



## **PRESS RELEASE**

12 August 2011

### **RHS National Young Designer of the Year opens orchard in Manchester city centre**

Today, (Friday 12 August), gold medal winning RHS national young designer of the year, Daniela Coray (26) will officially open Manchester's newest Garden City scheme, her award-winning orchard garden in St John's Gardens in Castlefield in Manchester city centre.

Daniela and her team of two landscape contractors have just completed a three-week rebuild of the garden following its relocation from the RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park where it was on show last month.

This work has been made possible through joint funding from Manchester City Council and CityCo, Manchester's city centre management company.

The award-winning design includes 12 crab apple trees laid out on a grid similar to traditional rural orchards, making it easy to pick the fruit.

Amongst the trees are wildflowers such as Viper's Bugloss, a biennial plant with violet blue flowers; Ox-Eye Daisies, a familiar native wildflower and Red Campion, a common spring-flowering plant found in woodland and meadows. Other plants featured in the garden include Good King Henry, also known as poor-man's asparagus and perennial herbs Common Sorrel and Meadowsweet.

There are also three handcrafted oak benches allowing people to sit and enjoy the garden.

Landscape architect, Daniela Coray, who is originally from Virginia in the United States and now living in Cornwall said: "It's been great working with CityCo, the Council, and local residents to recreate the orchard in this lovely green space. The garden seems to really suit the space and could almost have been made especially for it. I hope local people will enjoy sitting in it as much as we've enjoyed creating it. I know the residents will take care of it and we're leaving it in safe hands."

Councillor Mike Amesbury, Manchester City Council's Executive Member for Culture and Leisure, said: "St John's Garden really is a green gem in the heart of our city centre. It's a green flag park, and is incredibly popular with workers, residents and visitors alike. This beautiful orchard enhances it further and will give pleasure to Mancunians for generations to come."

Councillor Pat Karney, Deputy Chair at CityCo, the city centre management company, said: "This initiative is our second Manchester Garden City initiative and follows the success of the first in Piccadilly Basin. It's fantastic that so many Castlefield residents have got involved and I hope it brings them a great deal of enjoyment over the years to come. The Manchester Garden City scheme is really helping bring city centre communities together."

Vaughan Allen, chief executive of CityCo said: "This is another innovative move to create a unique green space in the city centre. This collaboration with Daniela Coray is very exciting. We are committed to delivering more Garden City schemes in the coming months and are looking to work with the RHS on further projects next year."

Castlefield residents will adopt the garden and ensure its on-going maintenance and well-being.

Ali McGowan from the Castlefield Forum said: "St John's Gardens is a lovely green space and the orchard will make it even better. We're thrilled to have

this beautiful show garden installed in our neighbourhood and we're looking forward to spending time in it and taking care of it."

Anyone wanting to volunteer or pledge their support for the Manchester Garden City initiative should email [gardencity@cityco.com](mailto:gardencity@cityco.com). Residents wanting to be involved in maintaining the orchard should contact Ali McGowan at [adrmcgowan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:adrmcgowan@yahoo.co.uk).

For more information on Daniela Coray and her landscape designs visit [www.danielacoray.com](http://www.danielacoray.com).

For more information on Manchester city centre visit [www.cityco.com](http://www.cityco.com).

## **Ends**

For further information please contact Roz Hughes on T: 0161 838 3260 or M: 07967 800395

## **Notes to editors**

**CityCo** works in partnership to manage and market city centre Manchester. It is an independent, not-for-profit, company funded by both public and private sector.

**Manchester Garden City** is an independent initiative supported by CityCo, Manchester's city centre management company and Manchester based architect and design practice BDP. It aims to increase the amount of temporary green space on brownfield sites and encourage gardening and sustainable eating.