

## Impact Report 2019



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.

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## **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.

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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 achieved in 2019...

# 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 over **2,200 people** to become independently mobile through our **Earn-a-Bike** programmes since 2008.

In 2019, we rehomed **279 bikes**.

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 womxn-only **Freedom of Movement** workshop.

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## Keeping our community rolling



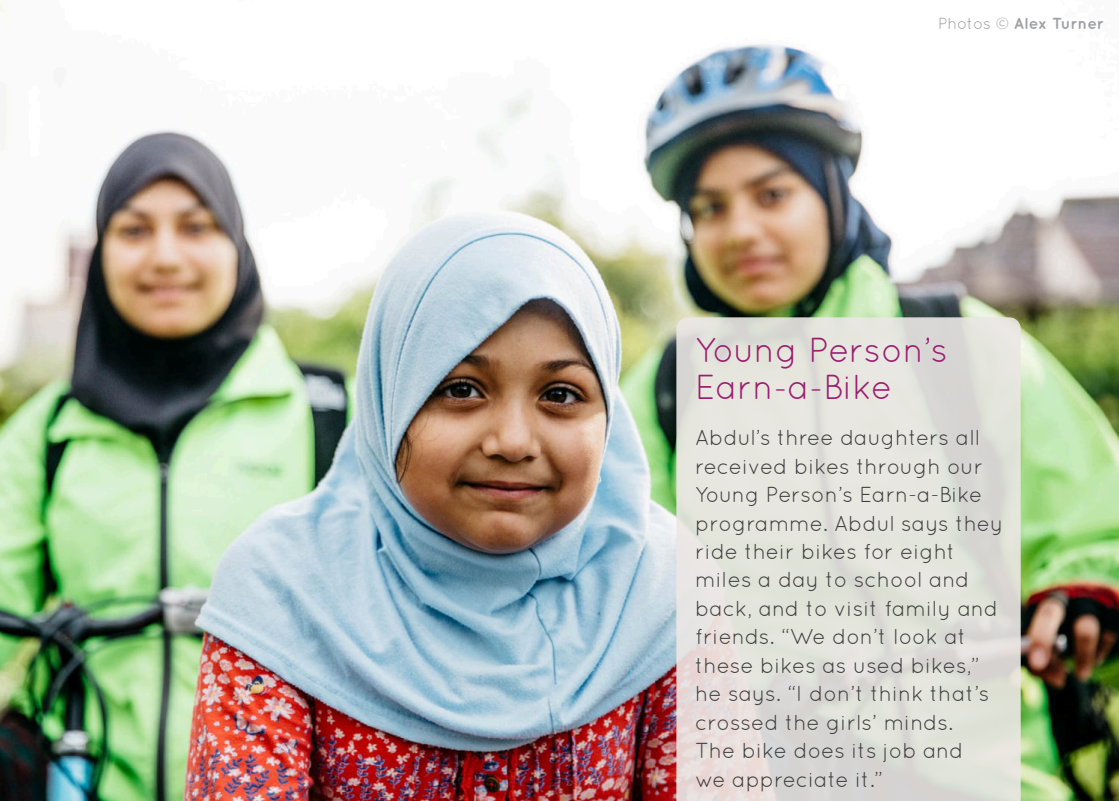
All our Earn-a-Bikers are encouraged to keep their bikes in tip top condition and improve their spanning skills at our free weekly **Fix-a-Bike** workshops.

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** workshops.







## Young Person's Earn-a-Bike

Abdul's three daughters all received bikes through our Young Person's Earn-a-Bike programme. Abdul says they ride their bikes for eight miles a day to school and back, and to visit family and friends. "We don't look at these bikes as used bikes," he says. "I don't think that's crossed the girls' minds. The bike does its job and we appreciate it."

## Esam Earn-a-Bike

Esam, a Kurdish refugee from Iraq, has been part of the BBP Earn-a-Bike community since 2013 and recently nominated BBP for a community award.

