



**Feed Leeds AGM and Celebration**  
**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at Meanwood Valley Urban Farm**

**ATTENDEES**

**Adam Ogilvie** (Meanwood Valley Urban Farm (MVUF)), **Penny Pinn** (FL, Horsforth Community Café & Garden), **Ama Chaney** (Grow to School), **Jane** +1 (Headingley Greengrocers), **Ed Elcock** (Yorkshire Mushroom Emporium), **Janet Galvin** (Friends of Horsforth Hall Park, Horsforth Community Garden), **Rob Moores** (FL Chair, Passion4Plants), **Tanya Bish** +1 (Living Potential Care Farm), **Sarah-Jane Mason** (FL secretary – minutes, RHS), **Becky Mears** (FL, IE Aireborough / Season Well CIC), **Jo Cartwright** (Swillington Organic Farm), **Annie Whitehead** (Foodwise), **Sol and Anne** (Blue Marble), **Claire Evans** (Horsforth Community Assets Project), **Jennifer Lawrence** (Kirkstall Valley Farm), **Lynn Brown** +1 (Beckhill Community Garden), **Mark Warner** (Plate 2 Plate Compost), **Susan Docherty** (Community Learning Partnerships), **Tara Slade** +2 (Inspirations Nurseries and Forest School), **Alison Varley** (RHS)

**APOLOGIES**

**Sonja Woodcock** (FL Treasurer, Leeds Food Coordinator at FoodWise Leeds), **Rosie Atkins** (FL secretary –minutes, FL Farm group), **Dan Robinson** (Incredible Edible Leeds), **Alan and Gini** (Fruitworks co-op), **Rosie Hall** (FL, LAF Secretary), **Niall Johnston** (Yorkshire Mushroom Emporium), **Paul Magnall** (Rainbow Junktion), **Jen Kruger** (MVUF), **Katie Allen** (University of Leeds), **Vivien Hargreaves** (Season Well), **Caroline Scott** (The Edible Gardener)

**AGENDA**

**1. Welcome from Chair & Review of 2024**

Rob Moores welcomed the 30 people attending the AGM, thanked Sarah-Jane, Sonja and Rosie for their work putting the Celebration event together, and members of the Committee for their involvement over the past year.

He shared a compilation video showcasing the **2024 #GetGrowingLeeds campaign** featuring comments and images from the groups involved and the local growers who produced plants for the campaign.

The Committee then gave updates on a couple of projects which has been developed over 2024:

Sarah-Jane gave an update on the **Farm Groups Legume project** (in Rosie and Sonjas absence); Along with partners from the University of Leeds They have secured funding to promote Legumes in the region educating and informing on what to grow and how to use the fresh and dried pulses as a protein rich food source in our diets.

We discussed how the **Little Veg Library** (LVL) campaign had been adopted by Incredible Edible Leeds and many groups had created one at their site. We have a total of 21 sites listed on the [map](#).

The committee are also working with a range of green providers across the city to explore a **capacity building project** – the idea is to have a funded role to support the voluntary organisations across the city. This role would not be aligned to any single organisation but

support all groups. The role could be used to promote events and organise a timetable of engagement activities (such as workshops, social events) to bring people growing across the city together.

Rob and Penny confirmed they are working with the council to develop Edible Growing in Parks.

Rob also confirmed that the REAP edible bed at Oakwood is to be handed over to a newly formed LS8 -based Incredible Edibles group working around the edible bed at Oakwood Clock. If you are interested in being involved please contact Rob at [passion4plants@hotmail.com](mailto:passion4plants@hotmail.com)

**ACTION ALL** please email [info@feedleeds.org](mailto:info@feedleeds.org) if you can help with any of the following:

- If you have knowledge of locally grown legume varieties (heritage or current) or recipes traditionally used in Yorkshire please let the Farm group know
- If anyone wishes to include a LVL on the map (or update details)
- If you are a voluntary organisation involved in a green network in Leeds and would like to be included in the capacity building mapping please share your details

## 2. Minutes of previous AGM

Minutes from February 2024 were accepted by all committee members attending as a correct record (for a copy of the minutes see website <https://feedleeds.org/>)

## 3. Treasurers report

Sonja was unable to make the meeting and give a report on the accounts.  
The group are applying for funding to carry out #GetGrowingLegumesLeeds campaign for 2025

## 4. Committee Elections

### Reinstating Chair and Committee–

Members remaining Rob confirmed he would be happy to stand as Chair for the second year and was voted in by SJ and Becky. All other officers remain in post unless covered below

