

1 JANUARY 2024 - 31 DECEMBER 2024

# ANNUAL REPORT



**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1157844**

## About Us

We operate in the NR2 area of Norwich and encourage local people to share their skills with others to foster a sense of community and collaboration. We help individuals learn from one another and promote the sharing of knowledge and skills within our diverse community.

Our projects contribute to building a stronger, more connected community. We provide opportunities for personal development, reduce inequality and enhance the overall quality of life for individuals in the area.



### **Bread and Roses Community Café**

2024 has been a pivotal year in the development of Bread and Roses Community Café. We are extremely grateful to our funders, Norwich Consolidated Charities, whose generous grant funding enabled a full refurbishment of the café premises. This investment has significantly improved the safety, accessibility, and welcoming nature of the space. In addition to financial support, we are proud of the in-kind contributions received throughout the year, including volunteer hours and donated goods and services. These have added substantial value to our operations and reflect strong community engagement.

As a result of increased capacity and funding, we have:

- Extended our opening hours
- Increased staffing levels
- Committed to paying the Real Living Wage to all employees

Despite these positive developments, we have faced challenges, particularly around rising energy and supply costs, which have impacted our budget. Nevertheless, we continue to provide a home-cooked, nutritious menu that supports the health and wellbeing of our local community.

### **Safeguarding and Safety**

The café operates in an area affected by anti-social behaviour, often linked to county lines drug activity and criminal exploitation.

These issues have required a proactive approach to safeguarding vulnerable adults, children, and young people. In response, we have:

- Installed additional security measures
- Ensured staff are not lone working
- Increased staffing to support safety and supervision

These measures have had a financial impact, but were necessary to ensure the safety of our team and beneficiaries.

### **Partnerships and Community Engagement**

We have successfully developed collaborative relationships with:

- The Garage Performing Arts Venue and their community producer
- The detached youth work team
- Our local police beat managers
- Mind the Gap, a mental health music project

These partnerships have strengthened our outreach and programming, particularly for young people.


Engagement with local schools has been more challenging, with low initial uptake for youth projects. In response, we have shifted to a direct engagement model, working more closely with young people and families in the area. This has led to the launch of community art collaborations, including the co-design of murals that now brighten our space and reflect local voices and have consolidated a sense of local pride.

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WE HAVE USED OUR GRANT FUNDING TO:

- Subsidise the cost of the most nutritious hot meals to make them affordable to the local community
- Supplement our staffing budget to pay a real living wage
- Support with core running costs to mitigate the increased cost of energy and supplies
- Renovate our premises to improve safety and accessibility
- Provide training to our staff and volunteers
- Pilot and evaluate new projects suggested by the local community then use the evaluation as evidence base for subsequent funding bids





“everyone who lives in  
this area has  
something they can  
learn and something  
that they can help  
someone else to learn  
how to do”

# JENNY LIND GARDENING PROJECT

The gardening group maintained a consistent schedule of twice-monthly sessions, with additional activity during peak growth periods. In May and June alone, volunteers contributed 20 hours of gardening across three sessions.

Positive Community Feedback is regularly received, particularly for the garden beds in Vauxhall Street and numerous compliments from park users. The visual impact and environmental benefit of the work have been widely appreciated.

New regular volunteers joined the team, strengthening capacity and community involvement.

Donations of tools from Lakenham and Town Close Green Spaces have supported the work, with storage facilities also secured locally.

**Additional Funding Secured**  
A grant of £1,176 from Love Norwich was secured and will be ring-fenced for gardening activities. This funding will support ongoing maintenance and development.

## Strategic Development

Trustees agreed to transfer the gardening projects to Lakenham & Town Close Green Spaces (LTC). This move is to align the projects with LTC's green space governance model, allowing NR2 Trustees to focus on café and community-based initiatives which need greater trustee focus and oversight due to the complexities and context of operating in the challenges faced by the local community.

LTC Green Spaces has expressed support in principle for the transfer, pending formal agreement.

Trustees agreed to transfer relevant grant funding to LT and also a fair proportion of unrestricted funds to ensure continuity of projects.