"I go everywhere with my bike – to appointments, to visit friends, to drop ins. It saves me time and money. The Bristol Bike Project are not only helping me, they are helping everybody. They keep the environment safe, they keep people fit, they are reducing waste.

The Bristol Bike Project has become like a village for me, a society. I've been adopted."



## Learning to DIY!



Our drop-in repair workshops provide the space, tools and support to encourage a DIY and DIT (Do It Together) approach to bike mechanics.

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Womxn's Night\* welcomes **over 30 individuals** every month to share knowledge and skills in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere.



*"Had the best time  
@bristolbikeproj tonight -  
got to do it myself surrounded  
+ supported by some v. cool  
womxn and it was super  
affordable and supports  
great projects"*



\*This year we added an 'x' to make it clear that we explicitly include women of colour, trans women, non-binary folks and any other women who may feel discriminated against in some areas of feminism.

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**Over 40 people** made use of our **Bike Kitchen** each month in 2019, giving people access to the space and tools to DIY.



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In 2019, **272 people** completed one of our **Maintenance Courses**, which offer an affordable way to learn and build bike mechanics skills, whatever their level.

# Volunteering at BBP

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



Over **100 volunteers** together give on average **235 hours** of their time each month to help people from all walks of life get out on two wheels.

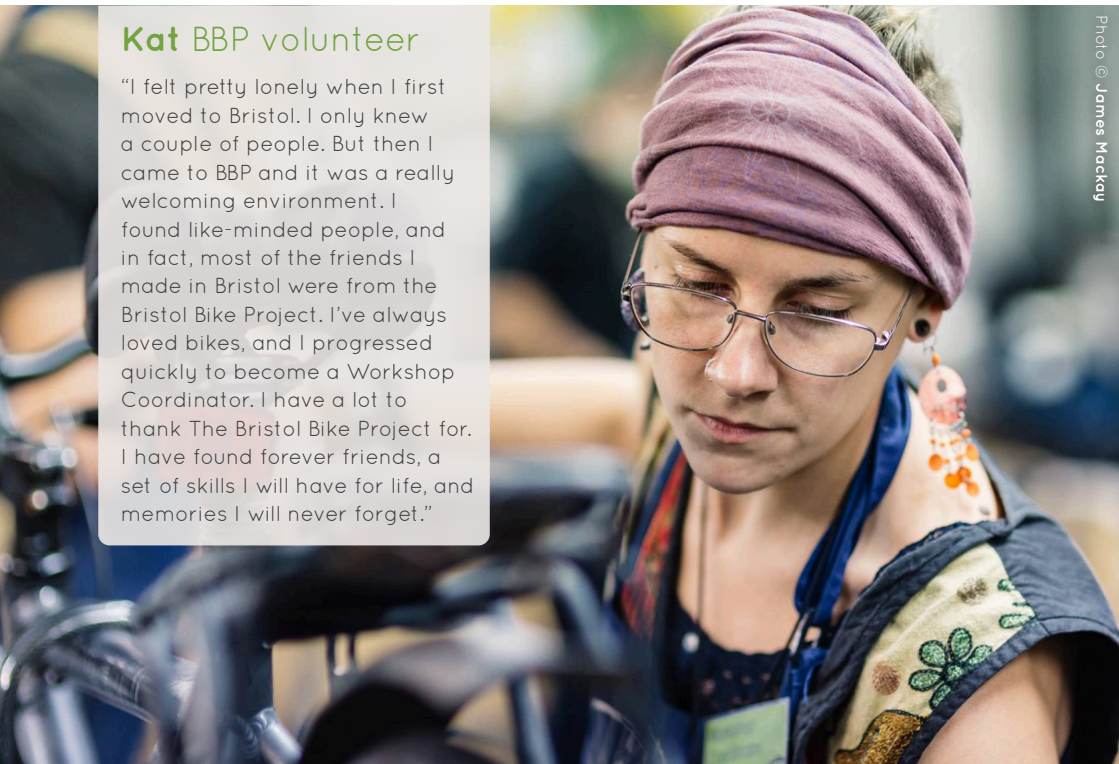
We know that it's our volunteers that keep the wheels of this project turning, so we offer training and support to develop their skills and experiences.

