



Impact Report 2022/23

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 thriving community cooperative welcoming people of all backgrounds, faiths and nationalities 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 in 2022/23.

# Empowering people through two wheels

We take donations of unwanted bikes, repair them with the help of our volunteers, and rehome them with people across Bristol who really need access to affordable transport and would otherwise be unable to afford a bike of their own.

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We've empowered  
**over 2,760 people** to become  
independently mobile through our  
Earn-a-Bike programmes since 2008.

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All participants take part in a hands-on workshop session with one of our volunteer mechanics to learn basic bike maintenance skills and have a fully refurbished bike to take away at the end of it. Our Earn-a-Bike programmes include a dedicated young person's session and a 'Freedom of Movement' session for those that prefer a quieter, women only space..

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







## 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.



Raise the Saddle welcomed over **245 women, non binary and trans folk** to learn, fix, teach, socialise and help each other in 2022.

We believe that it is important to create this dedicated space, as well as encouraging folk to participate in the wider BBP community.



Over **290 people** made use of our weekly Bike Kitchen sessions each month in 2022, giving people access to the space and tools to DIY.

10 people generously volunteered their time to support the session.

In 2022, **155 people** completed one of our Maintenance Courses, which offer the general public an affordable way to learn and build bike maintenance skills, whatever their level.





## Volunteering at BBP

Our diverse community of volunteers and members continued to thrive in 2022/23 as we invested time in developing free training in headsets, drivetrains, wheels, brakes and everything in between, to upskill volunteers and begin to strengthen our Volunteer pathway.

We have partnered with Lifecycle UK to offer City and Guilds Level 1 & 2 bike maintenance training to regular volunteers who meet the eligibility criteria. We are also hoping to offer our experienced volunteers further professional work experience..

Our volunteers also play a major role in our working groups covering co-op areas such as Race and Diversity, HR and Governance and Premises, as well as promoting the project within schools and at community events.



“I volunteer at BBP because the people here are friendly to me and are passionate about bikes. I really enjoy being part of the bike community in Bristol.”

Ashley

Earn a Bike volunteer

If you are interested in becoming part of our community and have a little time to spare then we'd love to hear from you: [volunteer@thebristolbikeproject.org](mailto:volunteer@thebristolbikeproject.org)

## Our Co-op

We are proud to be a co-operative, led by more than 50 active members, putting our community at the heart of decision-making.

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

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The co-op set five top priorities for 2023 that cover two areas:

The first is engagement and development. We aim to create a development pathway from Earn A Bike recipient through volunteer training to professional apprenticeships.



Secondly, we prioritised ensuring staff pay keeps up with the rising cost of living and to look at more sources of funding.

We continue to support the co-operative movement nationally through Co-ops UK and joining the newly formed workers coop federation.

Locally, we invited the wonderful Bristol Co-operative Gym to discuss their work with us.



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This year also saw us adopt a new Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policy and form a Representation and Diversity Working Group.

This group will identify and seek to remove barriers to inclusion and discuss ways in which to increase diversity across the project.

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Read our [Co-op handbook](#) to find out more about the inner workings of our machine.

## Reaching out to communities across Bristol and beyond

We get referrals from a huge range of organisations in and around Bristol, including Bristol Hospitality Network. BHN works alongside people seeking asylum who are facing destitution in Bristol. They source hosted accommodation and support creative community engagement across the city.

“BHN have worked with BBP to provide much needed transport to our members, many of whom are isolated living in hotels outside of the city centre. With bus ticket costs on the rise, our members were struggling to attend appointments and we were struggling to find the funds to pay for increased bus fares and the number of tickets. Having a bike has given our members the freedom to travel for free and reap the health benefits of cycling daily which has improved not only peoples physical fitness but their mental health as well.”

Mijanou Blech, Director, Bristol Hospitality Network





Another organisation we work alongside is Pause Bristol/One 25. They work to improve the lives of women who have had – or are at risk of having – more than one child removed from their care, and the services and systems that affect them.

“The feedback we’ve received from women who have used the Bristol Bike Project “Earn a Bike” scheme has been incredible. One woman shared how a bus can be late and anxiety inducing, but her BBP bike is always on time, and on her own terms.

**One25**  
For women to **heal and thrive**

The sessions at BBP are collaborative, empowering, and inclusive. Women come away feeling part of the BBP community, and are welcomed back by staff at any time. The BBP bikes have gone on to be well used and well loved. They’ve made support and recovery groups more accessible, they’ve opened up new hobbies, learning, and work opportunities, they’ve increased self-esteem, improved physical and mental health, and they’ve brought people joy. They have offered choice and autonomy to survivors, and this can be transformative.

