

BACK TO FRONT CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1170920

Details

Other names	BACK TO FRONT, BTOF
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Company number	CE009490
Registered	2016-12-29
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	27 Ashton Street Leeds LS8 5BY
Phone	07716440511
Email	contactus@BACKTOFRONT.ORG.UK
Website	www.backtofront.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL (AND PARTICULARLY AMONGST PEOPLE LIVING IN AREAS OF HIGH DEPRIVATION) ON THE SUBJECT OF GROWING FOOD IN URBAN SPACES ESPECIALLY FRONT GARDENS AND TO PROMOTE RESEARCH FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN ALL ASPECTS OF THAT SUBJECT AND TO PUBLISH THE USEFUL RESULTS.

Activities: Delivering training and learning workshops.Setting up new learning and growing community hubs.Ensuring access to practical resources and learning resources to support community food growing.Facilitating community learning and sharing events.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage, Recreation, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Leeds City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,625	£1,151	-	-
2024-03-31	£0	£1,014	-	-
2023-03-31	£2,500	£778	-	-
2022-03-31	£0	£8	-	-
2021-03-31	£100	£260	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
KATIE BERNICE GREAVES	Chair	2017-12-04
Karen Harris		2017-06-05
Katy Daniel		2019-01-01
PETER CRUIKSHANKS		2016-12-29

Accounts

Annual Report

April 2024 - March 2025



Back to Front CIO - Registered Charity
Number 1170920
Established 2011 as a community group



Chair's Welcome:

On behalf of the Back to Front Trustees I would like to offer another warm welcome to our annual report, our eighth since we became a registered charity in December 2016 (Back to Front CIO - Registered Charity Number 1170920).

This reporting period we put to one side the frustrations and setbacks we had experienced last year and took the decision only to focus on key priorities and projects we knew we could begin independently, and that we knew were important to our core Harehills growers. We also agreed to continue to allow more time throughout the year for future planning, to create opportunities for trustee training in useful practical activities that can be opened up to our core growers, and for reflection to examine our thoughts and feelings on the progress and direction we are taking at each stage.

We were feeling newly inspired by some good examples of community growing elsewhere in Leeds, so we began looking for funding so that we could continue to develop our knowledge and skills of working with a variety of fruit and nut trees and invest in the future of the lovely **Harehills Park Orchard** as part of our **Gateways to Growing project**. The council had listened to some local residents who had been requesting that the gate to the Orchard is open more so we hoped to support this so that that the Orchard space could be enjoyed by more people.

We then turned our attention to running our annual seasonal sessions where we invite core volunteers and the wider

community to get together for our **Spring educational skill building at Junior Sports Hub (JSH)**, a variety of seasonal activities at **Harehills Park**, **Autumn maintenance sessions at the Ashton Road Pollinator Planter** and our **Winter herbal uses session at the Thackray Museum of Medicine**.

As in previous years we prioritised networking and connecting with other partner organisations such as the **RHS** and **Fruit Works co-operative**. We also committed



to continuing to use our knowledge and experience to support the local **Neighbourhood Forum**. We spent lots of time listening to ideas and feedback from those in our community, this was especially significant after the local unrest in the summer. Emotions were heightened and residents were keen to share their thoughts and perceptions on greenspaces with us.

In April 2024 we were told the sad news that one of our regular volunteers and keen gardener **Chas** had passed away, and in December 2024 that another volunteer **Jo** was extremely ill. Our Back to Front volunteers all mean such a lot to us and firm friendships have blossomed and grown through the years of sharing seeds, skills and stories at organised action days, workshops, seasonal sessions, and occasionally through chance meetings and encounters when watering and maintenance tasks bring likeminded folk together. We will remember Chas fondly, especially when the fruit trees and daffodils he helped to plant begin to bloom each year and make us smile.

Thanks to all our loyal and inspiring local growers, especially **Zoe, Verginia, Jonathan,** and **Terry**, for getting stuck in with such enthusiasm and those core members who participate in the **Harehills Neighbourhood Forum**. Thank you again to **Trisha** for thinking of us every year and donating her tomato plants and the **RHS** for their generous donation of herbs and plants for planting in the JHS garden and giving out to growers at our spring plant share. Thank you to our fantastic partners this year, **Junior Sports Hub** and the **Thackray Museum of Medicine** for their openness and generosity towards the local community. Thank you to **Climate Action Leeds** for supporting our plans for the Orchard. Thank you to **Leeds City Council**, especially **Councillors Salma and Asghar** for helping us to explore ideas around replacing the Ashton Road Planter.

Thank you to our Back to Front Trustees: co-chair **Karen**, treasurer **Peter**, secretary **Katy**, and **Adam** for everything each of you did this reporting period to keep our small charity successful and sustainable. Finally, thank you as always to my husband **Ben and our growing boy**, for continuing to support us in both rain and shine, and helping to keep me growing and learning.

This reporting period we all worked hard to get everything into place to allow us to believe that our latest ideas and efforts will take root so we can continue to grow in hope and confidence so that more places and spaces will blossom in the future.

Katie Greaves, Co-Chair of the Trustees of Back to Front CIO.





Introduction: **Preparing the Ground**

This reporting period we were in the third year of our five-year Gateway to Growing project which we began working on as part of our sustainable Covid recovery plan. Our key priorities remain outdoor education, community gardening, networking, and research and our two main aims this year were to:

- Future proof greenspaces in Harehills to allow for more fruitful community growing
- Provide more educational skill building and networking opportunities for local trustees.

With this in mind, we then divided our focus for this reporting period into three distinct strands of work, these were:



1. **Maintaining fruitful futures - investing in the orchard,**
2. **Seasonal sessions - firm favourites and learning new skills,**
3. **Digging deeper – networking, forum, and consultations.**

Last year each of the more experienced local trustees took responsibility for leading, planning and developing one of the strands of work. Throughout the reporting period they communicated ideas, plans, progress, and any issues with the other project lead trustees so that we were all kept in the loop and could support each other when required. At the end of the reporting period the lead trustee then wrote about their strand of work for our Annual Report, and we reflected on the outcome as a group. This arrangement worked well for us to manage our workload as volunteers, and it made clever use of our individual skills. It also allowed for personal growth and development too, so we decided to repeat this way of working again.

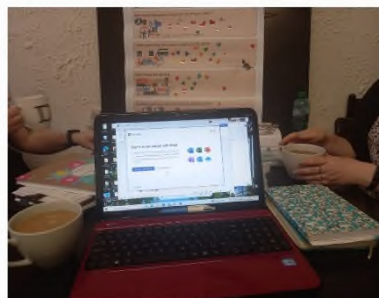
After identifying our priorities for the year, we agreed Katy would be focusing on our **Maintaining fruitful futures** priority and planning our activities in the orchard, all local trustees wanted to be involved with developing the **Seasonal sessions** and Katie and Karen would team up and focus on **Digging deeper** to support our third strand of work.



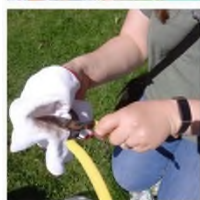
All three of our areas of focus this year involved a lot more of the unseen planning and behind the

scenes work than in previous years, but we were still able to organise plenty of opportunities to connect with our local growers and reach new people through our seasonal sessions. We also wanted to concentrate on local networking this year as we already know from our years of lived experience and involvement with

Back to Front and Harehills in Bloom in the area, that a lot of the barriers faced by residents are part of a much larger systemic problem. We continued to work closely with the **Harehills Neighbourhood Forum** and this year we supported the ongoing local research and consultations with Karen leading on a consultation event in Banstead Park.



