

From seed to plate: Ferring Country Centre customers share their harvest with the community

A Produce Stand created from scratch by Ferring Country Centre's Day Service customers is helping homegrown fruit and vegetables make their way from the Centre's allotment into homes across the local community.

The project has brought together the skills and hard work of customers from across the Day Service. The stand itself was designed and built from scratch by customers in the Woodwork Pod, while customers taking part in Horticulture grow, tend and harvest the seasonal fruit and vegetables that fill it.

Located at the Garden Centre, the donation-based Produce Stand gives visitors the opportunity to take home fresh, seasonal produce while supporting the work taking place on the allotment.



For customers, the project provides meaningful, hands-on opportunities to develop practical skills, work together, contribute to a shared project and experience the pride of seeing something they have created being enjoyed and valued by others.

Once ready, produce is harvested and prepared for the stand, where members of the public can choose what they would like and make a donation. The fruit and veg is also used in Rangers Café.

Day Service customer Daisy Baker-Cliff said:



"We grow a variety of fruits and vegetables here and put them out on our Produce Stand, where they're available for members of the public to make a donation.

"I'm really passionate about cooking, so I get to see the produce come full circle, right from a tiny seed to it being on my plate and in a dish. It's very fulfilling and satisfying to get to do something like that."

Donations made at the stand are reinvested into the allotment, helping to purchase seeds, plants and equipment so customers can continue growing and developing their horticultural skills throughout the seasons.

The initiative is also a fitting example of Ferring Country Centre's 40th anniversary theme, 'One Thing – Give, Share & Grow', in action.

From the Woodwork Pod sharing their skills to build the stand, to Horticulture customers growing and sharing their produce, and visitors giving through their donations, the project shows how individual contributions can come together to create something that benefits everyone.



Ferring Country Centre would like to thank everyone who has supported the Produce Stand by taking home something grown on the allotment, making a donation or stopping to see and celebrate what customers have achieved.

Every contribution helps the allotment continue to flourish and creates further opportunities for Day Service customers to learn, participate, develop their skills and take pride in what they accomplish.