

Servite Fintry Tenants Association

Servite Fintry Tenants Association organise activities for residents living in Caledonia Housing Association's Fintry complex. They have a lottery funded garden which has been the focus of an intergenerational project involving children from the local school and students from Helm, an organisation providing training for work for young people. The students helped to build the garden while developing new landscaping skills. They turned a small piece of waste ground at the side of the housing scheme into a garden which all the tenants enjoy. Children from Longhaugh Primary School assist with gardening and weeding which is a great help to the older people who have poor mobility. The project has helped to build relationships between the different generations and has allowed for a more cohesive community to develop after issues such as vandalism.

The tenants applied for small grants funding to develop a plant fact file to help with the identification and maintenance of the plants in the garden. The proposal was developed with input from the tenants, school children as well as students and staff from HELM. The grant was used to pay for 30 hours of staff time to support the young people to develop the file and instruct the tenants on looking after the plants. The file was developed by 2 students from Helm, who were involved in designing & developing the garden. This also enabled them to progress towards an SVQ qualification. The format of the file allows it to be updated with information about new plants.

The fact file allowed the tenants to be more self sufficient in looking after their garden and will enable them to provide information to new volunteers and younger people who come to help in the garden in the future. The funding has increased intergenerational work at the sheltered housing scheme and has further strengthened relationships between different generations. Both the tenants and children have a greater knowledge of the plants and their care. The children have more of an interest in the garden because they are also learning about the plants.