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Ardwick
Climate
Action



Exploring the Partnership between Ardwick Climate Action and The University of Manchester





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Overview of the Partnership



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Ardwick Climate Action (ACA) is a grassroots community group dedicated to protecting the local environment through advocacy, education and hands-on community engagement. Their flagship projects include the **Ardwick Green Route**, the temporary **closure of the A6** to monitor air pollution and the **Silent Skies Exhibition**. To date, ACA has transformed **16,230m²** of green space including our Community Allotment and Green Classroom and contributed an impressive **74,315 hours** of volunteer time to environmental improvement across Ardwick.

With Ardwick being one of our nearest neighbours, the partnership between ACA and the **University of Manchester (UoM)** has fostered a two-way exchange of knowledge and support, rooted in shared goals around sustainability and making a positive difference. Partnerships like this are vital in tackling climate change, connecting academic insight with lived experience and grassroots action. Furthermore, the partnership reflects the University's commitment to the *Civic University Agreement*, strengthening its role as an engaged and civically responsible institution. The partnership is reflected in the University's *Environmental Sustainability Strategy*, and reflects our commitment to Social Responsibility, Teaching and Learning, and Research.

01 The Community Allotment

The Community Allotment or Green Classroom is located behind the UoM's Kilburn Building. It features several raised flowerbeds, a greenhouse, and a seating area. In addition to producing a variety of fruit, vegetables and flowers, the Allotment serves as a valuable community space which promotes social interaction, skill sharing and wellbeing.

How the space is used and maintained

People of all ages and levels of gardening experience have been come together to take care of the space and its crops. Additionally, the Allotment supports a variety of activities beyond gardening and serves many unique purposes for different groups. For example, the allotment is now a key part of the Green Route (see section 2), connecting the University to the local community and vice versa. It has been used as a space to hold informative talks, workshops and for nature photography and lots of filming. The Community Allotment acts as a welcoming space for anyone passing by to rest and connect with nature.



Groups that have been involved in using and maintaining the space include:

- Members of Ardwick Climate Action
- Student Volunteers
- Members of the local community
- Brunswick's Women's Group
- The Deaf Society
- Brunswick Toddler Group
- Scout Groups
- Groups from local schools
- University members of staff
- Companies for social value hours



Members of ACA and the local community volunteer at the allotment all year round, ensuring its continued maintenance and growth outside of university term time, when many students are away. This partnership, alongside the commitment of dedicated volunteers, is essential to the Allotment's ongoing success.

Inclusivity and Accessibility

The space has been designed to prioritise inclusivity and accessibility, making it welcoming and usable for everyone. The Allotment is wheelchair accessible, with raised flowerbeds at a suitable height and weather-resistant 'carpets' which can be laid to enable access in all conditions. The layout includes ample space between beds, and ramps have been installed to enable wheelchair access to the greenhouse. The space also features an upcycled bench and additional movable seating, making it comfortable for all groups to visit and rest.

Benefits of the space

Below is a summary of some of the benefits created by the community allotment, these are supported by reflections from individuals who use the space (see page 6). Future research should consider collecting additional data to further evidence these benefits.

Social Benefits

Health and Wellbeing benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Both gardening and being outdoors reduce stress and anxiety, promoting calm and wellbeing. The community allotment provides a space for anyone to experience these benefits, which is important in a city where “77% of people live in areas deprived of green space” (Friends of the Earth, 2024)• There are also benefits for those just walking past/through the space - several students, members of staff and members of the community have walked past and commented that they really appreciate being able to walk past this green space• The allotment provides people access to fresh, local fruit and vegetables, which in turn could encourage healthier eating habits
Acts as an educational resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourages informal knowledge and skill sharing as visitors and volunteers learn through doing, observation and discussing• Acts as a site of interdisciplinary learning, connecting many different themes e.g health, sustainability and community in one place• A student recently used the greenhouse to conduct her PhD research
Strengthens University-Community Links	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The allotment has created an environment which encourages collaboration between students, staff, community groups and local residents through shared activities and responsibilities• The space breaks down barriers between the University and surrounding community through regular and meaningful interaction