Trustees formally thank Liz for her leadership and to our volunteers for their dedication to the gardening projects and for the positive impact on the local environment and community wellbeing

# GET MOVING - ACCESSIBLE EXERCISE

The Get Moving Exercise Class has grown in popularity throughout the year, leading to the introduction of a waiting list due to high demand.

Trustees are monitoring interest to assess the feasibility of launching an additional class to meet community needs.

Participants have taken initiative to form their own Amble and Chat Group, meeting independently for local walks and social gatherings. This self-organised group reflects the positive social impact of the exercise class.

A current participant has volunteered to coordinate the sessions, demonstrating strong community ownership and sustainability.

Funders have expressed their support and enthusiasm for the class's impact, particularly the emergence of additional social activities initiated by participants.

We extend our sincere thanks to our skilled and engaging tutor Emma, whose energy, empathy, and professionalism have been instrumental in the success of the programme

Her ability to create a welcoming and accessible environment has helped many participants regain mobility and confidence, particularly those affected by isolation during lockdown

Special thanks also go to trustee Gal, who first identified the need for such a class and helped bring the idea to life. Her vision and commitment laid the foundation for what has become a valued and impactful community resource.

**"OUR CLASSES ARE INCLUSIVE, WITH INVENTIVE WAYS ADDED TO KEEP ALL OF THE CLASSES INCLUSIVE. WE MOVE OUR BODIES THROUGH ALL RANGES OF MOVEMENT, LEARNING HOW TO IMPROVE POSTURE, COORDINATION AND CONCENTRATION. WE FOCUS ON FALLS PREVENTION, INDEPENDENT MOVEMENT AND FUNCTIONAL MOBILITY"**



EMMA CORLETT, CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

I would like to thank our volunteers and staff for their hard work and commitment to improving the lives of the local community.

I thank all of the partners who have worked with us this year to use our collective strengths, skills and resources for the benefit of those in and around the Jenny Lind area of Norwich.

Heartfelt thanks to our main funders Norwich Consolidated Charities for supporting us to develop our model of place based services by listening and responding to what the local community tell us that they want and need. I look forward to an exciting 2025 with new projects bringing local residents' ideas to life.



Table 1

	<b>NR2 Community Skills Share</b>				
	<b>Financial Accounts for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024</b>				
	<b>Income and Expenditure</b>			<b>Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024</b>	
<b>Cafe Income</b>	£				£
<b>Turnover</b>	61,370			Cash at Bank	29,406
	<b>61,370</b>			Cash in till	100
				Cash float for exercise class	80
<b>Cafe Expenses</b>					<b>29,586</b>
<b>Staff costs</b>	59,243				
<b>Cafe supplies</b>	26,881			Less liability for British Gas charges	4,760
<b>Rent</b>	8,500				<b>24,826</b>
<b>Rates, Refuse, etc.</b>	3,798				
<b>Utilities</b>	1,758				
<b>Pay It Forward</b>	3,442				
	<b>103,622</b>				
<b>Trading Deficit</b>	<b>-42,252</b>				
<b>Other Income</b>					
<b>NCC grant</b>	62,500				
<b>Donations</b>	4,044				
<b>Sunday Social funds brought in</b>	2,275				
<b>Room hire</b>	2,025				
	<b>70,844</b>				
<b>Other Expenses</b>					
<b>Manager's Employment costs</b>	15,093				
<b>Equipment and Repairs</b>	13,191				
<b>Exercise Class Instructor</b>	5,875	(covered by grant income banked in previous financial year)			
<b>Exercise Class Room Hire</b>	868	(covered by grant income banked in previous financial year)			
<b>Gardening Project</b>	1,608				
<b>Art Class Teacher</b>	335				
<b>Other expenses</b>	2,207				
	<b>39,177</b>				

<b>Deficit</b>	<b>-10,585</b>				
			Note		
			<p>We have a backdated liability to British Gas in respect of their failure to bill us for our electricity supply between June 2024 and February 2025. The amount is estimated at £4,760 as shown in the balance sheet at 31/12/24. This is expected to be repaid over 12/18 months however the final amount and repayment period are subject to agreement with British Gas.</p>		

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