

**10**  
**YEARS** NEWQUAY  
ORCHARD

# NEWQUAY COMMUNITY ORCHARD

**ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25**



**Celebrating 10 years of learning,  
connecting and growing.**

A close-up photograph of a snail on a green leaf next to a large, vibrant red beetroot. The snail is positioned in the upper left corner, facing right. The beetroot is the central focus, showing its characteristic red color and fibrous texture. The background is filled with more green leaves and other red beetroots, creating a lush, natural setting.

# INTRODUCTION

Built by the community, for the community, Newquay Community Orchard provides a place that is caring, healing, and inspiring for Newquay residents and visitors alike.

As a Community Interest Company (CIC), our mission is to serve our community through raising funds, together with any surplus we may generate, to be reinvested in our education, skills, wellbeing, conservation, and food programmes. Our turnover last year was c. £1.5m, and we currently employ 53 talented and skilled staff on a range of hours as a Real Living Wage employer working towards accreditation.

We are a values-led organisation, committed to creating an environment where individual differences and the contributions of everyone are recognised, celebrated, and valued. We believe that health and wellbeing is the foundation for achieving our purpose and that a connection with nature helps us to heal and stay well.

Our venue and orchard grounds are open daily, and everyone is welcome. Inspired by nature, we provide a range of opportunities including adult education, connection through volunteering, skills development, community music, health and wellbeing sessions, and arts events.

We also have a community grow space; market garden; makerspace; performance spaces; indoor and outdoor classrooms; space for families and friends to gather and a community building with a café and co-workspace.

New for this year is our wellbeing hub, housing the NHS community team from Narrowcliff Surgery, including Social Prescribers and Health Coaches, alongside the Orchard's own Community Health and Wellbeing Workers.

Newquay Community Orchard is also recognised as a Business Ally, as accredited by Transparent Presence CIC, recognising the Orchard as a safe and welcoming space for the LGBTQ+ community. As an accredited ally, we pledge to serve everyone with respect and dignity, honour people's names and pronouns, offer freedom of access to facilities, and actively challenge discriminatory behaviour. This recognition reflects our ongoing commitment to making the Orchard a space where everyone feels valued, supported, and free to be themselves.

**We are a sanctuary for all.**



# A WARM WELCOME

I warmly invite you to share in our review of 2025.

This year we celebrate 10 years of Newquay Community Orchard. The vision of our founders, Luke and Amelia Berkeley, still holds strong and our greenspace in the heart of Newquay continues to bring nature and the community together for mutual benefit. We remain grateful to the Duchy of Cornwall's commitment to supporting us and providing the seven-acre site as part of the Nansledan masterplan.

We would like to thank our funding partners for the generous investment and opportunities they have entrusted to us over the past ten years. Together with our Board, staff, volunteers, students, fellow community organisations, NHS and Council services, we remain determined to build on all that has been achieved as we move into a more changeable environment which will test our resilience and determination to ensure this amazing community resource continues to thrive.

Whether that's for the love of the nature that is thriving on our site, eating the wonderful food grown and cooked by our talented team or enjoying events and activities, many of which are provided by an amazing array of organisations, practitioners and artists.

This year has seen, and we continue to experience, an unpredictable landscape when it comes to funding community support and development. This, coupled with a challenging economic climate and rise in cost of living, forces us to take stock and re-evaluate how best to serve the community sustainably, optimising our resources and finding new ways of generating income.

It has been a year of change, trialling new things, and learning, in conjunction with talented local

businesses, volunteers, community organisations, customers, students, and staff. We are so proud of the contributions of each and every person that has come to share our site, eat in our café, experience therapeutic learning and recovery.

We have seen first-hand how great things can be achieved when our community bands together.

We are stronger together so please continue to help us by sharing in our mission, supporting our café, buying from Grown, our veg bag scheme, attending events and activities or taking a walk through our orchard garden.

We look forward to seeing you in the coming year.

**Charlotte Hill, CEO,**  
**Newquay Community Orchard**



# YOUR ORCHARD 24/25

<b>£1.5M</b> turnover	<b>53</b> staff	<b>13</b> laptops for use by the community	<b>7</b> Community Health and Wellbeing workers
<b>3</b> learning and wellbeing spaces			
<b>£11,400</b> crowdfunded for a sensory wildflower garden		<b>OVER 500</b> species of flora and fauna	

## GROWING AND SHARING

<b>4,000</b> veg bags distributed	<b>½ TONNE</b> tomatoes grown	<b>200</b> fruit trees planted
<b>19,023</b> hot drinks made	<b>3,918</b> breakfasts served	<b>18,543</b> visitors to Heart & Soul
<b>7,300</b> free meals for our students and volunteers		
<b>5,597</b> lunches served	<b>8,290</b> servings of cake enjoyed	<b>8 TONNES</b> of produce harvested

# LEARNING AND WELLBEING

**160**

volunteers involved  
this year

**43%**

of volunteers have  
a disability

**17,000**

hours of  
volunteering,  
equivalent to

**2,300**

full time  
days work

**86%**

of our students completed  
the Adult Education  
programme and

**100%**

of those achieved their  
qualification

**18-78**

the age range of  
our volunteers

**71**

Adult Education  
students

**22**

Growing Futures  
students\*

**6**

Supported  
Interns

**100%**

of students  
retained  
achieved their  
qualifications

Community Hub visitors  
received support for:  
**45%** wellbeing, **20%** for  
finances, **18%** for physical  
health, and **17%** for  
employment and education



New for 2025

# NEWQUAY COMMUNITY HUB

The opening of an NHS hub on-site was made possible by a collaboration between Newquay Community Orchard, Watergate Primary Care Network and Cornwall Council's Shared Prosperity Fund programme (UK Government). The hub is situated in our Nurture Garden, which also features consulting rooms for mental health counsellors.

