



About Greenfingers

Greenfingers is a working horticultural project situated on a large allotment site in the centre of Basingstoke. We provide a safe and peaceful working environment for adults with learning disabilities and/or other mental health issues. Our service users have the opportunity to learn new skills and build on existing ones in many aspects of horticulture and woodwork. For those who would like a qualification we offer an in-house training programme covering many areas of basic horticultural practice. Participation in the project helps service users grow as people by building character and self-confidence.

Who we help

At Greenfingers we work with a range of people who have various disabilities. These are primarily learning disabilities and mental health issues but can include some physical disabilities or even loneliness or a lack of confidence. We have links with other local projects, including the Basingstoke Mencap 'Aspire' job club which helps individuals by providing work experience and links to potential paid employment.

Our Volunteers

Apart from our two paid staff members we rely heavily on the goodwill of our many volunteers. They come from a wide cross-section of the community and further afield. They divide very roughly into 'doers' and 'mentors' in that some are happy to give their time and labour working alongside the service users, whilst others will also help individuals on a one-to-one basis. They all bring with them a wealth of knowledge and experience. Some of our younger volunteers see coming to us as a way of gaining experience of a working environment and enriching their CV.



Woodwork

As well as our horticultural activities we have a fully fitted woodwork workshop on site, where our service users and volunteers alike can gain skills and experience in carpentry. Our full-time voluntary carpentry supervisor has all the appropriate qualifications and a lifetime of experience. In the workshop we produce 'Woodwork for Wildlife', a large range of items to provide homes in the garden for wildlife, such as bat boxes, bug boxes, bee boxes, butterfly towers, lacewing hotels, ladybird rockets, hedgehog houses, planters for flowers and bird nesting boxes and feeders.

Sales

At Greenfingers we grow a wide variety of plants from seed and cuttings, such as perennials, shrubs, summer bedding and herbs. We also grow copious amounts of fruit and vegetable plants and a large selection of fresh produce, all available for sale on site Monday – Friday 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. and at our advertised Open Days. Our woodwork products are also for sale at these times. In addition, all woodwork items can be ordered, with a good choice of colour options available, and commissions are undertaken.

Session times

Greenfingers runs 5 days a week, Monday to Friday.
Hours: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm (including an hour for lunch).
Half-days are also available.

Visitors are always welcome



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