



AGM 2022

28 FEBRUARY

FEED LEEDS



Feed Leeds 2022 AGM
Monday 28th February, 4:00pm (zoom meeting)

ATTENDING:

Guest Speakers:

Councillor Abigail Marshall-Ketung – Leeds Food Champion

Baroness Natalie Bennet – Green Party Peer

Adam Ogilvie (FL Chair, Meanwood Valley Urban Farm (MVUF)), **Sonja Woodcock** (FL Treasurer, Leeds Food Coordinator at FoodWise Leeds), **Tom Bliss** (FL Vice Chair, Leeds Beckett etc), **Sarah-Jane Mason** (FL secretary, RHS - minutes), **Penny Pinn** (Horsforth Community Café & composting etc), **Martin Hemingway** (Leeds Green Party etc), **Emma Andrews** (Growing Friendship/ Season Well and Foodwise), **Dan Robinson** (IE Garforth), **Becky Mears** (FL, IE Aireborough / Season Well CIC), **Sue Ottley-Hughes** (FL, Friends of Stank Hall Barn), **Rosie Hall** (LAF secretary), **Caroline Scott** (Abundant Edible Gardens), **Pete Tatham** (Hyde Park Source), **Cllr Ann Forsaith** (Green Party), **Rob Moores** (Passion for Plants), **Rachel Helbeig** (Farm Start Feasibility Study), **Linda Otley** (Seacroft Forest Garden), **Emma Strachan** (Public Health), **Jenny Fisher** (LCC Design Team) **Alan Thornton** (Fruit Works Co-op).

APOLOGIES: **Paul Magnall** (FL, Rainbow Junction, Leeds Rotters), **Ellie Salvidge** (Sustainability at LCC), **Joe Foster** (Holland Lane Allotments & Leeds Allotment Federation), **Rosie Atkins** (FL, Leeds Rotters, LESSN, Robert Knowles (Farm Start), **Beth Bingley** (Rainbow Junction, Bedford Fields), **Dorota Hajdukiewicz** (Living Wall etc), **Camille Thomas** (Space 2).

AGENDA

1. **Welcome** and introduction to guest speakers by Adam, Chair of FeedLeeds

Recordings of all talks are available on YouTube and the [Feed Leeds website](#)

Welcome from **[Cllr Marshall-Katung](#)** – Leeds Food Champion:

Cllr Marshall-Katung thanked Sonja and Adam for their support and work on the Food Strategy. She explained how this was central to the changes needed to progress the city from Sustainable Food Bronze to Silver over the next 12 months, and reach net zero by 2030. She reminded us of the Leeds Food Commitments made at Kirkgate Market last September:

1 Buy local, serve local. We'll increasingly source more of the food we serve from producers based in Yorkshire and surrounding counties, to support local businesses and cut food miles.

2 Ban air-freighted imports. Where we use ingredients that can't be produced locally, we'll reduce the impact of transporting it by using boat, road or rail

3 Halve the carbon footprint of meals served by 2030. We'll review and update all of the meals we serve, to cut their environmental impact, without sacrificing flavour, variety or nutrients.

She also commended the team on the small food conference held in January with many food organisations attending.

We are now working on the Food Strategy for Leeds with FoodWise Leeds, chaired by herself and Gareth Batty, chair of Foodwise Yorkshire.

Finally Abigail further committed her role as Food Champion to the fight for food justice, to ensure that food is available, affordable and nutritious for every citizen of Leeds.

[Dame Natalie Bennett](#) – National Food Security:

Natalie explained that England does not have a food strategy. While Scotland is on its third, and Wales into its second, we let the supermarkets have a free rein (the PM even said recently that food was not his responsibility but that of the supermarkets), with major impacts on our diets and health. The [Dimbleby Report](#) was a wake-up call to do something about our food system and the epidemic of obesity and ill health destroying our country. We eat twice as many ready meals as the rest of Europe does, perhaps because we have the second longest working hours in Europe. People struggle to find the time and money to eat well. The existing risks to food security can only worsen as a result of war in Ukraine. Currently 50% of our calories come from only 3 crops, which is risky, as well as terrible for health. We need a new national food strategy, with links to local ones as being planned in Leeds. UK Gov has a 'levelling up' policy - we need prosperity throughout the land, and a ring of market gardens around each town and city to make sure we can grow plenty of local food - which also keeps the money local too, with local shops and trades supported, providing opportunity for many small, independent businesses - instead of supermarkets. Natalie's first question on entering the Lords was about procurement - there is so much that can be done by channeling food buying by hospitals, schools, prisons etc - to change the system and open up new markets. The response was an admission from government that they don't hold this data centrally, but a recent question got a very different answer - with the minister prioritising healthy local food in the forthcoming national food strategy. So change is happening - if slowly. Natalie praised the Leeds approach of setting up different models and ways of doing things. CAT in Wales has established that the UK could be self-sufficient in food production if supermarkets were more responsible and sourced more local, in-season food. The national food strategy and the levelling up policy will help with

shortages of healthy food, rising obesity levels and time poor lifestyles it is local and city wide local growing initiatives that will have the greatest impact.

Thanks from Adam. Then questions:

Tom – great to hear that a national focus is being taken but what is the solution?

Natalie confirmed that we have a broken supermarket model where food is available all year round (and much of it is wasted) rather than focusing on seasonal locally produced crops. Food procurement and distribution must be locally focused and be able to acquire produce from smaller growers such as CSAs and Allotments. Access to land for growing is key to this model working.

Natalie recommended [Natural Abundance - Ralph Waldo Emerson's Guide to Prosperity](#) edited by Ruth L. Miller as essential reading for anyone keen to learn more.

Ann – Climate Advisory Group have been looking at the benefits of vertical growing for productive crops/climate mitigation and wondered what Natalie's thoughts were.

Natalie agreed that vertical growing solutions can be key in areas with limited light or available soil/land but generally they are not a total solution and should be combined with traditional organic growing methods which improve soils naturally and do not require chemical fertilisers.

Caroline commented that hybrid growing systems with a combination of nutrient rich growing media and hydroponics might be the best of both worlds and a future friendly solution.

Penny – How can we communicate these ideas to those in food poverty?

Natalie agreed that as a nation we have very low levels of cooking skills, especially critical when in food poverty; equipping people with the skills and knowledge to cook basic healthy recipes from scratch is key.

See recording for more

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes were approved by Sue and seconded by Tom.

3. Treasurer's report

Received £500 grant for Little Veg Libraries
Spent £42 on web hosting
Final balance end Jan 2022 £221.00 in credit

4. Chair and elections

Joe Foster resigned from committee due to pressure from new commitments but proposed Rosie Hall to take his place. Thanks was given to Joe for all his help and support over the years, especially in providing a liaison with the Leeds Allotment Federation and Hollin Lane Allotments.

New member Rosie Hall was proposed by Tom and seconded by Becky. She is interested in the role of allotments within the food strategy; not only ensuring access to land for growers but also within the planning and development process for new builds (the ideal would be that 16-20 allotments per 1000 households are available).

All remaining [committee members](#) were proposed for re-election by Tom, seconded by Adam and duly voted in. Adam thanked everybody on the committee for agreeing to continue their role and contributions to meetings, events and activities to date. Adam also gave thanks to LCC staff and councillors for their help in developing the emerging Leeds Food Strategy; showing how committed the city is to sustainable food across the city.

5. Pecha presentations and updates

See Appendix A for presentation slides, and YouTube for [the recording](#)

Alan from Fruit Works – Business is going from strength to strength. Working with schools, housing associations and volunteers to establish or maintain orchards across Leeds and Bradford. They have held over 70 orchard events in last 12 months and the tree nursery are supplying locally grown fruit to groups and are one of only 2 fruit growers in the region.

Tom added that there is a new [Leeds Orchards page](#) on the FL website, including the Leeds Fruit map, videos by and about Fruit Works, and, soon, a discussion paper on school and community orchards prepared by Tom, Alan and Gini and Dany Smith from the LCC Woodland Creation team. [This has since been published - see Appendix].

Pete from HP Source – Celebrating a great year, now employ 10 staff and have reached out to many communities across the city. They are also working in partnership with a number of organisations such as Transition Partner for Climate Leeds, formed the Green Activity Providers network and co-designing Forest Gardens at Moortown and Seacroft.

ACTION Tom to put Pete in touch with [Leeds Parks Forum](#) as useful contact re: land access and access to parks.

Caroline from Abundant Edible Gardens – Worked with Real Junk Food project on a temporary productive garden using moveable Hugel beds and in the ground growing on an industrial estate with contaminated soil. Inedible food waste was used as a self-composting base for growing with great results. Now offering advice and online training courses and working on a new project with Involve in Hunslet.

ACTION Caroline, Pete and Becky to meet up to discuss work being carried out at Involve as all have connections to the centre.

Becky from Season Well – confirmed they became a CIC on 2021. Growing friendships was a great success and utilised some of the crops donated via SowX (they wish to fund this project for 2022). Delivery of Healthy Holidays activities across 8 organisations upskilled young people in food growing and also cooking. They have also secured an Edible Garden location in Guiseley to use as a demo garden and for training.

ACTION Sow a Row X sub group to meet up and decide on plan for 2022 [Tom has since clarified memberships of all subgroups - see appendix]

Tom provided brief updates on **Little Veg Libraries** (the first has been completed by Horsforth Shed), and **LESSN** (the next event is a full day at Meanwood Valley Urban Farm on April 22, Earth Day, with input from Ama of Grow to School, Sonja and Tom on climate and food strategy, Emma and Rosie on composting, Alan on orchards, and Kevin from Rethink Food / FoodWise Leeds.

Dan from Incredible Edible (IE) Garforth – IE Garforth launched in 2020 to support families to grow food in public spaces; with the support of Garforth in Bloom they have been working with edible growers in Garforth to alleviate loneliness and upskill residents. The groups reputation has grown and they have supported 8 new IE groups across the city and working with Northern Rail.

Emma Andrews from Foodwise - Community composting pilot update. The project has been funded for 12 months by Leeds City Council and aims to develop 2 community composting sites to help divert some of the high levels of food waste entering household waste (approx.. 200 kilos per household annually).

ACTION Emma to share the food waste report she referenced

ACTION Decision to be made on whether to use the Leeds Rotters name, as Facebook and website exist already, with some level of public recognition, or not.

Linda from Seacroft Forest Garden – The group are reclaiming an abandoned area of LCC land, the volunteers have worked hard and cleared much of the site ready for pathways to be installed. HP Source are working with them to develop a forest garden design for the 2500 sq m site.

Rosie Hall from LAF – Highlighting the upcoming events; Harrogate Spring Flower Show allotment showgarden. LAF Learning Day on 30th April at Pudsey Civic Hall. See [LAF – Leeds Allotments Federation](#) for more detail.

Sonja provided an update on the new FoodWise Leeds website and early steps towards the new food strategy.

ACTION: All to please [visit the website](#) and pledge by [Taking Action](#).

Adam from MVUF - update on market garden and stats re: engagement, veg boxes, traineeships etc.

Chair's wrap up - Adam thanked everyone for providing updates in their projects and how fantastic it is to see that over 40 growing groups are affiliated to Feed Leeds.

6. Other news / discussion

Rob from Passion for Plants – confirmed that a location for a garden is secured in LS8 and they are already producing microveg for distribution at Oakwood Farmers Market and will be progressing to a veg box scheme this year.

RHS Wellbeing Funding [RHS Community Wellbeing Grant / RHS Gardening](#) open to any community group, apply by 7th March

Penny confirmed that LCC Parks department are quoting for paths in the Hunslet Community Garden and the project is progressing well.

Tom thanked Penny for the introduction to Horsforth Mens Shed, and confirmed they will be producing LVL to be donated to community spaces (dependent on demand this could be a great relationship).

Y&H Climate Consortium – is there some duplication in our thinking and theirs about food production and land use?

ACTION Tom to contact and look at sharing more ideas and info with this group

We have been advised since the AGM that LS6 Library of Things has very many garden tools available for borrowing. Contact Jed <https://www.facebook.com/BuynowtLS6/>.

We have also been invited to take part in the Yorkshire Circular Economy Festival. The festival is fully online, free and will take place from 15 March until 19 March.

The festival is organised by the Centre for Facilitation on behalf of the Yorkshire Circular Lab. Register for the Yorkshire Circular Economy Festival via [Eventbrite](#). You are welcome to register even if you can only make a part of the event. They welcome your participation whenever you can. They even have funding to spark new activities. While a tremendous amount is happening already, we all believe that much more is needed. After all, we want to turn everyone and everything in Yorkshire “circular”! We will launch four competitions at the festival opening on 15 March 19:30. Details about the competitions will be available on the festival field to revisit at any time.

7. 2022 projects - 3 key areas of focus for Feed Leeds

[Sow a Row X](#) and [LVL](#)

[see new pages, photos and logo on the website - thanks to Emma for the designs]

Farm / Regional Group

Access to Land Group

ACTION Tom to confirm subgroup membership, and kick start discussions and planning for this year's activities and events. See appendix [discussions are already ongoing in all areas]

8. Next meeting

The attendees and committee discussed restarting in person meetings for 2022, however many people now working from home would not be able to travel to meetings so we will continue with virtual meetings for now.

It was proposed that the Potting Shed could be restarted in person and the Real Junk Food project might be a nice relaxed venue with food to launch with?

Date of next zoom meeting – 4pm, 28th March 2022

Appendix

Slides,

Subgroups,

Orchards Discussion Document

The needs Fruit Works are responding to

Underlying approach:

- More people growing more fruit trees.
- Building competence and confidence to make fruit growing easy.



1. Leeds-grown fruit trees

- Only fruit tree nursery in Leeds (and only one other in West Yorkshire).
- Connecting with and nurturing micro-nurseries



2. Children learn about growing trees and food

Tree for Every Child Bradford:

- Orchard design
- Tree planting
- Apple juicing
- Tree propagation
- Call for urgent climate action



3. More residents have trees and food grown by more households

- Grafting pop-up workshops to make and give away trees with hundreds of people.
- Increasing tree cover on estates.



4. Residents more competent and confident to maintain and harvest fruit trees

Training:

- Pruning
- Planting
- Scything
- Grafting



5. Fruitful green spaces for community events

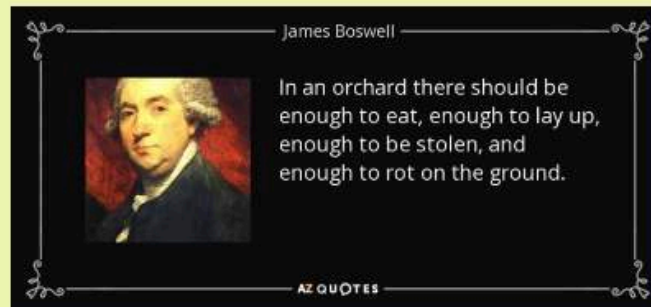
- Supporting community groups to use their orchard throughout the year
- Blossom Picnics, Apple Day, pruning skills, Wassail



[HOME AND NEWS](#)[ABOUT](#)[PROJECTS](#)[MAPS](#)[RESEARCH](#)[ADVICE](#)[RESOURCES](#)[CONTACT](#)

Leeds Orchards

This page is in development. We will be adding resources and information over time. Please visit again.



There are lots of old orchards in Leeds, and new ones are being planted all the time – often as part of the **White Rose Forest** Initiative. As few as five fruit trees can be called an orchard, but to succeed they'll need to be 'owned,' loved, and looked after by committed people.

Fruit and nut trees offer a number of distinct advantages:





IMPROVING HEALTH & WELLBEING
THROUGH IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT





OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

170

HEALTHY HOLIDAY
CHILDREN

218

VOLUNTEERS

16

COMMUNITY
PROJECTS & GROUPS

4

EDUCATION
PROJECTS

14

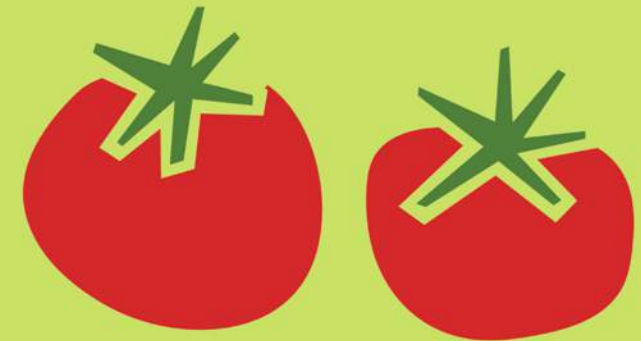
DESIGN & BUILD
PROJECTS

536
SESSIONS

1794
HOURS



As you can see we are a big fan of partnership working! Without all our partners and funders our projects wouldn't be possible!



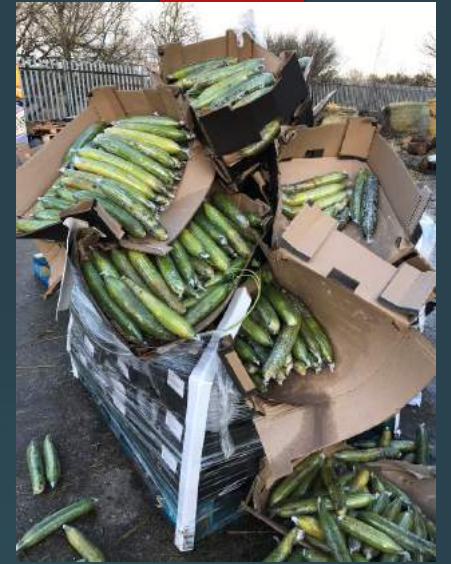
Future plans..

Lots of exciting happenings in our Community Garden, Design & Build and Outdoor Education projects as well as

Climate Action Leeds: Access to land process, Green Activity Providers Network, Forest Garden Designs, Events - with Food Wise, Feed Leeds and others..



The Real Junk Food Project Edible Garden Sep 2020- Oct 2021





Food Waste



Bokashi



Biochar



Vegetable Beds





Movable Hugel beds
Salad in crates-
Catering and cafe

Abundant Edible Gardens

Helping people set up Edible Gardens that work in harmony with nature to grow **MORE** food with **LESS** work and more **FUN**!

- Facebook Group
- Free sessions
- Online Course
- Consultations




Abundant Edible Gardens

Join my Facebook group!





16 FAMILIES ON FREE SCHOOL MEALS
CAME TO OUR FOOD GROWING
WORKSHOPS IN AIREBOROUGH



12 ASYLUM SEEKER HOUSEHOLDS
GREW & COOKED THEIR OWN FOOD

GROWING FRIENDSHIP



13 FAMILIES IN FOOD POVERTY
TOOK GROW PACKS HOME



39 HOUSEHOLDS TOOK SEEDLINGS FROM MVUF
30% = 1ST-TIME GROWERS
EVERYONE SAID THEY WANT TO GROW AGAIN!





Season  Well


BESPOKE SESSIONS







Growing



Friendship



LITTLE VEG LIBRARIES

☰

ALWAYS CONTACT BEFO...

🔍

⋮

📍 Friends of Stannham Farm, Beeston

📍 Meanwood Urban Farm

📍 Touchstone, Chapeltown

📍 Space 2, Gipton

... 7 more

✓

Little Veg Libraries

▼

📍 LVL Guiseley

📍 LVL Chapel Allerton

📍 LVL Bramley

📍 LVL Garforth

... 5 more

✓

Leeds Hedge Veg sites

📍 Hollin Lane Allotments

📍 The Chemic Tavern

✓

SowX Drop-off Only

▼

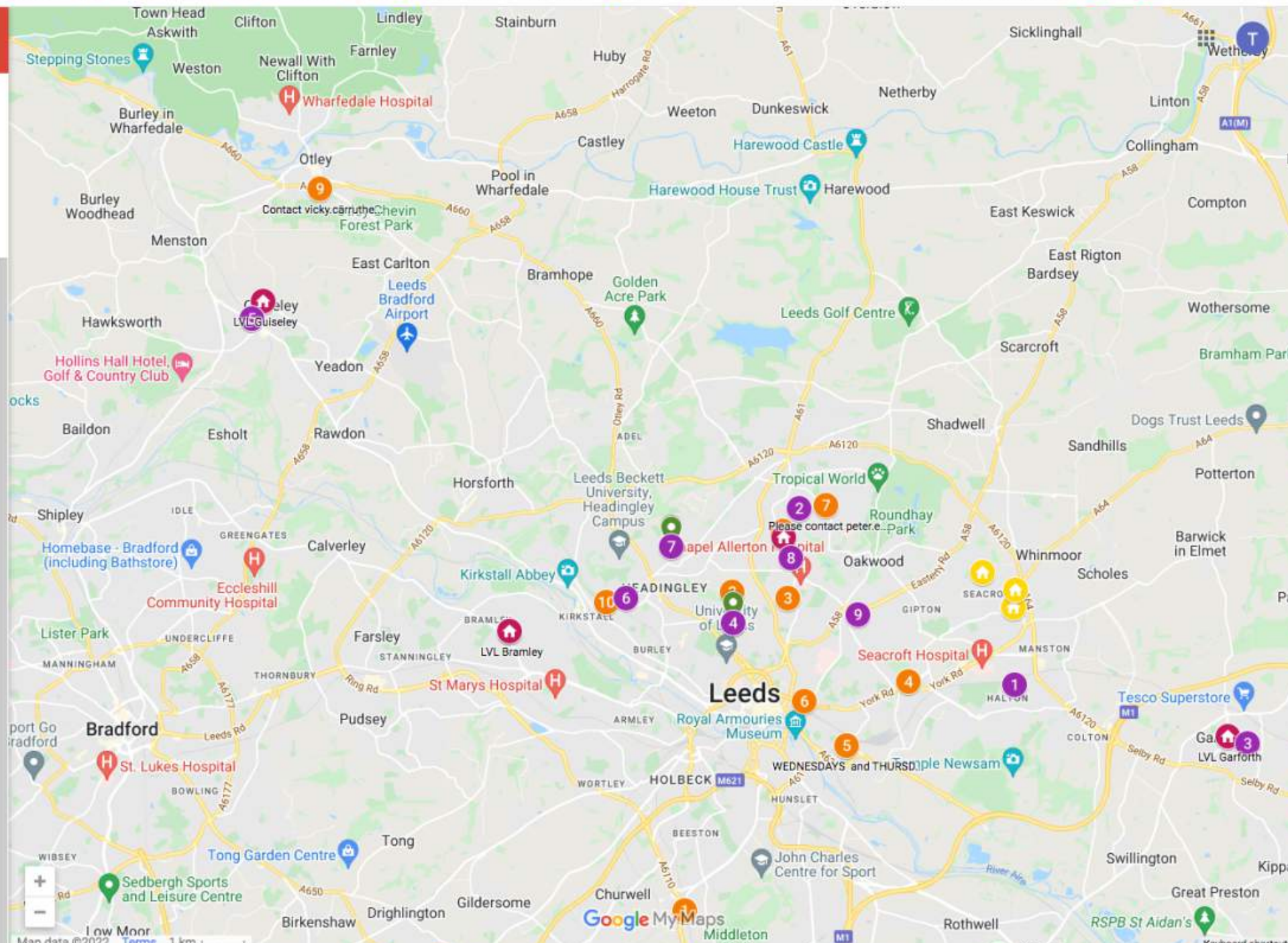
📍 1 The Mount, Cross Gates

📍 2 Stainburn Crescent, Moortown

📍 3 Grange Avenue, Garforth

📍 4 The Chemic, Woodhouse

... 5 more



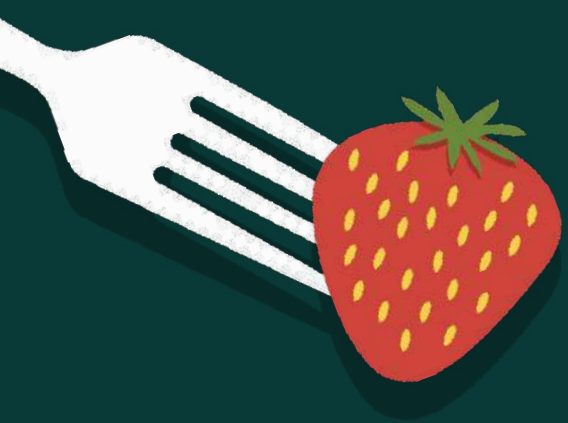


HORSFORTH COMMUNITY SHED PROJECT

We seek to serve the needs of the community by reducing social isolation.



April 22 - (Earth Day) Meanwood Valley Urban Farm



**BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF
SMALL ACTIONS**



**THE STORY SO
FAR OF:**



**INCREDIBLE
EDIBLE
GARFORTH**



PANDEMIC

FOUNDATIONS

Launching in 2020

- First Incredible Edible beds in Garforth in May 2020
- We have made great connections with other community groups and people

Launching in 2021

- Expanded number of edible beds in Garforth to double figures
- Supported launch of Incredible Edible groups in seven other areas of Leeds
- We have been working with local schools to create growing clubs
- We have worked with local business to cross promote and support



Our very first Impact Report was launched in June 2021!





