we want to see Incredible Edible Skipton flourishing.

So, what's next?

- ❖ We would love to increase the number of sites around Skipton.
- ❖ Plans to improve the Duke St area include adding growing spaces, edible plants, a mini library and making it look more beautiful.
- ❖ A calendar of events, including seed sowing, an Open Day, Apple Day, composting talks and wreath making.
- ❖ Collaborating with other groups around Skipton, including the Civic Society's 'Greener Skipton' project.
- ❖ Developing a 'Green Route' around Skipton

Thank you again to all our volunteers, partners and funders. This year has seen lots of new faces and we are so happy to welcome people into Incredible Edible Skipton. This wouldn't be happening without everyone's involvement, and we appreciate everyone's efforts!

To find out more about us, follow our Facebook page (search Incredible Edible Skipton), or email ieskipton@gmail.com. We post regular updates on Facebook, have a newsletter and an informal WhatsApp group for volunteers. Message us on Facebook or email us to be added to our newsletter or whatsapp group.

