

'RON'S PLOT' COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT GARDEN

Getting Rooted C.I.C. was set up by Aletheia Mashiri to create, demonstrate and teach models of sustainable and regenerative practice in order to foster resilience within communities using permaculture design principles (rooted in horticulture: local food production and wild life protection); drawing from the permaculture ethics of 'care of the earth' (recycling and care of the environment); 'care of people' (social and therapeutic horticulture); and 'sharing fairly' (surplus seedlings and produce shared within communities and between local green projects).

As well as our Sunnyside Community Front Garden and raised veg beds at Our Lady's Church/Hitchin Foodbank we run an outdoor learning and sharing garden Ron's Plot Community Allotment in Westmill. We also share surplus produce with the Hitchin Food Rescue Hub led by Emma Goulding and try to support and encourage outside local green projects by way of plant and seedling donations.

Mary Marshall is a regular volunteer at Ron's Plot and will be kindly representing and sharing about this project and other green initiatives she is involved with locally.

On the topic of trees helping biodiversity:

Forests and trees provide ecosystem services

Trees provide soil and water conservation, facilitate carbon sequestration, improve biodiversity and increase the number of pollinators and natural pest predators, like birds. ... Forests also provide bridges to aid wildlife movement through agricultural lands.

We are in the process of applying for trees from the Woodland Trust for the 'canopy' layer of our developing miniature food forest at 'Ron's Plot' community garden with the possibility of sharing with other green projects. Some of the trees will produce food for both humans and wild life as well as hazel for coppicing for use in our garden work.

As we have noticed the impact of climate change producing extreme weather patterns we are creating a more resilient planting scheme.

Three of the native species chosen to thrive in urban environments include crab apple, rowan and hazel which are also attractive to pollinating bees. In this regard we aim to support our allotment site

neighbours Buzzworks at their Burford Way Allotment site 'Honeyworks' in monitoring and preserving wild bees.

We hope by demonstrating and modelling more sustainable practices and encouraging biodiversity that we encourage other people to do the same.