Members stepping down – Thanks for your support, Emma Andrews and Camille Thomas

New Committee member – Welcome to Lynn Brown, Beckhill Community Garden

### Feed Leeds 2025 Committee


Rob Moores (Chair)	Ama Chaney
Sonja Woodcock (Treasurer)	Ed Elcock
Rosie Atkins and Sarah-Jane Mason (Co-secretaries)	Rosie Hall
	Paul Magnall
	Becky Mears
	Adam Oligive
	Penny Pinn
	Clarrie Ramsden
	Dan Robinson

- a. Vacant positions Communications Officer

## 5. Feed Leeds Food Growing Awards

These Awards celebrate aspects of food growing by groups and individuals and are in their second year. Feed Leeds members and the wider growing community were asked to vote against 4 categories and the winners were chosen by the FL Committee. Below are details of the winners and an excerpt from the nominations we received.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Congratulations to everyone who was nominated or received a Food Growing Award</b></p> <p>This year we were honoured to have the awards <b>presented by Councillor Sharon Hamilton Leeds City Council Food Champion</b>. She advocates and supports food initiatives across the city and is campaigning across a wide variety of issues including free school meals and food banks.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Stephen Roe Special Award for Innovative Projects</b>  <i>Award dedicated to Stephen Roe, Leeds University who sadly passed away at the end of 2024</i>  <b>Awarded to Blue Marble</b></p> <p>This group has taken a thoughtful and creative approach, promoting bokashi composting across Woodhouse, Burley and Hyde Park. Crucially, they are using composting as a tool to bring people together and empower them to change the spaces around them. They have researched and considered their approach carefully, and have used zines, music, food and events to get their mission going.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Outstanding Community Champion</b>  <b>Awarded to Penny Pinn, Horsforth Community Garden and Café</b></p> <p>Penny Pinn is super, super passionate about gardening, growing and especially composting. She deserves recognition for the millions of hours she gives to these projects, her local community and the city wide.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Also nominated</p>	<p>Lynn Brown (Beckhill Community Garden), Caroline Scott (The Edible Gardener), Katy Wormald-Smith (LS14 Trust), Cecilia Makala (sunflower ESOL Gardening Club), Matilya Njau (Lincoln Greeners)</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Best Community Food Growing Project</b>  <b>Awarded to Beckhill Community Garden</b></p> <p>Lynn Brown has been a force of nature, taking the lead to create a community garden in an unloved corner of her estate. She has brought energy, passion, knowledge and a fantastic sense of humour the project, drawing in neighbours and other residents to establish the garden. This garden and the food produced has been a long-held dream for Stainbeck Church.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Also nominated</p>	<p>Horsforth Community Garden, Killingbeck Orchard, LS14 Trust, Kirkstall Valley Farm, Food for Thought Network, Incredible Edible Meanwood, Meanwood Valley Urban Farm, Season Well</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Best Local Business Supporting Local Food Growing Enterprises</b>  <b>Awarded to Headingley Greengrocers</b></p> <p>Headingley Greengrocers has been supporting local food growers since 2019, as a Community Owned veg shop. The list of suppliers include Kirkstall Valley farm, Meanwood Urban Farm, Yorkshire Mushroom Emporium, Meanwood Microgreens, Fruit Works, Organic North Co-operative and Acorn Dairy. Tropical fruits and some other veg is from the main Leeds Wholesaler Gilbert Thompson.</p>

Also nominated	Zero Muda, Eat Your Greens, Leeds Veg Box, LS14 Playbox, Chapel Allerton Fruit Stall
	<p><b>Best Community Composting Initiative</b> Awarded to Annie at Compost Collective</p> <p>Annie is a force of nature in the community composting in Leeds! Together with community partners she has set up 9 compost collective sites. She has helped build 19 compost bins and trained 110 volunteer members.</p> <p>I hugely admire Annie's skills in building these fantastic community composting collectives and the way she works with communities</p>
Also nominated	Leeds Blue Marble, Compost Collective sites across Leeds inc Drury Fields, Feel Good Factor, Inspirations Nursery, Killingbeck Orchard

## 6. Updates from attendees

**Fruit Works Co-operative- Alan and Gini** have been busy planting, pruning and selling fruit trees all winter.

- Our city passed the milestone of 100 community orchards, which was featured on the Radio 4 Today programme: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0028983> (26 minutes in).
- We've got a busy programme of activities and training for the rest of the year: <https://www.fruitworks.org.uk/courses>.
- We are actively looking for community groups who want to increase fruit growth and tree cover in private gardens by distributing bulk quantities.

### **Yorkshire Mushroom Emporium (YME) – Ed Elcock & Niall Johnston**

<https://yorkshiremushroomemporium.co.uk/>

Ed confirmed that the YME have 2 salaried staff, and they will be working for the next 12 months to develop their business model and show that it can be successful and make money. Diversification into workshops and other opportunities are being explored to increase their portfolio.