Environmental Benefits

Increased biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The allotment grows a diverse range of crops from sugarsnaps and onions to berries, helping to promote biodiversity• Although no formal data has been collected around this anecdotally, people have reported seeing an increase in the number of birds and butterflies around this part of Campus which they attribute to the allotment
Reusing and Rehoming materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rehomed items are used across the allotment, such as plants pots that various departments across the University no longer use/need• The bench at the allotment was up-cycled and otherwise may have gone to waste• Recycling bins have up-cycled into planters
Promotes environmental awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The space connects people to nature and helping them appreciate it's value• Raises awareness about food systems and builds that connection of where food on shelves comes from• Acts as a living classroom for environmental learning

A Tribute to Ian



Ian was a local resident who was dedicated to volunteering at the Allotment with his wife, Margaret. Ian had a wonderful sense of humour, always making everyone laugh. He was known for his colourful Simpson socks. Ian played a huge role in the community.

Ian sadly passed away earlier this year. He is much missed. To celebrate his life, at the Universally Manchester Festival volunteers wore Simpson socks in his honour.



The Community Allotment means something different to everyone. For some, it's a peaceful place to unwind from their studies and feel closer to home. For others, it's a chance to make a real difference in the community. And for many, it's simply the joy of gardening and getting their hands dirty!

The reflections below capture just a few ways the space is valued, and highlight the wide range of wellbeing, social and environmental benefits that the space offers:



A University staff member left two bug boxes as a token of appreciation for the space.

"I would like to express my sincere gratitude... to everyone involved in this wonderful volunteering experience. It wasn't merely an opportunity to contribute locally; it also became a haven away from modernity and our reliance on technology. Meeting and working alongside all of you has genuinely been a pleasure!"

A Student Volunteer

"Some of the women were socialising, others gardening and some simply sitting and enjoying the space... on a sunny day it can be hard to take them away!"

Mo Blue - Co-ordinator at Brunswick Women's group



Photo Credits - University of Manchester

A stall was hosted at the Community Allotment as part of the Universally Manchester Festival an event designed to showcase the University's research and real world impact to the wider community.

The stall aimed to educate visitors about the vital role of biodiversity in maintaining clean air. Rather than relying solely on traditional information-sharing, the stall offered a range of interactive activities, including planting sessions, brain slime demonstrations. We also featured umbrellas from the Our Shared Air project (see section 5). The pots used for the planting sessions were donated from colleagues across the University. Additionally, a number of plants were given out for visitors to take home, all of which were from a display that ACA had at the Manchester Flower Festival.

This stall was extremely popular and engaged visitors of all ages.



Photo Credits - University of Manchester

Feedback

“Including the University Community Allotment in this year's Universally Manchester Festival was a real highlight, shining a spotlight on this **vibrant space for both our local communities and our university staff and students.**

*The allotment and its **hands-on activities** brought to life our festival themes of **Greener, Healthier, and Fairer**, showcasing how **our research and teaching connects to everyday experiences** and showing that we all have a role to play in this.*

*Visitors were able to **pause, breathe, and enjoy** outdoor wellbeing activities, making the allotment a unique place to relax and engage.*

Kathryn Downey, UoM Public Engagement Officer

02 Ardwick Green Route:

This section of the report is based upon information provided by Sheena Cruickshank and her report on ‘A case study in exploring barriers and developing solutions to encourage take up of active travel in Ardwick, Greater Manchester’ (Cruickshank, 2023)

The Ardwick Green Route is a walking route co-created in response to local concerns about air quality, pollution and travel safety in the Ardwick Ward. The project was collaboratively developed by **ACA, Manchester Museum, healthcare professionals, members of the local community, and researchers across UoM, notably Professor Sheena Cruickshank**. Along the route, there are interactive Wayfinders each with QR codes that link to further information about the project, local ecology, biodiversity and their vital roles in tackling climate change. To ensure accessibility, this interactive content is translated into the area’s most commonly spoken languages in order to help engage as many people as possible.

The first stage of the project involved gathering evidence to demonstrate the extent of these environmental and safety concerns. This included **scientific research** conducted by researchers from UoM, **community consultations** and **participatory mapping** completed by local groups. **69 residents** took part in the participatory mapping process, including children from Medlock Co-Op Academy who completed it as homework, members of Brunswick Women’s Group, and the local Scouts group. Participants mapped their regular journeys around Ardwick, using colour-coding to indicate their mode of travel and highlight any locations that they felt unsafe. These maps were then digitised using ArcGis and used to identify **common danger spots and patterns in mobility across the area**.



