

Bonhill Community Action Participatory Photography Workshops

The aim: To produce a body of photographic images that was taken by local people to show how they have worked together to transform their community. The photographs will be used in exhibitions and future campaign materials to show the benefits of community gardening to both the area, and to the participants who got involved.

The training took place in Bonhill over 8 weeks through the winter months when work could not be done on the community garden and helped keep the group together and motivated during this time.



Method: Inclusive Images in partnership with the Leamy Foundation, worked with a group of local people in Bonhill who expressed an interest in setting up a community garden in their area, using our participatory photography methods,

Inclusive Images provided the Bonhill residents with basic photography training skills, cameras and worked with them to capture images of the area before the community gardening started, enabling them to highlight the need for improvements in their community and in some cases, show the positives that already exist within the Bonhill area.

Members now have the photographic equipment and skills to continue documenting their community in photographs as the community garden progresses.

Each week in the workshops we taught a different photographic composition method, the group then discussed different aspects of what is needed to improve and grow a community,



ranging from: “what makes a community” to “how they could effect a positive change within their community” Kevin Mason from The Leamy Foundation also gave a special session on “Food waste and waste in general” which was very well received.

The participants then interpreted each subject through the medium of photography, taking photographs of different aspects of Bonhill each week.

On the eighth week a public exhibition of the group’s images was held, at which each participant was awarded with an Inclusive Images certificate of achievement, presented by Leamy Foundation director, Kevin Mason.

“Freedom to Travel, one bus an hour, none on a Sunday” Ann Pryce, Bonhill

Outcome: The workshops were very well attended, we began with an initial group of five, ending with 10 participants, over the course of the workshops there were 52 attendances, each workshop having seven participants on average and never falling below the initial five, ages of those attending ranged from between seven years old and mid 70s.

The participants recorded in their own photographs and statements their desire to see a positive change within their community, not just the community garden, improvement in their community as a whole.



On week eight an exhibitions was held in Bonhill community centre displaying the participants images and statements. The exhibition was well attended with locals and press visiting. Both local newspapers, The Dumbarton Reporter and the Lennox Herald, ran a double page spread on the workshops and the campaign for a community garden in Bonhill.

“Watch it grow with them” Roy Hepburn, Bonhill

Over the course of the workshops the Bonhill Community Garden Committee was constituted. A further display of the groups images was shown at the Growing West Dunbartonshire spring event in the Concord Centre, Dumbaton. Again the exhibitions was well received at the very well attended event.

The group intend to display the exhibition at further events to promote their activities, next one being their community garden design day to be held in Bonhill community centre on Saturday April 29th 2017.

What They Say:

Another great session this afternoon, very informative. All the pointers really get you thinking about your photos and it's great to have discussions about improving the community and hearing everyone's input. Great job, Charlie xx" **Gail Russell, Bonhill**

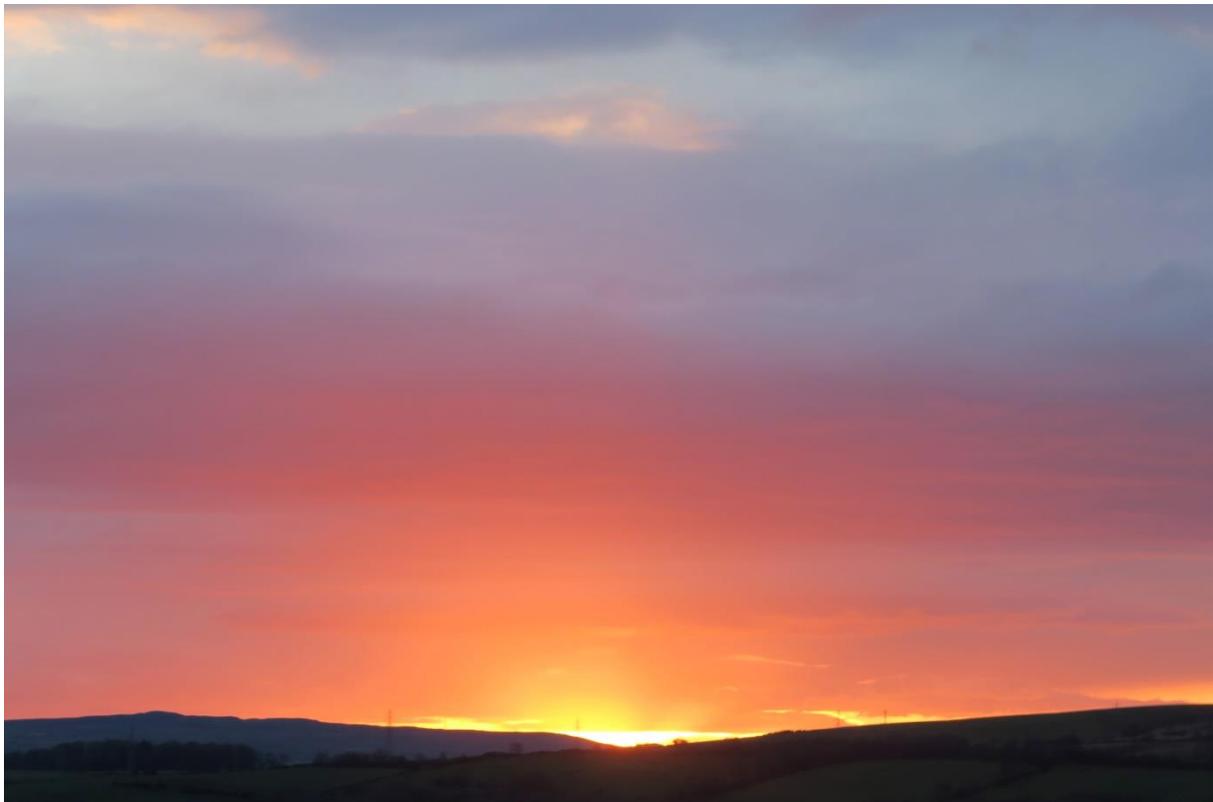
" Getting to see my community in a different light due to attending the sessions. Great fun and learning all the time. Thanks Charlie and Michael, as well as all of the other participants."

"Thanks for another fantastic photography session today. Learned lots and really enjoyed looking at our community from a different perspective". **Ann Pryce Bonhill**

"Really enjoyed the photography session this afternoon. Good company, great atmosphere and I actually learned something lol. Looking forward to the next one. Thanks Charlie and Michael xx" **Joan Delahaye, Alexandria**

"Really enjoyed the workshops, it has given me more confidence to help my community"
Roy Hepburn, Bonhill

"Great sessions, both for photography and getting to know new people. Well done !"
Anonymous, Bonhill



"Beautiful views on our doorstep"
Gail Russell, Bonhill