Activities such as tool maintenance and scything had previously been requested by our core growers, and we were fortunate to have these skills and knowledge in house. We began by identifying the three most requested and useful skill building activities for this year, **Espalier fruit tree training, tool**



maintenance, and scything. Since we were still running all our seasonal sessions ourselves this reporting period, we expanded some of our existing annual activities to include the skill sharing opportunities for our local trustees to participate in too rather than just running the session. This way we could share these useful practical skills, knowledge, and experience between us at the sessions and then share these skills more widely as part of our sessions in the future.

Another popular session we wanted to repeat was our **Herbal Uses workshop** which we held at the **Thackray Museum of Medicine**. Feedback from our growers after our session last year was so positive, and they really enjoyed having an opportunity to use herbs in different ways, so we planned to end the calendar year with a repeated session in the community space at the Thackray Museum of Medicine. After all the frustrations and setbacks last reporting period we felt confident and optimistic about what we had set out to prioritise this year.



1

Maintaining fruitful futures - investing in the orchard



We were extremely excited to be focusing on future proofing the beautiful Harehills Park Orchard. This orchard had been planted by the council in 2014 but then left locked for many years and the fruit and nut trees not regularly maintained so this focus fitted well with our ongoing **Gateways to Growing project** and we felt could support the council and our aims as a charity by learning how to maintain the established trees. The council set out a plan to make the space more accessible by opening the gate in the day and locking it at night with a coded padlock. We were told we could access the Orchard at weekends using the code.

We hoped that a well-maintained Orchard could be developed further for future workshops, and the wider community could use it as a space for growing opportunities and events. Katy had already drawn a map of the orchard to help us identify the locations of the **46 fruit and nut trees**, so our next step was to try to get support and funding and keep the Harehills Park Orchard on the blossom map in the future.

Trustee Katy explains how we proceeded with this priority:

“In August, we had an **orchard and tool maintenance session**. We pruned the trees, mulched with woodchip and then I spent some time teaching the other trustees some techniques for cleaning, sharpening, and oiling our tools. We also used the session to discuss and finalise our plans and dreams for the space, so we were ready to apply for funding.



In the same month, we applied for a grant from **Climate Action Leeds**, who were offering grants of up to £5000 to local groups. We thought this would be a fantastic opportunity to consolidate the ideas we have had for the orchard and get a plan together for 2025.

- We would like to fund the maintenance and improvement of Harehills Park Orchard, and plant and maintain a native wildflower meadow.
- We will run workshops in hedging, fruit tree pruning, coppicing, and scything over the course of 2025.
- We would also like to have a community celebration day of the orchard to engage local residents with the space.
- We will also be organising low key maintenance sessions throughout the year for volunteers to help with upkeep.
- We will pay Leeds based educators to deliver workshops on hedging, pruning, and coppicing, and use knowledge gained to deliver our own sessions in the future and build learning within the community.

Here we laid out how the money will benefit the local area:

- We hope to increase biodiversity in Harehills Park by planting native species.
- The wildflower meadow and native hedge will provide habitat and food for insects, birds, and mammals.
- After a difficult year in Harehills, our project will build community cohesion in the area.
- We want to foster a connection and respect for the natural world and build learning around local food security and resilience in the face of climate change.
- We will issue brief questionnaires at the end of each session to monitor attitudes of attendees.”





Back to Front have always offered free sessions and workshops to all participants who would like to attend so we agreed from the start **that we were keen to cover the whole cost of the educational sessions in the Harehills Park Orchard**. Our growers were excited when we shared this proposed project, and Trustees discussed the possibility to have this focus as part of a longer-term priority for us as we recognised that there is so much that we could do in the space to develop it as another local Hub from where we can run sessions so participants can experience hands on learning.

We welcomed an approach from **Walk it Ride (part of Active Leeds)** who wanted to set up a Bike Hub and place a container within the orchard from where they could store and give out bikes. This was a good opportunity to share resources, potentially share a little storage space for tools, and bring more regular activity to the space to help with ongoing security.



One issue we identified that we wanted to work together with the council on, was the best way to genuinely make this a space for everyone to enjoy. **The arrangement for locking the Orchard was not working**, the padlock vanished so the space was then open permanently and had started to be misused. One session we collected around 30 bags of dog faeces before we could begin our planned activity. We also noticed some of the trees had been damaged by dogs, so we hoped to collaborate with the council and help find a balance between making the Orchard accessible but at the same time protect it from ASB and excessive dog fouling.



Towards the end of the calendar year Katy attended some **networking and funder meetings** and after these **we found out in December 2024 that we had been successful in our Climate Action Leeds bid**. We then spent the winter months contacting Leeds based groups like **Fruit Works and Leeds Coppice Workers** to collaborate with us to organise a programme of events and activities that matched our needs, to begin in Autumn 2025, within the budget we had received.





Over the years we have run a variety of sustainable and educational seasonal sessions, action days, pop ups, and workshops around Harehills. Each reporting period we attempt to find a balance between revisiting what worked last year and introducing new activities so that we are always able to consider what our core growers wish to learn, make these as accessible as possible and respond to the needs of the environment where we will be holding the session.

We also continued to consistently post on **social media** and created instructional content that was filled with useful techniques and tips for people to try at home. Karen shared other relevant posts and aspirational examples from elsewhere to inspire and help people visualise what they might be able to achieve in their own gardens. We also used our Back to Front page as a way to reach our growers when we were advertising our seasonal activities which we then shared widely on local community pages. After the activity we would then collate our photographs and document the outcomes so we could record key information to ensure it was available for any growers who could not attend the session.



Trustee Karen writes about the importance and benefits of these educational seasonal sessions for our volunteers and trustees:

“Now 4 years into our guardianship of the **Harehills Park Orchard and planting the Horseshoe Meadow**, this year has been about maintenance and indeed learning new skills to equip us to do this. One of our members who was experienced in **scything** showed other Back to Front volunteers how to cut the overgrown meadow. It

was a wonderful way to spend a few hours and drew in interested passers-by including a gentleman originally from Pakistan, who was keen to try using a long-handled scythe which was different to the short scythe he remembered using back home.



Gardening and environmental management are threads which weave through many different cultures. We all need to grow food. Whether we use an adz to till the earth, a scythe to cut the grass, or a bill hook to prune trees, every culture has a version of these tools, slightly tweaked to suit varying conditions, but nevertheless recognisable to most folk who have had some experience of gardening or agriculture. This is probably why whenever we are out in the community digging the earth, cutting hay, or tending trees we draw the attention of folk from many different communities. The common link is the shared interest in growing.



Keeping with the orchard theme, we ran a session with volunteers to retrain the **espalier fruit trees at the JSH community garden.** Originally a lorry yard, bound by buildings and ugly security fencing, Back to Front planted several apple trees and a fig tree in planters with the aim of creating a fruiting green wall to mask the steel railings. We ran a successful session with Back to Front volunteers, pruning and re-tying branches to the fencing. Hopefully, we will create a green fruiting wall that will provide young people at JSH with the opportunity to harvest apples and figs. This will take several years of branch training, but each session will be another opportunity to demonstrate and share skills with future volunteers.”



Everything we do in our educational seasonal sessions aims to **build skills and confidence** so our attendees and local aspiring growers might try it again at home.

We have also found one of the most successful things we can do is we send them away with something that is **ready to grow at home** that we have prepared or potted as part of the spring maintenance session. This helps us to **remove some of the barriers to locals growing food** as it ensures that the plant already has a good size pot or potato bucket filled

with enough compost so it has the right conditions to grow, as we are aware the participant might struggle to access garden equipment, tools or compost of their own at home. Each year Karen has delivered a variety of plants to the doorsteps and gardens across Harehills so that herbs, potatoes, tomatoes, beans can be given the best start and then left to thrive in eager hands.