The local primary school students getting involved

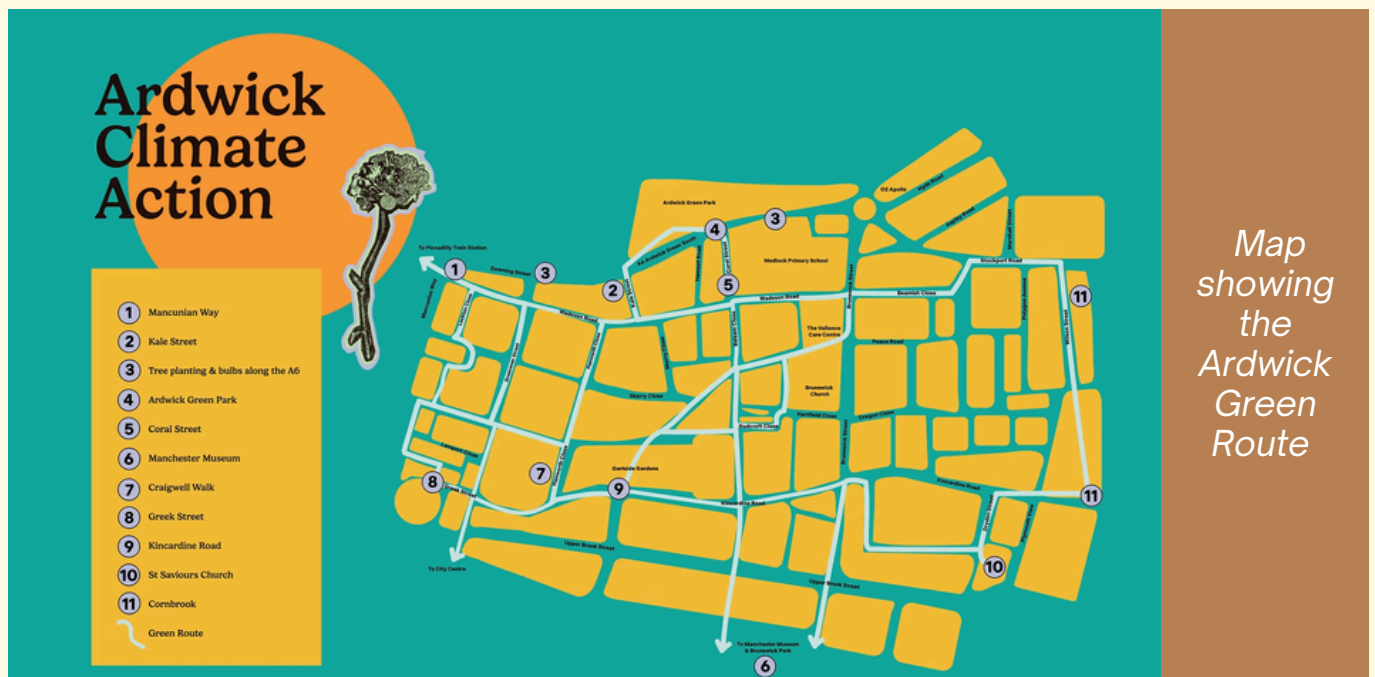


An example of the participant mapping



Data from the participatory mapping, along with insights from the community consultations, contributions from the museum and air pollution monitoring, all informed the design of the green route. The Green route was then created following this criteria:

- *take in quiet streets*
- *take in places that are pretty/green/pleasant to sit*
- *take in places to visit e.g. Manchester Museum, cafes and shops*
- *avoid busy polluted roads as much as possible*
- *avoid narrow alleyways*
- *sections of route that can be chosen depending on time and fitness*
- *coinciding with crossings over busy roads where possible*



Community Impact

Residents have shown a strong emotional connection to the project, for example, the local primary school now integrates the route into school life and family guidance. Furthermore, ACA frequently uses the green route to lead guided group walks aimed at promoting active travel and raising awareness of their work (see following section).

