

Case study: The Community Orchard Action Project

Summary:

Southampton Woodcraft have set up and run events at a community orchard using Action Project funding (from TREE) and local links.

Recommendations:

- Be realistic when planning and applying for a project
- Use links in the community
- Find ways to get everyone involved, in and outside of the District



Useful links:

Our resident expert <http://theurbaneforager.blogspot.co.uk/p/campaign.html>

Campaign for a community orchard:

<http://on.fb.me/17S0H2f>

Start your own Action Project! woodcraft.org.uk/action-projects

"We've seen a small increase in our membership as well, as the events were great promotion for our District."

What happened:

"We were informed about the space by a local man "The Urbane Forager" whom the District decided to work with to start the project. At this point we noticed the Action Project fund, so our Venturer and Pioneers groups applied for money to support the orchard. We then used our group sessions to carefully look at what we wanted and the realistic costs.

After receiving the funding, we set out preparing the orchard for the autumn. This included a visit to the Southampton Leet Court to make sure we could pick the apples and crush them, as the land is public. After identifying the trees, clearing and maintaining we were able to hold our first apple crushing day in October. We made a community event out of the day which had a great turn out. This is just the beginning, as we plan to do tree dressing, picnics and apple crushing events each year.

The orchard has helped to grow our links with the local community including environmental groups and the council. It has also helped to create a stronger sense of community in the area which is fantastic."