Responding to our core growers requests we ran the popular **Herbal Uses Winter workshop at the Thackray** for the second time, and it was just as well received as the first. It was such a positive way of using what we grow in our gardens and enabled some of our growers who are not well enough to attend the more physical sessions to stay connected.

We also repeated our longest running activity, the **Autumn Ashton Road Pollinator Planter maintenance session**. The planter needs replacing and we spoke to our local Councillors who originally funded it. From the start we had asked for a permanent structure, but a wooden structure was installed. As with any wooden structure after 7 years and despite regular maintenance and mending sessions, the planter really needs replacing. We have asked for a



permanent structure as its presence has proven that caring for this forgotten corner stopped fly tipping and has been much appreciated by locals. **We think it deserves to be rebuilt for a brighter greener future.**

Trustee Karen sums up the spirit of our local Back to Front growers: “We feel blessed to have a group of stalwart volunteers who will turn out to support maintenance sessions and bring along friends to join in. We thank them very much. One of those volunteers was **Charles Robert Watson** or 'Chas' who sadly passed away this year. We will miss the unassuming way he generously shared his gardening knowledge. He filled his small garden with tree seedlings which he carefully nurtured into saplings ready to be planted across Harehills. The trees that he helped to plant will keep him in the memory of all those who volunteered alongside him and we are thankful for the time he chose to spend with us. **Rest in tree dappled peace Chas.**”





We recognise it takes a certain amount of strength, confidence, and commitment to begin to grow food. In an area of high deprivation, the barriers and obstacles are further heightened by being time, money, and energy poor. **The daily struggle can make it hard to dream or invest in growing.**

People living in Harehills have told us that available outside space is small, local shops do not sell gardening items and transport options to places that do are limited. They also fear plants or food from the plants might be stolen and people have said to us that they feel isolated from their neighbours. It requires a bit of each of those worries to resolve to find the motivation, plus practical and physical action, stability, and hope for the future.

Early on we had recognised the importance of identifying these obstacles to front garden food growing and finding different ways to overcome them. As a small group of enthusiastic locals, we had to be creative and try raise aspirations but **we had to think bigger if we were to meaningfully support more people to grow food at home and succeed to break down some of the remaining barriers caused by the larger systemic failings** that were out of our control as a small, volunteer run, local charity.

Our work done through Back to Front over the years has equipped the three local trustees and our growers with a variety of skills and knowledge around food growing and maintenance in an urban environment such as small garden design and crop rotation, vertical gardening, pruning and tree management, espalier training, tool maintenance, scything and meadow management, and herbal crafts. We have also blossomed as charity trustees and we are now confident in seeking and applying for funding bids, running our social media for communication and creating content, leading on community consultation work, events planning, and in risk assessing, policy writing and updating.

Back to Front volunteers have gone on to play an active role in setting up **Harehills Neighbourhood Forum**. We had agreed to attend Forum meetings, help with local consultation events by designing the banners and running interactive activities. As part of this local networking push Katie and Karen also joined **the**

Harehills Neighbourhood Forum Environment and Community Safety working groups plus attended local **PACT meetings**. This is because we believe that much of the decline of Harehills has been due to a total lack of strategic planning for Harehills that has genuinely looked at the environmental impact of developments on residents of Harehills.



As part of the **Environment and Community Safety working groups**, we led the focus group workshops and supported other networking opportunities. We spent lots of time listening to ideas and feedback from people who attended the **community event in Banstead Park**. This was especially significant after the local unrest in the summer and highlighted the fact that environmental wellbeing cannot be tackled in isolation as it is deeply impacted by many other social factors, such as failing infrastructure, negligent landlords and businesses and low aspirations. If you are worried about affording to pay your rent and feed your family, horrified by the rats running around in your yard and frightened of things being stolen or damaged, gardening becomes impossible. However, it is clear when talking to most residents, that **there is a deep yearning for an environment which is greener and more welcoming**, it is just that people are overwhelmed by life in general and do not know where to begin. Conversations and feedback confirmed much of what we feared and the neglected gardens and greenspaces were a concern to most people we spoke to.



Another problem we noticed locally was that shrubs and hedges around Harehills were getting blamed for rats and attracting drug dealing activities by being used to hide drugs. We were horrified when we discovered Community Payback had been tasked with butchering hedges in Harehills in April and May 2024. This was without the knowledge or permission of residents

and people working for the police and council were behind this initiative to cut the few remaining hedges and shrubs in the area rather than improve policing or address the prevalent litter issues and drainage network that no longer gets routinely flushed to help keep rodent populations under control.

We started looking again at the wider issue of neglected gardens and greenspaces. Often yards are concreted over or left full of previous tenants unwanted household goods. New tenants, who are often transient and only stay a few months, struggle to deal with this inherited dumping, let alone think about sinking money and effort into garden improvements. **We are not expecting perfection but want to think about how we can nurture greener**



neighbourhoods that support resilience and encourage progress. As many households have no yard at all we want to see the council getting overlooked and neglected green spaces back into shape or developed for potential food growing.

We linked with RHS who approached us wanting to reach more people. We know providing plants in pots can be the start and we thank Zoe who was our link grower. **By supporting community growing opportunities like this, local urban greening research and being involved in planning for the future of Harehills, we hope to support an area that grows together in every sense.**



Our hope is that the experience, knowledge, and skills we have gained will contribute to the **Harehills Neighbourhood Forum Priorities Statement**, a document which, when complete, will inform future Neighbourhood Development Plans. We hope that this will finally start to address the imbalance from decades of systemic failings, so that gardens and greenspaces can be encouraged rather than taken out of circulation and allowed to be concreted over. **This ambition sits well with our Charity Aim:**

- to advance the education of the public in general (and particularly amongst people living in areas of high deprivation) on **the subject of growing food in urban spaces especially front gardens**
- **to promote research for the public benefit in all aspects of that subject** and to publish the useful results, through community learning, food growing and workshops.



Back to Front, like many volunteer led groups in Harehills, must grow against the odds. Unfortunately, a summer of unrest put Harehills in the news for all the wrong reasons yet again and reminded the wider community of the plight of people who are marginalised and continue to be overlooked and poorly supported by services. Local **councillor Mothin Ali** and our own **Adam Aslam** went to help on the night along with young people from the area who tried their best to be voices of calm and reason.

We joined them to support a **Unity event** in the aftermath, and it was clear that most people agreed that there were systemic issues that needed addressing before the amazing efforts of local volunteers who work to build community inclusion, address food poverty and improve the local environment would see their efforts make any real impact. It goes so much deeper, and many small groups are working against a tide that is out of their control. Using our years of local knowledge we will continue to challenge local council policy that misses the mark and fuels the discontent we all saw on the news. **Local government needs to play its part by listening to and supporting the efforts of communities volunteering for change and fulfilling their own responsibilities for the strategic improvement and maintenance of the area.**

