



GREEN
FUTURES

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ABOUT GREEN FUTURES

Green Futures is a social enterprise working with the community to make a positive environmental and social difference. Our projects bring people from far and wide, from different backgrounds and walks of life.

Our core purpose is to improve the health, wellbeing, skills and knowledge of local people, using the Vanson Centre and other landscapes sustainably, with an emphasis on growing food and connecting to nature.

Off-site, our projects in the community take on valued partners who continue to make a real difference to the local environment - whether it is community gardening projects, conservation, scrub clearance or our school projects. We always welcome opportunities to work with others to improve the area in which we live.

We have been working with a number of different partner agencies, supporting schools, centres and community groups to achieve their own vision of growing their own vegetables and having a safe and beautiful environment to work in, live or visit.

This has included workshops and visits with staff and volunteers, creating raised flower beds and planting up communal areas as well as designing and implementing growing areas in community places and supporting Grimsby in Bloom. We hope this great work will continue well into the future as we network with groups and establish great partnerships and new networks.





**CAROL
PRENDERGAST**
Chief Executive

“Well, my first year in the position of Chief Executive of Green Futures has been a hectic one! I have seen the rapid growth of the Veg Box Scheme, the Gardening Round and our work on the landscape - and can honestly say I am both proud and privileged to have been involved with every element of the business.

The funding from Local Food has enabled us to do many things, notably employing the staff and purchasing much needed equipment so that we can become a more viable and professional business. We are achieving our outcomes as set by the funders which pushes us to strive to bigger and better things - with a rapidly forming plan already in place for next year

As with most projects, the first year has had its highs and lows which this year has including horrendous weather. Many changes have taken place both on the landscape and within the staff team, but I believe that as we move towards the new financial year we are a strong team with shared ambitions and aspirations -

not just staff but a number of fantastic, reliable and hardworking volunteers without whom the project could not deliver week upon week. As a project we aspire to become more sustainable, relying less upon funding streams and more on sources of income. To do this we will need to grow more and sell more, which is only achievable via the hard work and persistence of our staff and volunteers.

Next year we plan to create more growing spaces, erect another poly-tunnel and utilise as much space as possible on the landscape. I am confident that we can achieve if not excel in our targets for the coming year and I am excited and enthusiastic to see what the future brings.

I would like to sincerely thank and praise everyone who has been involved in this project so far including the Board of Directors, the staff team, volunteers and placements and of course all of our partners, visitors and customers.

**NEIL
CARTWRIGHT**
Board Chair



“The tenacity and hard work of our fantastic team of staff and volunteers has made 2012/2013 another year in which the organisation has grown from strength to strength. Green Futures and the Vanson Centre have taken great forward strides with the support of funding from the National Lottery.

Our Local Food Grant has enabled us to do some wonderful things: employing the staff team, taking on our apprentices, and going mostly ‘off grid’ with our irrigation system taking water directly from our on site borehole keeping our polytunnels and veg gardens well watered.

The number of veg boxes full of fantastic, healthy, local produce delivered to the community continues to grow with us breaking the 100 boxes-per-week barrier during this year. Our busiest volunteers, the honey bees, have worked tirelessly to produce honey in our hives, and as well as pollinating our orchard, we have jarred and sold our own honey for the first time.

As Chair I would like to thank all of our staff and volunteers for the hard work and unending dedication they bring to our organisation, including my board colleagues who regularly give up their own time to serve as directors with such great and enduring enthusiasm.

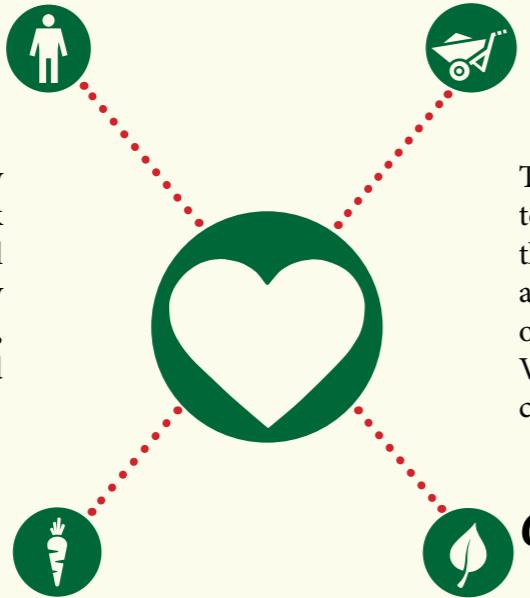
I would particularly like to thank Carol, who as our Chief Executive has been tireless during a challenging year in her mission to ensure the efficient and effective running of the organisation now and into the future.