Local MP Afzal Khan described the project as a:

“ A symbol of the collective power of the community and the University when you come together to drive change

Gordon Flear (ACA Founding Member, Project Manager & Treasurer) stated that:

“ The Green routes project has enabled both local people and visitors to explore different ways around the area, and think about the importance of the green spaces they use

Policy Impact

The findings used to inform this project were shared with the Manchester City Council, local MPs and the Mayor. Subsequently, these findings have informed the **‘Safer Street’ Action Plan** - meaning the council will now prioritise new pedestrian crossings and are developing parking restrictions. Furthermore, following Mayor Andy Burnham’s visit,, Ardwick is set to have its first ‘School Street’ on Wadeson Road, Co-Op Academy Medlock School, as a direct outcome of this project. The first successful School Street trial happened on 19th December 2025. Work is currently underway to secure a grant that will enable tracking of how this project impacts community members’ travel habits, wellbeing and health.

Media and Public Impact

The project has received at least **15 news and TV features**, including on the BBC and on the Manchester Evening News. Additionally, it has generated **six blogs and articles, featured in a UK parliamentary debate** and contributed to the Silent Skies exhibition at Manchester Museum (see section 3).

Academic Contributions

This work has been presented at several academic conferences, and cited by the Health and Social Care Select Committee, underscoring its research impact.

There are now TWO additional Green Routes signs, one on Brunswick Park and one at the Community Allotment to better connect the University to and from Ardwick, and Ardwick to and from the University.

Ardwick Green Route was the Winner of the UoM 2025 - Outstanding Public Engagement Initiative: Local/Civil Engagement

From the Allotment, ACA have hosted a number of guided walks along sections of the green routes with local groups. This has included school children, Brunswick's Women's group, UoM staff members and with Manchester Museum as part of the WILD Exhibition. These walks have promoted active lifestyles through showcasing the benefits of walking and introducing participants to local accessible routes.

“ *The walks with ACA to the allotment have been really beneficial for the women's group, supporting them in creating new habits and building walking into their lifestyles*

Mo Blue - Co-ordinator of Brunswick Church's Women's group

“ *I really enjoy the guided walks with Gordon to the allotment. I have difficulties walking, but Gordons' support and encouragement have enabled me to do walks I otherwise wouldn't have*

Shirley Okrodudu - Participant from the Guided Walks

Walk with Sustainable Futures Team

As a part of National Walking Month in May 2024, ACA organised a guided lunchtime walk for the UoM Sustainable Futures Team. In total there were 20 attendees, who shared really positive verbal feedback, highlighting how much they enjoyed the opportunity to connect with their surroundings and learn more about environmental sustainability action in the community.

“ *Collaborating with a local community group was a real pleasure. It gave us the chance not only to raise awareness of the invaluable work they're doing—often quietly and tirelessly behind the scenes—but also to foster stronger ties between the University and the surrounding neighbourhood... This partnership helped highlight how institutions like ours can play a proactive role in supporting grassroots initiatives and listening to the voices of those who live just beyond our campus borders*

