

# Regards croisés d'associatifs



# THE ORCHARD PROJECT

Bringing orchards into the heart  
of urban communities





Kath Rosen - CEO

## Our Vision...

In cities across the UK,  
everyone is within easy  
reach of a thriving  
community orchard.

# The Story so far...

Over the last decade, we have planted, restored and supported over **700 community orchards in the UK**, engaged **75K people** in fruit growing. These spaces will produce the equivalent of around **2.5 million apples a year.**



# Why are urban orchards so important?

84% of the UK population lives in urban areas  
Urban areas desperately need quality greenspaces  
Orchards bring multiple benefits





Just before  
planting



Now...



One year  
later



# Diversity and Inclusion

We work with beneficiaries from diverse backgrounds and prioritise underserved communities



# 75%

Of our Orchards are in areas of the UK with the highest matrices for deprivation

# Our Model



We have a bespoke 'core model' of working with community orchards – focusing on placemaking, local ownership, community building and skills development





# Planting & restoration



# training





Physical protection  
Automatic (physical)

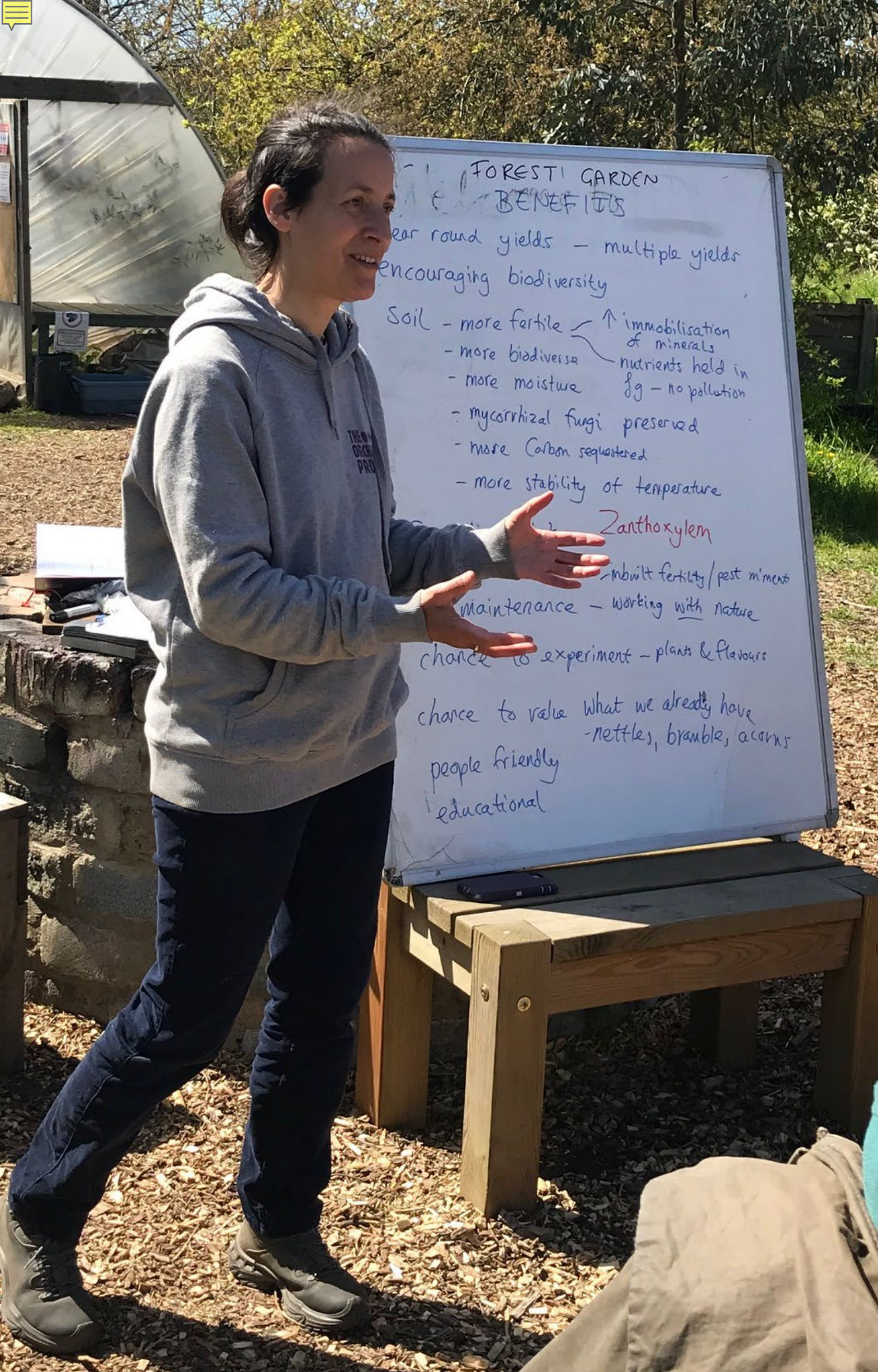
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# resources

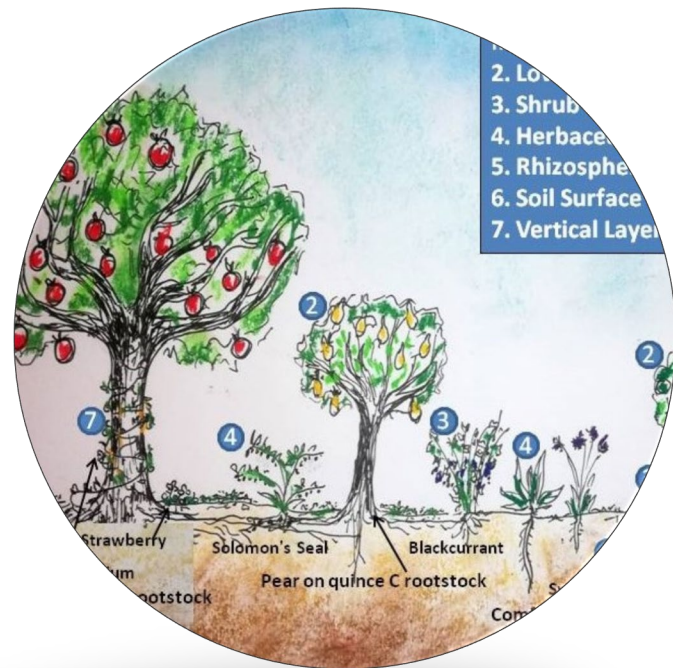
**LIKE OUR  
INNOVATIVE  
'ORCHARD  
DESIGN KIT'**





# Biodiversity = resilience = productivity

## layers



### Polycultures

- Spreads risk.
- Spreads yield over year.
- Edible fruits, nuts, seeds, leaves, stems & roots.
- Most efficient use of space.
- Food for humans & wildlife.
- Perennials – low/no dig.
- Opportunity to experiment.

## mulch



### Mulch or groundcover

- Protects soil from erosion
- Feeds soil
- Suppresses weeds
- Retains water
- Prevents compaction
- Acts as a habitat
- Protection from strimmers

## feed



### Design in fertility

- Nitrogen fixers
- Mineral accumulators
- Compost toilets
- Chop and drop weeding

## wind



### Shelterbelts

- Designed in protection
- Stable wind speed & humidity
- Lower stress on plants
- Multifunctional shrubs: thorns, edibles, N fixers

## habitat



### Food and shelter

- Multiple ecological niches
- Multiple food sources
- Virtuous cycle
- Complex system more able to withstand external shocks

# creating networks

