

# Chisholme Garden Volunteers 2014



‘We plant the seed, nature grows  
the seed, we eat the seed.’

*Neil, The Young Ones*

# Introduction

During the summer of 2014, over 54 volunteers from more than 10 Countries took part in the monthly Volunteer Fortnights at Chisholme, which ran through the summer months from April to September.

Much of their time was spent working in the Kitchen Garden. Without their enthusiasm and hard work, the garden would have been in trouble. With their youthful input, it produced an abundance of fruit and vegetables like no other year.

For the volunteers, the experience wasn't just digging and planting and weeding, though there was plenty of all those. The Fortnights combined work with a programme of meditation, study and conversation which by many was taken up with enthusiasm. The boundary between Course and Volunteer Programme was broken down. These wonderful young people were a central part of the summer at Chisholme.

They drunk of the Presence of the place, lived it and loved it, and gave a huge amount in return

John Hill





# Vital Statistics

1 walled garden planted and  
maintained

6 months

15 countries

53 volunteers

3720 man hours

loads and loads of logs chopped,  
weeds weeded

&

incredible meals prepared



# A global effort



Ian  
Helen  
Louise  
Ruby  
Bill  
Mary  
Susan  
Peter  
Ghoufran  
Shiho  
Josh  
Eliza  
John  
Gavin  
Karen  
Simon  
Alessandro  
Sara  
Erwan  
Patricia  
Rabia-Baqia  
Julia  
Jade  
Florian  
Hannes  
Sam  
Hanna  
Jo  
Laura  
Rosanna  
Lucija  
Jeff  
Timothee  
Ana  
Richard  
Sarah  
Lindsey  
Ricardo  
Annabel  
Martha Luise  
Florian  
Laurene  
Sharon  
Elisha  
Claus  
Stephen  
Jason  
Russel  
Sudie  
Olmo  
Mark  
Jenny  
Raquel

Scotland  
England  
Japan  
France  
Estonia  
Germany  
Catalonia  
Italy  
USA  
Australia  
Finland  
Slovenia  
Holland  
Israel  
Belgium<sup>4</sup>

# April



The garden week was the second week of the Forestry and Garden Fortnight, and in many ways more followed the pattern of previous forestry fortnights – many of the volunteers were from the Forestry Fortnight ‘gang’.

It was wonderful weather and allowed us to get on the ground in a way that was unusual for this time of year. This was the week when real preparation and planting work happened.

**Day 1** Planting Early potato bed using traditional trenching and composting method

**Day 2** Planting Main crop potatoes - preparing onion bed started

**Day 3** Planting onions started

**Day 4** Prepare main crop potato bed and broad bean, continue planting onions

**Day 5** Planting main crop potatoes, broad beans, peas

**Day 6** Finish onions, prepare roots

**Day 7** Begin sowing roots, prepare and plant first brassicas

A fantastic body of work!



# May



- Finish sowing root crops
- Prepare and plant remainder of peas, first French and Runner beans
- Prepare and plant first leeks
- Prepare main poly tunnel – plant first courgettes
- Plant more brassicas and brassica seed bed

# June



- Finish planting French beans, Runner beans
- Plant second leeks
- Finish planting in polytunnel
- Finish planting brassicas
- Begin weeding



# July



- Mainly weeding
- Lift first early potatoes
- Lots of picking





# August



- Continue harvesting and weeding





# September



- Continue harvesting, storing and freezing
- Vegetable sales
- Dig over beds after crop
- Prepare tunnels for Autumn planting





*Essentially, life at Chisholme is peaceful and fulfilling. I did meaningful work every day, and I went to bed and ate meals feeling as if I'd truly earned them. Chisholme is a place that attracts creative, introspective, artistic, thoughtful, open-minded, curious and adventurous souls from across the world. It is a place to come for quiet retreat (away from the hectic bustle that so often characterizes our lives), honest and fulfilling labor, scenic vistas, delicious food, and courses dedicated to self-growth...I found my actualization and spiritual satisfaction digging in the garden, baking in the kitchen, drinking coffee behind the shed, hiking in the hills, and swimming in the lochs.*

**Lindsey, August Volunteer**

