



Project Report
Timbershare
August 2022



Project Funders:

A Places Called Home project funded by Big Lottery & Ikea

Other Funders contributing to the success of the project (staff/ project leaders):

Reaching Communities Big Lottery



Project Organiser:
Andover Trees United

Project Dates:
March-August 2022



Where the project took place:

In Harmony Woods, Andover - 12 acres of urban woodland planted over the last decade by the children of Andover



What the funders enabled Andover Trees United to achieve in this project:

To commission professional local wood working session leaders to share their skills and resources teaching local individuals and community groups in Harmony Woods.

Who: 97 individuals aged 7-75+ yrs, all abilities; 2 community organisations

What: 10x community woodworking workshops including 1x bespoke community organisation workshop for the harder to reach and disadvantaged members of the community.

What: Purchase of tools and equipment to run workshops - generator, circular saw, planer thicknesser, hand tools and woodworking peripherals

The core aims of the project that funders enabled:

Timbershare was set up to make best use of the excess wood generated after milling logs from locally sourced trees, felled in February 2022, to provide the timber for a sustainably-built classroom, volunteer and community space in 12 acres of urban woodland planted over the last decade by children in the community of Andover.

The project provided a shared workshop space and guided sessions in the wood for local groups, carpenters and novices to process the excess timber and offcuts generated as result of the milling and framing processes.

Aims:

- To use the surplus timber (larch and cedar) generated from the Cabin build to connect people to the community wood, Harmony Woods and to our conservation work
- To reduce waste and demonstrate respect for materials and resources
- To encourage the sharing of skills and resources
- To encourage organisations supporting vulnerable adults (especially those with woodworking skills) to work in a different environment and build resilience

Activities Involved:

- sessions where professional practitioners taught novices.
- sessions where existing groups came together to share skills and expertise
- sessions where carpenters passed on ancient and traditional skills

The timber was provided for free and items made benefited wildlife and the participants who had the opportunity to take their creations home.

Target groups contacted: **Men's Shed**, Ugly Duckling (Mind), Purple Oak (Mencap), Andover Crisis Centre and **Andover Young Carers** (organisations in bold took part; the others expressed an interest in being involved in the future).

Further References: The Cabin <https://www.andovertrees.org.uk/the-cabin>



(top left & above Bird & Bat Boxes; bottom left Stargazer Chairs)

What happened during the project:

97 people attended 10 workshops, led by professional woodworkers and experienced amateurs. Tools and equipment were purchased. Harder to reach young people were supported. Parents and children were brought together to work with each other as well as with others in a group to learn new skills and share resources, building confidence and positive relations for all ages across generations.

- 1x Painting on Wood, linked to a wildflower walk in the wood
- 4x Bird and Bat Boxes and Percussion Instruments (Cajitas)
- 1x Stargazer Chairs
- 2x Treadle-lathe Stools
- 1x Pyrography & Twig Pencils & 'Fun with Offcuts'
- 1x Wooden Boxes

Andover Trees United provided the support and infrastructure so that session leaders could run their own workshops and creatively develop the skills they taught, having an input into the overall running of the workshops they led.

How has this project made a difference?

This project and its 10 workshops brought together diverse members of the community in a safe, supportive and productive environment.

There were individuals with neuro-diverse special needs and, whilst there was always provision made to have relevant support in place, these workshops provided an equal and inclusive outdoor environment for all participants to enjoy collaboratively.

Community organisations such as **Men's Shed** came along to enjoy the opportunity of working outdoors/ in a different environment and sharing woodworking skills and resources.

"We really enjoyed being outdoors in a woodland setting and sharing woodworking skills with other members of the local community". (J. Hollis Aug'22)

Andover Young Carers brought 9 young carers (8-11yrs) with support staff to take part in a bespoke workshop where the children/ young people were guided by a professional woodwork leader, able to share resources, learn new skills and build confidence together in a healthy outdoor woodland setting.



Amanda Kelly, Charity Executive, Andover Young Carers wrote:

"Thank you for hosting us yesterday. The young carers had a really great time, despite the weather. They got such a lot from the opportunity and were able to experience wood working with tools that most had not done before, measuring, drilling and hammering with a great end product to take home. A lovely day and would be great to do something again perhaps with a slightly older age group"

Whilst other community organisations were drawn to the urban woodland as a result of the project, not all were able to participate but have asked to do something similar in the future.

