

# Building a Community

Joanne Wilkes, UK

LOUISE READ



JOANNE WILKES

“I finally feel connected to my neighbors and community—that this is my home.”

“I bought a house in Manchester’s Moss Side, which worried my family and friends. It has a reputation for crime and gang culture. But I believe that ‘a place is what you make it,’ and I wanted to connect to the community and change people’s image of Moss Side. So I got involved.

“I realized it wasn’t just me who felt disconnected. People are scared of, or don’t know their neighbors. I planned a street party called **‘The Good Side of Moss Side: Know Your Neighbors Day.’** I found out there were many children living on the street, most of whom I’d never seen.

“On the day, the children chucked messages on the road saying: ‘Friendship—say no to crime.’ There was food, music, live performances, bouncy castles, coloring competitions, craft stalls, raffles and demonstrations of Capoeira. One hundred hanging flower baskets were donated by the council, and we had support from local police, businesses and NGOs.

“The day was a great success. Around 200 people came. Everyone had fun, with no trouble. Neighbors are now talking, socializing, and the children are playing together.”



A street in Moss Side slated for redevelopment

MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS

Care for the community of life with understanding, compassion and love.  
Earth Charter Principle 2



ENDANGERED ANIMALS

## SCARLET MALACHITE BEETLE

The Scarlet Malachite Beetle is one of Britain’s rarest insects, known to inhabit only eight locations. Its flight season lasts one month, from mid-May to mid-June.

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