

Name of your Organisation:	The Orchard Project
Name of the project TFN funded:	Katherine Rosen
Date Funded by TFN:	23/03/2022
Were you able to undertake your project as planned?	Yes
If no, please outline how the project has changed.	
Can you describe and/or demonstrate the specific impact that TFN funding has had against your initial objectives?	<p>This funding allowed us to run 10 Orchard Blitz workshops in orchards in London and Manchester over the summer and winter of 2022.</p> <p>We started by visiting around a dozen orchards we had planted over the last 10 years but had lost touch with, to assess their condition. This was a very useful exercise as it allowed us to update our records on some orchards that had fallen off our radar. We were pleased to discover that the majority of these older orchards were well established and were not in urgent need of aftercare. We turned our attention instead to orchards planted more recently, but where the community groups were struggling to manage. We visited several and created a shortlist of orchards to "blitz".</p> <p>The funding also allowed us to pay 5 former students from our Level 3 Certificate in Community Orchardling (CICO) to help our project managers run these workshops, thus providing them with additional experience and employment opportunities.</p> <p>Each "blitz" involved weeding, watering, mulching, managing stakes and guards and some pruning. We also created a wildlife habitat at one site. We invited local volunteers and residents, current and former CICO students, and other supporters on our mailing list. We had 90 volunteers involved altogether, including 18 CICO students, 44 local residents and 28 others. The volunteers learnt new skills or practised existing ones. They got to visit new orchards and network with other orchard enthusiasts. The orchards themselves received an important boost to their health, which will mean they should now establish well even if they get no more aftercare.</p> <p>In one case we had a young orchard where there was one very dedicated local "orchard leader" who was doing her best to do the aftercare but finding it too much. Our visit, where we weeded, mulched, adjusted the tree guards and pruned, not only left the orchard in a much better condition, but also gave the orchard leader much needed support and a morale boost. In another case, we had planted an orchard on a housing estate, but the original local volunteers were no longer involved. After two hot and dry summers the fruit trees were alive but in need of aftercare. Our timely intervention saved the trees, and we also</p>

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	<p>got the local primary school involved in watering and looking after the trees in future.</p> <p>As a result of what we learnt on this project we decided to create a new role in the organisation - Orchard Support Coordinator. This person will coordinate the delivery of annual orchard blitzes in young orchards across London, Manchester, Swansea, Glasgow and Edinburgh.</p>
What portion of the project did TFN fund?	5%
How many direct beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	90
How many indirect beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	500 (people involved in community groups surrounding the sites, 10,000 people more widely visiting the orchards)
Were you able to leverage further funding as a result of TFN support?	No
If yes, how much were you able to raise?	
Did you receive any pro-bono support, volunteer offers or introductions as a result of the event?	Yes
If yes, please can you provide details of the support you received?	We have started a relationship with one of our donors, taking her on visits to orchards in her local area and networking with her, which we hope will be the start of longer term involvement in our work
Has the training you received from TFN better prepared you in pitching your organisation to potential funders?	Yes
Has TFN increased your capacity to raise further funds?	Yes
How important was TFN funding in helping you achieve your objectives?	We wouldn't have been able to achieve our objectives without TFN funding
Since presenting at TFN, has your organisation undergone	Our orchard blitz model was a new approach for us in terms of aftercare and was so successful that we are rolling it out across the whole organisation. This process started with a workshop to

<p>any other significant changes?</p>	<p>the existing team about the project which generated huge excitement about how this can help to support community groups better (I can share the powerpoint if you would like to see it as it helps show how the orchards were transformed). Following this internal consultation with staff, we created a new post to coordinate orchard blitzes with groups across all of our UK cities. This post holder herself was a volunteer involved in the blitzes and is about to start in post in May! This project will also enable us to hire graduates from our CICO courses to deliver blitzes, creating routes to employment for many of our beneficiaries. We are developing a new EDI model, based on this approach to help more people from BPoC communities gain employment in the environmental sector through our work, and are currently looking for new funding to support this. Would this be something we could pitch for at a future event?</p>
<p>Do you have any other comments or feedback on the experience of the TFN process?</p>	<p>I personally really enjoyed the pitching process and the support that the TFN team gave to deliver this. We would love to be involved again as has been transformational in terms of developing a new approach in our work and the way the TFN is set up greatly encourages this type of thinking within organisations</p>
<p>Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of the project?</p>	<p>We got positive feedback from everyone who took part in the project, including the ex CICO volunteers, the local orchard leaders, and other volunteers. Here is some of the feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seeing what a difference we made to the orchard and trees was very rewarding☐ - Enjoyed completing the task! Great team work. - It was great to have so much support from your orchard friends and to get so much done. - I found the session informative, productive and enjoyable. - We are small in number so it was great to have an injection of enthusiasm!☐ - A great opportunity to introduce myself to my local orchard. - Good to meet people from other areas of London who came to help and learn! - It was good to see some of the knowledge gained in CICO put into practice. - It was really interesting to see how different orchards were cared for and satisfying to see what impact could be made in a relatively short amount of time. - Good to work in another orchard, and talk with other people who work in orchards. Very good to meet up with people from The Orchard Project and ask questions which I have gathered.

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	<p>We have published a blog case study about one the volunteers here</p> <p>https://www.theorchardproject.org.uk/blog/being-closer-to-nature/</p>
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