

The National Forest Gardening Scheme CIC
Saturday 28th September 2019 Gatherings in Manchester at Friends
Of the Earth, Hulme Community Garden Centre & Birchfields Park

Climate Resilience: Think & Act like a Forest Garden

There are three parts to this document:

1. **A report of the Round Table on Climate Resilience in Manchester**
2. **NFGS AGM** proceedings
3. Workshop and Launch of prototype: 'A Forest Garden in a Box'

PART ONE

Report of the Round Table on Greater Manchester Climate Resilience and Forest Gardening

The Roundtable at Green Fish Resource Centre (courtesy of Manchester FOE)
was attended by twentythree people:

Who	Any relevant organisation affiliation	Contact details (if you are willing to share) please add in
Hannah Gardiner	NFGS CIC director, Shared Assets...	
Jane Morris	NFGS CIC director, Friends of Birchfields Park... FOE	jane.morris1@btinternet.com
Richard Luff	NFGS CIC director ... Oxford	
Paul Pivcevic	NFGS CIC director ... Bath	
Phaedra Hardstaff	NFGS CIC director... Wirral	
Amer Obeid	... Trafford	

Daniel Scharf	RTPI & Oxford	
Richard Urbanski	... Herefordshire Green Network	richard@urbanski.co.uk https://hgnetwork.org
Tomas Remiarz	... author of 'Forest Gardening in Practice'	
Joseph McCrohon	Agroforestry	
Jo Barker	East Kent Permaculture Network (Co-ordinator). Permaculture Association (Trustee) Future Food Forests (Director)	furturefoodforests@gmail.com www.dynamic-equilibrium.co.uk Facebook: Jo Barker Permaculture
Robert Walker	Social orchards ... London	
Bernard Sudlow	Hulme Alliance	
Jill Lovecy	Manchester City Council	
Colin Bennett	Manchester Permaculture Network... Friends of Platt Fields	
Jane Wood	Salford...Poverty Truth Commission, Self Reliant Groups, Salford City Radio, The Jane and Mike Band	janewood8176@gmail.com Jane Wood (facebook/messenger) The Jane and Mike Band at raspberry railings (facebook)
Ivan Ivanovic	Bedford...	
Andy Goldring	UK Permaculture Association & Leeds..	
Claire Drury	RHS & IGNITION	
Catherine Thompson	FOE Manchester... Trafford	

Lydia Meryll	Manchester Environmental Education Network (MEEN) ... Levenshulme Manchester	
Jan Dixon	Greater Manchester	
Clare Hearn	Herefordshire	

Main Points of the Discussion:

Hypothesis: *Much great work is going on in/around the cities and boroughs of Greater Manchester. Opportunities abound to join up approaches, to bring together the pockets of good practice and connect-up green spaces; also to build on our partnerships and networks and create something more akin to a movement.*

1. The GM Mayor's Green Summits and commitments to nature-based solutions to the Climate Emergency and to improve Green & Blue Infrastructure are promising. The GMCA **IGNITION project** involving RHS & UoM should galvanise people across all sectors:
 - Local Authorities, both cities & all our boroughs
 - Housing Agencies, Providers and Residents' Associations
 - Childcare providers, schools, 4/more Universities & colleges around the Metropolis
 - developers to enable 'Biodiversity Net Gain' in the new developments
 - businesses to carbon off-set and keep their promises
 - NHS...

(IGNITION "looks to develop innovative ways of financing natural solutions to deliver resilience to increasingly extreme climate hazards". It will run for three years across the city-region backed by £4 million from the EU's Urban Innovation Actions initiative. It was announced this spring a week after the Mayor of Greater Manchester's second annual Green Summit. The project will see Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) with 11 other key partners, including the Environment Agency, come together to develop new innovative delivery mechanisms that cities and urban areas need to respond to the risks posed by increasingly rapidly changing climate)

2. Is there potential for forest gardens to contribute? Those present from Greater Manchester said it's to:
 - save the world, grow food and feel good;
 - reduce anger and despair, do what we love to do (and sing about it);
 - appreciate diverse forms of life and for enchantment (small is beautiful)
 - solve environmental problems at a community level
 - reduce global warming, desertification and extinctions
 - intergenerational solidarity and the future
 - work at every level from compost-soil, allotments-parks...
 - joining up green spaces and gardening with nature
 - green our poorest areas, reduce inequalities and improve public health

