



THE BRISTOL BIKE PROJECT

Impact Report 2017-2018

We are a comprehensive community bike project, repairing and rehoming unwanted bicycles. We aim to help people from all walks of life get out on two wheels and for it to be an inclusive and empowering experience.

Empowerment

We empower people within our community by providing access to affordable and sustainable transportation, and encouraging an ethos of DIY and DIT (Do It Together!)

Community

We strengthen our community by providing an inclusive, vibrant and supportive space for people from all backgrounds to come and work alongside one another.

Education

We deliver an educational experience for all, and offer people the opportunity to have contact with positive role models.

Sustainability

We promote sustainability by saving bicycles and their working parts from landfill, encouraging reuse wherever possible, and offering an alternative to buying new.

From humble beginnings working out of a back garden, we've grown into a dynamic community hub welcoming hundreds of people through our doors each week, whether it's to 'earn' a bike, volunteer, learn mechanics or just come and have a cuppa! Here are some of the things we've achieved since we started in 2008...

Empowering people through two wheels

We take donations of unwanted bikes, repair them with the help of our volunteers, and rehome them with marginalised people across Bristol who really need access to affordable transport.

We've empowered well over **2,000 people** to become independently mobile through our **Earn-a-Bike** programmes since 2008.



All participants take part in a one-to-one workshop with one of our mechanics to learn basic bike maintenance and have a free bike to take away at the end of it. Our Earn-a-Bike programmes include a **young person's session** and a women-only **Freedom of Movement** workshop.

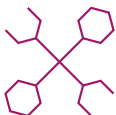
Building our community



We rehome up to 8 bicycles each week through our **Earn-a-Bike** programmes.

All our Earn-a-Bikers are encouraged to keep their bikes in tip top condition and improve their spanning skills at our free weekly **Fix-a-Bike** workshops.

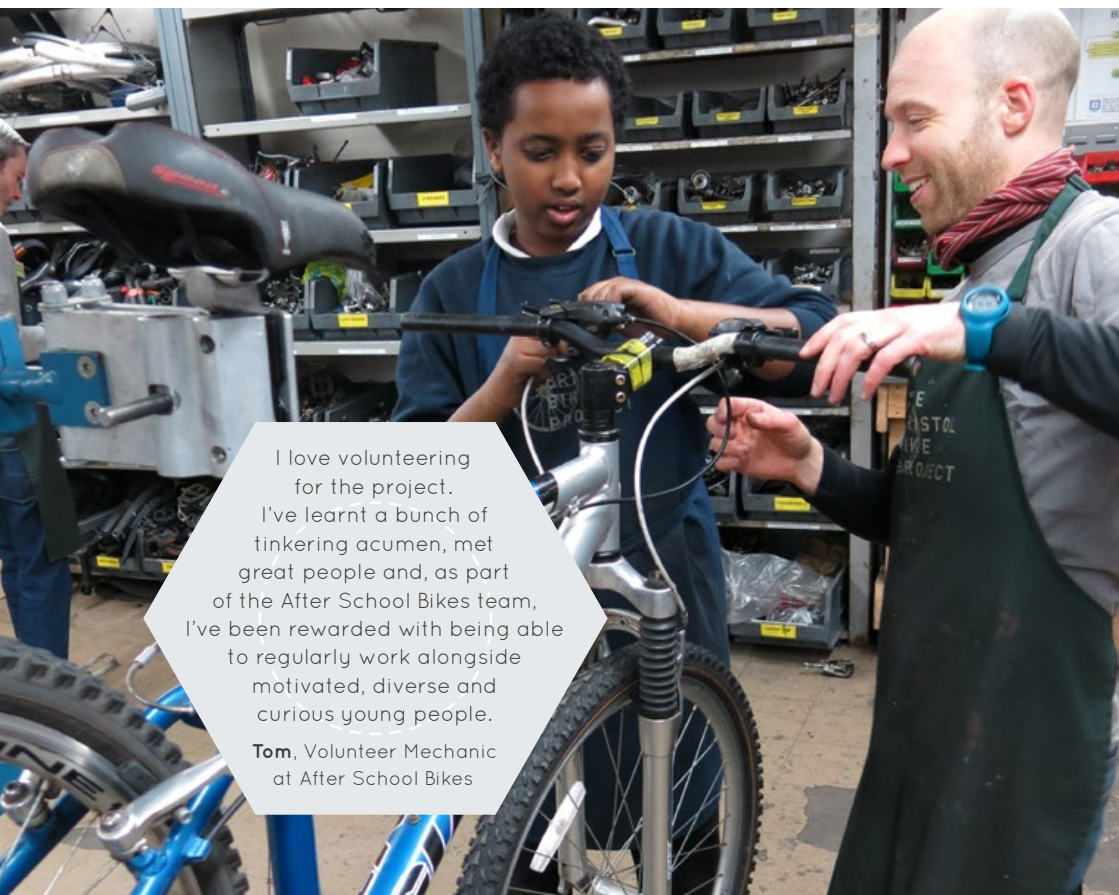
We also run a free **After School Bikes** workshop for those aged 8-18.



