



The  
**Kindling Trust**

Igniting passion & fuelling action for social change

# TEAM CHALLENGE DAY

***At Woodbank Community Food Hub, Stockport***

**Team-building days with a Greater Manchester social enterprise that aims to create a fairer, healthier, lower carbon food system for all.**

**A simple, safe and enjoyable way to thank staff or reconnect a team, whilst contributing to the community and the local food movement.**

Kindling's Team Challenge Days offer a unique, outdoors experience at our pioneering local food hub.

We set teams a range of practical challenges that involve working together towards a really tangible outcome at the end of the day. Whether you're clearing land for a new polytunnel, building raised beds, planting seedlings or harvesting organic crops, the day combines satisfying physical work, with an opportunity to learn about local sustainable food production.

With many staff working from home or returning to work after a prolonged absence, our Team Challenge Days offer a safe, fun way to revitalise relationships and strengthen team connections, whilst contributing towards your organisation's CSR commitments.

## Woodbank Community Food Hub

Since 2016, Kindling, together with the local community and other partner organisations, have transformed what was once a council plant nursery into a thriving food hub for the local community.

Having fallen largely into disuse, a mammoth programme of improvements has been undertaken at the site to improve infrastructure, hugely increase veg growing space and boost biodiversity. Overseen by Kindling, it's involved local volunteers, the site's occupants, and of course, Team Challenge Days!

Thanks to all of our volunteers, Woodbank Community Food Hub is now home to a family of organisations and activities including:

- ▶ Kindling's Grow, Cook & Eat referral programme; supporting people to take greater control of their health and wellbeing.
- ▶ Community garden and programme of community events.
- ▶ Volunteer days.
- ▶ Commercial veg growing.
- ▶ Training for new commercial organic veg growers.
- ▶ Stockport Beekeepers.



## Benefits

### Corporate Social Responsibility

Kindling's Team Challenge Days allow your staff to make a meaningful contribution to an initiative with ecology and community-building at its heart. We can provide social media content, photos and a written testimonial to this end, if desired.

### Team building

Volunteering is good for the soul, and working as a team to achieve a tangible goal is rewarding on a personal level as well as great for strengthening team bonds. Working safely outdoors surrounded by plants and the beautiful trees of Woodbank Park creates a calm, worry-free atmosphere for teams to renew bonds and reconnect.

### Personal development

Staff will leave the day with a better understanding of organic farming, and the challenges that face small food and farming organisations like our own. They will also have a better understanding of how food choices affect climate and biodiversity, and of the movement for local and low-carbon food.



**"There were many positives to our Day, lots of the tasks required teamwork so it was a great way to bring together people who don't usually work so closely and to get away from the day to day stresses of our work environment."**

*Jane, The University of Manchester Team Challenge Day*

# TEAM CHALLENGE DAYS

We host groups of up to 20 people for a day's food growing related activities. We'll challenge you to work as a team to complete a pre-agreed task. Projects will differ depending on the time of year and what's going on at the site; from supporting new organic growers from our training programme, to improving infrastructure or wildlife habitat, and helping out in the Community Garden. Whatever the challenge, a wide range of activities will cater for all physical abilities and skills. There will be ample opportunity to try new things, learn new skills and enjoy different tasks throughout the day.

As all our activities are outdoors, we're well placed to offer safe opportunities for team-strengthening experiences. We adhere to the most stringent Covid-19 guidance and we've developed new systems and procedures to make sure everyone's looked after.

## ▶ What the day could involve

We work with you to tailor a day that's right for your group. Here are some of the elements that could be included:

- ▶ A pre-agreed task to complete, involving a range of activities to suit different abilities.
- ▶ A tour of our site and a talk about the challenges and benefits of local food production.
- ▶ An opportunity to meet our growers and the trainees we are supporting to become the next generation of farmers.
- ▶ Refreshments and a lunch made from produce you harvest (season permitting).
- ▶ Throughout the day we'll provide feedback on progress and encouragement - especially after lunch!

If desired, we can work with you to create content for your organisation's social media presence throughout the day, taking photos of staff working together and a socially distanced team photo at the end of the day. We can also send you a write up of the day's activities and/or a testimonial of your achievements.



**"I would love to do more volunteering days like this. It was productive, well organised and the lunch was delicious! I enjoyed the chance to do something different and learn more about organic farming."**

*Sarah, BBC Team Challenge Day.*

## ▲ Looking after your team

Purpose-built facilities, robust health and safety systems and professional staff on hand to train and supervise ensure that everyone stays safe and Covid-19 compliant.

With a well planned schedule of activities, outdoor tasks that allow for physically-distant group interaction, ample sanitising stations and the right PPE, we offer a safe time and space for co-workers to reconnect and teams to be rebuilt. Your team will go home tired, but safe!

The range of activities allows all team members, no matter what their gardening experience or physical ability, to make a meaningful contribution to the day and leave satisfied that they have made a real difference.

**HOW TO APPLY ▶**



## Cost

Depending on a group size and requirements, Team Challenge Days cost us between £250 and £600 to run. This covers our staff time, refreshments, food, PPE etc. We obviously need to cover our costs, but if a group can afford to, we are always keen to make a small surplus to invest back into the site.

Please get in touch to discuss your particular requirements.

## Location

Woodbank Community Food Hub is located just inside Woodbank Memorial Park in Stockport.

Just a mile south of Stockport town centre, the site has ample car parking within 200 metres (by prior arrangement those with access needs can drive onto the site itself). A regular bus also runs from Stockport Town Centre. The exact location of the site can be found by visiting [kindling.org.uk/Woodbank](http://kindling.org.uk/Woodbank)

***"It was hard work as there were a lot of weeds to pull up, but it was really rewarding to see the space totally clear by the end of the day. Partners, who wouldn't normally work with each other in-store, were able to meet and get to know each other which was great. Everyone left feeling like they had done a day's hard work and were ready for a good bath!"***

*Abi, Waitrose Team Challenge Day*



Igniting passion & fuelling action for social change

The Kindling Trust is a social enterprise working to create a fairer, healthier, more sustainable food system for all, from the growers producing our food, to the communities eating it.

For more information about our work please visit: [kindling.org.ukTeamChallengeDays](http://kindling.org.ukTeamChallengeDays)