Alexandra Beggs - Sustainable Futures Communications & Engagement Coordinator



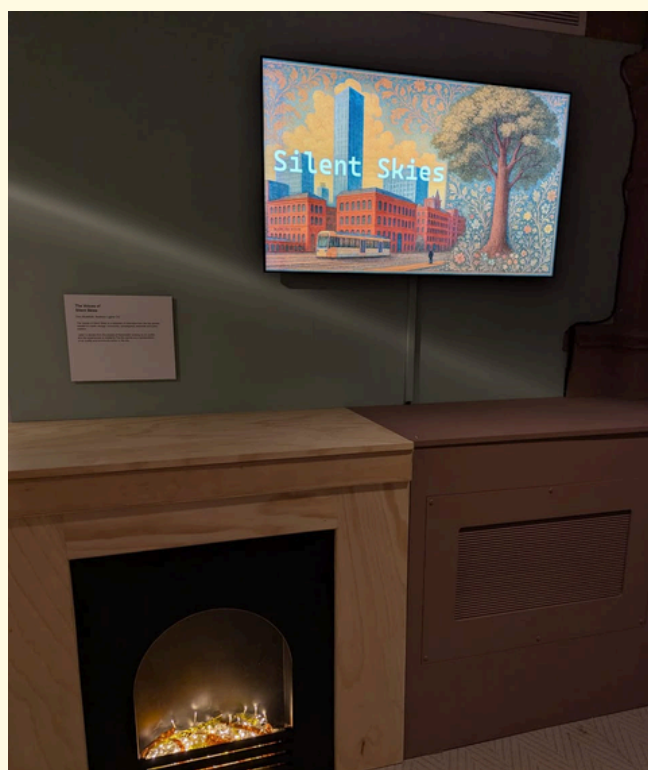
03 Silent Skies Exhibiton

Silent Skies is a co-created exhibition hosted at Manchester Museum from May 2025 - November 2025, which aims to inform the public and raise awareness about air pollution in Manchester. Present-day air pollution can be challenging to visualise, making initiatives like this crucial, particularly given that Manchester has some of the poorest air quality in the UK, contributing to an estimated 1200+ deaths each year. Prior to the exhibition, Manchester Musuem already had a strong partnership with ACA, with the organisation featuring as a key partner in the museums' Top Floor environmental action and social justice hub. As Daniell Musaheb commented:

“ The promotion of best practices to a wider audience, along with having a platform to engage the public on key issues around air quality at the museum was an opportunity that could not be missed.

The exhibition's content was led by Daniell Musaheb from ACA and supported by Professor Jennifer O'Brien, Creative Manchester and the Sustainable Futures team from UoM. Diana Arzuza Buelvas, Curator of Entomology, contributed to the exhibition's curatorial development. The project was co-created with policy makers, scientists, communities and campaigners, recognising that tackling air pollution and making change requires representation from all four of these groups.

A stand out feature of both the launch events and the exhibition is the short film 'The Voices of Silent Skies'. Commissioned by Manchester Museum and produced by Northern Light Film CIC, the film captured personal stories from the local community, humanising the issue of air pollution, alongside sharing powerful insights from academics and policy makers.



Part of the exhibition where visitors are invited to sit and watch 'The Voices of Silent Skies' short film. Photo Credits - Manchester Musuem

“ It felt surreal seeing myself in the video... I was glad to share my personal experiences to help others

A local community member featured in the short film, sharing her son's experience with asthma and how this has been affected by poor air quality in the city.

Furthermore, some of the features of the exhibition includes a fake fireplace (see image above) to prompt visitors to reflect on how their everyday domestic activities can contribute to air pollution, alongside visual aids that compare particulate matter to everyday objects, such as the width of human air. This helps visitors turn something that is invisible to the human eye into a tangible concept.

Launch Events

Two launches were held for the exhibition, with the second tailored towards the community, highlighting the exhibition's commitment to promoting community engagement.

At the launch events, visitors were greeted at a reception and guided through the exhibition by Dan. The launches featured several public engagement activities including jelly brains, gas masks and air quality trees, where individuals shared what surprised them about air quality, how they could make a difference and what they wanted to learn more about. Additionally, the Our Shared Air Project and its PM2.5 representing umbrellas (see section five for more information) also featured as part of the launch events. Visitors were then led to a lecture theatre where they learnt more about the exhibition through a talk with Dan, followed by a screening of the short film.

The first launch event, on the 14th of May was attended by

90 *Individuals*

and featured a panel discussion led by Prof. Sheena Cruickshank (University of Manchester), Hayley Fails (Manchester City Council) Simon Curtis (GMAST) and Liz Godfrey (Mums for Lungs).

The community launch event was hosted a few days later on the 17th of May and was attended by

50 *Members of the community*

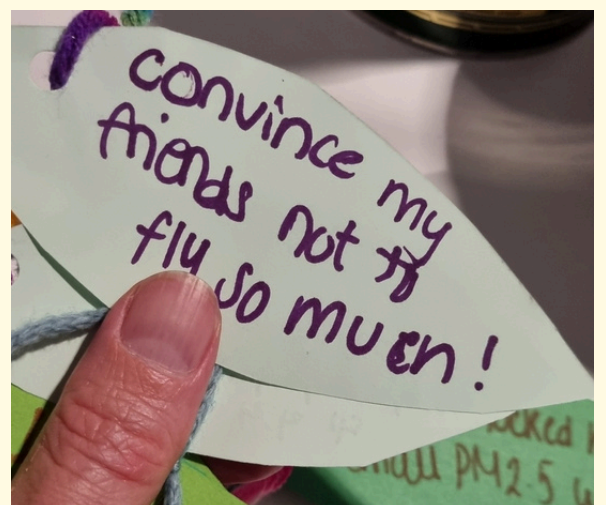
At this event a Q+A session was hosted by local MP Afzal Khan.



