

Meet the team



An interview with Charley Pope, one of our talented volunteers.



This time we have invited one of our talented and dedicated CommuniGrowers who supports growing tasks every Monday and designs the Recipe and "Growing with the Team" posts we share on social media.

Charley Pope has been a great help in reaching foodie lovers interested in cooking and enjoying seasonal and fresh food, by combining her passions for food and photography.

What inspired you to become a volunteer for CommuniGrow?

I applied to become a Social Media volunteer as I wanted to gain more experience within social media marketing. Working in hospitality I have a real passion for food & drink, and the prospect of learning more about growing your own food really appealed to me too.

How did you start to support CommuniGrow as a volunteer? Has it changed over time?

Initially, I began by creating the weekly recipes for the socials. I really enjoy cooking and having the opportunity to showcase the produce that was in season in the field was really exciting. As lockdown continued I asked if I could help at the field, so I soon became a regular face on a Monday. I also love to help wherever I can with blog posts, and try and use my own photography and help design posts.

What would you say you have learnt while volunteering with CommuniGrow?

I have learnt that there is an abundance of fruit and veg you can always be growing. When I first started volunteering at the field, I was bowled over by how many things were still growing throughout winter. Leeks, kohlrabi, a wide array of salad leaves, it was really impressive.

What do you enjoy about volunteering here?

I find, especially in the current climate, that visiting the field once a week really helps my mental health. Just getting your hands dirty and speaking to your fellow CommuniGrowers has really been such a privilege in this uncertain time.

Not to mention just having the opportunity to help grow and learn about fruit and veg; there's always a little nugget of information I take back with me to use in my own garden at home.

What has been the most satisfying task you have been involved in?

Helping prepare the beds on a Monday with the rotavator has been really fun. It's something I have never, ever done before and I couldn't quite believe it when David thrust it in my hands one early Monday morning!

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Has your experience with Communigrow changed or shaped your views on healthy food, communities, wellbeing or any other aspects? If yes, how?

I think it has just hammered home, even more, how important getting out into the fresh air is for your wellbeing. Having the opportunity to help at the field as well as create Communigrow's recipes, I have such a wonderful insight into the seasonal food and then taking it and making something delicious with it. I think more and more people are starting to realise how wonderful that journey is.

Do you have any hidden talents or hobbies?

I am super into speciality coffee having worked as a Head Barista for some time. When I'm back at work you'll catch me practising my latte art whenever I can and usually trying different coffees at home too!

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