Newquay Community Orchard is a designated community hub led by the voluntary and community sector to enhance and complement health and care services in the community. The Orchard is well-placed to provide a range of services, building on our approach to provide nature-based therapeutic activities that enable

learning, connection and improved wellbeing.

Throughout the week, a variety of NHS staff, including health coaches and Social Prescribers, as well as our own Community Health and Wellbeing Workers (CHWW), are present in the Hub. They hold a drop-in session every Thursday for the community to get support, advice and guidance. Having NHS staff on-site has improved collaboration, as demonstrated by the Well Fed trial. This pilot programme distributes vegetable bags to patients with diabetes and includes activities such as harvesting and cooking sessions, aimed at improving both their physical and mental wellbeing.

## From diabetes diagnosis to **'veg man in the village'**: how Nigel was inspired to lead a healthier lifestyle.

“When I was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, it was completely out of the blue. My GP thought it would be a good idea for me to lose a bit of weight and the Social Prescribing team recommended Well Fed to help me along. I signed up and received a couple of months of the lovely veg bags from Newquay Community Orchard.

I started going and collecting the veg bags once a week and that led to some very dramatic changes in my thoughts about food; what I was cooking and eating, and where it was coming from. I started to grow my own food - something I would never have dreamt of before. With the veg bags, there was an email that would tell you what's in your bag and give you some ideas of things to cook – like soup.

One thing that I was adamant about is I wouldn't waste anything. I thought if people are being good enough to give me this then I'm going to make sure that I make good use of it. If I grow too much, for example, I'll give extras away to friends, neighbours and my wider community.

This has made a big difference to my life. And I'm happy to report my health's much improved now. I'm two stone lighter, full of energy and getting a nice reputation for being the 'veg man in the village' as well!”



# MEET THE COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING TEAM

Based in the NHS hub are Social Prescribers, Health Coaches and our Community Health and Wellbeing Workers (CHWW).

This year saw further investment by the NHS Integrated Care Board to expand the innovative Community Health and Wellbeing Project. The team at Newquay Community Orchard increased to 7 providing enhanced services to the Hub in Newquay. Following a three-month induction and training programme, the team began delivering support directly in the community. Focusing on pre-identified areas, they have worked to increase engagement and provide tailored support to

residents for their health and wellbeing. To date, the Newquay CHWW team has supported over 130 households, delivering compassionate, person-centred care that promotes physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing. With a truly multigenerational approach, the team reaches individuals of all ages, ensuring inclusive and accessible support for everyone. Key aspects of their work include home visits for residents who are unable to access community spaces, ensuring no one is left behind. The team also connects individuals to local projects, including activities at Newquay Community Orchard, fostering stronger community ties, a sense of purpose, and connection to nature.

By working closely with Volunteer Cornwall, the NHS, and other local support organisations, the team delivers a holistic and joined-up approach to care. Their work spans from one-to-one support and signposting to social groups, wellbeing walks, and public health initiatives. Through their dedication, empathy, and collaborative working, the Community Health and Wellbeing Team at Newquay Community Orchard is making a measurable difference - strengthening connections, reducing isolation, and helping Newquay become a healthier, more resilient community.



“Newquay Community Orchard is a beautiful place to work and very friendly. We’ve settled in well and made good connections with the staff, counsellors next door and the volunteers. We’ve also learnt more about the programmes, courses and volunteering opportunities, which is important for our work.”

*Izzy, Social Prescriber for Watergate PCN*



# YOUR ORCHARD

## Green Flag for Newquay Community Orchard

The Green Flag Award, an international standard for excellence in parks and green spaces, was presented to Newquay Community Orchard in 2025 for the 9th consecutive year. The Green Flag Award scheme, run by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy on behalf of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, recognises the best managed parks and green spaces.

The award had a special flag-raising ceremony, attended by Orchard staff, volunteers, learners, and members of the Newquay Orchard community. Mayor Drew Creek praised the dedication and hard work of everyone involved, acknowledging the invaluable role our learners and volunteers play in maintaining such a beautiful, inclusive, and welcoming space for the people of Newquay.

## Biodiversity

Once a simple grass field, Newquay Community Orchard has been transformed into a vibrant mosaic of orchards, wildflower meadows, and growing spaces that connect people with nature and each other. The Orchard is an important green oasis amid the town's rapid development, forming part of a wider network of green corridors that support local wildlife and biodiversity.

Since the first apple tree was planted in 2015, the Orchard's biodiversity has flourished.

