

## Here are some wild ideas to inspire you, which other young farmers have already undertaken

### Host a tree party

Do you know your ash from your oak? Get your club together and spend a morning or afternoon planting trees. You can take a walk in the woodland and practise your tree ID. Maybe you've built bird boxes or bug chalets? Why not put them up and see what wildlife you can attract?



### Go batty

Find out why bats are so important and how they get around and hunt for food. You might be able to see a real life bat up close! Then get out on a bat walk using bat detectors to find them. Give them a helping hand by building bat boxes and placing them in your local community.



### Take a dip beneath the waves

Brush up on your marine mammal and sea creature ID skills on a club night and then get out and see them up-close with a snorkel safari. You could help protect your new found marine friends by completing an inter-tidal survey or a quick beach clean.



### Transform a neglected space

Pick an abandoned space and get your friends and family down to help transform it. You could make furniture and artwork out of recycled materials, plant a sensory garden and even include a pond - the design is up to you! When your project is finished, why not hold a community BBQ or fun day to celebrate?

**Good luck with your project!**

## For more information on how to get your Wild Idea project started contact:

YFCU Grassroots Challenge Project Officers

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Remember to download your action plan from our website.

- 🌐: [ulsterwildlife.org/grassroots](http://ulsterwildlife.org/grassroots)
- 📘: @Grassrootschallenge
- 📱: @GrassrootsChNI
- 📷: [grassrootschallenge](https://www.instagram.com/grassrootschallenge)

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LOTTERY FUNDED



## YFCU Wild Idea Projects

A step-by-step guide to help you take action for local wildlife and the environment through the Grassroots Challenge

Get up to  
**£100 funding**  
for your project!





# What's your Wild Idea?

*"The truth is the natural world is changing. And we are totally dependent on that world. It provides our food, water and air. It is the most precious thing we have and we need to defend it."* Sir David Attenborough

## What is a Wild Idea project?

Well, it's up to you! You choose what you and your friends would like to do to help local wildlife and the natural world. The Grassroots Challenge then offers your club up to £100 towards designing and delivering your 'wild idea'.

It could be creating a local community garden, planting trees or conducting a bat survey - the only limitation is your imagination. Every year the best projects are given recognition through the Grassroots Challenge Awards.

## Who can get involved?

If you are a YFCU member then you can plan a project. It only takes a few members of your club to organise a project and it can be as long as you want, from a one-off Saturday morning to a few sessions over a month or two.

You can get as many friends, neighbours and community members involved as you want - the more the better!

**Sound good? Then you're ready to get started.**

**Chance to win an award for your club.**

## Form a Project Committee

01

Your committee should have at least four people, ideally with a range of ages. You should nominate a chair person.

The role of the committee is to design and plan the project and communicate with other members of your club. Start to think of ideas for your project and get in touch with your Grassroots Challenge Project Officer (Shona or Andrew) to talk about your ideas.



## Prepare and receive £100

02

The next step is to fill-in and submit a simple Action Plan available at [www.ulsterwildlife.org/grassroots](http://www.ulsterwildlife.org/grassroots).

This registers you with the Grassroots Challenge and enables your project grant to be paid into your Young Farmers Club bank account. If you wish, your Project Officer will be happy to meet with you to help develop your ideas and to fill in the Action Plan.

Other preparation could include practical skills training. Talk to your Project Officer about LANTRA accredited courses that are available through the Grassroots Challenge.



## Action!

03

Use your project grant and let your ideas come to life.

This is the moment all of your work pays off. Gather your friends, family or neighbours and get stuck in!

If requested, your Project Officer can be on-hand to help as well. Don't forget to document your project through photos or film clips and use social media to share your story with others.



## Review

04

Meet up to review your project and celebrate your achievement.

Tell us how your project went via a short review form which then enters you automatically into the Grassroots Challenge Awards.

You'll be invited to the next annual Grassroots Celebration event and your Club could walk away with 'Best Wild Idea Project of the Year' Award.