Each week, we support on average **30 individuals** to repair their bicycles at our **Fix-a-Bike** and **After School Bikes** sessions.



Amena, Dalal, Negat and Soad from Refugee Women of Bristol at our Freedom of Movement workshop



I love volunteering for the project. I've learnt a bunch of tinkering acumen, met great people and, as part of the After School Bikes team, I've been rewarded with being able to regularly work alongside motivated, diverse and curious young people.

Tom, Volunteer Mechanic at After School Bikes

Providing the space, tools and support to encourage a DIY and DIT (Do It Together) approach to bike mechanics

Women's Night welcomes 13 people each week

A workshop which brings together women, trans and non-binary people to share knowledge and skills in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere.



Over **500** people make use of our **Bike Kitchen** every year. We set up this programme in 2012 to help people access the space and tools to DIY.

Our **maintenance courses** for the general public now offer 6 people each week an affordable way to learn and build bike mechanics skills, whatever their level.

City and Guilds

Since March 2017, and in partnership with Life Cycle UK, we have supported **10** of our regular volunteers, who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford it, to gain a nationally-recognised bike mechanics qualification, free of charge.



Reaching out to communities across Bristol

At **Hengrove Family Cycling Centre**, we currently work with 7 different schools in some of the most deprived parts of Bristol, delivering six week bike mechanics courses.

We deliver at least **12 Community Dr Bikes** at events in Bristol every summer free of charge, carrying out safety checks and keeping peoples' bikes running smoothly.

We have a diverse community of volunteers and members of all ages, genders, nationalities and backgrounds.

Over **100 volunteers** together give on average over **560 hours** of their time each month to help people from all walks of life get out on two wheels and ensure it is an inclusive and empowering experience.



We are proud to be a cooperative, led by more than **170 members**

This means our community are at the heart of decision-making. We share the co-operative values of self help, self responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity.

Who we work with

When we first started back in 2008, we were working solely with Bristol Refugee Rights. As word spread of the valuable work that we were doing, more and more organisations began getting in touch, and today we have referrals from over **40 organisations** in and around Bristol.

BBP has it all – it's a working community that boosts skills and confidence, enables people to manage poverty, blurs the line between helper and helped, increases physical fitness and reduces landfill waste and dependence on fossil fuels. For asylum seekers with no income and who are not allowed to work, having a bike is an absolute life-line.

Supported by



Caroline Beatty,
Director at Bristol Refugee
Rights, 2006–2014



Emmanuelle

🌀 This is the first bicycle I've owned for a long time. For many years I didn't cycle. I'm in Bristol with no source of income, so having a bicycle means I can get to places I couldn't otherwise go. Because I am an asylum seeker, I have to go to Patchway on the outskirts of the city every other week to sign-in*. From my home in Brislington, Patchway is a 16 mile round trip and without the bike and with no cash for a bus it was very difficult to go there before. Now I can go almost anywhere.

I ride all around the city, but normally I like to ride out of the city. It helps me, in the stressful situation that I'm in. When I get too stressed I get on the bike and go cycling and I feel better. I can concentrate on riding the bike and sightseeing.

Next, I'm planning to cycle to Bath along the railway track which I found out about today. I also want to get fitter, so I aim to ride four days a week. 🌀

* Many asylum seekers have to report weekly or fortnightly to a police station for immigration purposes. Until October 2014, the central sign-in point was at Trinity Road police station in Bristol city centre. Now it's at Patchway police station, a 14 mile round journey from the city centre. The decision has been called a form of "bureaucratic punishment" by local refugee groups.

How we Roll

Since starting, we have always sought wherever possible to be self-funding and not reliant on grants. By running this way, we believe that the Project is more resilient as a result.

In 2017-18 BBP generated funding of **£226,740**, and spent **£222,772**. The majority of our income came from our trading arm – bike sales and repairs in the shop – with further support from grants, part-funded community programmes and a successful Earn-a-Bike Supporter’s Scheme which generates £600 every month.

All funding received has been vital in ensuring that we can continue to be here for our community. We would like to thank all donors, funders and customers for supporting us.



Trading
income
£187,666

Donations
£11,582



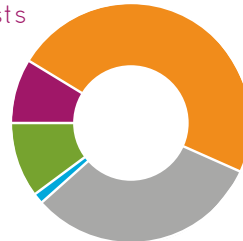
Grants
£24,602

Part-funded Community
Programmes **£2,889**



Workshop
running costs
£19,239

Admin
staff
£22,811



Shop and
programme
staff
£107,139

Advertising
and marketing **£3,196**

Bike parts
and other
activity costs
£70,387

Become a BBP Supporter

Help us get more people out on two wheels by heading to bit.ly/BBPdonate and donating £10 a month. As a thank you, we'll help you keep your bike rolling smoothly with 1 free service a year!



Celebrating 10 years
of the Bristol Bike Project
est. 2008