What was once monoculture grassland is now rich with plants, insects, birds, and fungi. A living demonstration of nature recovery in action. We measure and monitor biodiversity through community science, using the iNaturalist app to record species data and engage residents in observing wildlife.

Over 500 species of flora and fauna have been identified on site using the iNaturalist app. This information feeds into Pollenize's Floradex software, which analyses the findings and recommends planting schemes to further enhance local biodiversity. By combining science, technology, and community action, we are turning data into restoration and proving that collective stewardship can regenerate nature and build resilience against the climate crises.

As part of our commitment to biodiversity, we have raised £11,400 through a Crowdfunder campaign to create a biodiverse wildlife and wellbeing garden. This Nurture Garden will wrap around our new NHS hub, improving health and well-being for both people and nature.

We have also introduced scything to the management of our wildflower meadows. Staff and volunteers completed scything training - including a member of the team participating in the World Championships for Scything! This is key to increasing the biodiversity of the meadows.

“The Orchard is such a special place within our community, and it's a space for everyone. It's only here because of the volunteers and the people who work on this site, and I really want to thank them for allowing us – the community – to share this wonderful space they've created over the last decade. I can't tell you how important a space like this is for people... It's amazing to be here.”

*Drew Creek, Mayor of Newquay*



# GROWING AND SHARING

## Feeding our community goes from strength to strength

### GROWN

Our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) market garden, Grown, supplied fresh produce to over 70 local households this year.

Over 4,000 vegetable bags provides residents with local food, while cutting food miles and strengthening the local economy. The team harvested eight tonnes of produce, including a record 500 kg of heritage tomatoes, and planted 200 new fruit trees.

We lease 4 acres of land from Fentenfenna Farm at Ruthvoes to demonstrate how a CSA works at a larger scale. Here, the team and volunteers cultivate a wide variety of seasonal vegetables using organic and agroecological principles.

We also offered hands-on training, internships, and volunteering opportunities, supporting two interns and many community learners to gain new skills, confidence, and pathways into work. It is this learning that is now being developed under the Employability Pathways project, a partnership between Fentenfenna Farm and Newquay Community Orchard, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund.

### Heart & Soul

Heart & Soul is our café where people come together to eat and connect. Our food is grown in our market garden just down the path from the café – food steps not food miles.



Our volunteers grow and harvest the food, learning valuable skills, improving their health and wellbeing and forming lasting friendships along the way.

Working with Newquay Food Bank and Fentenfenna Farm we produced 12,500 hot meals to support people in need with funding from Cornwall Community Foundation.

This year, the café team launched supper clubs and Sunday roasts, alongside plans to produce their first homemade jams and chutneys next year. They also supported three interns with on the job training and mentoring. Two have since joined the café team part-time, while the third spends one day a week at the café and two days with partner organisations to further develop his skills.

### Great Cornish Food Award.

This year Newquay Community Orchard was recognised at Cornwall's first Great Cornish Food Awards. The event, featuring special guest Jill Stein OBE, celebrated the exceptional talent within Cornwall's food and drink community. The Orchard was honoured to receive the Growing People Award, recognising the positive impact that community-driven projects can have. The award celebrates our Supported Internships programme, which helps young people gain confidence and skills through real-world work experience.

“It was special because it recognises the journey that our interns have made, specialising in market gardening at Grown and in our Heart & Soul Cafe at Newquay Community Orchard. It's really heartening to see the progress those young people have made.”

*Hetty Ninnis, Community Growing Manager at Newquay Community Orchard*

# PARTNERS AND MEMBERS

## Partner spotlight: Imagine Outdoors

Matt and Gemma founded Imagine Outdoors to help children and families in Cornwall enjoy and connect with beautiful green and blue spaces in fun and creative ways. Since 2019, they, along with their team of freelancers, have collaborated with schools, home education groups, and parents to offer a variety of outdoor activities that cater to diverse needs. Their main goal is to spread joy

and wellbeing while empowering people to explore the environment. Newquay Community Orchard supported Imagine Outdoors as a fledgling business, providing them with a space to start their first ever outdoor club. Imagine Outdoors' first ever event was at the Orchard's 2018 Spring Fayre, and the two organisations have collaborated ever since. They started with 12 children once a week and now run outdoor clubs and activities for 120 children and families every week.

“Newquay Community Orchard’s ethos of community, sustainability, and opportunity for all matches our own completely. The Den provides us with a beautiful outdoor space, that is safe and flexible to host our outdoor sessions. The team are approachable and friendly and go above and beyond to support us as a business.”

*Matt and Gemma*



## MEET NAT

Co-workspace member

“I was drawn to Newquay Community Orchard as it offers a sense of the things I value which is a quiet, peaceful space, people that care about others, community spirit and a love of nature and our environment. Being in a space like this offers a great balance to my job, which can be fast paced and stressful at times, so I appreciate being able to take breaks in the café enjoying great coffee and tasty food which is impressively all homegrown!”

## MEET KATIE

Heart Sauna

“A sauna is all about relaxation, so having it in a space as peaceful as the Orchard is perfect. Being able to sit back and watch the seasons change, the different plants, fruits and flowers that come and go with time and the happy birdsong has created a feeling of being wrapped in the gifts of nature.”





