



It's gone all quiet on the Farm...

- Reducing planting complexity overall to speed things up
- Introducing a new, efficient watering system with a framework of hoses permanently in place that you can just plug a sprinkler into
- Simplifying spacings for seedlings to work with our string line planting system
- Using compostable plastic bags for our salads
- Growing more herbs: coriander, dill, parsley and chives.

At the moment, we are busy making next year's crop plan and its accompanying sowing schedule to keep us on track. After the winter break we shall be starting up our volunteer sessions in mid-February again and we hope to see you then. Well done everyone and thanks! Have a great Christmas. *Elliott and June*

For info contact Elliott
eforsyth@standrewsbotanic.org



Kernel Location

Find us at the St Andrews Botanic via entrance at the Viaduct Walk



It has gone all quiet at the Urban Farm for the winter. We had a successful growing season and produced a lot of vegetables, bringing in just over a tonne in the last 3 months alone. Thanks to all our volunteers for all their hard work and making it fun in the process! The year wasn't without its difficulties, as we fought to keep up with the seasons. Timing is so important in vegetable growing and nature is unforgiving in this respect. With this in mind, we have adapted and simplified, to make things more efficient. Here are some changes to look forward to next year:

- Vegetable stall in the wooden shed at the garden gate
- Growing cut-and-come again salad crops together in single area to make it easier to sow little and often which should improve our consistency of supply



Men's Shed is growing!



is a joint venture with Transition St Andrews. Our regular community work has continued as usual. In particular, there are the new planters made by our members for the MS Soc and positioned at Leuchars Station. We also had a very successful day fundraising at the St Andrews Day Market. Thanks to everyone for their ongoing support. Like us on **Facebook** @mensshedstandrews.

St Andrews Men's Shed is entering an exciting phase as we have recently received funding of £5000 from the National Lottery Fund which has kick started our shed expansion plans. We are hoping to have a 40ft shipping container added to our existing site early in the New Year. We have also had donations from Robertson's Wee Grants programme and St Rule Golf Club via Fife Dementia Society.

As our site is 'off grid', we are installing a self-composting, eco-friendly toilet which will be a welcome addition to all, but in particular, our older shedders with more difficult mobility issues. This





Sharing tools, skills and laughs

Over the last few months, The Kernel has been truly coming into its own as a shared collaborative space with many of the different groups coming together on a range of fantastic projects. Here is a taster of what they have achieved and how you can get involved.



Bat boxes for biodiversity

University Hall Reps from Dean's Court, Sadbh and Claire, build bat boxes at the Kernel with the help from a Men's Shed volunteer. In addition to looking after their Edible Campus vegetable plot the Environment Reps are very keen to support the wildlife spotted in their garden particularly bats and hedgehogs. Edible Campus has some good workshops coming up in the New year: apple tree pruning, tool maintenance and secateurs sharpening, building a raised beds, and planning your vegetable plot.

For more information get in touch with Andrea on ar252@st-andrews.ac.uk.

Fun in the sun at the Harvest Festival

We had fabulous sunshine and a great turn out for this years' harvest festival in October. There were lots of activities to try: juicing of the local apples from St Leonards Community Orchard, taking rosemary cuttings with Edible Campus, and apple cooking workshops with Skillshare. St Andrews Environmental Network stall shared useful information on pollution caused by single use plastics and Plastic Free St Andrews initiative, and St Andrews Transition showcased low carbon scenarios for the town's future. Men's Shed had wood working demonstrations and some fab wood crafts for sale. We can't wait for our next community fun fayre in the Spring!



Giving back, getting back

St And Reuse collection station at Agnes Blackadder and Powell Halls was built by Men's Shed and painted by Transition volunteers, Bronte and Simon. The sign was sanded, routed, painted and varnished at a Skillshare workshop by volunteers Liliana and Maia. St And Reuse is a Transition zero waste project collecting pre-loved items from students and rehoming them across University and local community. Over the past 10 years they reused over 15 tonnes of goods, worth over £200,000 and saving 140 tonnes in carbon emissions. If you want to volunteer, donate or reuse goods get in touch with Sam on sfw2@st-andrews.ac.uk.



Reusing scrap wood for planters and signs



Every Wednesday St Andrews Transition ToolShare and SkillShare put on a joint workshop where folk can make wooden signs or planters out of scrap wood such as old pallets. Planter-making sessions have been particularly popular which is great as folk learn multiple skills from sawing, screwing and assembling, to lining and painting. There are plenty of Skillshares planned for the Kernel starting late January, including planters, pyrography, parsnip bread, lawnmower maintenance, wax wraps. Join the **St Andrews Community Skillshare on Facebook** or email Tansy tt39@st-andrews.ac.uk.

Need to borrow some tools, gardening or cooking equipment? Get in touch with Winks from ToolShare wde@st-andrews.ac.uk.