### **Plate2Plate Compost - Mark Warner** <https://www.plate2platecompost.com/>

Mark confirmed that the business has relocated to a new location at Swillington Farm and Mark is working full time now. He has the support of Hayden, and together they collect waste from business' and homes to create local compost which they sell as a product.

### **Meanwood Valley Urban Farm – Adam Ogilvie** <https://www.mvuf.org.uk/>

Adam confirmed the market garden developed by Ben and Luke has been handed over to Jenn, Lou and Angharad. They are now leading the project on site; continuing to offer a community supported agriculture model, weekly veg boxes and volunteering opportunities to the community. The team hope to develop the space to enable more people to take part in skills training including schools and young people looking for work in the industry.

### **Kirkstall Valley Farm – Jennifer Lawrence** <https://kirkstallvalleyfarm.org.uk/>

The farm have been developing their community supported agriculture model, weekly veg boxes and volunteering opportunities to the community. They believe they have a sustainable business model with tiered pricing to enable access to local produce for all. They are also looking at offering space to user groups wishing to grow but without an available location and have funding to deliver a series of Pick, Cook, Eat workshops to Leeds refugees.

### **Living Potential Care Farm – Tanya Bish** <https://www.livingpotentialcarefarming.org.uk/>

Tanya confirmed that the farm are developing well, and hoping to establish a community supported agriculture model with veg boxes in the future. While they build up the veg box scheme they are supplying their produce to Leeds Veg Box Scheme for distribution.

**Blue Marble Composting - Anne and Sol** @leedsbluemarble

Anne confirmed that the group have been continuing to promote Bokashi composting to students and the local community using social media, zines and fundraising events. Last year they sourced funding for 30 kits to be distributed and hope to share more in the future. They are also exploring potential for composting facilities at student lets in the city and working with Rainbow Junktion to develop a hot bin system at their site.

**Swillington Farm – Jo Cartwright** <https://swillingtonorganicfarm.co.uk/>

Jo confirmed that the farm has been registered organic for 25 years now, the CSA for veg and eggs are hoping to expand to 80 subscriptions this year, a shared farmer is due to start on site soon and the school visits programme is doing well.

**Inspirations Nursery, Horsforth - Tara Slade** <https://inspirationsnurseries.co.uk/>

The nursery are continuing to engage with parents and provided compost caddies to families to collect food waste at home for composting in the nursery composting bays.

**Royal Horticultural Society – Alison Varley, Community Outreach** <https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/community-gardening/projects> and <https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/nhs-wellbeing-gardens/leeds-wellbeing-garden>

Alison updated on the progress of the Wellbeing Garden being developed at St James' Hospital – planning permission had been granted and work should be starting this year. The RHS are working with Season Well to engage local groups through the Food for Thought network, offering skills sharing sessions on growing and cooking and social opportunities.

Alison also confirmed that Halton in Bloom have been developing a Climate Action Community Garden at Grove Road Park  
[https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=1019824363509111&id=100064446711749&\\_rd=1](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1019824363509111&id=100064446711749&_rd=1)

**Grow to School – Ama Chaney** <https://www.growtoschool.co.uk/> and <https://www.facebook.com/GROWtoschool/>

Ama confirmed that Grow to School is continuing to offer high quality Food Growing in School, Outdoor Learning and Teacher Training to around 80 primary and SEND schools.

**Community Learning Partnerships – Susan Docherty** <https://clpcharity.org.uk/>

Susan confirmed that although the partnership is no longer working in schools they are continuing to develop programmes for young people and communities in Leeds 8 and Harehills. The latest project has been to fund and develop a new garden at Nowell Mount Community Centre.

**Season Well CIC – Becky Mears** <https://seasonwell.co.uk/>

The team are continuing to offer cooking and growing workshops to a range of groups across Leeds, Bradford and North Yorkshire, inspiring them to cook locally produced seasonal fruit and veg. The Teaching Garden, donated by Full Circle Funerals is being used regularly by Season Well and is the site of their community composting project. As above still collaborating with the RHS on the Food for Thought Network in inner East Leeds and developing a similar project in South Leeds: Beeston/Hunslet/Holbeck. If you are interested in joining either network, please contact Becky on [Becky@SeasonWell.co.uk](mailto:Becky@SeasonWell.co.uk).

Becky also highlighted that IE Aireborough is coming up to its 10 year anniversary – do come along and celebrate with us in April (details will be posted on [https://www.facebook.com/IEAireborough/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/IEAireborough/?locale=en_GB))



**Beckhill Community Garden - Lynn Brown** <https://www.facebook.com/beckhill.community.garden/>

Lynn gave an overview of the last 12 months. An initial Litter Free Leeds campaign led to a group of community volunteers with an interest in reclaiming and developing a community space on a fly tipping site. They decided that the space could become a community garden with free locally grown crops for the community to help themselves to. Lynn enabled the group to start this new garden development, and it has already achieved so much in bringing the community together. The garden is flourishing with raised beds, a little veg library and a dedicated group of volunteers learning together.