It is our vision to see our community of North East Lincolnshire recognised as a great green place to live and work and our invitation to anyone who shares this aspiration is to come along and work with us at Green Futures to put the “Green” into Great Grimsby.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Community Action for Sustainability

Green Futures supports community action by helping people work together to improve the local environment. Our community projects bring people together, promoting interaction and reducing social exclusion.



Local, Seasonal Food

There is nothing like fresh fruit and vegetables at their seasonal best. There is something truly great about eating freshly picked food - it tastes better, it can be better value and locally sourced seasonal food represents a better deal for the planet.

Our Veg Box Scheme sees the delivery of affordable, locally grown produce direct to the community.

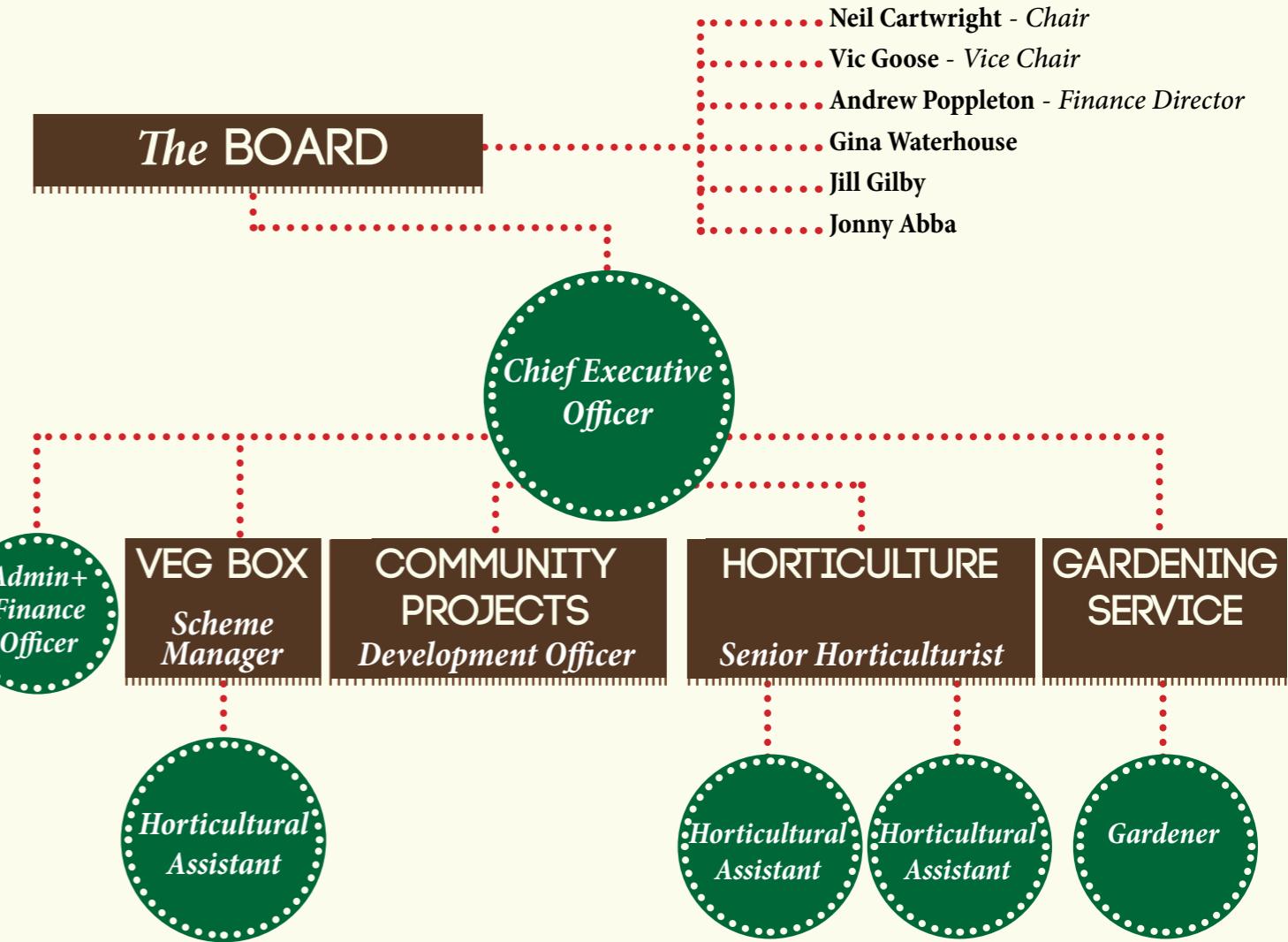
Developing Local Jobs

Through all of our work we aim to reduce worklessness locally through volunteering opportunities and work placements in all of our activities, both on site at the Vanson Centre and working in the community.

Great, Green Grimsby

Grimsby is really GREEN. Take a trip up any tall building in our town, look around and you will see a place that is blessed with tree lined roads and great green open spaces. We work with individuals and groups throughout North East Lincolnshire to make our local area a more productive and pleasant place for all of us. We aspire to put Grimsby on the UK map as a Great Green place to live and visit.

Our Structure



THE VANSON CENTRE

started 2009

3.5
acres of land

3
poly tunnels



6
composting bays

1
greenhouse

2
sheds

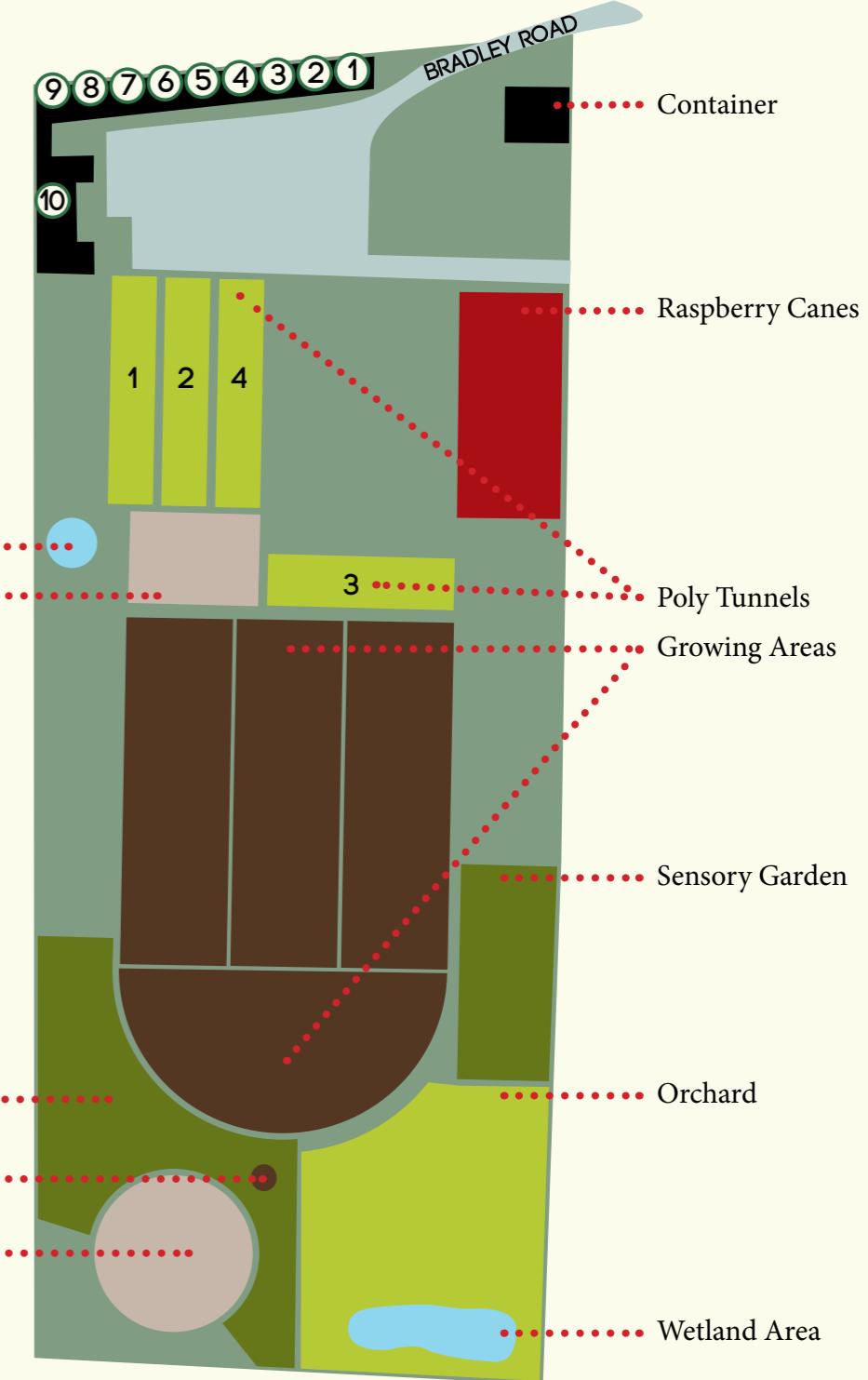
20,000
litre watertank which takes
water from the aquaphor
deep underground