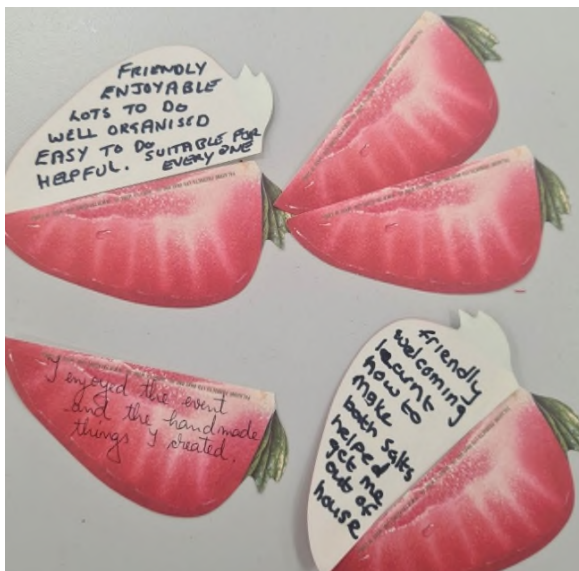
	Calendar of our activities in detail: April 24 - March 25
April 2024	22nd April - Supporting the Harehills Neighbourhood Forum (HN) – meeting. Ashton Road Planter checked. Planning - Harehills Park (HP), Harehills Lane (and future Edgeware Green) Wildflowers idea. <i>Found out about Chas passing away.</i> 
May 2024	11th May - HN Forum planning session at the Thackray. 20th May – Back to Front (BtoF) Planning Meeting. 28th May - HN Forum event Banstead Park.
June 2024	17th June - HN Forum meeting/reflection. 23rd June - Spring Junior Sports Hub (JSH) maintenance session/plant share.
July 2024	15th July - JSH mural reveal, discussed big planter and tabletop planter ideas. 21st July - JSH Espalier and planter growing session. Planning - summer pruning session. <i>Summer of unrest!</i> Trees at the Ashton play area damaged, then large scale disturbances in the area. We attended Unity events and listened to suggestions from residents about planting locally so something positive can come out of the ashes.
August 2024	11th Aug - Summer pruning session. Orchard planning and mapping - updated, plus trustee tool maintenance. LCC Banstead Park consultation (<i>findings Nov 24</i>).
September 2024	15th Sept - Autumn Ashton Play area planter maintenance. 22nd Sept and 23rd Sept forum – we ran workshops for Community Safety and Environment. 30th Sept – BtoF Meeting - Evaluation/planning ahead for 2025 and draft annual report update and agreeing. Apply for funding for orchard.
October 2024	9th Oct – HN Forum meeting. 10th Oct - Networking Thackray Zoom workshop. Next year priority – Community apple day event.
November 2024	3rd Nov – HP scything and seed scattering session. Neglected greenspace push. Planning HP orchard winter pruning session (do before March next year) Own Garden evaluations/plan.
December 2024	8th Dec - Seasonal craft/herbal uses at the Thackray. <i>Found out Jo Hume ill.</i> Got funding for the orchard! 
January 2025	20th Jan - Planning meeting plus annual return submission. Winter/spring push- emails and plan action days for 2025: Katie/Karen/Katy/Adam ideas to overcome local challenges.
February 2025	Next year tree planning: Orchard and Compton coppice action days. Own growing - microgreens or seedball experiments.
March 2025	15th March - Community Iftar at JSH. 23rd March - JSH spring maintenance session and potato share.

Conclusion and Reflection

After seeing the value throughout the last reporting period, we scheduled some time for breathing space at a few points during the year where there might be a natural pause to allow Trustees an opportunity for reflection. This helped us continue to get the balance right to aid future planning and ensure trustees did not get overwhelmed by our extra commitments and the stresses of living in an area that is defined by ongoing systemic neglect, social economic breakdown, and attendant anti-social issues. Most of our core volunteers are also very much involved as local residents in trying to highlight and raise these issues with the council and services. With all this in mind we have agreed **we will look to offer more trips outside the area for inspiration and respite.**



We operate with an extremely dedicated team of volunteers and have



sustainability, a wealth of experience and the needs of our growers at our core. This put us in a fortunate position where had the luxury to be selective in what we were going to do to avoid being spread too thinly and we could pick funding bids that perfectly aligned with our plans and goals. Despite continuing setbacks due to antisocial actions by individuals or badly timed work by council teams that were out of our control, our confidence in what we do and how we do things continued to grow along with our resilience.

Getting into the Orchard more to spend time learning about caring for all the different fruit and nut trees has been a dream of ours and to be successful in the funding bid has paved the way for us to get stuck in next reporting period. We are really excited about working out how we can improve the space to give the trees and our growers the best environment we can to continue to grow and thrive.



The research and findings on urban greening identified from the walks Same Skies organised last year have led to important conversations about greening for the future with the Harehills Neighbourhood Forum.

We hope to pursue more academic research of this nature as if it is followed and implemented locally, it would lead to a greener Harehills, which in turn, should support a positive drive for front garden growing.

We now feel ready to start our own **demonstration gardens** to show more examples of growing food at home as part of a **living larder project** from Jan 2026 and **celebrate some of our favourite things we have learnt over the last 10 years**. The idea is to focus on three to four gardens and spaces to share on social media and in a newsletter to show the importance, value and beauty of front yarden food growing and celebrate what our gardens and local greenspaces can produce, with the hope that we can continue to **inspire more people to give food growing a go** too.



We support communities growing together and believe that it is important that we do not just have things done to us. The Summer of unrest showed how

important changing the narrative is and

we were pleased to hear about the

CommUnity Policing and Council Initiative. As with the Harehills

Neighbourhood Forum it is important

that **all future plans are developed**

through inclusive co-design and

production. Often the work of including

communities is done in separation,

which does nothing to bring people

together to address strategic issues that affect us all. To this end Back to

Front will always endeavour to link to and co-operate with other local groups.



Preparing the ground to attract more people to grow together.

We recognise that growing food is more than just a practical skill, it requires an element of resilience, imagination, and luck but it is such a great way to connect with nature and make beneficial use of the land and environment around us. In difficult and unsettling times, it can help to start a conversation or build a bridge to allow people to reconnect with each other - **rather than put up a fence, why not plant an edible hedge?**

We are still here in the heart of Harehills growing the Back to Front way in hope for the fruitful future we would love to see. We will continue to strive to

try make it a reality for more people so they too can experience the excitement and anticipation nature offers each year when everything starts to bud, then be surrounded by blossom, followed by the pure joy felt when picking a juicy strawberry or a few ripe raspberries, before any slugs or snails beat you to it.





CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Back To Front CIO

1170920

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01/04/2024

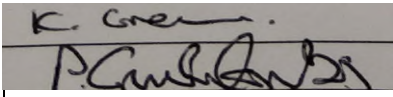
To

Period end date
31/03/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
	-	-	-	-	-
Climate Action Leeds	1,625	-	-	1,625	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	1,625	-	-	1,625	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	1,625	-	-	1,625	-
A3 Payments					
Admin costs	106	-	-	106	157
Events - Forum		774	-	774	228
Gardening sundries	271	-	-	271	629
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	377	774	-	1,151	1,014
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	377	774	-	1,151	1,014
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,248	- 774	-	474	- 1,014
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	7,207	2,152	-	9,359	10,373
Cash funds this year end	8,455	1,378	-	9,833	9,359

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank account	8,455	1,378	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	8,455	1,378	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets				
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use				
B5 Liabilities				
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
			Katie Greaves	28/01/2026
			Peter Cruikshanks	28/01/2026



Accounts

Annual Report

April 2023 - March 2024



Back to Front CIO - Registered Charity
Number 1170920

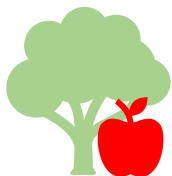
Established 2011 as a community group



Chair's Welcome:

On behalf of the Back to Front Trustees I would like to offer another warm welcome to our annual report, our seventh since we became a registered charity in December 2016 (Back to Front CIO - Registered Charity Number 1170920).

This year we began by creating a calendar prioritising the seasonal outdoor educational sessions that we carry out across the Harehills area, and our commitment to build on the work we had started last year, supporting Junior Sports Hub (JSH) to further develop their community container garden. Being invited back into the JSH garden was such an honour and we were keen to show local families and young people attending the Sunday youth sessions how to grow edibles in a variety of ways. We always welcome the opportunity for future collaborations, so we were delighted when we were told the young people wanted to join us with their parents and group leaders at the other educational sessions we run. These regular interactions gave us an opportunity to listen to and develop ideas to support the green dreams of young people and families growing up in our local community.