Screening of 'Voices of Silent Skies'



Brain Jelly, designed to visualise the effects of air pollution on the brain



A visitors contribution to the air quality tree

This exhibition offers a major platform for conversations around air pollution in Manchester, raising public awareness, fostering community support and strengthening the case for action to be taken!

Over the course of the exhibition it is estimated that

81, 653 Individuals

visited

Silent Skies ran for 6 months and to mark the exhibition's finish, ACA, UoM colleagues and students and community partners came together as part of the Museum's quarterly 'Meet the Changemakers' event on 1st November. We closed with a panel discussion of local Climate and Air Quality Activists and our blue particulate matter umbrellas, which glided through the Museum prompting much discussion and debate. Huge thanks to students from the School of Environment, Education and Development who developed their public engagement skills whilst they both opened and closed Silent Skies.



Feeding into other projects

Daniell shared that the exhibition has also played a significant role in highlighting the need for a BioCorridor test site. BioCorridors use nature as a natural barrier to shield green spaces and residential areas from harmful pollutants. This is particularly important as clean air zones in Manchester has been met with resistance. BioCorridors offers an alternative approach. By making air pollution a pressing and visible issue, the exhibition has added weight on recent fundraising efforts for these BioCorridor test sites. This funding would support research which could determine the variants of BioCorridor that would be most effective.

4 Volunteering Opportunities

The University's Volunteering and Awards team has collaborated with Ardwick Climate Action since **Autumn 2022**. To date, there have been **12** volunteer days, **2** Big Volunteer days and a total of **337 Student volunteers** involved. Additionally, several students have become regular volunteers for ACA through the **Volunteer Hub**, and others have supported ACA through additional initiatives, including a **Student-led PR campaign**.

This section of the report is based upon data and information provided by the UoM Volunteering and Awards team.

Volunteer Days and Big Volunteer Day

Volunteer Days:

These are one-off volunteering events, typically lasting a full or half day, which give student groups the opportunity to take part in hands-on activities that benefit the wider community. At previous ACA volunteer days students have planted flower bulbs across the Ardwick ward, built and installed bird boxes, been involved in creating the 'Our Shared Air' Umbrellas (see section 5) and planted hedges.

Big Volunteer Days:

These are large scale volunteering days, which occur annually as a part of the University's Student Volunteering Week.

The 2025 Big Volunteer Day was a standout event, with **97 students** taking part. The students walked to Kale Street, where they collaborated with ACA to contribute to the wider goal of enhancing biodiversity in the Brunswick area of Ardwick. The students worked towards this goal through:

- Planting a new permieter hedge, which will now act as a **carbon sink, a home for sparrows and help reduce noise pollution**.
- Mulching the ground to support lavender growing.
- Clearing the area of any litter.
- Tidying weeds surrounding the hedge.

This event was designed to be accessible and inclusive for everyone, which was reflected in the event's feedback where **70%** of students described the tasks as 'somewhat easy' for them to participate in.



Photo Credits -
Volunteering and Awards Team

ACA Community Bulb Planting and Climate Action Event:

In October 2023 ACA hosted a Community bulb planting and climate action event. UoM volunteers, staff from Manchester Museum, representatives from Manchester City Council, residents, local campaign groups and local businesses all took part. This resulted in...

15000+ *bulbs planted*

In addition, the event also featured a stall hosted by the Lydia Becker Institute of Immunology and Inflammation, where attendees could test their breathing using the stall's *Lung Station* and visualise air pollution through the teams specialist devices. Manchester Museum also brought along their pop up museum for attendees to view.