10

Green Futures
The Vanson Centre

MAIN BUILDING

- ① Propagation Room
- ② Store Room
- ③ Pottery
- ④ Office and Board Room
- ⑤ Staff Room
- ⑥ Pantry
- ⑦ Kitchen
- ⑧ Vegetable Prep Room
- ⑨ Toilet
- ⑩ Garage/Store Room



WHO WE WORK WITH



Green Futures has provided a number of sessions for young carers onsite and held weekly activity sessions as part of the Alternative Learning Programme (ALP) New Futures scheme. This included creating a community garden at the school and a sensory garden onsite.



Green Futures enjoys a close relationship with the North East Lincolnshire Specialist Health Promotion team. Together we have provided information workshops in schools around healthy eating, seasonal and fresh vegetables and 'food miles' helping to educate the next generation to make positive choices about what they eat.

We also facilitate a new Walk-well group which was part funded by 'Heartwell'.

Friends of Kingston Gardens

Through Awards for All funding secured by the group, we worked together to clear and develop the woodland area whilst teaching our volunteers new skills about woodland management. The work involved thinning self-seeded sycamores and elder, opening up walkways, laying new woodchip, removing all non-biodegradable material from the site and creating habitat for local wildlife.

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust is one of the UK's oldest county trusts, covering the entire county of Lincolnshire from the Humber to the Wash. We have a group who meet bimonthly on a Saturday morning comprised of children and parents, who enjoy activities such as pond dipping and bug hunts.

Grimsby in Bloom

Grimsby in Bloom donated a 'Jubilee Tree' to Green Futures in March. This particular blue blooded baby oak hailed from Sandringham Palace, one of the country's most famous gardens, and was part of a nationwide plan to celebrate 60 years of Queen Elizabeth II on the throne.

Near & Near

Local family owned funeral directors Near & Near planted a memorial tree onsite at the Vanson Centre. This tree can be visited by anyone who wishes to attend within opening hours.

Out and About

We love getting out and about to events happening all over the region. In the last year we've attended family fun days at People's Park, Meridian Park, 'Glastonbabies' at West Marsh Children's Centre, Grimsby Minster and St. Augustine's Summer Fayre.

OUR PROJECTS



There is nothing like fresh fruit and vegetables at their seasonal best. Freshly picked food not only tastes better, it can be better value and locally sourced, seasonal food represents a much better deal for the planet.

Our Vegetable Box round sees the delivery of affordable, locally sourced produce direct to the community.

Not only are our vegetables of a high quality, they're also competitively priced. We constantly price check against leading supermarkets to ensure we offer a genuine alternative for lower income families or people on a budget.