We’re really grateful to BBP for everything they contribute to the Bristol community – it is a pleasure to work in partnership with them.”

Nell Jeffries, Pause Practitioner, Pause Bristol/One25



# Sustainability

In 2022, we received **more than 800 unwanted bicycles** as donations.



Many of these have sat unused and gathering dust in sheds, gardens or garages for years. Others come from our waste partners at Bristol Waste, Bristol Temple Meads, student accommodation and housing associations who recover abandoned bicycles and send them our way to be given a new lease of life.



Donated bikes are given a thorough service and revamp by our volunteers before being rehomed through our **Earn-a-Bike programmes**.

Some of the bicycles donated to us are refurbished and sold to the public, offering an affordable and sustainable alternative to buying new, factory-made bikes. All profits support our community programmes.



In 2022, our trading arm refurbished and sold **137 second-hand bikes**.



If we can't salvage donated bicycles, we will always strip them for any usable parts which will then be used on other bikes.

Any worn out, damaged or otherwise unusable parts will be passed on to one of our partner organisations for reuse, upcycling or recycling:

Scrap metal gets recycled.

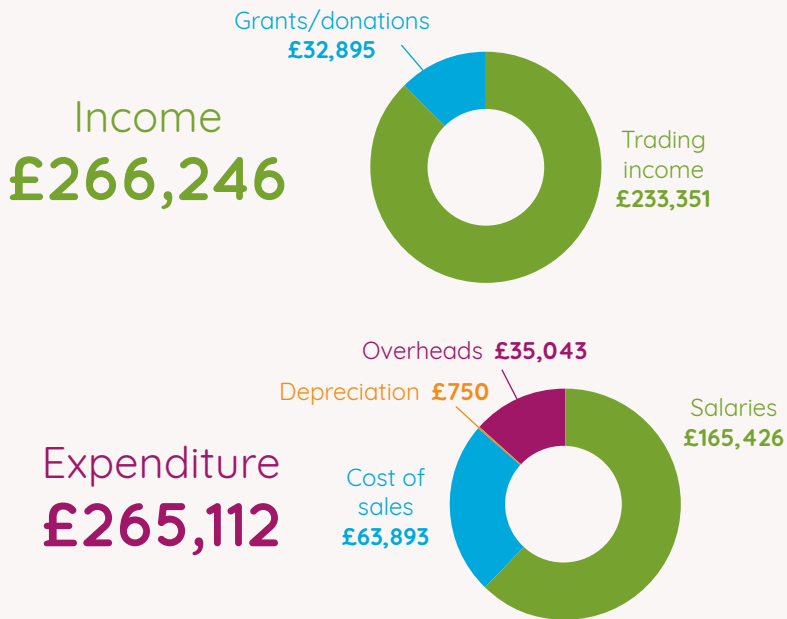
Old inner tubes are sent off to be recycled into new ones.

Once tyres have been run into the ground, they are passed on to be recycled into safety flooring for children's play areas.

## How we roll

This was a year of consolidation after the disruption caused by COVID and the move from our previous home in St Paul's to our new premises in Easton. Trading income recovered somewhat after those exceptional events in 2021/22 and we were pleased to generate a small surplus for 2022/23 as a whole, meaning that we did not need to make any further use of reserves.

As ever, we are thankful to all donors, funders and customers for supporting us.



## Previously supported by

travelwest+



school for  
social  
entrepreneurs



Quartet  
Community  
Foundation



# Support The Bristol Bike Project

All of the vital work we do for our community costs a lot of money. We currently receive very little in grant funding and our shop can only fund a limited amount of our activities.

**This is why we need your help.**

You can make a real difference, and give more people access to affordable and sustainable transport  
**by becoming a supporter.**



a month will enable us to provide over  
**14 hours of training**  
for one of our volunteer mechanics



a month will enable us to completely refurbish a bike  
for **2 people in need each year**



a month will enable us to help  
**2 young people every month** to repair their bike

**Become a supporter today** and receive a regular newsletter with updates on the difference your valued contribution is making as well as invites to exclusive events.

A regular monthly donation helps us keep this valuable service rolling, but if you'd rather make a one-off donation that's amazing too.

**Every donation, big or small, is gratefully received.**

**Thank you, from everyone at the Bristol Bike Project**



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