



## Forth Valley 6 – 10 March 2023 Information and Application

Contact for more information and to send an application: [karen@farmgarden.org.uk](mailto:karen@farmgarden.org.uk)

**Please apply by 6 February 2023**

### Introduction

Gardeniser Pro© is a Social Farms & Gardens course bringing together people working or volunteering, or looking to work, in a growing setting in their community. It is a unique opportunity for practical learning and sharing, and to build your knowledge and network. Through a combination of on site and online sessions and practice, the opportunity to have discussions and reflect with others from the field will be valuable. Experienced and new people are welcome, and on completion of the course is an opportunity to gain a unique qualification.

You might be

- A new grower looking to start a new project
- a well-established community gardener looking to reflect and develop the tools and techniques you need
- someone seeking inspiration and a network to help shape your growing site or local greenspace development
- Working in either a volunteer or paid capacity, starting out or looking to develop your practice
- A community growing enabler, for example a Local Authority greenspace or community development worker.

By the end of the end of the course you will have a:

- clearer understanding of your role and tools and techniques to refine how you work
- combination of practical learning and sharing and an opportunity to go much further and develop your practice through reflection and discussion with others from the field
- a network of peers that you have shared, learned from, and can continue to connect with
- the opportunity to reflect on the importance of local, your place within it and how that links into the bigger picture
- a licence, after a few months of applying the learning, reporting back and taking an online test [optional]

### Information for applicants:

- Applications to participate in Gardeniser are welcome from people across the Forth Valley who currently, or plan to, support, manage, or set up community growing projects in the area
- Social Farms & Gardens Scotland, will be delivering Gardeniser, with sponsorship from the Scottish Government, and will work in partnership with Falkirk Council, supported by Forth Valley's Sustainable Food Partnerships (Falkirk Food Futures, The Stirling Food Partnership and Clacks Good Food) to provide access for participants across the Forth Valley
- Gardeniser has two parts: a course for learning and networking, and a self-managed internship leading to a qualification in community growing

- The course runs from Monday – Friday 6 to 10 March 2023, and will be based in Falkirk venue being confirmed, with visits to projects in the Forth Valley area. Participation is free to successful applicants, however as spaces are limited, please do not apply if you cannot complete the full week of the course.
- On successful completion of this course, plus a 40-hour self-managed internship and an online test, participants will receive a Gardeniser Pro© licence. The internship is to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.
- On receipt of your application, we will get back to you within a week to let you know if you have a place on the course. Places will be given to all recipients who demonstrate they will be using their knowledge and skills to support community growing in the Forth Valley. Spaces are limited, please return completed form as soon as possible.

*“It's been such a great and unique experience. The talent and skills of both lecturers and participants is simply immense. And I cannot recall any course or training where so much care and attention to the detail has been put to make the students feel warm and appreciated. On another note, meeting this group and all the participants has been a pleasure and very enriching experience. So many inspiring stories, both personal and professional. You can't help but feel uplifted, and with that, more confident and determined.”*

*“We both got a lot of great information from it, as an employee and Board member, it certainly opened our eyes to everything that goes on behind the scenes in an organisation and a bit of an insight into our roles. It was also great to meet everyone else and see what they are all doing in Scotland, and we will visit a few of the projects going forward.”*

#### **Meet the trainers:**

##### **Chris Jones**

Chris is currently the Volunteer Coordinator for RecoveryAyr, where her role is to develop volunteer opportunities, particularly growing, for people being supported in recovery from drug and alcohol dependence. Previous roles include: Head Gardeniser for Independence From Drugs and Alcohol Scotland, developing social enterprises with the residents including growing food, events, café. Set up and running of the Education Garden at Dumfries House. She has also set up and managed an organic smallholding with a veg box scheme.

##### **Elinor Leslie**

Elinor currently has a growing and community engagement role at the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh. She has worked in horticulture since graduating in Chile in 1993, developing her interest and role in community gardening as her career progressed. She has worked in different community garden settings, including gardening as therapy for mental health and dementia, and with young adults with learning difficulties. She loves working with people, growing food, creating beautiful spaces, and sharing food and stories.

##### **Louisa Evans**

Lou has worked in community growing for over 20 years and coordinates the new hub and inquiry service for growing in the community [www.getgrowingscotland.org](http://www.getgrowingscotland.org) as part of her role with GrowGreen Scotland SCIO, sharing learning from the network of growing spaces of all shapes and sizes across the country. As a practising grower, she is excited to see the Gardenisers network grow across Europe, providing opportunities to connect in new ways, to look at how and why we work in

a particular way and reflect on the tools we can use in different settings to support people to address their community's needs and connect grassroots activity to a global community.

## Gardeniser Application Forth Valley 6 – 10 March

1. Name

Click or tap here to enter full name.

2. Email

Click or tap here to enter email address

3. Telephone / mobile number

Click or tap here to enter number

4. Are you currently working or volunteering with a community garden/allotment or other community managed outside space and in what capacity, for example as a volunteer, staff, or supporter.

Click or tap here to enter the name and postcode of the organisation and your role.

5. Is this organisation a member of Social Farms & Gardens?

Yes

No

6. If you are not directly involved with a community growing organisation, do you have a connection to community and or growing, for example as a student, local authority officer, school, housing association, or other organisation?

Click or tap here to enter the name and postcode of the organisation and your connection.

7. Are you 18 years or older?

Yes

No

8. Please tell us about yourself, your experience, aspirations, and why you are interested in undertaking the Gardeniser Pro online training. Up to 400 words.

Click or tap here to enter text

If you have questions, or there is anything else you want to ask or share with us to help us support your participation, including access and cost, please contact [karen@farmgarden.org.uk](mailto:karen@farmgarden.org.uk)

For more information about the Gardeniser Pro© training course visit:  
<https://www.farmgarden.org.uk/our-work/gardeniser>



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