

Joanne Butler

OURganic Gardens



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After her children were born, Joanne Butler wanted to grow her own organic food to feed her family. She also wanted to share what she learned with those in her community and as a result, Joanne became an outreach educator in the community gardens around Donegal.

In 2017, after working around the county and beyond she wanted to show people what she was growing in her own garden and run education workshops from her home in Gortahork, Co Donegal.

To make this dream a reality, she turned her home and garden into an educational space where people come to learn about horticulture, permaculture, growing food and being outdoors. OURganic Gardens now runs outdoor garden classes and hosts topic-specific workshops in their garden and woodland settings.

The business gives people the opportunity to get outdoors and to learn organic holistic techniques that they can use to grow their own food at home. The OURganic Gardens space – with stunning views of the mountains and surrounding landscape – is also available for rent to businesses who want to create their own workshops onsite.

Joanne really enjoyed her experience with ACORNS and found the advice and validation throughout the workshops invaluable. In fact, she is still in touch with the ladies in her ACORNS group and her Lead Entrepreneur is still part of her business journey.

With the arrival of Covid, Joanne was able to quickly adapt her teachings to online learning and one-on-one consultations with a variety of online courses that she had been running since the summer of 2020. To date there has been over 300 participants from all around Ireland, Scotland and even France!

Joanne is now adapting to change in a world of blended learning and making big dreams for the future, one of which is to open a tearoom and craft shop beside her educational garden and home.

Providing early stage female entrepreneurs, living in rural Ireland, with the knowledge, support and networking opportunities to meet and even exceed their current aspirations.



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine