

#TreeActionManchester

Interim Report | Spring 2021



**THE ORCHARD
PROJECT**

Bringing orchards into the heart
of urban communities

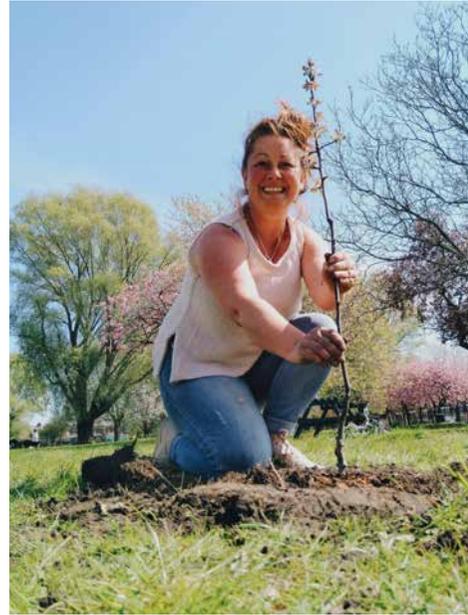


LOCATION:
PLATT LANE ORCHARD,
PLATT FIELDS PARK.

PLANTING DATE: 11.4.21

16 trees in total have now been planted in a new section of community orchard on the Platt Lane side of the park.

Including a mulberry kindly donated by local residents in memory of a dear neighbour who propagated it. The community came out in force for this one and we had one more surprise on this day, turn over to find out more.



LOCATION:
DELAMERE PARK ORCHARD,
OPENSHAW.

PLANTING DATE: 25.4.21

13 trees have now been added to this forgotten side of the park.

A nice mix of apples, pears, cherry, plum and even a quince. One extra tree was donated by local LGBTQI residents and was grafted by them as a 'family tree'. Meaning it's got two varieties grafted onto one rootstock. Oh, and a cobnut, don't forget the cobnut!



LOCATION:
PLAYING FIELDS ORCHARD,
MERSEYBANK.

PLANTING DATE: 1.5.21

The design of this mixed fruit and nut orchard of 17 trees, mirrors the lay-of-the-land.

When peering from above it follows the circular nature of the site. It was a challenging planting day, with some neighbours sharing concerns about the project. We heard these and continue to support this site to reach its full potential as a much-needed community asset. By the end of the day we were confident we'd won them over.



LOCATION:
KENWORTHY RESTORATION,
KENWORTHY WOODS

PLANTING DATE: 2.5.21

This hidden gem of an orchard got a much needed restock of trees.

Including medlar, quince, numerous apples and a myriad of other fruits and berry bushes. We planted 8 fruit trees, with 4 more scheduled to go in later this winter after more clearing of the site. We love this space and will continue to prioritise its restoration for many years to come.



SOME #HARDGRAFT AT PLATT FIELDS 18.4.2021

We gathered in the shade of the larger community orchard, located behind the Lakeside centre in Platt Fields Park, for an afternoon's heritage fruit tree grafting training.

14 people were trained in the not-so-dark-art of fruit tree propagation using a v-cut or 'saddle graft' tool (see below).

This means there are now 14 extra trees in Platt Fields Market Garden and gifted to those who participated in the session.

We aim to offer a different technique of grafting, 'bud grafting', over the summer with new partners in this project The Kindling Trust.



BONUS TREES: GOODWILL IN RAMADAN 18.4.21

During our original planting in Platt Fields Mohammed and his family were playing in the park. We got chatting and Mohammed was particularly interested in what we were doing.

He shared how his parents had both sadly passed away during the pandemic, not Covid related. He asked if we could plant some trees in their memory. Who are we to turn down that opportunity. So we returned a week later and planted three stone fruits, that Mohammed purchased and an extra apple.

TOTAL FRUIT & NUT
TREES PLANTED OR
RESTORED SO FAR:

68 APPLES,
PEARS,
PLUMS,
DAMSON,
GAGES,
CHERRIES,
QUINCE AND
EVEN MEDLARS

NUMBER OF LOCAL
PEOPLE ENGAGED
IN PLANTING:

128

WE APPROXIMATE
THAT OVER:

1200*

LOCAL PEOPLE WILL NOW
ACCESS THEIR NEAREST
COMMUNITY ORCHARD.

*300 PER SITE