3. Getting Forest Gardens into all sorts of Greater Manchester Spaces – Garden like a Forest!

- Developments including private new builds and social housing with 10% green space
- Potential for mini forest gardens on Roof gardens and Balconies, in Verges and on Watersides and as part of Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUD) in Salford
- In the catchment areas of the Mersey to the south of the metropolis and the Irk and Irwell to the East and North.
- Building on Rochdale's ban on pesticides for example in Middleton
- work with Friends Of the Earth (FOE) to double/quadruple our tree cover? FOE nationally aim for doubled tree cover but **quadrupled tree cover** is needed here ASAP
- Join up green spaces: Forest Schools, the grounds of Churches and other places of worship join with the mainstream Public Service Health/Local Authority, Housing Association and Primary/High School and College/University gardens Parks and other green spaces.
- Manchester Environmental Education Network (MEEN) promote Forest Garden messages and support schools to establish and maintain theirs
- Cross-faith opportunities to promote greening (& forest gardens) too (eg the Muslim Heritage Centre are hosting a 'Faith in the Environment' event with the Bishop of Manchester and the local MP Afzal Khan present).
- Need for resilience can also help ensure that promises made are kept and targets met, eg the 10% green space & trees planted and maintained as part of 'Biodiversity Net Gain' in planning agreements and carbon-offsetting

4. **City of Trees conference in 2 weeks time** was pointed out by Colin as a key place to follow up this Roundtable [at The Lowry **Thursday 17th** October from 08:30am] This is a seminar on 'The role of Green Infrastructure (GI) to create healthy, resilient cities', now in less than two weeks' time. This event is aimed at health professionals, public health, developers, planners, the environment and housing sectors, highways officers, transport planners and is part of the IGNITION Project, see <http://www.cityoftrees.org.uk/event/role-green-infrastructure-gi-create-healthy-resilience>.

Contributions to the discussion from others including national organisations on the role of forest gardens in bioregions, climate resilience and all sorts of spaces

Andy (Permaculture Association) reflected on projects, their connectors and the importance of systems thinking. The whole is so much more than the sum of the parts... we can achieve more than the sum of the individual projects' achievements, including changing worldviews. The Association has produced The Children in Permaculture Manual to promote nature thinking and natural curriculum to change world views. He pointed out that we know what to do about climate change, have for a long time, but so much more needs to be done, see the 52 Climate Actions, see: <https://www.52climateactions.com/trees>

Hannah (Shared Assets) spoke of the opportunities in relation to new developments including place creation, Neighbourhood plans and the leverage that can be used to include more green space and protect existing local green spaces. She referred to the CLES trial in Preston of community wealth building, see <https://cles.org.uk/publications/how-we-built-community-wealth-in-preston-achievements-and-lessons/>

Sense and character of places needs to be taken into account eg via use of Willow in Salford (Salixtown?) and Wythenshawe; Rushes in Rusholme? and arts/craft developments in relation to local gardens, eg in Platt Hall - Platt Fields.

Richard Luff (Oxford Allotment Group) shocked by the inertia of those with power of structures/systems despite the climate emergency. As Sir David Attenborough said almost a year ago, "Right now, we are facing a man-made disaster of global scale. Our greatest threat in thousands of years. Climate change. If we don't take action, the collapse of our civilisations and the extinction of much of the natural world is on the horizon." Yet despite declarations of Emergency no/few funds seem to be moving and risks of actions seem to be foremost in people's minds. It seems that only in crises or such collapse is action taken.

Ivan pointed out that the Coop Foundation is providing grants/loans to 2000 Community Groups to save community assets. Given that they are based in Manchester they may be keen to support activities around here. That is with "Interest-free loans to help create sustainable spaces and build connections (not the Local Community Fund) see https://www.coopfoundation.org.uk/funding_support/cs-funding-uk/

Joe McC (seeking funding for a Forest Garden oriented PhD) pointed out that forest gardening is a form of agroforestry which he is studying & that there is a long-established Forest Garden on the roof at RISC in Reading.