The Vanson Centre is not large enough for us to grow *all* of the veg for our boxes so we carefully source local, fresh produce. Currently most of the vegetables in our boxes are grown on site.

Veg Box Scheme

We are registered with the NHS Healthy Start Programme, allowing parents to use vouchers to get a further £3.10 off the price of our regular box and small veg boxes - and we can support individuals to access this service.

We offer:

- The highest quality fresh produce
- Locally grown and sourced seasonal vegetables
- Friendly delivery service directly to workplaces or homes in the community
- Customer confidence that they are supporting a local initiative which reinvests in the community
- Information on planting and growing your own vegetables and recipe ideas
- Competitive prices - £5.00 for a small box (2 people), £8 for a family box or £10 for a large box.
- Buying from us creates local jobs for the people of Grimsby
- Did we mention how fresh our vegetables are?

Gardening Round

Green Futures offers some of the highest quality gardening and landscaping services. Our staff live and breathe gardening, and we take great pride in being able to deliver the very highest specification of work.

Our dedicated team are on hand to attend your property to give a free no obligation quote.

If you decide to take up our services, you will receive an estimation of times and costs along with a starting date. We will also keep you informed as the process progresses.

We can deal with all manner of work from simple hedge and lawn cutting through to more involved garden make overs.

Our work caters for a range of clients from individuals to businesses, statutory organisations to housing associations.

Community Projects

We try and make sure that as many people as possible have the opportunity to get involved with making their area a greener, cleaner and more positive place to live.

Our Community Development Officer works with community groups and schools to deliver sessions, workshops and entire projects.

Funded through the Community Development Foundation a team of staff, volunteers and local residents carried out works at Kingston Wood. The team made clearings, disposed of litter, made natural fence lines and provided a general community clear-up. The River Freshney is now a tidier, neater place thanks to another Green Futures community project.

Numerous sessions have also been provided for young people on site, including a young carers group, users of local youth services, East Marsh Children's Centre as well as local cubs, brownies and scouts.

Anyone interested in volunteering on site or getting involved with a community project should contact Green Futures by phone, or via the website or our Facebook page to arrange a meeting with the CDO and a site visit.



Green Gym

What is a Green Gym you ask?

Green Futures piloted the Green Gym for the first time this year. Combining physical fitness with learning and wellbeing, Green Gym provides a fun way to enhance health and fitness while taking action to learn some new skills and knowledge.

A typical Green Gym session would last for two hours, taking place every week for six weeks. During a session there would be a structured routine of gardening based activities, followed by a 30 minute health education workshop.

The relaxed and informal atmosphere was designed to help people into making the first steps towards living a healthier lifestyle.

The programme was designed for people who wouldn't attend a conventional gym or leisure centre, providing a great way to meet new people, have fun and improve health.

Working closely with the Specialist Health Promotion team, Green Futures was lucky enough to have been part of the first Green Gym in North East Lincolnshire.

The Green Gym is ideal for anyone who wants to look after their heart. If you have a family history of heart problems, suffer from diabetes (or have been told you are at risk), or you are overweight then this is the *perfect* programme for you.

The pilot was a great success with very positive feedback from participants, with great health outcomes. There are plans to run a second programme next year so watch this space.

If you have not taken part in any structured physical activity for a while, we would recommend that you speak to your GP before taking part.



ABOUT OUR FUNDERS

Local Food is a consortium developed by 15 national environmental organisations, and is managed on their behalf by the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT). The £59.8 million programme distributes Big Lottery Fund grants to a variety of food related projects which help make locally grown food accessible to local communities.

In March 2012, Green Futures was successful in receiving £250,000 to fund a two year project covering five main objectives:

- To aid Green Futures in creating and developing a veg box scheme using produce from a range of local sources including our own growing areas, with the aim of providing access to affordable and healthy foodstuffs for low income families, those in disadvantaged areas and other vulnerable members of the community.
- To create five job positions to support the management of the site and of the box scheme
- To refurbish current growing spaces and reinstate the borehole water supply.
- To provide volunteer opportunities to the long term unemployed, people with learning or physical disabilities and those with a genuine interest in horticulture and food growth.
- To develop a service to develop food growing within the community and to provide educational sessions with local providers.

