

Oban Community Past, Present and

THE OBAN Community Sensory Garden will be the place where everyone can enjoy the best tastes, feels, smells, sights and sounds.

For over a year, a small group of people with disabilities have been the driving force behind the project which aims to plant the seeds to a legacy of community well-being and social inclusion.

With the project's major St Valentine's fundraiser dance taking place next month, it's time to take a look at what the Oban Community Sensory Garden is about.

In the beginning...

The Oban Community Sensory Garden originated from a Community Building Training Course which was attended by people with learning and physical disabilities, support staff, parents, carers, two police officers and Reverend Andy Campbell.

During the course everyone was asked to choose a topic that would develop greater community capacity and social inclusion for people with disabilities. On the course was Catriona Campbell, Morag Murdoch and Marion Power, who decided that they would like to create a community sensory garden with access for everyone.

Within a day of the course finishing the group began making enquiries. Listeners of Oban FM were asked where they would like to have a sensory garden in Oban. The Board of Trustees of Christ Church agreed to offer a piece of land in front of Oban's Christ Church on the Corran Esplanade.

Now it was time to decide just what should go into the sensory garden? It was agreed that plants of mixed species, trees and indigenous shrubs would be planted along with a wild flower area to attract butterflies, birds and beasties.

To encompass the five senses, specific areas where to be made for each sense: for **taste**, a herbal area and berries for birds; for **sound**, a water feature and bird houses; for **sight**, a mixture of colourful plants, paths and ornaments; for **smell**, herbs and sweet smelling plants, and for **touch**, there will be sculptures, ornaments, signs with Braille and plants. Raised beds will be included.

What's happening now...

With the vision for the garden in place, it is now about pulling everyone together to make it happen.

Chairman of the project Catriona Campbell, secretary Mairi Scott and treasurer Joanna Kirsop with help from key committee members Kerry MacLean, Andrew Kingsbury, Graham Scott and John Thomson (all of whom have a disability) have got people and groups from across the community to start working together to get the project in bloom.

Four sub groups have been created to take charge of different aspects of the project. This is a Management Group to oversee the work; a Grants Group who diligently research and apply for grant funding; a Construction and Design Group, who discuss plans, designs and constructions; and finally there is a



Sight



Sound



Touch



Taste



Smell

St Valentine's

Saturday February

Corran Hall

Doors Open at
LOCAL LIVE

Licensed bar (18 and over) Tickets
Raffle and door prizes • Wheelchairs

Tickets available from

Alba, Oban Music, Urban Summits,
Tourist Information Centres (Oban, Fort William
Inveraray & Campbeltown), Square Peg (Lochgil
Funds towards Oban Community Sensory Garden)