UNDERSTANDING

THE THREE PLATES



We galvanize our community through growing and celebrating local food

We bring learning to life, from plot to playground

We support local and we buy local

Community

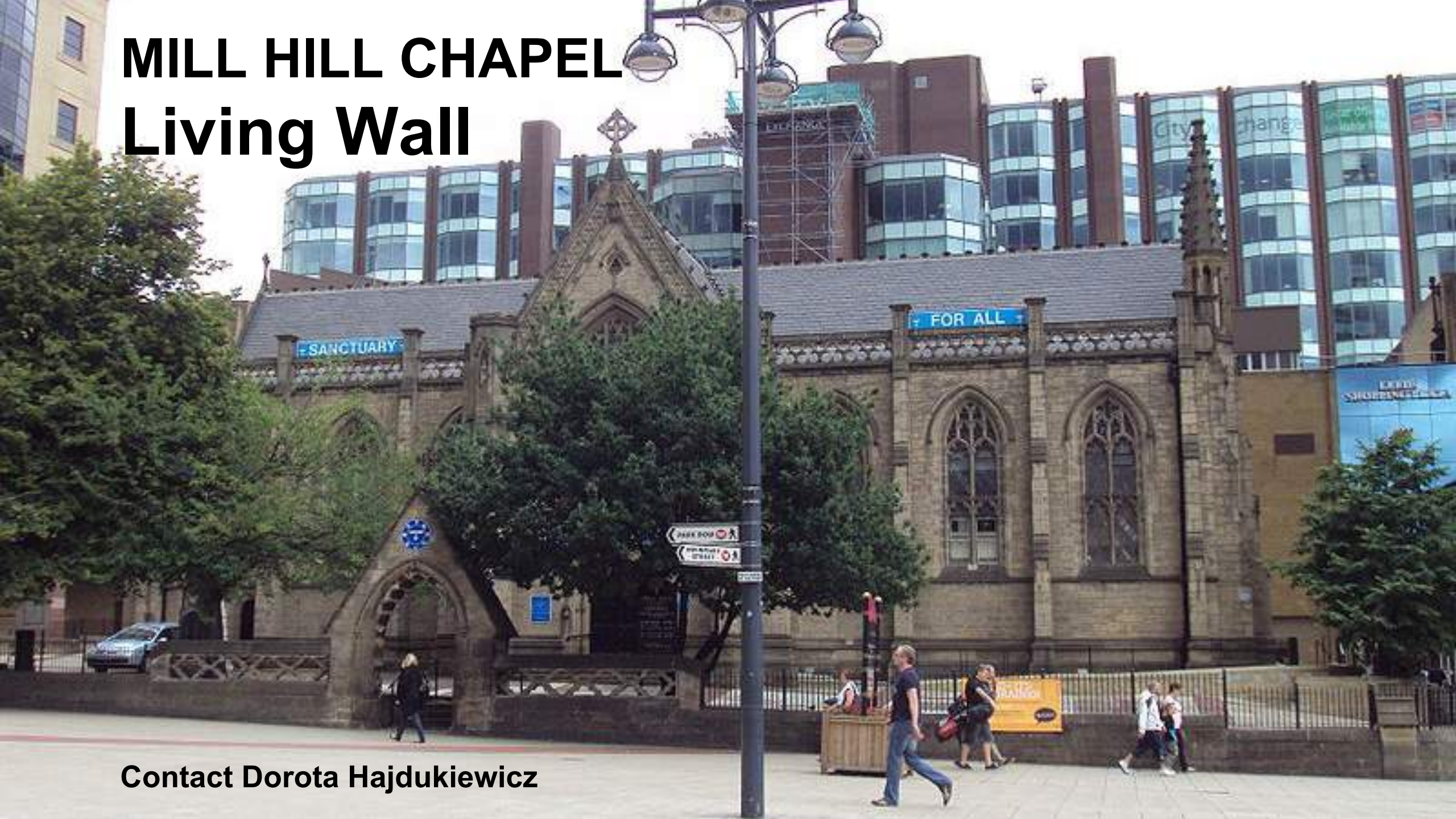
Learning

Business

CREATING KIND, CONFIDENT AND CONNECTED COMMUNITIES



MILL HILL CHAPEL Living Wall



Contact Dorota Hajdukiewicz







Community Composting Pilot

A city-wide approach for Leeds



Globally...

61%

of food waste
was at
household
levels in 2019¹

The UK...

**5,199,825
tonnes**

of food is
wasted annually¹

Leeds...

**200
kilos**

of food is
wasted
annually by
the average
household²

12

**RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION**





1 YEAR PILOT PROJECT

FUNDED BY LCC CEAC & SUSTAINABLE FOOD PLACES

x2 COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SITES ACROSS LEEDS

1X COORDINATOR + RESOURCES

BENEFITS TO MULTIPLE STAKEHOLDERS

PARTNERSHIP WORKING



CURRENT PRIORITIES

STEERING GROUP

IDENTIFY SITES + OTHER COLLABORATORS

BIN DESIGN & SOURCING



COMING UP

ESTABLISH SITES

RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

EVALUATION





Thank you for listening

Any questions?

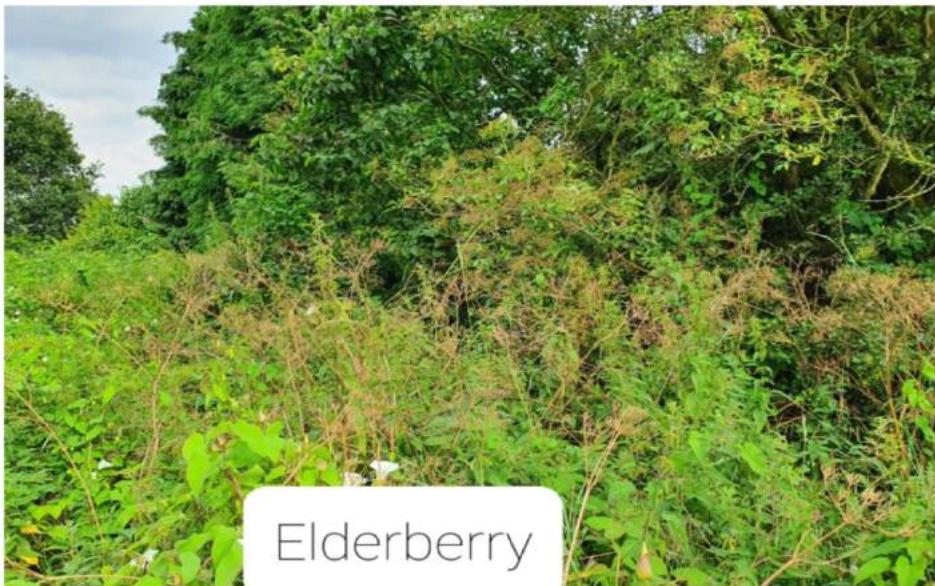


CLIMATE ACTION SEACROFT FOREST GARDEN

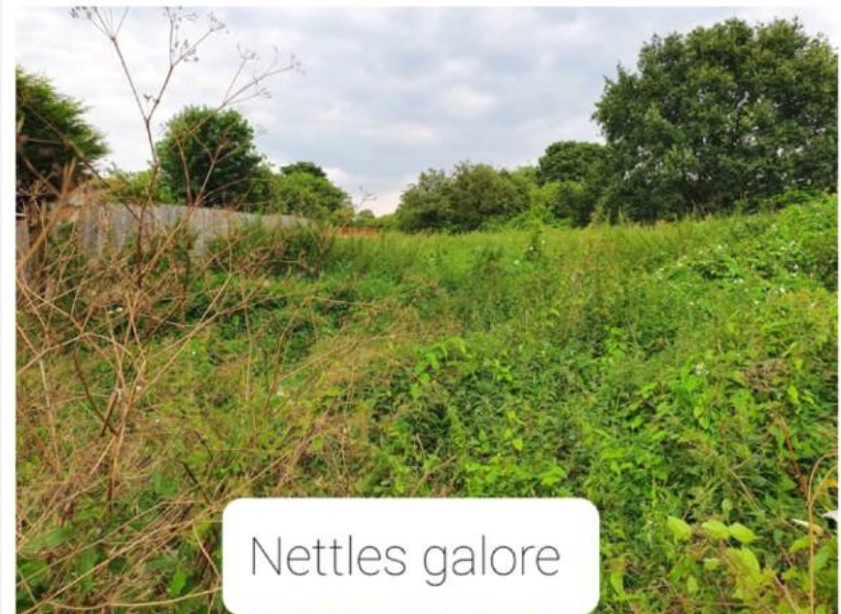


July 2021

**The weeds
and
brambles
were over
4' high**



Elderberry



Nettles galore

Over the coming months we started to cut down the overgrowth and unearth the huge amount of fly tipping