We also received £25,000 from North East Lincolnshire Council's 'Fresh' funding regarding improving physical and mental health through positive activities, health promotion and physical work. As well as this we have also been lucky enough to receive funding from the Community Development Foundation (CDF) to carry out a project on the river Freshney.



SOCIAL OUTCOMES



Target 1:

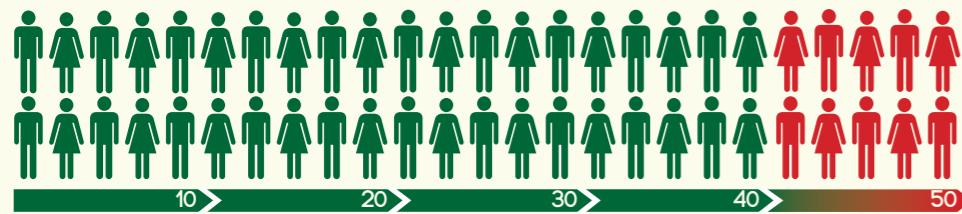
5 PERMANENT JOB ROLES CREATED



Five permanent job roles have been created

Target 2:

40 UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE ENGAGED IN WORK PLACEMENTS



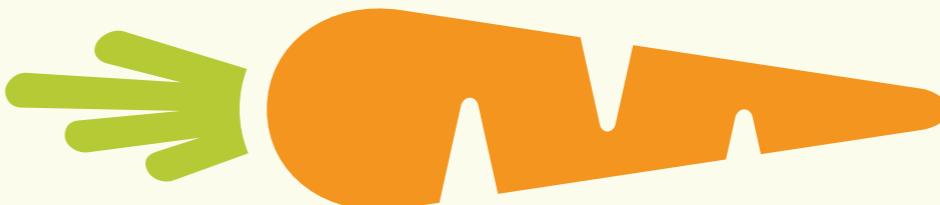
Green Futures exceeded its target and was successful in creating a total of 50 work placements for unemployed people from the area, ten more than our target required.



+25%

Target 3:

100 HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVING WEEKLY VEG BOXES



By the end of Year One we have hit our target of 100 veg boxes per week, with 150 customers one file.

Target 4:

5 SCHOOLS ENGAGED IN EDUCATIONAL VISITS



We have provided a number of educational assemblies and workshops about food miles and how food is grown as well as helping to create community gardens and facilitate onsite visits via walking buses.



+2

Target 5:

PROVIDE 10 WEEKLY VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES



Over 55 volunteers new and old working on the site throughout the year,





Beneficiaries

1300 BENEFICIARIES ENGAGED



+8%

Our two year goal is to engage 1300 people through training, events and volunteering opportunities. We have exceeded our target for Year One, putting us in a great position to exceed it again next year. Here are some examples of how we achieved this:

50 people engaged through the Grimsby Minster Family Fun Day



22 Beaver Scouts attended site for their explorers badge



50 people attended the Jubilee tree planting day with the Mayor, Morris Men and Grimsby in bloom

10 people from Grimsby Institute doing an adult Basic Skills course attended onsite, focusing on social skills and team work



18 Prince's Trust volunteers



120

40 attendees at the 'Glastonbabies' funday at West Marsh Childrens Centre

5 young people from YPSS working on the Sensory Garden

47 people engaged at summer events

THE BOTTOM LINE

	31.1.2012	31.1.2011
TURNOVER		
<i>Cost of Sales</i>	120,711	151,450
GROSS PROFIT	11,776	10,294
<i>Administrative Expenses</i>	12,081	10,639
FIXED ASSETS		
<i>Tangible Assets</i>	10,431	6,376
CURRENT ASSETS		
<i>Debtors</i>	3,431	8,105
<i>Cash in bank and in hand</i>	41,653	39,155
	45,084	39,155
CREDITORS		
<i>Amounts due within year</i>	50,065	39,887
<i>Net current liabilities</i>	4,981	732
<i>Provisions for liabilities</i>	484	1,339
NET ASSETS	4,966	4,305
RESERVES		
<i>Profit/Loss</i>	+4,966	+4,305





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GreenFuturesGrimsby.co.uk

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