Jo Barker who used to work in Manchester's Community Technical Aid Centre (CTAC) spoke of connections and mycelium between people and projects, and with and between trees. Colin pointed out that fruiting bodies emerge where strands meet.

Tomas (author 'Forest Gardening in Practice') told us that he recommends that people who want to see Forest gardens come to Manchester to see ours in Leaf Street, Hulme Community Garden Centre, Birchfields & Prestwich Clough and that they are all completely different.

It was suggested that a tour of them should be organised, perhaps especially for politicians

Daniel (Planning Consultant) spoke of the Royal Town Planning Institute revising its vision eg see <https://www.rtpi.org.uk/knowledge/better-planning/better-planning-climate-change/> ... and of **families** declaring their own climate emergencies and agreeing to plant eg 25 acres of trees to compensate for crossing the Atlantic (eg in Canada).

Paul (**facilitator**) shared Charles Krone's model of four lines of work (*expanded below*):

1. Improve and Regenerate (spring to renewal) introduce potential life and creativity;
2. Move and Connect to improve fruits/products via maintenance/work;
3. Operate better, improve efficiency of performance/effectiveness; &
4. Basic system's maintenance/work essential to continuity/evolution.

Stories shared:

Colin spoke of the character of different forests and parts of the Calder Valley and the tree planting and food growing there (Incredible Edible) and connections between here and there, mentioning the Great North Road, Railway lines and the Northern Forest.

Jane Wood spoke of Rush Ceremonies and Story-telling to communicate the urgency of need for planting and Living the New Economy' via seed and cutting sharing, inter-faith initiatives and pulling together around our rivers and water (courses).

Follow up thoughts about the discussion:

Jane Morris agreed to liaise with and between Dan & Jill re **Manchester City Council planning** & the Draft SPD. I did discuss **international links** with Amer & Tony who came on the Tour of Birchfields Park Forest Garden (BPFG). Later in the day Bernard told me that Hulme Alliance want to replicate BPFG in Hulme Park Also as a new park (where housing used to be?) that their soil may not be so deep... Of course, it would need to meet local needs and complement Leaf St & what is done in HCGC & Birley Campus.

Jo Barker: It was interesting to hear 'Manchester' tell us about its forest gardening activities. On one level it was incredible to hear about all the brilliant things going on. A few people being connected up to government and national things. Lots of people on the ground with local people. Lots of skills and experience. Huge amounts of skills and knowledge. And a huge dose of passion! On another metaphorical level, there was a sense of the networks being like mycelium. Running through the soil all over the 'forest'. How do they connect up? What feeds them? What do they feed? Is there a grandmother/ father tree?

Jane Wood: I had a conversation with Bernard about composting and willow ideas (?) and also talked about it at a community conversation event at Salfords Buile Hill Park with potential developers. The council cannot afford to maintain or repair the mansion in the park and have asked the public for any ideas. I love the park and have written up this meeting. This public park is 5 minutes away from Salford Shopping City and houses some of the oldest trees in the city. I found out from a local historian who was there that one of the founders of the Guardian had lived in the mansion there which is now disused (this area has so many historical roots in radicalism). My vision for the park is to be an urban version of the Centre for Alternative Technology with innovative, sustainable repairs and exhibition areas. The developer involved Capital and Centric have just won an award and planning permission from the City Council for a building that has already won awards and it was said to be inspired by Milan's vertical forest. However, the public I spoke to did not trust him and think that he will try and build profitable houses in the park. Our Mayor insists that won't happen.

I was so enthused by the round table that I was also talking about forest buildings which I had invented on the spot. The next day I talked on air on Salford City Radio (community Radio) about my idea on its 12th anniversary of the station on " Estate Agent show". Hilarious. However they were all agreeing 'cos they were saying that housing had to change. Couldn't believe my ears. *[link cut as it didn't work later]*

Our GP has a garden in a growing space in the middle of it that doesn't grow food. I have been putting messages in their suggestion box for donkeys ages about growing herbs and having a dietary herbalist in the waiting rooms. to no avail. The surgery is situated in one of the most air polluted parts of the city though. I don't know how dangerous the food is from here. Does anyone?