We started cutting out and laying carboard and mulch for the main paths



First Tree Planting Day 6th Feb



[HOME](#)

[ABOUT](#)

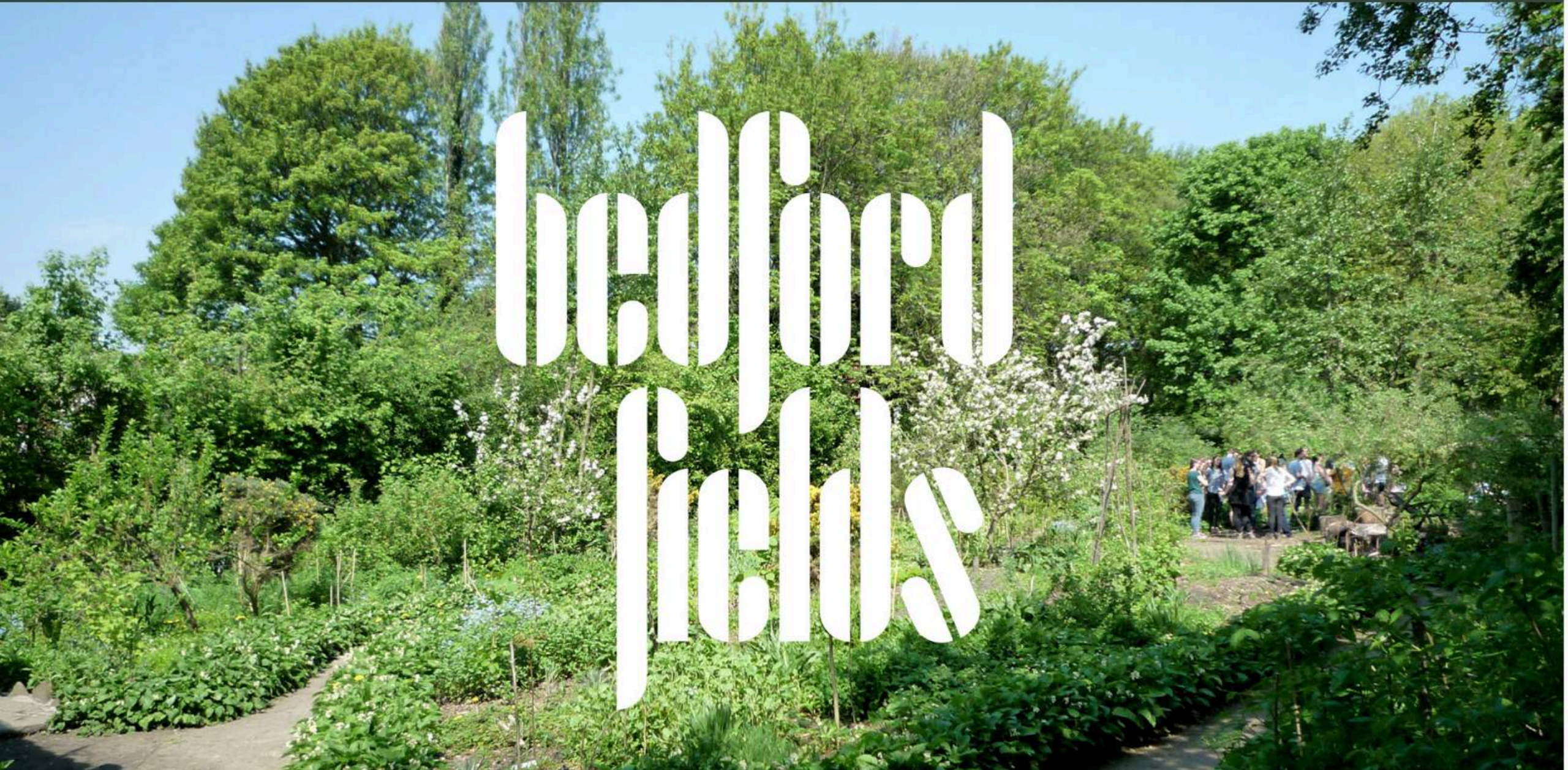
[EVENTS](#)

[bedford fields](#)

[GALLERY](#)

[CONTACT](#)

[THANKS](#)



bedford
fields



BUILDING A BETTER FOOD SYSTEM FOR LEEDS

TAKE ACTION





Leeds Food Strategy

Digital Storytelling

FarmStart Feasibility Study



Farm Group



**FEED
LEEDS**





Food * Community * Nature

VEG BOXES

COMING SOON....

Kirkstall Valley
DEVELOPMENT TRUST



Meanwood Valley Urban Farm



The Market Garden Project – what's happened

- **It has produced 4.5 tonnes of fruit and vegetables**
- **841 people have directly benefited from the market garden from helping us or being part of a workshop or event**
- **A weekly volunteering programme that feeds and teaches its helpers with 155 volunteers over the year averaging 25 volunteers a week**
- **It works with our group of adults with learning disabilities to give participants a varied programme of activities**
- **It gives surplus fruit and veg to the waste food café “Rainbow Junktion”**
- **It fed 43 local households through its Community Supported Agriculture veg box scheme**
- **It supplies fruit and veg to local café's restaurants and wholesalers**
- **It sequesters carbon into its chemical free soils and reduces the farm's waste by composting almost all organic waste on the Farm**
- **Its developing a 2 acre garden to its full food productive, ecological and recreational potential**
- **It provides a route to employment & training – 1 traineeship who has progressed to a community grower role in Bradford, 3 volunteers who have gone into food growing roles in Leeds including at Kirkstall Valley Farm**