The Orchard in Harehills Park was another important local focus for us and we committed to holding our annual winter and summer pruning and mulching sessions there. This year we decided to open this up to combine the seasonal summer pruning activity with a local Great Get together. Harehills Park had already been selected by Love Leeds Parks as a priority park requiring attention. We thought it was a good idea to join up with other groups that regularly use the park to welcome the wider community into the orchard space. We teamed up with the amazing Harehills Park Bowling club who ran family friendly bowling activities on their summer green, and we included some additional family friendly elements to our usual pruning activity in the orchard. We collectively did everything we could to showcase what is already great about the Park and a local family offered to provide food which they do every year in memory of their loved one. We were delighted that this collaborative approach paid off, the event was very well attended and with over 100 people joining us it was one of the standout highlights of our year.



There were some ongoing challenges this reporting period, but we were determined to continue to provide a variety of different opportunities for more local people to have a safe space to learn how to grow and make use of a variety of edibles so they could go on to do this more confidently in their own front gardens.

We also remained committed to supporting research and continued working with and the Harehills Neighbourhood Forum. We helped them with their local Harehills wide consultations and sharing these with Back to Front and Harehills Neighbourhood Forum were also approached by Same Skies Think Tank to join them on a local walk as they were taking part in a Sheffield University research project “Space for Community to Grow” which had identified Harehills due to our lack of greenspaces in a high-density neighbourhood. It was a fantastic opportunity for meaningful connection and communication, we then had a further opportunity to use our local knowledge to plan two walks around other greenspaces in the area and introduce Harehills to invited guests from Harehills and beyond.



We finished the calendar year going full circle and reconnecting with the wonderful Thackray Museum of Medicine where we had previously held workshops. They welcomed us back in to use their wonderful community space to hold our Herbal Crafts session. It was somewhat nostalgic to be back in the room where I had attended my first Back to Front sessions as an enthusiastic local participant in the summer of 2016.



Thank you to our fantastic partners this year, **Junior Sports Hub**, **Harehills Park Bowling Club** and all those involved in the **Same Skies** walks. Thanks to our most loyal and inspiring local growers, especially **Zoe, Virginia, Jonathan** and **Terry**, for getting stuck in with such enthusiasm. Thank you to **Trisha** for thinking of us every year and donating her tomato plants for our spring plant share, **Councillor Salma** for supporting us on our dream of seeing trees planted along Harehills Road, the **Thackray Museum of Medicine** for their generosity towards the local community. Thank you to our Back to Front Trustees: co-chair **Karen**, treasurer **Peter**, secretary **Katy**, and **Adam** for everything each of you did this year to keep our small charity growing. Finally, thank you as always to my husband **Ben** and our **little boy**, who has already started showing an interest in helping us to water our

yarden, eating homegrown blueberries and he didn't seem to mind at all when I turned his buggy into a plant transportation vehicle.



I could not be more proud of what we achieved this year, despite feeling at times a bit like we were going around in circles.

Katie Greaves, Co-Chair of the Trustees of Back to Front CIO.

Introduction: Swings and Roundabouts

This reporting period we were in the second year of our five-year Gateway to Growing project which we began working on last year as part of our sustainable Covid recovery plan. Outdoor education, community gardening, networking and research remain our key priorities and our two main aims this year were:

- Firstly, to provide our existing Harehills growers with a variety of different opportunities to connect, build on and share existing knowledge, and learn new skills.
- Secondly, to continue to understand and start to break down some of the local obstacles and challenges to growing in Harehills, so we could introduce and support more new people to be able to enjoy the experience of growing edible plants and then use the food they have grown themselves.

With this in mind, we then divided our focus for this reporting period into three distinct strands, these were:

1. **Inspiring and supporting families to get growing together,**
2. **Celebrating shared community spaces and places,**
3. **Research around food growing and urban greenspaces.**



We have always had educational skill building and edible growing at the heart of what we offer, and we are confident and able to run our seasonal sessions and workshops in house. As part of our established plan of annual seasonal commitments, we varied our activities to reach and teach as many of our existing growers and any new participants a range of skills they could use at home. We selected a range of gardening activities that we could cover within these seasonal sessions and included some more family friendly and low maintenance activities to help inspire and encourage more local people to cultivate the confidence to try growing edible plants in their own gardens. At each educational session we included general maintenance tasks so that everyone attending the seasonal sessions or one-off workshops, regardless of any previous involvement, went away with first-hand knowledge and experience of the basics of pruning, mulching, checking for pests and diseases, weeding and watering requirements. Alongside our annual seasonal sessions such as the wildflower sowing, this year each of the local trustees took responsibility for leading, planning and developing one of the strands of work which the other trustees supported them with, and then they wrote about it for this Annual Report.



Our fifth Annual Report recognised that - **“From a Back to Front perspective, the pandemic absolutely highlighted the inequalities that people living in densely packed, environmentally deprived urban areas face.”** - The inner-city area we cover continues to be classed as environmentally deprived, so, this year we continued to investigate what is going wrong with our public parks and greenspaces. We intend this to be an ongoing piece of work for us which links well with Harehills Neighbourhood Forum project that Karen and Katie are supporting. We wanted to help this to develop further as we continue to make comparisons and connections, support research locally, and identify any ongoing obstacles, particularly when they relate to the challenges of growing food in an inner-city environment. We will then attempt to raise the issues we unearth, especially when we come across examples where we know we need more council support locally. Longer term we hope we can finally overcome the more predictable and avoidable challenges so we can continue to encourage Harehills residents to bloom and grow edible plants and trees together.

With the Junior Sports Hub container garden started last year Trustees Karen and Adam worked on running an outdoor educational, seasonal and skill building session in the space for the families and young people who attended the Breaking Down Barriers group.

Karen sums up the **Tattie Bags Day at Junior Sports Hub** on 16th April 2023 below:

“After a quick litter pick of the space folk set about building a mini greenhouse ready to house the first seeds to be sown in the Junior Sports Hub Yarden from scratch. Pumpkin and fennel. 25 'tattie bags' were planted up to be taken home or given to neighbours and family so that they could grow their own crop of potatoes. It was good to see that all of the fruit trees, apples, pears and a fig had survived the winter and were ready to blossom. It made a good talking point with the young people pointing out what fruits they might expect. Thanks again to the young folk who regularly use the hub and take the time to water the plants...that's how we turn a barren concrete yard into a garden. Thank you again to all the families, young folk from Junior Sports Hub and local adults who joined Back to Front volunteers and got stuck in for an afternoon of potato and seed planting. It was hard to get feedback about the success of the Tattie bags from everyone who took one away, but some of our regular growers did have success growing a range of interesting heritage potatoes with names like Sharpo Blue Danube, Shetland Black and Pink Fir Apple.”



There were 35 participants there on the day and 25 potato bags were started during the session and went away with the families to find homes locally. Jonathan joined us for this and helped Trustee Katie to build the mini greenhouse gave us this feedback:

“The maintenance day at the Junior Sports Hub beautifully illustrated Back to Front's mission to transform Harehills into a greener, more vibrant community. There was such a buzz as we built the greenhouse, and not even the geometrical difficulties could stop us, and we got the garden ready for the growing season - with people of all ages and backgrounds coming together. It was a privilege to be a part of such a positive and impactful initiative, led by a group I deeply respect”.

We were delighted that those who attended and took part enjoyed the family friendly outdoor educational sessions this year and the annual **Harehills Park Wildflower Horseshoe** sowing activity also encouraged us to develop our next strand of work:

2

Celebrating shared community spaces and places



The Ashton Road Pollinator Planter and Harehills Park Wildflower Horseshoe that we worked hard to get permission for and have supported over the years, in return have provided us with two good locations for teaching people the care and maintenance tasks involved and to have important conversations about the basics needed for local food growing and pollination. An additional bonus for us has been how the associated activities we have carried out helped to inspire recent improvements at the **Ashton Road Play Area** and the unlocking of the **Harehills Park Orchard**.