I met my cycling GP at the Extinction Rebellion Camp in Manchester a few weeks ago and ranted on about my ideas to him yet again. He is a lovely and committed climate change activist and has been for years. I interviewed him for radio years ago talking about Walking for Health which goes on in Buile Hill Park and the health benefits of cycling. Which happens in the park too.

Our community health commissioner Tom Tasker has declared a climate emergency. The Salford poverty truth commission have been working very closely together for the last 3 years now. We have some G.P surgeries with planters outside but they are quite neglected although mint survives all. I have been meaning to put herbal health messages in them but as usual can't do everything. I can't believe how energised I have been in the last couple of days but I was absolutely exhausted on Saturday and slept for hours. Thank You for round

table and all the work you have put in. I love sharing and singing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vd2UCQzIzb8> "Dit Dit" for Floods Solutions Awareness by The Jane and Mike Band - the event our M.P Rebecca Long Bailey and Paul Dennett our elected Mayor came to. After she'd complained about us planting an earworm. Ha Ha.

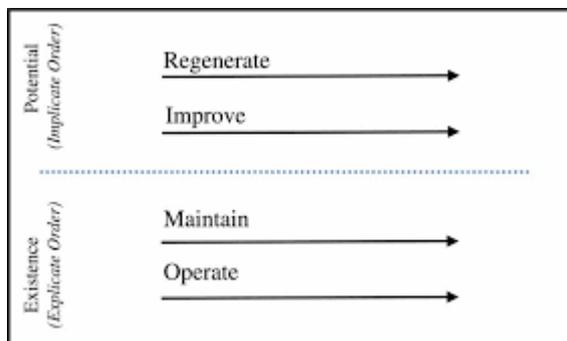
Jane Morris asks Jane Wood:

1. Could we suggest a Forest Garden in Buile Hill Park, perhaps near the mansion or a cycle track &/or in the GP Surgery grounds? perhaps from (a) Box(es)
2. Would you like to use song lyrics we have worked on with Zoe Mulford? 'I'd like to teach the world to grow The food that we all need, Grow many trees, pollen for the bees, Fruits, herbs, veg and seed... ...We'd like to teach the world to grow In natural harmony (more on Facebook soon)

Paul P: I wanted to add in here in the spirit of explicitly linking **health and well being** to resilience, that the member I mentioned who had been contacted by the GP surgery about planting a forest garden to supply their kitchen, is the [Food Forest Project](#)) Here's who inspired the GPs: <http://lambeth.gpfoodcoop.org.uk> - and look here: similar green shots at Stratford on Avon hospital <http://forestofhearts.com/garden-of-wellbeing> also

Charles Krone's model: 4 lines of work

Background: Every living system engages in different levels of work, all of which are essential to the system's continuing vitality, viability and capacity for evolution. The lower levels of work (**operate** and **maintain**) focus on the current existence of the system itself, either improving the efficiency of its performance or maintaining the effectiveness of its resources. The upper levels (**improve** and **regenerate**) introduce potential life and creativity by asking what is a system's (eg local food system's) unique role in advancing the whole."



So, lots of climate change strategies, and necessary techno interventions sit at the 'operate' level; nudging behavioural change at 'maintain'. But then 'improve' might include connecting up and putting in enabling structures for self organisation to flourish. Like your Green Summit events in Manchester.

But then at the last level, 'regeneration' we ask what are we enabling the wider community to do more of? That people care about, that there is potential for more of? Perhaps that taps into the caring culture of Manchester? And then what ends will that capability enable Manchester as a whole to pursue to the benefit of its wider whole - in service of the North West region, say?

PART TWO

AGM of the NFGS Community Interest Company (CIC)

Gathering at Hulme Community Garden Centre (HCGC) Manchester
Saturday 28th September 2019

Apologies were received from Kath Gavin & Karen Storah of HCGC & Philippe Grebart, the Treasurer. .

