



**Monday  
12<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

Chaired by:  
**Martyn Wilcock, Salford CVS**

Speakers:  
**Jo Regan, Salford City  
Council**

**Leigh Matts, Princes Park  
Garden Centre**

Number of people: **14**

## Vocal Environment Network

Laudato Si Centre,  
Wardley Hall

The Network meeting began with attendees introducing themselves and giving an update on their area of work.

### Updates

Jo Regan, Service Manager for Parks and Streetscene at Salford City Council, updated on how the local authority are working together to look at installing sustainable drainage to help address climate change. Salford Rangers are delivering a City and Guides Level One course for volunteers to get accredited training around planting. This is to upskill people to enable more sustainable volunteering. There is also Horticulture Level One training being run by Salford Rangers. This is open to ten community members and funding is being looked into to re-run the course. Jo will also take suggestions for new tree planting sites across Salford. If there are any nominations Jo can be contacted at [jo.regan@salford.gov.uk](mailto:jo.regan@salford.gov.uk)

Jo gave further updates on Buile Hill Mansion, which is expected to open in March 2025 – with bookings for weddings and events happening from June 2025 onwards. The site will feature a café, community spaces and have improved car parking facilities. Unfortunately, the green house has had to be removed due to the timber structure not being strong enough. A Heritage Lottery Fund bid has been made to fund developing the site.

Leigh Matts, Operations Manager at the Ability Cooperative/Princes Park Garden Centre, shared information on work placements they offer for adults with learning disabilities. The organisation also helps to regenerate local green spaces such as Barton Moss. More information can be found here: [Regenerating Local Mosslands. | Princes Park Garden Centre](#)

Esther Turner, from EST Education, explained that her organisation is an alternative education provision which focuses on empowering students to thrive. Their services links students aged between 11-16 years directly to wellbeing support services in both the short and long term.

Kevin O'Neill, from Project Equilibrium, works with those affected by abuse and dealing with mental health issues. The organisation supports better wellbeing by connecting people with nature. They support people with PDST, trauma, neglect and addiction.

Andrew Simpson, Community Outreach Advisor at RHS Bridgewater, explained how his work involves supporting growing groups in Salford and around the North West.

Nina Agnew, also from RHS Bridgewater, added that she is currently working on the Green Spaces Fund. There are webinars available to support funding applications.

The RHS are running a Youth Engagement Programme including projects such as:

- The garden Langworthy Cornerstone with Kath from Salford Family Hubs
- Lewis Park Memorial Forest with Salford City Council Neighbourhood Team in Broughton
- Heath Avenue allotment space next to the Broughton Trust
- Chimney Pot Park
- Plant share event, at Wharton and Cleggs Lane Church where community groups can repurpose plants after the Tatton Park event
- Free skills sessions are being offered for any community groups with a focus on growing
- CPD training for groups looking at how to look for funding which is focused on growing groups
- Gorton Youth Zone looking at how to use their outside green space

Jane Green presents Green Giraffes and Worms, a climate-based radio programme on Salford City Radio. They share updates on community activity including that around food growing. Along with the radio show they also offer pod casts and a YouTube channel.

Ania Lunt from Incredible Education, explained that their organisation focuses on horticulture, a forest school for all ages and wellbeing programmes. They are looking to expand into offering alternative provisions.



Sarah Ducker, Gardening and Wellbeing Coordinator from Wardley Hall, links in with therapists and the Salford City Council Youth Team. They organise events to help tackle big jobs in and around the garden. Emily Cahill, also from Wardley Hall, works with schools.

## Tour of Laudato Si Centre – walled garden, growing areas and forest school



### Grants

Martyn shared some information on Salford CVS' upcoming grants.

VCSE organisations with a **turnover of up to £10,000** are eligible to bid for up to **£1,500**

VCSE organisations with a **turnover of up to £250,000** are eligible to bid for up to **£5,000**

There will be **three rounds** of funding between April 2024 and March 2025, with a **maximum of one grant** being awarded per organisation, per year.

### Impact Fund

Tackling Health Inequalities (Wider Determinants of Health)

Grants of up to £30,000 for VCSE organisations with a **minimum turnover of**

**£100,000** and a maximum turnover of £3m VCSE organisations with a **turnover of up to £250,000** are eligible to bid for up to **£5,000**.

Funding Priority Areas:

- Poverty and inequality
- Creating vibrant places and spaces
- Tackling the climate emergency
- Skills and education (A Learning City)
- Housing and homelessness
- Transport and digital connectivity

### **Achieve Asset Fund**

Supporting those in recovery from drug and alcohol additions: Grants of up to £15k for activities in Salford and/or Trafford – closing date 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2024

### **Community Cooking Fund**

Supporting parents of 0-5's learn new, healthier, low-cost (and energy efficient) ways of cooking. Grants of up to £5k for cooking training courses – closing date 16<sup>th</sup> Sept 2024

### **Upcoming grants**

**GM Walking and Wheeling Fund** - Small and medium grants to support VCSE organisations get inactive people walking / wheeling (not cycling)

**Get Broughton Active Fund** - Small and medium grants to the least active in the Broughton area increase their activity levels.

Keep an eye on: <https://www.salfordcvs.co.uk/live-grants>

Or sign up to our funding e-bulletin <https://www.salfordcvs.co.uk/signup>

Contact us at: [grants@salfordcvs.co.uk](mailto:grants@salfordcvs.co.uk)

Or call us on: 0161 787 7795