The young people and families we worked with also regularly told us how the local greenspaces were either very neglected or not suitable and how they wanted to see more trees, wildflowers and edibles growing as they help inspire people to grow more themselves. Our core growers supported this idea when we suggested setting up a tree nursery at the community garden. Karen led this session after discussing the idea with Kamran and describes the activity and our hopes to take it even further:



Creation of the JSH Tree Nursery – “Thank you to the Back to Front locals who came together in May 2023 to set up a TREE NURSERY at the Junior Sports Hub Community Garden. They had been looking after tree saplings in their gardens throughout lockdown and **55 potential trees** including, apple, pear, rowan, willow, elder, birch and beech were brought in to help Back to Fronts aim to green this built-up space.

Already planted last year are espalier apples and a fig tree which will hopefully be trained to grow and mask industrial style railings. We also hope to plant some of the saplings to create an edible hedge to soften railings at the front of the site and give onlooking houses a more pleasant view. As the trees grow Back to Front will look for spaces around the area that will benefit from establishing trees. We are keen to encourage people to let us know of any forgotten or neglected spaces in Harehills so we can start the often-long-drawn-out process of seeking permissions to plant trees.”

One possible location for planting some the small trees is the Harehills Park Orchard. We had been looking for somewhere where we could show people how to prune established fruit trees, and the existing trees in there had been locked away for years and were in desperate need of some regular maintenance so this was perfect. The proximity to the **Harehills Park Bowling Club** also means that we could continue to connect with them as they have always been absolutely fantastic at supporting our efforts when we are working in the park. Trustee Katy was particularly excited about this opportunity and took the lead on this:

“A new project we took on in 2023 was the Harehills Park Orchard. This is the former site of a bowling green, which the council planted up as an orchard some years ago. For as long as any of us can remember, it had been locked up and inaccessible to the public. We thought a public orchard would link in perfectly with the goals of Back to Front, so we contacted the council, and they kindly allowed us access.



It’s a lovely space with tonnes of potential for the future and we hope we can improve it over the coming years and make it into a really valuable community asset.



On 30th July we had a summer pruning session in the orchard. The trees had been somewhat neglected for many years, so there was plenty of work to be done! We started by pruning the trees that needed the most attention and mulched as many trees as we could with woodchip. We tied this in with a community celebration day, inviting locals to enjoy some delicious food prepared by a local family, and show everybody the orchard. It was a huge success with **over 100 people joining us in Harehills Park to enjoy the orchard and bowling club** and something we are keen to repeat in coming years.”

Zoe one of our core growers who brought her family and friends really enjoyed the session and told us she really liked the new family friendly activity:

“The session went exceptionally well and had plenty of interest from our local community and residents, the bug hunt with the children was fun and very educational for them even more so when identifying the bugs, some of the children even went as far as asking what these bugs eat and why certain bugs were called pests, the food was really delicious and helped bring taste of different cultures too.”

Katy also led on the orchard mapping and planning session “On 12th November we had an Autumn orchard session, in which we mapped out and counted a total of **46 fruit and nut trees**. We made an early attempt at identifying them and gave them a good mulch and did a litter pick. We also started to make plans for the future of the orchard and will continue to plan a summer and winter pruning skill building session at the Harehills Park Orchard each year.”





Our growers and new participants at sessions and workshops have mentioned to us for a few years that they increasingly feel the lack of good quality and well-maintained greenspaces locally makes their own gardens and yards more of a target for unwanted attention and vandalism. This is something reported and experienced by some of our trustees too. This year we continued with our aim for Back to Front to help lead the local conversation about the urgent need for making these connections, supporting research and planning around good quality greenspaces now, and preparing the ground for new urban planting and food growing opportunities for the future.

The **RHS special issue of 'The Garden - Gardening with Kids' (August 2023)** was in response to a survey they did asking "what first ignited your interest in gardening?" the most popular answer was: I helped someone in my family when I was a child. Reading this impressed upon us the importance of getting youngsters gardening with a family member as this can set them up for a lifetime of growing and caring for nature. We could not agree more with this, and we are confident we have made a good start inspiring some young growers from the families we have worked with over the years, right here in Harehills.



Many of our annual sessions such as wildflower meadow seeding, the new JSH container garden spring clean, seed sowing and plant share event, and our annual Autumn Ashton Road pollinator planter session where we have conversations about urban planting for pollinators are already family friendly and even the summer pruning event this year included some new family friendly activities too. So, with that RHS special issue our minds we continued to look for opportunities to promote and support research this year, specifically into our parks and public greenspaces and looking towards partnerships, collaborations and networking opportunities with people who can help us research and begin to address this obstacle to growing and support our neglected green spaces to inspire our next generation of budding growers.



Trustee Katie focussed on this strand of work and led on the following collaborations to support local urban greening research and planning around food growing and good quality local urban greenspaces for the future:

- Dr Tiffany Holloman, Dr LaTonia Siler-Holloman and Andy Wilson from **Same Skies Think Tank** asked for local knowledge to support their research with landscape architect Dr Bridget E. Snaith from **Sheffield University** focusing on “what space does community need to grow?” and whether there is enough greenspace in high density neighbourhoods.

Katie helped plan two local greenspace walks on behalf of Back to Front and with Tom from the Harehills Neighbourhood Forum for the 22nd and 23rd July 2023. They were aiming for 10-15 people on each walk and despite it being such a rainy weekend they achieved that, if not more. The write up by Vivien De Brito was called “**Sharing Umbrellas**” and ran alongside a bigger piece of work by Sheffield University. We were joined by special guest Simon Gharthey CEO of **Progress London** on the second walk, and we discussed the similarities and differences between the areas we work in. Banstead Park was discussed several times, and it was interesting to hear Bridget’s perspective as a landscape architect who in her interview as part of the **Sharing Umbrellas** writing, said she “has worked for nearly 30 years as a designer of parks and greenspaces in areas that are economically or socially deprived”.

On both the walks we saw the newly planted Harehills road trees. It was marvellous to see the immediate green impact after 10 years of us asking for planting as part of the ongoing Road Safety and General Improvement Scheme. I even witnessed a man look delighted when he saw them, he walked to the middle of the road to gently touch the leaves to check they were real, after he confirmed that they were, the smile on his face was priceless!

Tom carried out another local walk in January 2024 with a focus on planning, bin yard spaces and general observation which links well with the forum and future work we could continue to support to improve the gateways and green spaces around Harehills. Tom said: “I was involved in three organised walks around Harehills. These walks are a really effective way to take a step back and look at what's good and what's not so good. Doing the walks in a group gives fantastic opportunities to generate and discuss ideas for how things could be improved. Each walk had a different focus but the theme that

consistently came up was the importance of green spaces and how this was a challenge for Harehills.”

- Our local networking and partnership focus continued with Katie and Karen supporting the **Harehills Neighbourhood Forum**. We also helped with a stall at a local family friendly **Breeze event** in Harehills Park with volunteers from the Forum with the aim of getting feedback from young people and families and sharing the local consultation and inviting more local people to support the forum.
- This year we took part in Harehills Park consultations as part of **Love Leeds Parks**. They were interested in the views of groups like us and Harehills Park Bowling Club who regularly use the park, so we contributed to the consultation and conducted a telephone interview too. I asked for the findings from the Love Leeds Parks consultation (received Feb 2024) to help us with our future work in the park.
- In August Katie, Adam and Ruth from **LCC Communities Team** went on a walk around Harehills to look at suitable locations for planting an Edible hedgerow and link with Friends of Gledhow Valley Woods. We were very disappointed to see many of the newer trees planted by the council on greenspaces and verges have died. We asked what the aftercare arrangement is for them and if they would be replaced? The second disappointment was despite many emails and our commitment to maintaining the hedges, we struggled to get an agreement and permission from LCC to plant them.
- This reporting year the **RHS** and **Season Well** teamed up and the **Food for Thought Network** started operating in Leeds 7,8 and 9. There were regular weekday opportunities with workshops and meetings for local growers to attend. We shared these and had conversations with Alison from the RHS about donations of herbs for our own plant shares for the future. Our committed grower Zoe started attending these and keeping us in the loop as they were usually held at a time we weren't available.
- In September Katie, Vicky from **LCC Parks and Countryside** and Ruth from **LCC Communities Team** met to discuss the play area revamp that was started last year, and Ashton Road planter as it the wood is showing signs of age and needs replacing with something more permanent.