# CREATIVE COMMUNITY

## A royal visit

In February, Newquay Community Orchard had the honour of welcoming HRH King Charles III, alongside Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer and Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner.

The Royal party toured the Orchard, visiting the Heart & Soul café, community kitchen, grow spaces, and event areas, where they met volunteers, learners, and staff. The visit

highlighted the Orchard's role as a thriving, inclusive community space and its commitment to sustainability, learning, and wellbeing. It also underscored the impact of Newquay Community Orchard's work and the significance of creating spaces where people can come together to learn, grow, and contribute to a more sustainable future, for themselves and their communities.



### The day I met the King, by Rosey Gregory.

“I recently had the surprise opportunity to meet the King, when he visited Newquay Community Orchard. We knew that some important people were visiting the site, but we didn't know exactly who it was, we spent the morning anticipating who was coming and after lots of guessing the important people appeared.

When I first saw who it was, I was surprised but excited, he came over to me and asked me a few questions such as how long I had attended Newquay Community Orchard for, what my name was, and he took an interest in my wheelchair. He asked me if my wheelchair stood up as he had seen some wheelchairs that do that, he continued taking an interest in my wheelchair and how I access the site.

When I was speaking to him it felt like a pinch me moment as I didn't expect him to appear or speak to me, it was a once in a life time opportunity and it made me feel very lucky as it's not every day that you get to meet royalty and shake their hand!”

# Creative community CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

## Winter Solstice

Last year's Winter Solstice event was a great success, welcoming visitors to explore the Orchard and their own creativity through a range of inspiring workshops. Local artist Robin Sullivan led a clay workshop for people to get creative making tiles for the Newquay Monolith project, while Beach Guardian hosted a session on plastic waste and sustainability. Our talented team members ran a guided nature walk, and a calming wellness session, creating a day that celebrated community, creativity, and connection with nature. We were fortunate to be able to offer this free event in the community with a grant from the Royal Foundation.

## Wassail

In January, we celebrated our annual Wassail. Mayor Drew Creek opened the event before the local community choir, 'The Clams' took to the stage. The Wassail procession then made its way around the Orchard, followed by creative fun led by artist Sian Bush, who invited visitors to leave clay fingerprints and messages, and our staff and volunteer team who crafted beautiful willow crowns. Imagine Outdoors brought extra fun with jingle-stick making, face painting, songs, and a warming fire pit, while our café team served up delicious mulled apple juice for everyone to enjoy as they explored the site.



## Summer Celebrations

In June, Newquay Orchard celebrated its 10th anniversary with a community barbeque, welcoming the volunteers, students, staff and our wider community to share in our celebrations. Our annual Summer Fayre followed close behind and despite the usual morning thunderstorms, spirits remained high as visitors enjoyed local food, crafts, live music, and family activities across the Orchard. Highlights included our very own Orchard Question Time where our horticulture experts answered questions about growing food and looking after plants! Market Row showcased local artisans, and great performances from local musicians and spoken word artists entertained the crowds. It was a further opportunity for people to get involved with the local Monolith project, crafting mini monolith ceramics. Community groups and charities joined the festivities, marking a joyful day celebrating creativity, connection, sustainability, and a decade of Newquay Community Orchard's impact. We were delighted to host an evening of music and food with excellent outdoor performances from the Tretherras School musicians.



## Imagine Outpaws

In July, Imagine Outdoors hosted the first Imagine Outpaws dog show at Newquay Orchard, raising funds for Guide Dogs UK. It was a day of fun and celebration, featuring stalls from community organisations, creative workshops, a community raffle, and a lively dog show judged by Mayor Drew Creek. Everyone who came along enjoyed live music from Nick Mears, as well as activities such as paint archery and rainbow crafts.

# ART IN BLOOM

In the summer, families enjoyed a series of creative nature connection workshops held every Saturday throughout July, August, and September at Newquay Community Orchard.

More than 160 people participated over 12 fantastic sessions. Local artists specialising in mindful, creative, nature-inspired activities guided participants of all ages through a changing programme each week.

Activities included everything from nature sketchbooks and clay landscapes to sculpture and arrangements made from found objects, abstract mark-making, four-season trees, storytelling,

and making butterfly wings. Parents and children alike were supported to slow down, explore, and create with guidance from creative practitioners Julie Jones, Helen Perrot and Rachael Coward, in association with Arts Well CIC.

To understand the impact of these workshops, we asked participants to rate how they felt before and after taking part, focusing on areas such as well-being, happiness, and connection to nature. This helped us measure the difference that spending creative time in nature can make. Without exception everyone felt a beneficial impact.





# MAKE YOUR MARK

On 1st June 2025 at the Orchard's 10th Birthday BBQ, we unveiled a mural made of clay tiles to mark our tenth year. In keeping with all things Newquay Community Orchard, this mural was built by the community, for the community; and it had been many months in the making.

The journey began in late 2024 when we were invited to apply for Arts Lab funding to deliver a creative project with young people in the community: one that would foster a sense of belonging, place, identity. What better way than to invite them to leave their mark on Newquay Community Orchard's 10th anniversary year? With a handful of new buildings going up, there was much wall space to be decorated!

