

# MARKET FIELD GROWS

## NURTURING BRIGHT FUTURES

**ONLY 5.8% OF PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY, AUTISM OR ADHD WILL FIND AND SUSTAIN PAID EMPLOYMENT DURING THEIR LIFETIME. 94 OUT OF 100 COLLEGE LEAVERS HAVE NO PROSPECT OF A PURPOSEFUL FUTURE PAST FULL TIME EDUCATION.**

The Executive Head and team at the Hope Learning Community, which is formed of five special needs schools and colleges, realised something needed to be done. Something needed to change.

A great many of the 'job programmes' are based in cities or towns, with large employers who have traditionally seen a high staff turnover. Although part of the model could be replicated, we had to rethink things as the employers just aren't present in Tendring; a predominantly rural area.

**MANY OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE WE WORK WITH ARE OFFERED 'VOLUNTARY' ROLES, DOING THE SAME JOB AS PAID COUNTERPARTS. THINK ABOUT WHAT THAT MIGHT DO FOR YOUR OWN SELF-ESTEEM, FOR YOUR FEELINGS OF SELF WORTH - WHY WOULD YOU GET UP AND OUT EVERY DAY?**

What niche can our young people fulfil - what are local people, landowners, farmers and businesses wanting to implement, what has funding available and provides steady, rewarding work with purpose? Conservation. The planting of trees, hedgerows, creating wild habitats.



Our fabulous tree planting team: Tom, Kai, Sam, Denis, Brad and Liam

We were recognised as a charity in August 2020 have a board of seven trustees at our core. Our charitable purpose is: "the relief of need of young people with autistic condition and learning difficulties, in particular by providing resources, education, work experience and employment opportunities and facilities".

To support a long term strategy of the charity, we have created a conservation enterprise, working with local organisations, charities and landowners. The enterprise is called Market Field Grows and is run as part of the charity.

In line with the recent Green Alliance Think Tank Publication - Closing the UK's Green Skills Gap - we can provide a dedicated workforce, partnering with organisations and undertaking projects geared towards achieving the net zero target.

"The government has promised economic changes to improve living standards, with a focus on addressing the imbalance between regions. In broad terms, 'levelling up', as a priority, is supposed to be the vehicle to do this by boosting regional economies and improving individual life chances, through a new offering on skills. The transition to net zero creates new economic opportunities that can be harnessed to level up the country. To do so will require new skills in the UK's workforce.

Specific gaps in skills, and where there are opportunities and challenges to retrain and equip people with skills to fulfil future job requirements. We recommend the development of an integrated green skills programme that delivers for individuals, institutions and industry, marrying the government's environmental ambitions with its economic and social aims."

Our first major project saw us working with The Big Green Internet to plant 46,024 trees between December 2021 and April 2022. We have one full time team member, our horticulture team leader who oversees the work on a day to day basis. We currently employ seven young people with a learning disability, autism and ADHD. Each day we have a team of two alongside our team leader who undertake tree planting to create hedgerows and wildlife corridors; connecting existing woodland. We plant up to 800 whips per day.

We have further projects booked in for the summer, which include;

- **rewilding a balancing pond** on a small housing development. Sanctuary Homes approached Market Field Grows to create a space to bring nature right onto people's doorsteps. We have worked with the Head Gardener of Beth Chatto, who has created a planting scheme, which focuses upon native species to encourage creatures and birds back into, what is currently, an ecological wasteland;
- **building four miles of** bug/beetle banks on a local farm. A local farm have embraced the call to rewild. Following the planting of 23,000 trees on their land this winter, we have been asked to return to implement this large scale and ambitious project;
- **continued maintenance of** existing tree planting and woodland creation by Colchester Borough Council;
- **planting a new woodland** in Clacton on Sea for Tendring District Council as part of their Jubilee celebrations and Clacton Heritage Trail;
- **installing bird, bat and owl** boxes around a large farm in north Essex.

Our income to date has been generated through charitable donations and company sponsorship. Moving forward, having demonstrated our ability to deliver the services to a high level, we will be working on a contract basis and paid for our time.

**IN NOVEMBER 2022 WE RECOMMENCE OUR PLANTING WORK WITH A TARGET OF 80,000 TREES, THIS MEANS WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND OUR REACH ACROSS TWO TEAMS AND EMPLOY 12 YOUNG PEOPLE.**

**OUR BREAKTHROUGH WORK AND PROJECT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO CHANGE THE LIVES OF MANY YOUNG PEOPLE AND SEE LARGE SWATHES OF OUR COUNTRYSIDE RETURNED TO THE WILD.**



**PART OF THE MARKET FIELD  
FARM REGISTERED CHARITY**

**NAOMI ANDREWS  
07841 634899**

**NAOMI@MARKETFIELD.ESSEX.SCH.UK**

**WE ARE A REGISTERED CHARITY - 1190911**



**MARKET  
FIELD  
FARM**

**CULTIVATING A  
BRIGHT FUTURE**

Working in partnership with



**Sanctuary**

**LANSWOOD**



**The Big Green Internet**

