



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY FARM CREATOR AWARDED BY PM

A man from Cambridge who created a community farm on the outskirts of the city, designed and maintained by 300 local volunteers, has received Prime Minister Boris Johnson's daily Points of Light award.

Gavin Shelton gave up a full-time job at a global conservation NGO in January 2019 to pursue the farm and a vision of bringing people together to grow and share nutritious food, improving access to local, sustainably produced food and promoting healthier ecosystems. Since its first harvest in July 2020, Gavin's 7-acre farm, which is based off Barnwell Road on privately-owned agricultural land in the Green Belt next to Coldham's Common, has produced nearly 10 tonnes of organically grown food, consisting of 55 varieties of fresh fruit and vegetables valued at around £40k. All produce has been donated to nine emergency food hubs established across Cambridge to support people experiencing food insecurity in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. Gavin plans to roll out the model across the UK to achieve 250,000 acres of community farming land by 2030.

Boris Johnson MP and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom said:

"In one year alone you have harvested and donated organic fruit and vegetables to the value of £40,000 to those in need across Cambridge. Along with your fantastic group of 300 volunteers, you have created something truly special in your community.

'CoFarm' is a brilliantly innovative initiative and I wish you every success with your goal of rolling out your community farming model to 250,000 acres by 2030.

As we look forward to COP26, I am delighted to recognise you as a climate leader who is helping to make the UK greener and cleaner."

Gavin said:

"CoFarm' is all about communities coming together to positively address 'larger than self' issues such as climate change, health inequalities and biodiversity loss. By repositioning regenerative food and farming at the heart of our communities, we can overcome these challenges together. This Points of Light award shines light on all of our amazing co-farmers - over 300 to date - who have put so much love, time, energy and joy into co-designing and co-creating their own community farm in Cambridge.

"Since the start of the pandemic, under the expert horticultural guidance of Peter Wrapson and Dominic Walsh, we have - together - organically grown over 10 tonnes of fruit and vegetables for those in our city who experience food insecurity. We thank

the Prime Minister for his recognition of this community response and, in so doing, for shining light on needs that may otherwise remain hidden within our communities, our ecosystems and the soils beneath our feet. We look forward to positively addressing these needs together as we scale-up the 'CoFarm' model with and for communities across the UK by 2030."

Gavin is the 1751st person to receive the Prime Minister's UK daily Points of Light award, which was first launched in April 2014 to recognise outstanding individuals making a difference where they live. Each day, someone, somewhere in the country is selected to receive the award to celebrate their remarkable achievements, including hundreds of volunteers who have been recognised for how they have served their communities through the coronavirus pandemic.

Notes to Editors

1. The Points of Light awards recognise outstanding individual volunteers, people who are making a change in their community and inspiring others.
2. The Prime Minister makes daily announcements of the winners to celebrate, encourage and promote volunteering and the value that it brings to the country.
3. If people know someone who could be a Point of Light they should write to the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street.
4. Website: www.pointsoflight.gov.uk