We imagined a mural made up of individual clay tiles, each made by the young people we work with. We were awarded the funding and paired with Cornwall-based ceramics artist Sian Bush. It turned out to be a delightful partnership. Not only was Sian able to deliver the overall vision; she shared her kindness, diligence and creativity with every single young person, showing them how to use natural items foraged from around the Orchard to make delicate markings in the clay.

Seeing the potential of the project, we were keen to open it out to all sections of our community: volunteers, learners, coworkers and members, staff and the public. By spring 2025, 115 individuals had participated across 7 sessions, crafting beautiful tiles, each unique to them. After consultation with young people, it was decided with Sian that the overall mural would take the shape of a mandala, and having initially earmarked one of the new buildings, consensus was that it should take pride of place on the main building, Kowel Gwennen, where it would be seen by a maximum number of people.

The mural was installed in May, and officially unveiled in the presence of all involved, including Sian, at our 10th Birthday BBQ on 1st June. Ever since, it is with great joy that we often see people stop to point out their tile to a friend or family member.

Of course, this is just one example of our community coming together to create a legacy here over the course of the last ten years. Look closely and you will see that everything at Newquay Community Orchard carries the marks of those willing to look after and be looked after in return. For this we are truly grateful.

**Together, we help shape the next 10 years of Newquay Community Orchard.**

# DIGITAL INCLUSION

A lack of digital skills and access to technology can compound inequality and isolation, as well as create barriers to education and work. Through our health and welfare service, resources and support, we aim to empower people of all ages and backgrounds to engage safely and confidently online. We were enabled by the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund to explore how we could introduce support for digital skills in the community, supported by volunteers at Newquay Orchard.



**Digital Skills Workshop.** We ran a series of Introduction to IT courses to help the community members improve their digital skills. The sessions covered the use of laptops and tablets, email, internet searches, and other essentials. Designed for complete beginners, small groups allowed for one-to-one support.



**Music Production.** We provided a series of Digital Music Production workshops using BandLab, a free online tool, providing participants with hands-on experience in creating and producing music digitally. These workshops have proven to be an engaging and empowering way for people to develop new skills, and build digital confidence.

**Loan Scheme.** We received support from the Cornwall Council Digital Inclusion Team through the Council's Digital Lending Scheme. We now have 13 laptops for community use, workshops, projects, and equipment loans for those with identified needs. These enable us to offer a diverse range of digital opportunities.



**Code Club.** Newquay Community Orchard partnered with Tech Cornwall to host a Code Club, introducing participants to the fundamentals of coding and digital creation. The sessions welcome both complete beginners and those with some experience, providing a friendly, hands-on environment to explore how websites, apps, and other digital tools are developed.

**ICONIC.** This was a project led by the University of Plymouth where students and volunteers took part in co-designing a multiplayer game where players plant seagrass to help combat climate change. They then attended a workshop at the National Marine Aquarium to test out the latest version of the game and give their feedback.





Volunteers work together in An Lowarth

# LEARNING AND VOLUNTEERING

Our volunteers are at the heart of everything we do. Across the Orchard and at the Grown Market Garden at Fentenfenna Farm, they work alongside our Landscape Officers and Community Growers to grow produce, care for the Orchard and its wildflower meadows and run events.

For their passion and commitment, volunteers receive a range of benefits including a free lunch, fresh vegetables from the community garden and 10% discount at Heart & Soul.

Over the past year, **160 volunteers** contributed their time. Collectively, they donated an incredible **17,000 hours**, or **2,300 full days**.

Our volunteer community is diverse: ranging in age from 18 to 78, 43% report a physical or mental disability, 20% experience mental health challenges, and 14% have a learning difficulty.

Funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Community Interest Levy, NHS and PALL, we have made significant improvements to increase accessibility across the site, creating new spaces for learning and support and making the Orchard more inclusive for all. These include:

- A fully wheelchair-accessible entrance to the community café, complete with ramp, push-button door, and level threshold

- Reinforced grass mesh on pathways to create firm, non-slip surfaces while allowing vegetation to grow and rainwater to filter naturally
- Accessibility improvements in all new buildings
- Wool sound baffles in the café and classrooms to support those with hearing or sensory needs

We also opened a new accessible classroom and outdoor learning building, providing a welcoming space to learn, relax, and connect with each other. Our volunteers' dedication and diverse skills not only keep the Orchard thriving but also help create a welcoming, inclusive, and vibrant community where people and nature flourish together.

“When you come to the Orchard, it’s like a hard system reset – you can connect to the real drivers and systems of joy – the true fundamentals of who we are as a human.”



## Sustainable Lives

Our Adult Education programme, funded by Cornwall College as one of their skills and employability providers, provides training and qualifications for adults in horticultural skills. Students have the option to complete non-accredited courses, or gain an Entry Level 3, or Level 1 or 2 qualification. Last year, 86% of learners completed the programme, with 100% of those achieving their qualification. 85% of our adult pathway learners report having a disability or physical/mental health difficulties. The courses provide a learning and wellbeing approach which helps people build their confidence, supports their health and wellbeing and gets them back into learning to move onto training, employment or volunteering when they are ready. Often, their achievements - sometimes the first time they've experienced achievement - can be life changing.