We've given **free training** to **50 volunteers** to develop their mechanics skills in bottom brackets, brakes and everything in between.



## Kat BBP volunteer

"I felt pretty lonely when I first moved to Bristol. I only knew a couple of people. But then I came to BBP and it was a really welcoming environment. I found like-minded people, and in fact, most of the friends I made in Bristol were from the Bristol Bike Project. I've always loved bikes, and I progressed quickly to become a Workshop Coordinator. I have a lot to thank The Bristol Bike Project for. I have found forever friends, a set of skills I will have for life, and memories I will never forget."





# Our Co-op

We are proud to be a co-operative, led by more than 90 active members, putting our community at the heart of decision-making.

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We share the co-operative values of **self help, self responsibility, democracy, equality, equity** and **solidarity**.

We empower our membership to make more and better informed decisions by demystifying our governance processes and generating a sense of ownership over the co-op as a whole.



We make decisions collectively at regular members meetings, in our working groups and through longer term consultations.

In 2019, our members co-created a new membership model, revised our safer space commitment and collectively designed and developed plans for our new home (...watch this space!)

***"It's nice to feel 'counted' and recognised, with rewards such as having a voice and being part of a community"***



Read our Co-op handbook to find out more about the inner workings of our machine: [bit.ly/BBPcoop](https://bit.ly/BBPcoop)

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As a Co-op we are committed to helping others and collaborating wherever possible. In 2019, we welcomed fellow co-ops and bike project workers from Chepstow to Cologne through our doors to find out more about how we work and share top tips.

## Reaching out to communities across Bristol and beyond

We get referrals from **over 50 organisations** in and around Bristol, including Unseen who support victims of human trafficking and modern slavery.

*"The bikes donated by BBP have greatly enriched the lives of many of the clients here - helping build their confidence, getting them outside and taking exercise, saving them bus money and generally contributing so much to their healing and wellness. Your work and support makes a massive difference"*

Rose Codner, Unseen



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At the Bristol Family Cycling Centre in Hengrove, we work with Bristol City Council to deliver Cycle Superheroes - a six week bike maintenance course - to pupils from schools in some of the most deprived parts of Bristol.

In 2019,  
**65 secondary  
and primary  
school students**  
took part.

*"Cycle Superheroes is an amazing opportunity for our children who are not so academically able. It gives those children who are more creative and 'hands on' the chance to thrive, be successful and learn in an alternative way"*

Sean Brice, Learning Mentor at Victoria Park Primary



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Last summer, as part of the Big Bike Revival our mobile mechanics set up shop at **9 community events** across Bristol offering free cycle repairs and safety checks.



## Vicky Earn-a-Bike attendee

Vicky was referred to us through one of the many organisations in the local area who encourage their clients to reach out to us. New to Bristol in 2019 she credits BBP with helping her find a new network of friends in an unfamiliar city. After years of social isolation, living with complicated PTSD and being in a damaging environment of sheltered housing for recovering drug users.

"I wouldn't have been able to go to the Recovery Toolkit\*. There wasn't a bus that went there. Cycling there was just great mental and physical health exercise. It made a massive difference. The bike was the one thing that saved me.

"For the first time in many years I wanted to be around people. The bike is my only means of getting around. My life has improved so much for the better. I used to wake up and think, 'oh my god I can't believe I'm conscious again'. I never thought I could have the feeling that I do now."

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\*Recovery Toolkit is a programme for people with experience of domestic abuse



# Sustainability

Each month, we receive more than **120 unwanted bicycles**.



Some bikes have sat abandoned and lonely for years in sheds, train stations or the city dump before making their way to us.

Our volunteers work hard to spruce them up before they are rehomed through our **Earn-a-Bike programmes**.



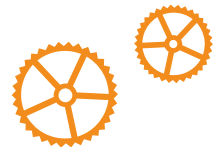
Some bicycles are **refurbished** and sold to the public, offering an affordable and sustainable alternative to buying new, factory-made bikes. Profits support our community work.