**Living Potential Farm – Kirsty and Tanya** <https://www.livingpotentialcarefarming.org.uk/>

The team confirmed that the garden and farm are developing well with lots of users and volunteers. They are supplying produce to Leeds Veg Boxes and through a regular market stall in Wetherby.

They are currently recruiting for a PT Activity Worker [https://doinggoodleeds.org.uk/job/activities-coach/?fbclid=IwY2xjawl46dpleHRuA2FlbQlXMQABHT2MJwk6jvNwXmJK-2FfdS6F9dIRUqoqLGOLesbls0MBVH-hnlmwAeFkg\\_aem\\_1PQtTYOn6ZVHub5q8kkO4Q](https://doinggoodleeds.org.uk/job/activities-coach/?fbclid=IwY2xjawl46dpleHRuA2FlbQlXMQABHT2MJwk6jvNwXmJK-2FfdS6F9dIRUqoqLGOLesbls0MBVH-hnlmwAeFkg_aem_1PQtTYOn6ZVHub5q8kkO4Q)

**Foodwise Compost Collective – Annie Whitehead** <https://foodwiseleeds.org/project/ccl/>

Annie updated us on the progress of using the Community Composting model, developed in Brighton, with groups in Leeds. There are now 9 community composting hubs, each with 2 champions (trained to monitor the sites and maintain compost production), each hub supports at least 40 households.

**Passion4Plants – Sarah & Rob Moores** <https://passion4plants.co.uk/>

Oakwood Market Garden have completed a successful 3 years developing their current site and have signed another 3-year lease. Although Rob has been unable to commit as much time as he had hoped Sarah continues to manage the site and produce plants and vegetables for sale at Oakwood Farmers market and through Leeds Veg Box scheme. They also take in raw veg waste and organic substrate from mushroom production to compost and use on the farm.



**Horsforth Community Garden- Penny Pinn**

<https://www.horsforthcommunitygarden.co.uk>

Loads of good news to share, the Community Garden has its official opening in March, the Drury Fields composting project is running very successfully thanks to the support of the compost collective and they are exploring an additional site in Horsforth.

**Horsforth Community Asset Development – Claire Evans**

[www.facebook.com/ABCDCommunityBuilder/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/ABCDCommunityBuilder/?locale=en_GB)

Claire confirmed how great it was to see that Penny has been recognised by FL for everything she does to support the Horsforth Community and that without her energy many of the projects would not have been so successful. Claire confirmed she will continue to support development in the area and looks forward to seeing what will happen in 2025.

**Friends of Horsforth Hall Park - Janet Galvin**

<https://www.lovehorsforthpark.co.uk/>

Spoke about her work with the Community Garden and how the Friends of Group and gardening volunteers have supported each other, volunteering together to achieve more in the space. She then spoke about the plans to work with the council to renovate the Japanese Garden. The group are running Wellbeing sessions on a Saturday morning and gardening on a Thursday afternoon, they also

plan to offer work days to tackle some of the larger restoration tasks.

**Headingley Greengrocer – Jane** <https://www.theheadingleygreengrocer.co.uk/>

Supported by Headingley Development Trust this local small food businesses sells locally grown produce from MVUF and Kirkstall Farm. They operate plastic free and support a number of wider charities including Plate2 Plate (collect and compost food waste), donate fresh produce to the Foodbank at Woodhouse and Rainbow Junktion. Jane confirmed that to remain a viable resource in the community they needed more customers, without the support of the community they cannot exist and Jane urged everyone to buy local.

**Food Wise Leeds Food Partnership – Sonja Woodcock** <https://foodwiseleeds.org/>

Working on a number of projects with local groups and the council to deliver the Leeds Food Strategy. The current focus is working to promote the growing and consumption of pulses in the region as a source of high quality sustainable protein <https://foodwiseleeds.org/raise-your-pulses-this-2025/>

## 7. AOB

### **Date of next meetings**

The next FL meeting on zoom will be held **w/c 28<sup>th</sup> April** 4pm (in person) exact date tbc.

Further meetings will be held in June, September and November. Please check the Feed Leeds website for updates.

**w/c 16<sup>th</sup> June** (in person tbc)

**No meeting in August**

**w/c 15<sup>th</sup> September** (in person tbc)

**w/c 17<sup>th</sup> November**

END OF MEETING

Everyone then enjoyed the meal and networking.