## Tribute to Marie

One incredible learner from last year was Marie Lobb, who completed all the Sustainable Lives qualifications, then returned to give her time as an education volunteer. Marie sadly passed away earlier this year. Marie has been a volunteer with us for 4 years and brought many of us joy with her various escapades and good humour.



Long-term Volunteer and Orchard friend John waters plants in the polytunnel

“Thank you, Marie, for playing such an awesome role here at Newquay Community Orchard. You always brought a beaming smile to any event you attended here, and your infectious laughter will stay with us forever more. Your dedication and devotion to our wonderful Orchard community was something to behold. You’ll always have a special place here at the Orchard, you’re one of us! Sweet Dreams Marie.”

*Steve Wright, Landscape Officer*

Marie shares the smile we all knew and loved



Briant and Jane  
celebrate 10 years



# MEET JANE

## Here from the very beginning

**Jane was a volunteer at the very start when the Orchard was just a green field. She has recently moved away to be closer to family.**

“I have spent 10 years with Newquay Community Orchard watching it grow. I have really enjoyed meeting people with different backgrounds and abilities, from all over the world. Being able to accept everyone is very much a core pillar of ours.

I have seen the confidence which grows after spending time at the Orchard and people come very nervously onto our site, not wanting to make eye contact. After some time, I have seen them greet everyone with a cheery “good morning”.

My hopes for the next 10 years are to visit regularly, to see the trees grow in to mature fruiting trees able to support an abundance of life. For the people who work, study and visit the site to share their experiences and love of the place to all they meet and spread the word of how Newquay Community Orchard benefits the environment and the people who go there.”

### A poem, by Jane

The Orchard was an empty field, waiting for us all to arrive  
It has grown into an extraordinary thing, where all can grow and thrive  
The people passing through this place brought the world to us,  
No need for us to pack a case or travel on a plane or bus.  
The trees that put roots deep in the ground now surround us like a crown  
Talking of which I'm pleased to say, the meetings we had were a red-letter day.  
The plants that grow in the soil are taken to the kitchen to chop and boil  
Then served on a plate as a delicious lunch, for this wonderfully diverse bunch.  
The badgers and bees that share this site will flourish and we know it's right  
For us all to be in a natural home (Though I still want my mobile phone)  
With many thanks for the friendship years, I take my leave with grateful tears  
And your inspiration to start a new  
With another growing project  
Or maybe two.

# STUDENT VOICE



“One thing I absolutely love about the Orchard is the support that us students receive from the staff; every single member here tries their hardest to help us grow in knowledge and confidence.”

*Dylan*

At Newquay Community Orchard, our educational programmes offer hands-on experiences that connect people to nature, develop practical skills, and enhance employability.

## Growing Futures

Our Growing Futures programme, funded through a subcontract with Cornwall Council Adult Education, supports young people aged 16–18 and 16–24 with an EHCP. This provision offers small, highly supported group learning, ensuring lessons are inclusive and accessible, and using the outdoors as their classroom. All our retained students from last year successfully completed their main programmes, applying their classroom skills in the real world and unlocking learning outside of the classroom.

- Maintaining planters at St Columb Road station
- Ecological trips to Cardinham Woods, Tehidy Country Park, Castle an Dinas, and Trefewha Farm to explore biodiversity
- Talks from local professionals, including the police on safety, the Cyber Crime Unit on online safety, Bernardos on relationships, and sessions on gambling and gaming addiction
- Student-led initiatives, such as a Christmas craft stall, with funds used for a crazy golf trip
- Practical experiences including programming Lego robots, a student-planned BBQ, and campfire cook-ups as part of their food unit

## Meet Matt - Adult Education student

Matt was unemployed and seeking to move towards a green career. In his words, he felt “a bit lost and was looking for a new path.” However, with job opportunities always seeking experience or specific qualifications and with limited finances to fund these, Matt felt shut out from a green career he longed for.

Working with the experienced horticultural team at Newquay Community Orchard, Matt started to gain practical experience in two different market garden settings to improve his knowledge and understanding of permaculture. Every week brought a new learning opportunity, helping him to develop a range of horticultural skills but also connections with fellow volunteers and staff in a supportive and welcoming atmosphere. He undertook various courses and attended workshops, learning a broad range of skills from skinning a polytunnel, understanding agricultural payments and gaining his brushcutter qualification. Matt’s knowledge and confidence soared, and, in November, he secured a job as a grower at a local market garden.

“Being part of the Orchard has allowed me to gain this experience and to learn from great people, who have a lot of knowledge to share. I think I have gained a lot of confidence and learnt as much about myself as I have about horticulture. I hope to keep learning, so that I can begin to help others.”



Students apply their skills in Heart & Soul



# EMPLOYABILITY PATHWAYS PARTNERSHIP

Newquay Community Orchard and Fentenfenna Farm CIC, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and Esmee Fairbairn Trust, are working together to develop a systems-change approach for how green spaces and farms can deliver social, environmental, and economic impact. Through partnership working, shared spaces, and structured support, we aim to show how community hubs can tackle social inequality, food insecurity, and the climate crisis.

We will be taking a 'test and learn' approach to the process and checking in with participants and the rural businesses to understand what works, what doesn't, and how we can adapt. The goal is to develop a replicable model that can benefit other rural areas across Cornwall and beyond.