19 people attended the AGM, of which 5 of the 6 directors of the newly formed NFGS CIC were present. **The full list of attendees** follows, some of whom were members of the predecessor unincorporated NFGS organisation, while others are new to the NFGS.

Who	Any relevant organisation affiliation	Contact details (if you are willing to share please add these here)
1. Hannah Gardiner	NFGS CIC director	
2. Jane L Morris	NFGS CIC director	
3. Richard Luff	NFGS CIC director	
4. Paul Pivcevic	NFGS CIC director	
5. Amer Obeid	Trafford	
6. Daniel Scharf	Oxford	
7. Richard Urbanski	Herefordshire Green Network	
8. Tomas Remiarz		
9. Joseph McCrohon		

10. Jo Barker	Canterbury	
11. Jo Hooper	Orchard project ... Manchester	
12. Robert Walker	Social orchards ... London	
13. Bernard Sudlow	Hulme Alliance	
14. Colin Bennett	Manchester Permaculture Network	
15. Ivan Ivanovic	Bedford	
16. Andy Goldring	Permaculture UK	
17. Claire	Herefordshire Green Network	
18. Jane Sweet	Friend & Forest Gardener of Birchfields Park...	
19. Phaedra Hardstaff	NFGS CIC director	

The meeting was chaired by Hannah Gardiner who provided an update of last year's main activities and plans for the future.

Summary of key points, of particular note for those wanting to join the newly formed CIC.

1. CIC launch. The NFGS CIC was approved (by [Companies House](#)) three months ago. (Company number 12072766.) This is the first AGM of the new NFGS CIC.
2. Aims. The NFGS aims were shared:
 - a. **To promote and advance Forest Gardening in the UK and beyond.**
 - b. **To inspire communities with a fresh approach to growing and eating.**
 - c. **To protect and enhance accessible green space**
 - d. **To do this in a way that improves soil health, uses resources responsibly and efficiently, and increases biodiversity.**
 - e. **To explore the impact of forest gardens, and how they are gardened, on well-being.**
 - f. **To explore the potential of these spaces as outdoor classrooms.**
 - g. **To provide a model for community action that advances Sustainable Development Goals**
 - h. **To contribute to wider debates around practices that support greater food sovereignty**

3. Membership. The new NFGS CIC invites all existing “member” of the old NFGS unincorporated organisation to join the new NFGS CIC. There is a link here with membership form and guidance on suggested membership “donations”

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jaZwo2dYHUE6BGvj_WdO9H77ZiilZuzrnJOx_1vxpu4/edit?usp=sharing

4. We would like to remind you the directors proposed a donation approach as this allows people to determine what is the right donation for them, the value they place on being a member of the CIC and to avoid the administrative time of maintaining an obligatory fee system. However, we do invite you to formally join, irrespective of what/whether you pay (which allows provides consent and for GPDR reasons).

5. Behaviour and netiquette. In line with our principles as an organisation we have developed code to guide behaviour and netiquette. These include what happens for breaches of behaviour and explains how these will be handled. Please read these and take personal responsibility for what these ask of us all.

6. The membership “offer”. We agreed there is a need for the NFGS to set this offer out clearly (on the website) so the benefits are more visible to those who wish to join. In summary we see the benefit of membership are;

- Linking into our growing community of members.
- Access to our list of professional forest garden experts.
- Access to the tools, the knowledge and the discussion threads which contain a wealth of information, experience and views.
- Right to stand for election as a director.

The key activities for this year.

A. A handful of members have worked on developing our organisational principles of forest gardening. This has been an iterative process that sought to apply forest gardening principles to our work of the NFGS which focusses on urban publicly accessible spaces. (These can be found [here](#) on our website.)

B. In March 2019 the shadow board reflected deeply upon the role of the NFGS in climate resilience debates and work. Out of this came a couple of round table meetings and a number of bilateral meetings with a series of like-minded organisations that wanted to play a role in building climate resilience. The notes from these discussions can be found here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/19Ji0D6W3EKNqYw5oWq8piidGYXP0sO4sn3mAnjW2HSw/edit?usp=sharing>

Paul and Hannah have provided ongoing support for Worthing and Adur and their own work on building climate resilience.