Core Group	SowX GrowF LVL Hedge Veg	Land Access (Lobbying)	Farm Group (Regional)	LESSN	Compost	Orchard Group
Chair			Adam			
Vice	Tom	Tom	Tom	Tom	Tom	Tom
Treasure	Sonja	Sonja	Sonja	Sonja	Sonja	
Sec	Sarah-Jane					
Sec						
	Rosie A	Rosie A	Rosie A	Rosie A		
	Rosie H	Rosie H			Rosie H	
	Becky					
	Dan	Dan		Dan	Dan	
	Caroline		Caroline		Caroline?	
					Paul	
				Ama		
			James			
			Roger?			
			Dorota?			
		Ann				
	Pete					
	Penny				Penny?	
	Emma?			Emma	Emma	
				Alan + Gini?		Alan + Gini
			Rachael			
			Mark			
				Kevin		
				Siobhan		
			Kate			
			Jennifer			
						Danny
			Barbara			
		?				
			Rob			

"Everybody's twelve years old in an apple orchard" Rachael Ray



*"In an orchard there should be; enough to eat, enough to lay up
enough to be stolen, and enough to rot on the ground" James Boswell*

Leeds School and Community Orchards

A Discussion Document

Triggered by the launch of the White Rose Forest (WRF), in which orchards have not been a priority to date, this document stems from an investigation by the authors into the viability of planting fruit trees in areas of multi deprivation identified in the Leeds City Council's White Rose Strategy.

We explore the pros and cons of orchard creation, and discuss potential ways to harness both the WRF and the emerging Leeds Food Strategy to increase the number of fruit trees in Leeds for the benefit of individuals, local communities and the city as a whole.



Feed Leeds • Leeds City Council (Woodland Creation) • Fruit Works Co-operative
Tom Bliss • Danny Smith • Alan Thornton and Gini Morandi (images)

Orchards

Orchards have a unique place in modern environmental and social thinking: They sit at a nexus between woodland creation, rewilding and soil regeneration, and the burgeoning local and community food movements.

In the same place, they embody the virtues of climate action, biodiversity promotion, local food provision, health and wellbeing, community spirit, traditional culture, radical action and more.

As few as five fruit trees can be called an orchard, but to succeed they must be 'owned' (even if the land and trees technically belong to someone else) and tended by committed people. This presents both challenges and opportunities.

Context

As part of the [White Rose Forest Initiative](#), [Leeds City Council](#) has set a target of planting approximately 5.8m trees over 25 years in parks and green spaces across the city, as part of their wide-ranging effort to tackle the climate emergency, and to meet the aim of making Leeds carbon neutral by 2030. Orchards have not been central to this effort, but fruit trees are included in planting mixes, and an opportunity exists to do more.

There are many old orchards in Leeds, and new ones are being planted all the time - typically for a combination of food, community, biodiversity and occasionally commercial reasons, but with climate becoming ever more a factor, as the emergency gains recognition.

Over recent years, schools, universities, community groups, 'friends of' groups, the parks department and private land owners have all planted orchards, often with help from the Leeds Orchard Project / Helping Britain Blossom or its successor, [Fruit Works Co-op](#), who run courses and workshops on all aspects of orchard creation and maintenance, design and plant orchards, and manage the only fruit tree nursery in the city.

Fruit Works are, along with The Northern Fruit Group and Leeds Urban Harvest, members of [Feed Leeds](#), the network which connects food growing projects across the city, and campaigns for good, low carbon, local food production.

There are already more than 70 orchards in the area. A growing list can be seen on the map at [Feed Leeds' Leeds Orchards page](#), along with videos featuring Fruit Works orchard activity and more.



Orchard Benefits

Fruit and nut trees planted as an orchard offer a number of benefits:

- Like all trees, they **capture and store carbon**, manufacture oxygen, clean the air, create healthy soil, provide **food for wildlife**, retain ground water, etc.

- They represent a **climate action** with which people can easily engage. This develops over years as people tend to the trees, whereas woodland typically only involves community activity for initial planting followed by occasional tree guard 'wombling'
- They can provide an **entry point for woodland planting** in places where there is resistance to change
- Trees are **easy to care for**
- They deliver **free, tasty, healthy, organic, local, low-carbon food** - both as fresh fruit and as juices, jams and pickles
- They **encourage discussion** about low carbon and healthy diets
- They provide a convening, educational year-round focus for **outdoor community activity** with strong social and personal wellbeing benefits
- Groups can come together for **a wide range of activities**, where learning new skills and taking away a free fruit tree or harvest produce encourages beneficial relationships with food, fruit, trees and the natural environment. Activities include:
 - design workshops
 - planting days
 - blossom picnics
 - mulching and scything parties
 - harvesting events
 - apple days (various events themed around any kinds of fruit)
 - pruning workshops
 - grafting workshops (Making a new fruit tree by grafting, is a simple process that can be explained and practiced in half an hour).
 - juicing, pickle and jam-making
 - [wassailing](#).
- They provide **educational opportunities**, both in topics around orchards, food, trees etc. and as a pleasant space for outdoor learning
- Being easier to cultivate than vegetables, they provide an **entry point to other food growing**, so can help democratise the means of production for those who need it most
- They create **an ideal space for other food planting**, such as community gardens, apothecary plots, forest gardens, jam hedges, berry and current bushes etc.
- If large enough to be run as a business (perhaps as Community Supported Agriculture), they may provide **jobs and economic benefits**
- They create **support jobs and commercial opportunities** such as tree propagation (nursery work), grafting and pruning, community support, education, harvesting, fruit products, sales, marketing, transport, delivery etc.

- They look especially **attractive when in blossom or fruit**, so will enhance green spaces even if not tended and harvested
- Both **blossom and unharvested fruit** support wildlife



Orchard Challenges

- **Cost:** While woodland tree whips (including a few wild fruit tree species) can be obtained for free from The Woodland Trust and elsewhere, orchard trees need to be purchased. Being grafted onto root stock and planted at an older age, they are typically more expensive than woodland trees, and will usually require staking, wood chip and protection too.
- **Vandalism:** Fruit trees can be a target. The Investment in an orchard needs to be protected with proper fencing, or vandalised trees may confirm prejudices.
- **Expertise:** While fruit trees tend to manage quite well on their own, specialist skills are needed to optimise productivity (but this can be turned to a benefit - see above)
- **Carbon:** Fruit trees may not store as much carbon as larger woodland trees. They tend to grow more slowly and mature at a smaller size. However, they do tend to be long-lived and develop a thick girth, and windfall fruit do contribute to soil carbon - and other co-benefits more than compensate
- **Delay:** Trees take a few years to grow to productivity, so effort needs to be made to maintain group interest between planting and first harvest. Most existing new orchards are on council land, but are underutilised because a strong community group was not created when the orchard was planted.
- **Land:** Secure land access on a decadal scale is a priority.
- **Waste:** Wind-fallen fruit is seen by some as messy, especially if it's fallen on hard surfaces. A strong long term commitment to both harvesting and windfall collection may be necessary to win approvals.

