Grow Give Live
Community Garden

Chair's Report AGM 29th May 2026

Introduction

Grow Give Live was formed in February 2022 with myself, Louise Jaggard and Amber Madden as the committee. Our goal is to create a community garden space in Syston, with community, sustainabilty and wellbeing at the heart of everything we do.

This is our third full year of operating, and we have made some siginficant progress in our goal of involving the community in growing edible produce.

Reflection on the period March 2025 to December 2025

Governance

We were successful in our application to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in December 2023. Our registered charity number is 1206308. This charitable status enables us to expand the fundraising we do, opening up more grant funding opportunities. It will also means that we will be able to hold contracts or similar in the name of Grow Give Live, should the need arise in the future.

Glebe Way Land

No progress has been made in 2025 with regard to the identified land on Glebe Way. It is evident that a project to turn this land into a community space would require a multiple agency and organisation approach. At the current time, the Grow Give Live Committee do not have the capacity to progress this project.

Station Adopters

The committee members continue to be volunteer Station Adopters. We successfully grew tomatoes, strawberries and a variety of herbs in the planters throughout 2025.

Community Centre Planters

We continue to have responsibility for some planters outside the Syston Community Centre. We used three for edible produce, and supported Syston Town Council with planting flower beds nearby. These planters are well placed for community engagement; we enjoyed the converstations we had with passers by, and the opportunity to encourage people to take home the ripe produce. We worked with another community group, Little Miracles, to do the planting in a fun morning of community work. We had some lovely feedback from people living nearby regarding the edible produce in the planters.

Grow Give Live
Community Garden

Allotment

In February 2024, we were successful in obtaining an allotment plot on the Upper Church Street allotments managed by Syston Town Council.

The allotment continued to be the focus of our efforts throughout 2025. We welcomed some new regular volunteers, and continue to engage with the allotment community, who have all been very generous with their advice, help and spare seedlings. Our Friday morning sessions are well attended, with the community we have created providing support outside the regular sessions with a group WhatsApp chat. We have also been able to provide references to volunteers who have been looking to move into other volunteering opportunities.

Events

We attended the Syston Summer Fayre, and were able to share allotment produce with the community for welcome donations.

In 2025, we worked with the Beavers, keeping our links with the Syston Scout Group.

Group Governance

In addition to the CIO status, we have updated our policies and renewed our public liability insurance.

Partnerships

Through the Mental Health Network we are building connections with mental health support groups in the area, such as the Neighbourhood Café and the M.A.D.S support group. We are continuing our relationship with Syston Scouts, and have worked with Cubs, Scouts and Beavers. We continue to work with Syston Town Council on planters around the town.

Funding

We held a SummerRaffle, which was very well supported, with funds helping to support our general running costs (insurance, bank fees etc).

We raised money at the Syston Fayre, and received donations from Tesco Syston.

Looking ahead

Fundraising

We will continue to look for and apply for appropriate funding to support the current activity. Our CIO status will open up more funding opportunities.

Partnerships

We want to continue to build and develop partnerships with other groups and organisations who will be able to make use of the community garden, either as service users or as volunteers. The benefits of nature connectivity are far reaching, and impact all members of the community; our focus initially is on children and young people, those who are socially isolated, and those who may be experiencing mental health difficulties. We will continue to work with Syston Town Council, Charnwood Borough Council and the Mental Health Networking group to ensure we are meeting the needs of the local community through the community garden.

Conclusion

We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported Grow Give Live over the last year; Syston Town Council, Charnwood Borough Council, Syston Town News and all the members of the community who have supported us in any way. We are excited for the future, and look forward to building this inclusive, nuturing natural space together.

Hannah Coombe, Chair of Trustees

May 2026

Grow Give Live
Community Garden

Financial Report April – Dec 2025

Summary of Income

Category	Income
Hungarton Gardening Group	£53.00
Syston Summer Fayre and raffle Raffle £238 Fayre produce £73.58	£311.58
In-kind support Tesco donation to raffle Plants from allotmenteers Refreshments from volunteers	£0
Total	**£364.58**

Summary of expenditure

Item	Expenditure
Publicity Xmas tree event	£5.00
Growing across all locations Compost £35.67 Plants £27, £30 scouts, £4.99 mint, £10 bulbs Watering cans £12.80 Equipment for building compost £62.24 Refreshments 13.33, 0.85, 0.85, 0.85	£198.58
Events: Syston Summer Fayre Raffle £59.80 tickets, £6 herbs Stall £4.99 bird feeders	£70.79
Miscellaneous Xmas brunch Duck and Willow £49.50	£49.50
Bank fees £5 p/m admin fee x 5 months	£25.00
Total	**£348.87**

Produced by Louise Jaggard, Grow Give Live Treasurer *25th May 2026*