

# STRATHKINNESS COMMUNITY TRUST

## RISK ASSESSMENT FOR THE

### COMMUNITY GARDEN AND ORCHARD

#### 27/03/2022

The original risk assessment was carried out on 15/11/2018 by Jo, Ann, Bob and updated 27/03/2022 by Bob

**THOSE AT RISK.** Garden volunteers, visitors

**HAZARDS RELEVANT TO LOCATION.** Powered equipment, sharp tools, chemicals, glass houses, water containers, poisonous plants, thorny plants, infectious diseases such as COVID.

**CONTROL MEASURES.** Education, communication, training, housekeeping, careful storage, personal protective equipment, equipment and tool maintenance, layout of site, hand gel in potting shed, notices, first aid kit, fire extinguisher.

1. **HAZARD.** Injury to children. **RISK** high. **PRECAUTIONS** Although we have tried to minimise the risk of injury, particularly to young children, by optimising the layout of the area, keeping the amount of chemicals to an absolute minimum and stored carefully in a locked potting shed( the garden is organic in all the communal areas), it is vital that young children are closely supervised by parents and educational group leaders. The largest hazard is the possibility of a child tripping and falling into a glasshouse. The glasshouses are positioned in a block altogether. Water containers are either enclosed or tall but it would be possible for a young child to climb and fall into one if unsupervised.
2. **HAZARD.** Injury to volunteers when using equipment and tools. **RISK.** medium. **PRECAUTIONS** Only competent and trained volunteers are allowed to use powered equipment that must be well maintained. This training is also relevant to gardeners in the communal areas where we often have young people and newcomers helping. It is the responsibility of experienced volunteers to encourage and guide newcomers and anyone who is new to practical horticulture. We run apple days in the Autumn whereby sound apples are picked, washed and processed using robust professional well maintained equipment. Only volunteers familiar with this equipment or others closely supervised are allowed to help in this activity. Manual handling precautions are observed at all times as heavy lifting can occur. Villagers bring their own containers for juice and are advised that the juice can be kept for several months by freezing or pasteurising.
3. **HAZARD.** Poisoning from plants and scratches from thorns. **RISK.** Low. Virtually all gardens contain poisonous plants and ours is no exception. We also have plants with sharp thorns such as blackthorn. **PRECAUTIONS** Children are particularly at risk and should be supervised at all times.
4. **HAZARD.** Spread of infection, COVID. **RISK.** Low. **PRECAUTIONS** We hold disposable gloves and hand sanitisers in the potting shed for the use of volunteers. We follow current COVID rules. Nearly all our communal activities are in the open air. Dogs are allowed in the garden but only on a lead.