In response to requests from our growers we planned in a winter pamper herbal crafts and uses session for December. We reconnected with the **Thackray Museum of Medicine** to see if they had an indoor space we could book for the session. They kindly invited us to use their community space and made us and our growers feel so welcome we planned to repeat the session each year. This sort of session allows our growers to connect with us and each other. It is also a perfect time of year to reflect on the activities and experience of the last calendar year and discuss plans and wishes for the future.

Virginia joined us and over hot cups of delicious herbal teas we discussed growing seeds, Romanian recipes and homemade creams and balms. She told us she loved what we did: “The session was well organised with a clear schedule and a friendly atmosphere.

I loved the freedom to experiment with colours, scents and natural decorative elements. The session was a wonderful opportunity to create something unique and personalised. The bath salt and decorations we made look amazing and are perfect for personal use or as gifts. I highly recommend this activity to anyone who wants to get into the holiday spirit and learn something new and practical. It is a wonderful, relaxing and very rewarding experience.”



We spent time at our January meeting discussing new and old partnerships, what had worked, what didn't and where we could move on or maybe approach from a different angle and continue to build on what we had started. After a year of emails, activities and exciting opportunities, we finished the reporting period planning our seasonal activities for 2024 and looking for good examples and inspiration of our own visiting a lovely community garden in the grounds of the beautiful Kirkstall Abbey and which can be reached by a direct bus from Harehills.

	April 23 - March 24 - Calendar of activities in detail:
April 2023	8th April - Wildflower sowing Harehills Park horseshoe. Collaboration between Back to Front and Junior Sports Hub/Breaking down Barriers volunteers. 16th April - Junior Sports Hub (JSH) family session garden maintenance, greenhouse building and potato session.
May 2023	13th May - Same Skies introductory walk. 14th May - Spring maintenance session at JSH – core growers’ session and tree nursery building for 55 tree saplings and Trisha’s tomatoes 15th May - Trustee meeting
June 2023	Planning month for two Same Skies local urban greenspace walks and planning and prep for our summer pruning and mulching session for in the Harehills Park Orchard.
July 2023	22nd and 23rd July - Same Skies “Sharing Umbrellas” walks in partnership with Harehills Neighbourhood Forum and Sheffield University, special guests included Simon Gharthey CEO of Progress London. Each walk finished by seeing the Harehills Road trees! 30th July - Great get together! Family friendly collaboration with Harehills Park Bowling Club, summer pruning, mulching, bug hunt, delicious food offered by a local family in memory of their loved one. Retas trustees invited. Over 100 people attended the session.
August 2023	12th August - Breeze event – held in Harehills Park, we supported the Harehills Neighbourhood Forum with their consultation. 30th August - Hedgerow project planning (and dead tree walk!) – Ruth from LCC, Adam and Katie.
September 2023	Partnership/networking opportunities with Friends of Gipton Woods, Friends of Gledhow Valley Woods and Friends of Allerton Grange Fields. Same Skies – supporting their promoting and presentation of research and findings from the walks. 18th September - Trustee meeting. 29th September - Ashton Play area meeting – Katie met with Vicky Nunns and Ruth from LCC to discuss repairs to the planter, the play area improvements and general planting.
October 2023	15th October - Autumn Ashton Planter tidy up and social at Aisha’s Cafe.
November 2023	12th November - HP Orchard winter pruning , mulching, mapping the 46 fruit and nut trees , and coppicing. Katy D has taken the lead on our orchard project planning and looking for funding.
December	1st December - Harehills Love Advent calendar, day 1 - trees! Back to Front were credited for our support of tree planting efforts in the area. 3rd December - Winter Seasonal crafts and herbal session at the Thackray Museum of Medicine.
January 2024	29th January - AGM and annual return agreeing meeting and submission. (Celebration planned for in spring in future at a local venue?) <i>Winter of disappointment/frustration!</i> Ongoing Harehills Neighbourhood Forum support.
February 2024	Planning for the future - Including Ideas for 2025 – Orchard and fruit tree skill building focus, demonstration gardens ideas an edible garden for relaxing in nature, one for children, one for vertical or container growing?
March 2024	Wild garlic picking and cooking experiments and inspiration- plan for next year. 31st March 2024 - Kirkstall Abbey community garden inspiration visit.

Conclusion and Reflection



Having learnt in recent years how important it is to step back from time to time, we took a much-needed opportunity at the beginning of 2024 to pause, reflect, be inspired ourselves to help us plan better for the future. When we first became a totally volunteer led organisation, we had regularly invited specialists in to lead our educational skill building sessions. We started to repeat these activities in yearly cycles and this approach allowed us time and practice to develop our own skills so we could eventually plan to run these sessions ourselves. In doing so it helped us better understand the needs of our growers and the environment we are growing in so we too grew in confidence and could look further into the future to plan how we could build on and develop what we were doing both in the short and longer term.



We took the opportunity to identify and connect with other community growing and gardening projects this reporting period which provided helpful inspiration and communication. Supporting the forum also helped us reach even more like-minded locals who all want the same things, a greener Harehills being one of them. The networking and collaborations gave us invaluable insights and information to so we can start to put the findings from the research done this year to good use and encourage better quality urban greenspaces. We are aware that the council is still struggling so we can continue to look at what we can do as a group of volunteers to help but also make sure we are being supported too. We were disappointed that despite our efforts and the support of Friends of Gledhow Valley Woods that the local edible hedgerow idea was not supported better by the Council teams, but we have learnt not to let it get us down but instead go back to the drawing board and think where else we could introduce some edible hedges and foraging opportunities.



A new frustration this year was with our social media Facebook page. Our most committed growers would tell us that they weren't seeing our posts or us advertising sessions until the day of, or even days after the event had happened. We tried even harder to promote and share but due to these increasingly strange algorithms working against us we found we had to make sure that we contacted our regular growers directly as we could not rely on social media as a reliable tool to reach them in time.

Fortunately, since we have started running these annual seasonal sessions, we have noticed patterns with many of our existing growers coming to one or two of their favourite activities a year so we can tailor what we do and could be more flexible about how we advertise the sessions to help keep them in the loop, communicating with us and returning but as not all growers want to come to everything we also know we need to maintain a range of opportunities for skill building, seed and plant shares and maximise occasions for conversation and connection at every session.

We have built strong relationships with our core growers, and they are happy to tell us about their other commitments, preferences, interests, and health issues. Previously when they told us they wanted to see and be able to access more food growing around the area and we were able to begin to unlock places where this is already happening such as the Harehills Park orchard and where we can support it happening in new community gardens like JSH.

