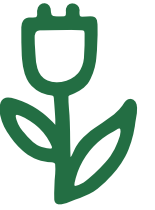


## **Roots & Branches**

Seeds for Action Case Study 2022–23

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# **Greening the Museum**

REME Museum

# REME Museum

The REME Museum tells the story of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from its formation in 1942 to present day.

Whether it's keeping an Apache attack helicopter battle ready or recovering a Challenger tank under fire, REME personnel make sure that cutting edge kit is ready for action.





# The project: Greening the Museum

‘Greening the Museum’ is a project funded by South West Museum Development and Arts Council England. It has overseen the creation of a wildflower garden and ‘Dig for Victory’ vegetable patch in the Museum’s grounds.



The following actions outline the project’s key aims and outcomes:

- Locally sourced wildflower seeds and pollinator-friendly plants have been planted to create an attractive garden for insects and wildlife.
- Outdoor interpretation panels will highlight the Museum’s climate action and encourage others to take similar steps.
- Once the ‘Dig for Victory’ garden is established, it will contribute produce to the Museum’s Café.
- We have developed partnerships with the RSPCA, Wiltshire Wood Recycling and Men’s Shed to complete the project.

# The project: Greening the Museum



Once the project was underway, the Museum successfully applied for a further grant of £500 from ASDA as part of a scheme whereby they help fund community projects. This allowed us to incorporate more plants in the scheme and add some additional features.

The local Alzheimer's Support Group volunteer in the gardens once every fortnight to help with maintenance.



# Impacts and Outcomes



Staff have a deeper understanding of minimising a project's carbon footprint.

This has been the result of purchasing locally sourced and reclaimed materials, researching and talking to suppliers.



Sensory plants have been incorporated at the edge of the garden for visitors to interact with, providing an additional benefit to mental wellbeing.



The Museum has broadened its partnerships in the local area to include wildlife charities, community groups and recycling organisations.



Visiting schools will have access to a replica WWII garden to enhance our outreach activities.



The Museum is more actively engaging in action on the climate crisis.

A new 2023 exhibition considers food and REME and discusses the re-emergence of 'grow your own'.

Interpretation encourages visitors to access our new garden for inspiration.



# Challenges and Barriers



The **initial ground preparation** and its **ongoing maintenance** prior to the establishment of the wildflower garden has presented a challenge. Significant help has been provided by volunteers from REME in overcoming these issues.

In order to make the garden more manageable in this initial stage, the Museum has **slightly reduced the garden's area for the time being**. This will ensure that the initial project is completed to the best of our ability. We will look to expand the total area of the garden in the future.





“

We hope that creating a wildflower garden will **encourage insects** and go some way in helping to maintain the populations of bees, butterflies and other insects that are **crucial to the ecosystem.**

Lucy Brown, Digital Marketing Officer



Your project sounds  
amazing and it would  
be something that  
we would be keen  
to get involved in.

Project Partner





# Next steps and future climate actions

- After introducing bird boxes, bat boxes and hedgehog houses, **a wildlife camera** is planned to monitor the impact of the garden.
- There may be scope in the future to **expand the existing size of the wildflower garden**.
- An event in 2024 has been proposed to **launch the opening of the completed project**.  
This will celebrate the partnerships created and encourage local gardeners and groups to participate, share their own produce and climate actions with visiting members of the public.



# Find out more



Greening the Museum Blog posts:

- [Ready, Set, Grow!](#)
- [Preparations for Planting](#)
- [A Year On](#)



Laura Stewart, Assistant Curator

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# Roots & Branches

## Seeds for Action – case studies



The **Seeds for Action Programme** is part of the Roots & Branches project. It aims to connect Carbon Literate Certified museum people across England to develop and build on their carbon reduction strategies and approaches to taking climate action.



By pooling our **collective expertise and resources**, we can save ourselves time and money, and tackle the climate emergency more effectively together. Feel free to **share this case study**.

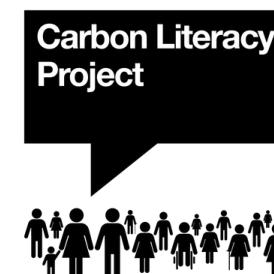


### For more information contact:

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Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**