“*Those 1000s & 1000’s of bulbs look amazing and are doing their thing for nature.*”

Choel Cartwright - Founding Member of ACA, Lead Manager & Lead Activist



Bulbs before planting

Key Volunteering Figures:

Academic Year	Volunteer Days held (excluding Big Volunteer Day)	Big Volunteer Day held	Students volunteering	Hours donated
2022-23	4	1	131	393
2023-24	6	0	62	274
2024-25	2	1	144	481
Total	12	2	337	1148

Data Provided by UoM Volunteering and Awards team

The Impact:

These volunteer days have wide-reaching benefits, including strengthening community ties, supporting ACA work towards their environmental targets and offering students a hands-on experience in making a positive impact on the planet.

“ *We'd not be able to do the large tasks of green improvement works without the help of students and professors like Jen understanding and supporting the work we are doing a stones throw away from campus!* *Choel Cartwright - Founding Member of ACA, Lead Manager & Lead Activist* ”



Volunteers in front of the hedge they planted during a UoM Big Volunteer Day



Litter collected during a student volunteer day



Litter Picking in Ardwick at one of the Volunteer Days

Benefits for students:

100% of students said the experience positively impacted their mental health *2025 Big Volunteer Day*

94% of students said they would attend again / recommend to a friend *2025 Big Volunteer Day*

These volunteer days have also enabled students to foster new connections:

“ I even ended up speaking to some new people and we are meeting for coffee tomorrow ”

Student Volunteer from 2025 Big Volunteer Day

And helped many students reconnect with nature:

“ It was an amazing day and it felt great to be out in the sun, I can't wait to go back in spring and plant more ”

Student Volunteer from 2025 Big Volunteer Day



Photo Credits - Volunteering and Awards Team



Bird Boxes being built

Volunteer Hub Opportunities



In addition to the partnered Volunteer Days, ACA have two regular volunteering roles advertised on the University's volunteering hub. One of these being at the Community Allotment where students are invited to help plant, weed and harvest crops across the allotment (see section one). The other position was as an environmental Volunteer, where students were invited to take part in the Great British Spring Clean and learn about the Lydia Becker Garden.

13

Students regularly volunteered in these roles for ACA in the 2024-2025 Academic year

Collectively donating

107

volunteer hours

Our small but perfectly formed Community Allotment has facilitated several other activities. Our greenhouse proved to be the perfect site for postdoc researcher, Jiayu, to instal sensors for her research, the key objective of which is to maintain optimal conditions for plant growth, minimise energy costs, and ensure that our system adapts quickly to unpredictable weather. In a stunning living lab, we harvested our excess mint that was used by Food on Campus team for meals for students in Halls - huge thanks to Alison Shedlock for making that happen. We have also hosted English Language groups from Manchester Library who were keen to practice different vocabulary - and who each took home a strawberry plant!



5 Additional Projects and Collaboration

Our Shared Air

Our Shared Air is a project created by Professor Jennifer O'Brien for Clean Air Day in 2020, through the Manchester Urban Observatory. Since then it has been co-developed with ACA. The project aims to educate people about air pollution by visually representing PM2.5 (a type of particulate matter) through the use of recycled umbrellas and bottle tops.

“ You wouldn't drink visibly dirty water and yet often we breathe invisibly dirty air

Professor Jennifer O'Brien

This project was initially developed at Medlock Co-Op Academy as an educational activity for students and parents, aiming to raise awareness of air pollution in a visual and engaging way. The trial demonstrated the value of people not only viewing the installations but also actively participating in their creation. Since then, in collaboration with ACA, local groups, members of the communities and local businesses have been involved in creating the umbrella installations.

Since the projects creation it has featured at numerous events including the Asthma and Lung UK's national clean air day, the Silent Skies Exhibition launch, and as an installation the University campus.



National Clean Air Day

UoM and ACA were invited to be part of an event hosted by Asthma and Lung UK at Manchester Art Gallery for National Clean Air Day. This event brought together campaign groups, academics and members of the community from across the North West to call the government to tackle air pollution. The UoM & ACA stall hosted a series of interactive activities including a very popular brain slime, which provided visuals of the effect of air pollution on the brain, and the Our Shared Air installation.



Another standout part of the event was that children were able to contribute to a book on the impacts of air pollution in Greater Manchester and the importance of taking action, which was later presented to Andy Burnham.

For more information about the event please see the following [video](#).



Lydia Becker Garden

Below is a summary of the report created by ACA about the Lydia Becker Garden (Ardwick Climate Action, no date).