Evaluation

How has this overall project had an impact and made a difference?

Qualitative and quantitative data, event/ activity and overall project feedback was collected.

Methods of data collection included forms, questionnaires, surveys and interviews.

The session leaders and ATU officers collated the data to share in this final report.

Quantitative Data:

- ❖ More than 85% of participants heard about the workshops/ project via Andover Tress United website/ newsletter and social media
- ❖ More than 70% of participants were from Andover
- ❖ 100% of participants agreed that learning woodworking skills was the key draw
- ❖ 100% of respondents agreed the workshop encouraged people to work together, share resources and skills in a healthy outdoor setting and inclusive way
- ❖ 100% of respondents agreed with the statement *"this event enables you to make positive connections with other members of the community"*

Qualitative Data: Feedback from stakeholders/ participants: (sourced from interviews, questionnaires and surveys):

- ❖ Dave Field, Professional Carpenter and Session Leader: *"I really enjoyed developing personally and professionally as a result."*
- ❖ Angus Beaton, Traditional WoodCraftsman, Green Wood Working using Pole Lathe: *"A very enjoyable couple of days during which I revived and taught new skills"*
- ❖ Community Participant: Suzanne (participant Bird Box making workshop): *"Thanks so much again for a truly enjoyable morning! Boys are so proud of their work. Dave was a great teacher and I've learnt so much. It was lovely to see other mums with sons too!"*

Specific benefits experienced by people involved, attending/ leading workshops

- Enjoyed the collaborative experience of creating together
- Intergenerational sharing
- Enjoyed improved mental and physical wellbeing by connecting to the people and place of Harmony Woods
- Valued and acknowledged for their unique contributions
- Given enhanced connections to people and local natural environment
- Raised aspirations and self-esteem through success in learning new skills
- Reconnecting to the outdoors and local community post pandemic
- Alleviating anxieties by bringing people back into the community together
- Learning traditional woodworking skills and about sustainable forestry

Conclusion:

The aims of the project were met. Data collected demonstrates that the project has had a positive impact, engaging people with their local community in outdoor activities, helping them to learn more about conservation, sustainable arts and forestry.

- ❖ This project had a positive effect on wellbeing
- ❖ This project provided a new way to come together in a healthy outdoors environment
- ❖ This project was enjoyed by all participants
- ❖ This project reduced waste, enhanced awareness of sustainable practices and supported skills acquisition
- ❖ This project enabled active participation. (There was a specific focus on listening to participants and encouraging them to have an active role in sharing and developing their ideas and connecting with others to showcase and share them).
- ❖ There is support for and potential to develop future events like this.
- ❖ New relationships with skilled crafters were developed; an up-and-coming young woodworker was supported in his craft.

Media and Marketing:

A selection of unified, eye-catching and engaging media materials were designed and produced by the Andover Trees United team referencing the project funders and supporters:

Posters were distributed and put up each week at 20 poster sites in and around Andover and surrounding villages, including community notice boards and websites.

Local parish magazines featured the events both in print and online on village community web pages, in social media and in newsletters.

Press releases were drafted and distributed to raise awareness of the events and the project's key messages, aims, community opportunities; all featured funders and supporters.

Press Release distribution included:

- BBC Radio Solent
- Love Andover (Radio and Newspaper)
- Andover Advertiser
- Basingstoke Gazette
- Hampshire & IOW WI News (June 2022)
- Parish Magazines covering Andover Villages

Social Media: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn

Community Organisations

Targeted communications were consistently drafted, distributed and promoted with partnership community organisations and their networks, including:



- TVBC Creative Database
- TVBC Events Newsletter; Parish and Borough Councillors
- Andover BID Facebook page
- Andover Mind Newsletter/ social media and poster in-house
- Andover Unity Community Events website and newsletter/ poster
- Purple Oak (previously Andover Mencap) newsletter and internal communications
- Andover Young Carers newsletter, poster in-house and internal communications
- Andover Crisis Centre newsletter, poster in-house and internal communications
- Andover Primary Care Network leaflets/ posters and social media
- The Lighthouse Project, Andover
- Andover Refugee Networks (that included surrounding villages)
- Andover YMCA
- Andover Koala Hub (Children and Young People managing neurodiversity)
- Andover and Villages and Hampshire Wide WI groups
- Andover Rotary Club
- Andover and Villages community centres
- Andover Healthier Communities Network



Treadle lathe stool making workshop