Bicycles that can't be salvaged are stripped for **usable parts** that are reused in other bikes.

In 2019, we sold **234 second-hand bikes**.



Unusable parts are passed on to other organisations for **reuse, upcycling** or **recycling**.



Scrap metal gets **recycled**. Old inner tubes are crafted into neat **cycling accessories**, like wallets. Tyres are transformed into awesome **playpods**.



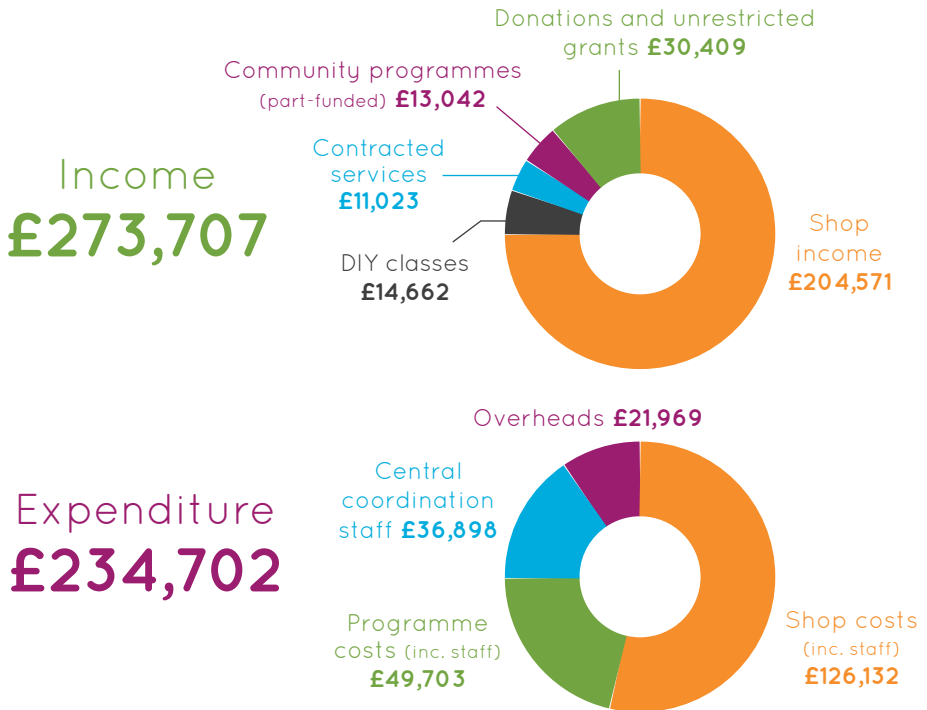
In 2019, we saved **more than 1,400 bikes** from landfill!

## How we roll

We have always sought wherever possible to be self-funding and not reliant on grants. We believe this makes us more resilient.

In 2018-2019 BBP generated funding of £273,707 and spent £234,702 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 £785 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.



## Supported by

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# Support The Bristol Bike Project



For just £10 a month you can get more bicycles to people who really need them. In return, we'll help you keep yours rolling smoothly with **1 free service a year!**

## Supporter perks

- Annual free bike service
- 10% discount on servicing and repairs, secondhand bikes for sale and new parts in our shop
- 50% discount on secondhand parts (and sometimes even for free!)
- 10% discount on our maintenance courses
- Free entry to our weekly Bike Kitchen and Womxn's Night
- A BBP cycling cap or t-shirt (fair-trade organic cotton)
- A set of BBP stickers
- A monthly e-newsletter complete with invites to BBP events
- A warm glow deep down inside!

A regular monthly donation of £10 helps us keep our valuable services rolling, but if you'd rather make a smaller monthly donation or one-off donation that's amazing too.

## Becoming a BBP supporter

Help more people get out on two wheels by heading to **[bit.ly/BBPdonate](https://bit.ly/BBPdonate)** and donating £10 a month.

## Thank you!



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