Planning for the Lydia Becker Garden is now well underway. The space is being designed to honour Lydia Becker, a pioneering figure in the British Suffragette movement and amateur scientist, while simultaneously supporting research around climate change and acting as a public space. The garden is intended to be located at the site of the former church at the intersection of Upper Brook Street and Plymouth Grove, an area that is currently largely unused.

The garden will primarily serve as a community asset for local residents to enjoy, with public consultations ongoing to ensure their needs and wishes are reflected in the design of the new space.

Key Features:

The garden is set to feature a digitally interactive Mediterranean Garden, with QR codes and signage illustrating the achievements of Lydia Becker. It's layout will mirror the former church's isles as a tribute. The surrounding graveyard area be transformed into a wild meadow honouring Lydia Becker, featuring plant species sources from botanical samples archived by her. This has been made possible through collaboration with Manchester Museum, who are providing access to Becker's botany samples for the project.

Alongside creating a new public space, the garden will reflect the scientific curiosity of Lydia Becker. With UK Climate modelling suggesting that global warming could result in native plant life struggling to survive, the garden will include selected non-native species. These will then be researched to assess their long-term performance under the UK's changing climate conditions. This research is crucial as in the event UK native species can no longer thrive, this work can help identify alternative plant species capable of supporting insect and animal life across the UK.

Partnership:

The University of Manchester has been involved in this project in a number of different ways:

- The School of Environment, Education and Development, Social Responsibility, provided seed capital to kick-start the project. This funding will enable community canvassing, the garden design, the production of assets and research.
- The School of Ecology completed a 'bio-blitz' in 2023 and assessed the current ecological conditions.
- The School of Arts, Languages and cultures have incorporated this site into the module 'Places, Ecologies and Heritage' .

Additional partners involved in this project include: The Manchester College, Manchester Museum, Manchester City Council and University of Manchester's Lydia Becker Institute

Social Responsibility Garden



ACA had a display at the Tatton Park Garden show, which helped raise awareness of local environmental efforts. This display was supported by funding from the University of Manchester's Social Responsibility department. A number of the plants used in the display plants were then planted in Social Responsibility's garden, located outside their office on Waterloo Road.

Following ACA's glorious floral contribution to the Manchester International Festival the entrance to our Greenhouse has had a stunning upgrade.

Bloomin brilliant

Our Community Allotment has grown (literally) organically with love, creativity, care and some wonderful partners. Undertaking this report which summarises just some of UoM's work with ACA, and a fraction of what ACA do, has made us realise the significant potential of our lovely shared space. Future plans involve expanding our partnership and use of the Allotment including our impact as a Green Classroom through the sharing of green skills. We need to construct clearer impact measurements and consider our longer term capacity. That said, our Community Allotment is a joy for so many people.

We were delighted to enter Northwest Britain in Bloom again in 2025 hoping to maintain our 2024 grading of a 4. Not only were we upgraded to a 5, which is 'Outstanding' but Ardwick Climate Action was awarded a surprise '**Pride of Manchester**' Award for their services to the community - of which UoM is delighted to be a small part.



Acknowledgements and Contacts



Ardwick Climate Action would like to acknowledge the grants and support from Manchester City Council for the A6 closure and especially from Greater Manchester Environment fund in 2022 which started "Ardwick Stepping Stones" - the initial ongoing Project on our Eco and clean air journey .

A massive thanks to everyone involved with the partnership and this report, particularly: Alexandra Beggs, Choel Cartwright, Sheena Cruickshank, Kathryn Downey, Gordon Flear, Hannah Hartley, Kirsty Hutchison, Daniell Musaheb, Nicola Banks and Jennifer O'Brien. The report was written by Zoe Phillis, Final Year Geography student thanks to Humanities Social Responsibility funding.

To contact Ardwick Climate Action:

Website: <https://www.ardwickclimateaction.co.uk/>

Email: Ardwickclimate@gmail.com

University partners if you'd like to discuss an idea feel free to contact Jen: jennifer.obrien@manchester.ac.uk.

University Living Lab: www.universitylivinglab.org

Disclaimer and Information Regarding Consent

Some of the information in this report was gathered using snowball sampling, which may limit the representativeness of the findings.

All individuals named in the report provided consent, either verbally or via email, that they were comfortable being included in the report.

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