CASE STUDY

AIREDALE FOOD FOREST

AIREDALE GENERAL HOSPITAL - KEIGHLEY, BRADFORD

50 years ago, Prince Charles did the honour of opening Airedale General Hospital to the public in 1970. To celebrate their 50th anniversary, we worked together with YORgreencic (YGCIC) to plant 2,650 trees on their hospital grounds!

For the patients and staff at Airedale General Hospital, these trees will improve mental health and wellbeing and can also help encourage happier and healthier lifestyles. There's a great saying - 'If you want to be happy for a year, plant a garden; if you want to be happy for life, plant a tree'. With the funding from the Prince's Trust, we helped achieve this by planting thousands of bright and blossoming trees at the hospital.

> **I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THE TREES GROW AND DEVELOP WITH ALL THEIR FRUITS AND COLOURS AND SEEING HOW MUCH ENJOYMENT THE PROJECT BRINGS TO PEOPLE.**
> **STEVE MARSHALL, HOSPITAL'S HEAD GARDENER**

WHAT WE DID

The hospital serves a wide area of the surrounding population, including Keighley, which has been recognised to have several areas of deprivation. To enrich the area and allow it to flourish, we planted 2,650 fruiting trees in the open area around the hospital.

The project was not only launched to increase the biodiversity of the hospital grounds and improve the view for everyone in Keighley but to also become the Airedale 'Food Forest' to increase the amount of fresh fruit in the hospital menu.

Cherry, apple, hazel, bullace, blackthorn and more were planted to provide delicious and free food for patients and staff to enjoy!

2,650

TREES THAT WE PLANTED AT AIREDALE HOSPITAL

From the start, we aimed to get 200 enthusiastic volunteers to get their hands dirty and get involved which included some residents and families of patients and staff. We engaged with community groups in the local area too such as: the Friends of Airedale, Bradford Youth service, Aire Valley Wanderers, Get Out More Forest Schools, Keighley Big Local Volunteers and Dementia Friendly Keighley.

This encouraged greater individual connectivity and value to nature through the community's meaningful interactions with urban trees. Also, this helped the Hospital commit to providing more 'green' opportunities and events for patients and the community to get involved with in the future e.g. the harvesting of the fruits.

TREES FOR CITIES

Trees for Cities is the only UK charity working at a national and international scale to improve lives by planting trees in cities. We get stuck in with local communities to cultivate lasting change in their neighbourhoods – whether it's revitalising forgotten spaces, creating healthier environments or getting people excited about growing, foraging and eating healthy food.

Since 1993, we've planted over 1.2 million urban trees while working in partnership with local authorities and landowners to create a healthier, greener world to live in!

GET INVOLVED!

Get stuck in with one of our projects and leave a lasting impact on your community.

Join our campaign #GenerationTree to keep planting for future generations and sign up to our volunteer mailing list on our website to hear about the latest opportunities.

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1032154

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