C. Much work has been undertaken on the ‘Forest Garden in a Box’ prototype development. Many thanks for Rosie Frost, Jane, Tomas, Jo Barker & Jennifer Burt Lauruol, and Karen & Kath of the Hulme Community Garden Centre for all their incredibly valuable work on this (which was all undertaken pro bono as a gift to the NFGS members and the forest gardening world more widely). A [fundraiser](#) was launched to cover some costs of a designer (which we could not get pro bono) and this has raised about £1,170 to date which has paid for design work to move the concept forwards.

Looking forwards to next year and the coming years.

1. Request for further support to the directors. The directors would particularly welcome members to step forwards to take on some key roles which will help us collectively bring the NFGS to the next level. The role title gives a sense of what is required. We don’t have job descriptions and a clear quantification of time commitment, but instead invite

members to offer a time contribution that fits with their availability and energy. All support is welcomed. The key roles are;

- membership role;
- fundraising role; &
- marketing and communications role.

2. Reconfirmation of the directors of the CIC. Please see articles of association and constitution for the full details of election of directors, rotation etc. Hannah Gardiner proposed the following motion: all 6 current directors of the NFGS CIC continue in post till the next AGM when we will have established proper membership (likely to be late Sep 2020). At this point in 2020 all directors would step down, with the wish that several, if not all of these would be re-elected, along with other members who would be welcome to stand. (In subsequent years we would then seek to rotate no more than 1/3 of directors at a time to retain continuity). Paul Pivcevic seconded. 19 people in favour, no abstainers, no opposers.

3. All members are advisors. The NFGS have a rich range of skills and experience to draw from. The NFGS wishes to encourage all members to see themselves as representatives of the organisation and NFGS advisors in the areas they are able to provide advice on. (It is of course assumed this is on basis of aims, principles and code of behaviour are fully subscribed with and followed by all members).

4. Growing representation from across the UK. We are very aware that the NFGS has met in England and draws its membership mostly from people who work in England, though there are certainly twitter followers from Scotland and Wales. We hope and expect that in time the NFGS will reach out more to those working in Wales, Scotland and NI and this might be better achieved through creations of a number of regions. Please note that preliminary thinking has been undertaken to envisage what a more devolved regional structure would look like and this is set out in a document: **Identifying potential NFGS regions based upon a bioregion framework.**

5. Accounts. A full set of accounts is under preparation. In summary;

- The 2018 AGM forum covered its costs with a small surplus (£59)
- £35 was spent on the CIC registration.
- The 2019 AGM has covered all the costs.
- Overall balance going forwards is expected to be about £70-80.

PART THREE

Workshop & Launch of the 'Forest Garden in a Box'

Those who attended the AGM were joined by Karen Storah from the Garden Centre and Jan Dixon who had been at the Round Table.

Tomas Remiarz led the presentation of the **Forest Garden in a Box prototype** with Karen also contributing (Many thanks again to Rosie Frost, Jane Morris, Kath Gavin of the Garden Centre, who have led the iterative prototype development. Further input was provided at the permaculture convergence meeting from Jo Barker and Jennifer Lauruol).

In essence the idea is to develop an accessible way to enable people with limited knowledge to be able to grow a forest garden, i.e. to bring forest gardening into the mainstream. The forest garden in a box idea is designed to give people a simple set of plants and ideas to make it happen without too much specialised knowledge. It should give a flavour of how a living ecology can serve us with food, medicine, craft materials and support wildlife. A Crowd funder has paid for a designer to get together this prototype (see picture) for testing.



Tomas explains what a forest garden in a box is all about. Could the box include writing on it: "use me for sheet mulching"

Key elements of the prototype:

- a. The guidance check list – know your land, know your FG purpose, what space have you got, your design criteria to guide you what to choose and plants;
- b. A range of different scales of FG in a box, from window box to approximately 10m² size; maybe simpler to start off with one size
- c. A selection of plant "guilds" or modules chosen for ease of recognition and familiarity, that build from common knowledge;
- d. Drop down menu to aid a more refined selection;
- e. A list of expert forest gardeners who can be requested (fees may be required – please ask them) to provide further guidance if required.