Fentenfenna Farm CIC is working towards being Cornwall's first farm training hub, offering practical training for future land based entrepreneurs to

support sustainable rural enterprises. Working together we are exploring how a farm-based progression pathway, offering work experience, training, and supported internships for young people, including those with SEND/SEMH needs can provide benefit to emerging rural enterprises and future green careers. Newquay Community Orchard is a Diversity to Thrive partner, one of Cornwall Council's education providers working to promote supported employment in the workplace.

Participants can engage in a flexible, person-centred journey between the two sites. The pathway supports individuals at different stages of their personal or professional development. Through this, we hope to see mutual benefits for both individuals and rural businesses. To the right is an example of some of the opportunities participants can join in with along their journey.





## Local need

- Areas of high deprivation and food poverty
- Disabled people and those with long-term health conditions
- Unemployed or economically active people
- Social isolation and loneliness
- People who would like to increase their skills



## Entry Routes

- Community partner referral
- Referral from social prescriber or job centre
- Self-referral



## Newquay Community Orchard

- Volunteering
- Community events
- Accredited and non-accredited learning
- 1:1 support



## Fentenfenna Farm CIC

- Volunteering
- Work experience
- Vocational training
- Supported internships



## Outcomes and Impact for participants

- Increased self-esteem and confidence
- Improved physical and mental wellbeing
- Improved practical and employability skills
- Greater independence and motivation
- Preparation for further training, volunteering, or employment opportunities

## Wider Outcomes

- Increased community connection with nature
- Increased number of land-based social enterprises/employers
- Organisation resilience for rural businesses
- Thriving rural communities
- National, regional, and local policy learning

# WORK EXPERIENCE STUDY PROGRAMMES

Beyond our education programmes, we offer work experience study programmes in our Grown market garden and Heart & Soul café, giving young people real-world work experience. All who completed the programme progressed to interview stages for apprenticeships at Eden and Cormac.

Many are now in committed voluntary positions, new work experience placements, or employed full-time, including one in a paid Teaching Assistant role. These programmes are for young people ages 16-24 who have an EHCP. Interns last year gained experience with a range of organisations.

Work experience completed at: Headland Hotel, St Austell Brewery, Cormac, Newquay Zoo, Heart & Soul café, Grown, CRCC, and Work/Learn Your Way



800 students visit Newquay Orchard for our Empowering Empowering Newquay's Future event

## Training

We also worked with other community growers in the county to support them to access training for their staff and volunteers. 63 people were trained in a range of courses introducing lost skills including: Scything, creating sustainable and accessible pathways, creating a pollinator garden, Brushcutting and Strimming, in Ride on Mower and Push Mower, Social and Therapeutic Horticulture, Forest Gardening course, Hands on Butchery, Whole hog butchery, Tractor driving, Fencing, Soil Symbiosis, Orchard pruning and Cornish hedging.

## Empowering Newquay's Future

In May, we welcomed over 800 students from local schools, including Newquay Tretherras, Treviglas Academy, and St Columb Major Academy - taking careers fairs out of sports halls and into the community and amongst nature. 30 local businesses and education providers offered insights to students about future opportunities. Attendees took part in interactive activities, learned about workplace culture, values, and benefits, and were inspired by career stories and experiences. The event successfully connected young people with the local business community, sparking curiosity and ambition in their future.

“We're thrilled to host this event at Newquay Community Orchard. This is more than a careers fair—it's a chance for local businesses and self-employed individuals to connect with young people in meaningful ways and help shape the future entrepreneurs of our community, and showcase what Newquay has to offer”

*Liz Wright, Town Councillor for Porth and Tretherras*

# MEET DYLAN

## Growing Futures student

### What were you doing before Newquay Community Orchard?

I left school, then I was homeschooled. I first found out about Newquay Community Orchard through my mum because I was trying to find different sorts of education that wasn't school-related. I came here for the open day, and it was really good.

### What was it about your previous school that made you want to try something different?

I just didn't have the best previous school experiences. I didn't want to completely throw education out the window, I just thought there definitely could be better options for me.

### Can you describe your Orchard journey?

I started by doing wellbeing sessions on a Wednesday, and Yep! on a Friday. I kept doing them in the lead-up to my first year here. When I joined, I showed an interest in cooking. I kept telling the café Manager, Ben, that I was looking for openings. Then when there was one, he asked me straight away. That's when I started doing work experience every Tuesday. I finished my work experience there, and now I've been working there part-time for about half a year or more.

### What does a typical day in the café look like for you?

I start in the morning getting the opening checklist done - putting out cutlery, filling up the water jugs, putting the tables and chairs up outside if needs be. Turn the coffee machine on, the dishwasher on, getting set up ready for the day.

Once the customers start coming in, I make coffees, do food prep, washing up, sometimes wait tables. I really enjoy it.

### Do you feel like this has prepared you for work elsewhere?

Now in the last month I've started in another café, two or three days a week at Tide Climbing Centre near Padstow and Wadebridge. I really enjoy it there as well. I use skills that I've learned in each job at both workplaces.

