

LANARKSHIRE has history encompassing both a rural and industrial past. The fertile soil of the Clyde Valley has long provided an abundant harvest. The source of the River Clyde is in the Lowther Hills of South Lanarkshire and the region has a strong tradition for good local produce. Now, Lanarkshire Larder is championing the region's food businesses.

Two award-winning chefs have strong links to Lanarkshire. Jimmy Lee, is the chef proprietor of Lychee Oriental in Glasgow and Salt & Chilli Oriental in Hamilton and Edinburgh. He is a proud Lanarkshire lad, whose childhood was spent running around the kitchen at his parents' restaurant, Kam Wah in Hamilton in the 1980s.

He has brought Salt and Chilli Oriental to his hometown, where his own takeaway sells street food like curry hawker fish balls and Macanese chicken curry. He says: "I know the area well. I grew up here so I've a huge sense of belonging. I wanted to do something for Hamilton to put it back on the map."

Alongside local attractions Chatelherault and Strathclyde Park, for tasty treats Jimmy recommends Cadzow Bakehouse bread and Equi's salted caramel ice cream.



When Mark Greenaway of Grazing in Edinburgh was 15 he needed a job before studying to be a chef at Motherwell College. He secured a kitchen porter's position at the Cartland Bridge Hotel in Lanark. It was here he learned the fundamentals and skills to succeed as a chef.

Local, seasonal ingredients are an important element of the Lanarkshire food scene. "It is a chef's job to know where his food comes from, and the stories behind the suppliers and producers. It adds something to the dish," Mark says.

He is a fan of Lanarkshire producers



■ Shirley's Kitchen Garden has a wealth of homegrown ingredients, left. The chef proprietor Jimmy Lee in one of his kitchens

such as Ramsay of Carluke, St Bride's Poultry, Errington Cheese and John Hannah Growers; "They care about what they are doing and are passionate about it. We have some of the best producers and chefs in the world, and in my restaurants it is hugely important I use what is on our doorstep."

● **Read Mark and Jimmy's Lanarkshire inspired recipes at lanarkshirelarder.com**