Next steps envisaged over the coming months to take this to fully developed product.

1. Develop the concept with the Garden Centre and any other (yet to-be-identified) local or bioregional suppliers (dispensing only, or also distribution points?);
2. Identify test spaces to test the guilds in places across the country and refine them [the 1st guilds should be flexible to a wide range of conditions using easily recognisable plants as suggested by Karen and compiled by the garden centre;
3. Invite others to join in to support the efforts to test the prototype;
4. Develop the 'Business Model' Price point £120 for the larger box.

The initial guild presented by Karen was the following plants:

with a few comments from Jo Homan of the orchard project & Jane M

- Apple tree (on M26 rootstock) (*if site is challenging M116 might be better choice as M26 may not thrive; also more vigorous MM106 or M25 could be used*)
- Currant and Gooseberry bushes x3
- Strawberry runners (wild or cultivated)
- Fennel;
- Chives or another Allium;
- Mallow; (*Marsh/Musk mallow doesn't get so much leaf rust as Wood mallow*)
- Comfrey
- Lemon balm;
- Mint eg 'Eau de Cologne' a Water & Spearmint cross; (*more palatable Applemint, Peppermint or Spearmint?*)
- Lavender, a Dutch one that is easier to grow in wetter ground than many others;
- Plus Sweet Chard and Nasturtium **seeds**
- Nitrogen fixer - clover/sweet pea.

Feedback and suggestions:

- 1. Business model**
 - "Buy one give one" as a model i.e includes a gift for example to a local school (this not so appropriate for charities like Hulme GC.)
 - What about a community commons version?
 - Available for purchase for carbon offsetting.
- 2. Alternative other variants**
 - Orchard conversion kits, without the tree(s) set at cost of £80;
 - Cornelian Cherry, Myrobalan plum, Elder or a Wild Crabapple tree in other modules or instead of the recommended organically produced desert/eating apple tree;
 - Climate proofing kits.
 - Provide a welcome pack for the new build housing estates.
 - Add recipes for use of produce.
 - Develop an approach that allow the FG in a box as a starter pack from which seeds and cuttings can be grown to enable a replication model. This could be supported with courses and workshops built around how to collect cuttings and seeds.
 - Build in a request that links with forest garden designer, courses, workshops.
 - Create a virtual garden club.
- 3. Other points**
 - This is not about selling a product, it's about growing relationships with others
 - Open source approach for the thinking - in effect it can be accessed free.
 - Maintenance of understory is a challenge - if not well-tended grasses may take over. Need to put some health warnings/challenges on the packet. There are plans

to say this is not a no maintenance garden. Perhaps consider some more robust plants that can survive no maintenance as they can “fight their own corner” e.g. Golden oregano or Sweet Ciceley. Could we have drought tolerant version of the kit and perhaps include a native/other hardy Geranium? (*Sweet woodruff and/or groundcover raspberry will also compete well with mint and is evergreen - if groundcover is mainly mint/lemon balm there won't be much to see in winter*)

- For low maintenance consider altering the microclimate with e.g. wood chips, paving slabs to help manage the weeds.
- Have we considered amount of labour to maintain the garden can we give some advice on this? ideally present this as a garden calendar of tasks-by-month
- Highlight this as an investment in the future.
- What about an app - this might links with Andrea's Garden wi-fi device he showed us last year.
- Encourage reuse of existing plastic plant pots rather than new pots.
- Do we want new cardboard, or use old cardboard?
- The packaging combination needs some thought, perhaps provide an option pre-packaged or people can collect the individual plants without the box.

Action: We will invite people to contribute to this going forwards via a Loomio thread.

Tour of Birchfields Park Forest Garden

Eleven of those present ie Jane Morris & Jane Sweet of Birchfields, Amer, Bernard, Colin, Hannah, Ivor, Jo Barker, Phaedra, Richard Urbanski & Rob were joined by two other Birchfields Park Forest Gardeners, Charlie & Tejani and three others (including Tony Marjoram of Melbourne & UNESCO) for the tour of Birchfields Park Forest Garden, 16 people in total.

Attendances for each part of the day were 23, 19, 21, and 16. There was a total of **30 participants**.