Types of Orchard

We would broadly identify three types of orchard, with many having elements of each. All may include other food planting such as jam hedges, raised beds or perennial plants with berries etc:

- Old existing orchards which could be restored and/or extended
- New orchards designed to provide a worthwhile return
- Informal orchards where fruit and nut trees have been / are being planted for other reasons, such as climate mitigation, where there may be opportunities to add more productive trees, with protection, over time to create a new orchard.

To optimise this possibility, we recommend that fruit trees in woodland planting should be grouped in suitable, accessible places, to maximise pollination and facilitate maintenance as they become productive, and so encourage the creation of a true orchard.



Orchard Hosts

While the basic processes involved in orchard creation are universal, different approaches for different categories of orchard host may deliver better results.

In this document we concentrate on the two most likely to be employed initially in Leeds - schools and community groups - in hope that others can glean useful ideas from these. In each case, we assume that Fruit Works Co-op, or others with similar expertise, will provide mentoring and resources.



1) Schools

Schools often have land suitable for orchard planting, perhaps in association with an allotment, nature area, outdoor teaching space, or all three.

Various examples can be seen in this video from Feed Leeds / Leeds Edible Schools

<https://vimeo.com/71192084>

The size of any orchard will depend on available space and other resources, but there should be at least 5 trees to facilitate cross-pollination.

Stage 1: Design

- Contact between school and mentor. Background information collecting by phone and email. Initial site visit.
- Design workshop using scrap book of food forest examples and an orchard design kit. (This could potentially include an outdoor exercise, with children acting as trees to model the tree plan).
- Identification of particular class/es or school groups to be responsible for maintenance.
- Further feedback and discussion on the design as required.
- Headteacher (or delegated staff member) approves final design.
- Date for planting agreed.

Stage 2: Planting (Dec-March)

- Risk assessment completed and shared with school.
- Final arrangements with the school about which classes are going to be planting and when.
- Trees and plants sourced and tools assembled.
- Planting session with children and staff.

Fruit Works planting session (no children in video) https://youtu.be/SIJ0_Ra2ueM

Stage 3: Year-round orchard activities

Once the orchard has been planted it provides a host of opportunities for activities and learning. Below are several options for each school to choose from. How many can be provided by the mentor will be determined by the budget.

Part of the curriculum

Ideas shared with lead class staff for using the food forest as a resource for: Literacy and languages; Expressive arts; Maths and numeracy; Technologies; Science (a good intro topic for climate change); Social studies. (see Step 6 in the Learning Through Landscapes "School Orchards" booklet).

Drink the juice of what you are growing (September-November)

Crates of apples and be brought in to supplement the school's own for KS2 children to juice and taste. Juicing equipment is provided - up to 3 juicy lessons in a day.

Make your own apple trees (Feb-March)

Fruit trees aren't planted from seed - they are grafted. Grafting involves taking a cutting from the tree that you want to reproduce and joining it to the base of another tree. Groups of 10 Y5 or Y6 pupils can graft 30 baby apple trees which can be planted out the following year, sold or given away. This session also teaches basic tree biology, allowing pupils to understand what makes a successful graft, and the values of trees for pollination, climate mitigation, carbon storage, water retention, pollution control etc.

Pruning (December-February)

A couple of staff members can learn and practice pruning. Ideally, this activity should be linked up with a supportive local resident to ensure that the school has sufficient knowledge and expertise to maintain its fruit trees for years to come and through the holidays.

Summer health check (summer term)

A fruit tree specialist should visit for a lesson, with some mulch to help the children care for the trees during the dry summer, and to help them understand some of the biology.

Host	Item	Forest funding	Education funding
Schools			
	Stage 1 (Design)	£350	
	Stage 2 (Planting)	£350	
	Stage 3 (Activities)		£450
	TOTAL (PER SCHOOL)	£700	£450



2) Community Groups

A wide range of groups already host or might be interested in hosting an orchard, including Friends of parks and green spaces, special needs groups, out-door work groups such as TCV and Groundwork, community gardens, faith sites, health sites including health centres and hospitals, libraries and community centres etc.

Some might want physically to plant an orchard, others might want only to host workshops promoting orchards and/or fruit trees where people can learn about orchard design, grafting, planting, pruning, juicing etc. and perhaps go home with a fruit to plant, of fruit, juices or jams to enjoy.

The final shape of any project would be defined according to the group's need. The primary task would be to provide vision of the options to likely groups, and target those with a green focus to act as pioneers / early adopter and perhaps future mentors.

Phase 1: Promotion and recruitment

Fruit Works, supported by Feed Leeds and LCC, would promote the scheme and recruit participants through spring and early summer.

We would identify hosts, sites for orchard planting, and locations for “pop-up” fruit tree making sessions (grafting, planting and planning). We would also support the securing of permissions and funding as required.

Phase 2: Planting and workshops

In late summer and early autumn, we would run pop-up tree-making sessions, Apple Days and other events to build up the groups. This might include trees and fruit bushes to take away and plant at home or other suitable sites, apart from the planned orchard.

In late autumn and winter, we would supervise planting sessions for the new orchard sites, and run pruning and other maintenance workshops for existing orchards.

Phase 3: Nurturing both carbon capture and conversations

We would keep in touch with participants with encouragement, advice and signposting to other services and activities.

Project	Item	Forest Funding	Community funding
	Publicity		£250
	Grafting equipment and supplies	£350	
	Compost		£100
	Venue costs		£550
	Transport		£200

Communities	Materials for 400 trees and bushes	£1050	
	2 days of preparation by Fruit Works team of two staff @ £300	£650	
	5 days of training by Fruit Works team of two staff @ £300		£1550
	1 day of follow-up by Fruit Works team of two staff @ £300		£350
	TOTAL (PER COMMUNITY)	£2050	£3000

Funding Sources

As this document is focussed on providing multiple benefits on a cross-cutting basis, proposed orchards will need grant support for relevant areas of the project. One of the primary tasks will be the identification of suitable sources of funding.

The funders we tend to recommend include:

<https://treecouncil.org.uk/take-action/grants-for-trees/>

www.charlesandelsiesykestrust.co.uk

www.grantscape.org.uk/fund/cairdpeckfieldcommunityfund/

<https://hdhwills.org/grants/>

We have broken down the costs of a project and identified an amount that will cover the costs of the trees from the Fruit Works Nursery (other sources may prove more expensive). This would allow the project to get the trees in the ground, in identified suitable areas, and support the targets of the White Rose Forest.

Further funding will be needed to cover educational and workshop elements if included. These will enable projects to achieve targets of the White Rose Forest, and address wider carbon saving issues across the climate emergency.

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