### What are your hopes for the future?

What I want is to just carry on doing what I'm doing, see what I fall into in the future and just kind of roll with it and see where it goes. I'm enjoying every little bit that I do, and if it can lead into something in the future then that's always good.



## Over the last 10 years, our community has achieved:

**£2.43**

SROI per  
£1 spent

**OVER 500**

species flora and  
fauna identified

**OVER**

**300**

different  
varieties  
of veg  
grown

**1183**

volunteers

**996**

participants

**130**

learning pathway  
students

**15 TONNES**

of harvested  
vegetables

**79**

young people on  
Growing Futures  
programme of study

**90%**

report  
improved  
wellbeing

**85%**

feel more  
connected  
to nature

**92,605 HOURS**

volunteered, which is equal  
to one person working  
every single day for

**35 WHOLE YEARS**

**83%**

feel that  
they have  
learned  
new skills

**75%**

improved  
physical  
activity

**58%**

have improved  
their diet

**85%**

feel more  
connected to a  
community

# LYN REFLECTS ON 10 YEARS

**Lyn Trewella is the longest serving member of staff at Newquay Community Orchard, having joined not long after the project began.**

**When you started, what was the site like, and what were your first impressions?**

The site was mainly an open field. We were planting the first apple whips up the espalier, making the beds in the grow space and we had a garden shed and sitting area behind the pines to the right of the main entry as you walk in. My first impressions were good! The project was small but full of enthusiasm and ambition.

**How has the Orchard changed?**

It has changed beyond recognition. It was a monoculture dairy farm pasture with some hedgerow space. It is now a multiple use space with much wider biodiversity and habitat. In terms of built landscape there was nothing, so the change is enormous. The projects have followed the trajectory of the funding attached to them - like skills, employment, education and wellbeing.

**What are some of your proudest achievements or highlights from your time here?**

Being involved in delivering our building projects, getting funding for solar panels, planting trees and growing lovely veg!

**Can you share a memory or moment that really captures the spirit of the Orchard?**

John M getting the national Green Flag Awards Volunteer of the Year award. It was just so great to see his progress.

**What impact has the Orchard had on local people, biodiversity, and the town?**

I think many people have made happy memories and taken part in activities that have boosted their mental wellbeing. The site speaks for itself in terms of biodiversity when you compare what it used to look like to now.

The boost in plant species and change in landscape has led to an associated boost in bird and insect species. We have hopefully crafted a legacy for the town that will last many more years and will become more important and popular as the town grows.



An Lowarth early grow beds



Lyn stands proud



The community building comes together



The Terraces being created



The Orchard Family Tree



A person wearing a cap and work clothes is seen from the side, working in an orchard. In the background, there is a building with a corrugated metal roof. The scene is set in a lush, green environment with various plants and trees. The overall tone is bright and natural.

**NEWQUAY  
COMMUNITY  
ORCHARD IS A  
PLACE WHERE  
NATURE AND  
PEOPLE COME  
TOGETHER  
TO CREATE  
POSITIVE  
CHANGE**

**10**  
YEARS **NEWQUAY**  
**ORCHARD**

We have been delighted, and grateful, to welcome dozens of organisations this year, to collaborate with us or run their own incredible projects from our space, here are just a few:

4Motion	All Out At Sea	Kosel Counselling	LiveWest	Flown
Together For Families	Cornwall Council	Counselling For Social Change	Cosmos Therapy	University Of Exeter
St Petros	Labour Party	Manchat	Orchard Voices	Newquay Velo Cycling Club
Dyslexia Cornwall	Saffron Academy	Cornwall Greens		
Cornwall Climate Action Network	Past 2 Present Counselling And Psychotherapy	Cornwall Environmental Consultants	School For Social Entrepreneurs	
Alma	Tech Cornwall	Pentreath	Moose Toys	CAMHS
Cornwall Voluntary Sector Forum	Atomic Personal Training	Macmillan Cancer Support	Newquay Lighthouse Project	Rebecca Taylor Counselling
South West Coast Path Association	Active Cornwall (Ramblers UK)	Supply Change	Stanley Smith Case Management	
Roger Luxton Music Therapy	Corserv Solutions	Make It Better CIC		The University Of Plymouth
	Angel Emerald Yoga	C Parker Therapy		
Pegasus Men's Wellbeing	Trenance Learning Academy	Atomic Personal Training	Sarah Barker Arts	
Tretherras Allotments	Newquay Primary Academy		Tretherras School	
Newquay Convening Partnership	NHS Cornwall Foundation Trust	Watergate Bay PCN	The Duchy of Cornwall	

**With special thanks to:**

- Arts Lab (Arts Well FEAST, Headstart)
- Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Shared Prosperity Fund
- Cornwall Community Foundation
- Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
- Nat West Cost of Living Fund
- NHS Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Integrated Care Board

- NHS Foundation Trust
- PALL
- Postcode Innovation Trust
- Resonance
- Social Investment Business
- The Duchy of Cornwall
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- UK Government Cornwall Council Shared Prosperity Fund

- University of Plymouth
- Volunteer Cornwall
- Watergate PCN

With grateful thanks to our Board of Directors who work tirelessly to support Newquay Community Orchard: Shirley Williams, Lindsay Hall and Sarah Waller. And to our Founders, Luke and Amelia Berkeley.