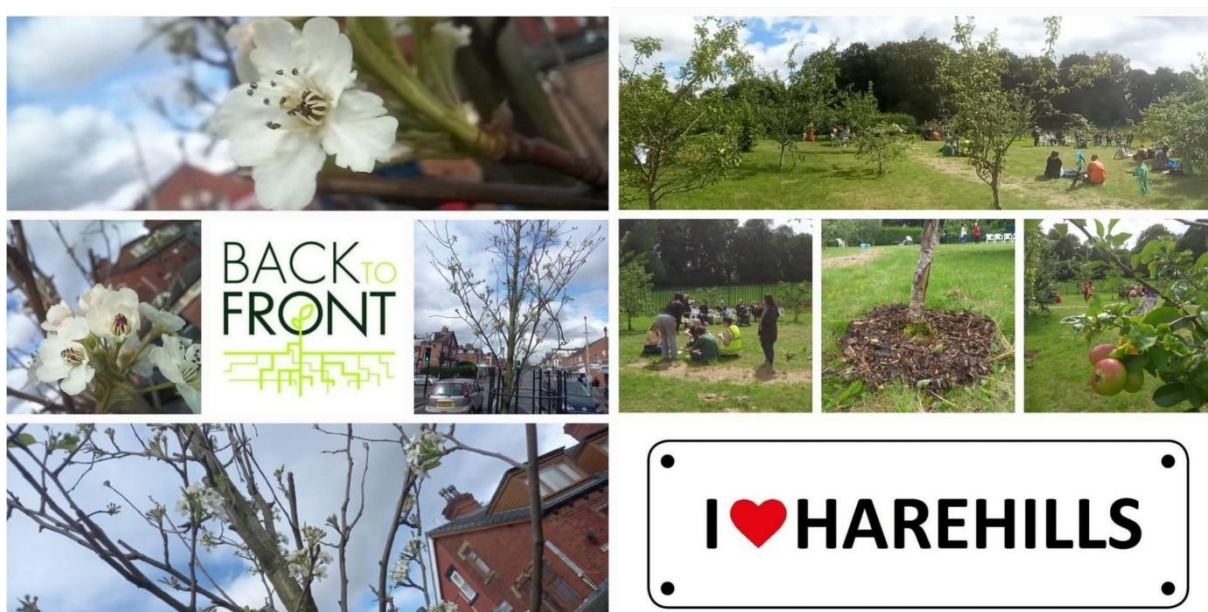


This reporting period our growers told us about what new skills they wanted to learn such as scything, they also told us how the ongoing cost of living challenges were affecting them and their neighbours. These conversations and observations are invaluable so this year we agreed that we wanted to start to include even more of the feedback that we receive from participants in our Annual Reports.

To achieve this, next year we are going to look again at what skills we need to learn ourselves in order to deliver the sessions our growers would like to come to and trial different ways to get feedback from participants to help us draw attention to what is important to our local growers and also those not yet growing as this will continue to shape what we focus on. Our established volunteers have been working with us long enough to trust us to help them identify what to prioritise at each stage and what funding or support we may



Finally, we acknowledged this year that we need to make sure we are celebrating and promoting all our achievement and efforts more. As a small charity made up of enthusiastic local volunteers, we tend to get overlooked and do not always get credited enough for our work and this is something we want to put right in the future. Every seed sown, potato or tomato grown and harvested, each ripe strawberry or blueberry picked and eaten in the gardens and houses of Harehills is something our grower should be incredibly proud of, but the Back to Front project is much more than this. Over the years we have witnessed the ideas and ambitions grow each season, the firm friendships blossom and strengthen, and this reporting period we started to see some of our early dreams finally come to fruition, which really was the greatest accomplishment we could have ever hoped for.





CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Back To Front CIO

1170920

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01/04/2023

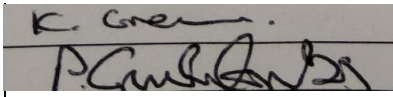
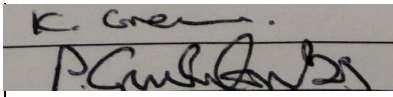
To

Period end date
31/03/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
	-	-	-	-	-
Leed City Council	-	-	-	-	2,500
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	-	-	-	-	2,500
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	-	-	-	-	2,500
A3 Payments					
Admin costs	157	-	-	157	16
Events		228	-	228	120
Gardening sundries	629	-	-	629	642
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	786	228	-	1,014	778
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	786	228	-	1,014	778
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 786	- 228	-	- 1,014	1,722
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	7,993	2,380	-	10,373	8,651
Cash funds this year end	7,207	2,152	-	9,359	10,373

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank account	7,207	2,152	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	7,207	2,152	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Katie Greaves	24/01/2025	
		Peter Cruikshanks	24/01/2025	



Accounts

Annual Report

April 2022 - March 2023



Back to Front CIO - Registered Charity
Number 1170920
Established 2011 as a community group



Chair's Welcome:

On behalf of the Back to Front Trustees I would like to offer another warm welcome to our annual report, the sixth since we became a registered charity in December 2016 (**Back to Front CIO - Registered Charity Number 1170920**).

This was a year of fresh starts and new beginnings for us. We had learnt a lot over the Covid-19 years. Although far from ideal, it had allowed us the gift of time and space to reflect on what our little project had accomplished over the years and what we wanted to achieve next. All the upheaval and uncertainty we experienced during the global pandemic better prepared us for facing some major setbacks from the very beginning of this reporting period whilst at the same time I was juggling the needs of my newborn baby. We were already picturing where we saw ourselves in the future and had planned what we needed to do to realise this, so these unforeseen events did not hold us back as much as they could have. I was very impressed how our trustees and core growers reacted to all the changes and how quickly we began to nurture our new off shoots and embrace each exciting opportunity as we continued to put into place our **Covid recovery plan**.

My grandma always said to us when something disappointing happened, not to worry as there is always something else around the corner. I remembered her wise words when our fantastic partner **Shine** let us know that they needed the main space we used as our **Community Growing Hub** for an extension of the outside play space used by the nursery renting the lower ground floor of the building. We had made big plans for revamping for the original space in our **Gateway to Growing project proposal**. We were told we could continue to have a base at Shine on the next level up from the existing garden but this new area had no opportunity for adding a gate to create the step free and out of hours access we desperately needed. In the same week **Adam from Breaking Down Barriers**, who we have worked with for many years, suggested we meet with the Trustees at **Junior Sports Hub (JSH)** as they were hoping to turn what was a grey concrete former warehouse loading bay into a garden for use by the local community. It was to be maintained by young people from the hub and they needed advice.



JSH was just streets away from the Shine garden so this was a perfect opportunity for us to offer our support to this exciting development and potentially put our years of experience to good use.

The other challenges that arose during this reporting period were also faced with the same resilience and willingness to adapt and evolve. This consistent approach filled me with an even greater confidence that we have a project that can withstand all weathers and the ever-changing seasons.

I would like to thank **Shine** for being great hosts to our longest running Back to Front Community Garden and for generously letting us use your beautiful building for workshops and meetings. We were happy to support the vision you have for your grounds and I hope to link up with you in the future. I would also like to thank our new partners, especially **Kamran, Immy and the young people at JSH** for making us so welcome and embracing container gardening and growing edibles the Back to Front way. Thank you to our most committed supporters **Trisha** and my husband **Ben**. I would also like to thank the fabulous Back to Front trustees: co-chair **Karen**, treasurer **Peter** and secretary **Katy** plus a special welcome to our newest trustee, **Adam** who joined our board at our January AGM and whom we have worked with for years. Our final thanks goes to **our local growers**, both young and old, who continue to inspire us and motivate us to keep on growing...

Katie Greaves, Co-Chair of the Trustees of Back to Front CIO.



Introduction: Nurturing New Shoots

Our main aim for this year was originally to move on to the next step of the Covid recovery plan with our **Gateway to Growing project at Shine**. When we were not able to progress with this project within the grounds of Shine, we decided as a group to embrace the new opportunities that had been offered to us, just around the corner, at the **Junior Sports Hub (JSH)**.

We suggested **Hyde Park Source (HPS)** might be able to support them with the initial build stage as we were not in a position to take on that element ourselves. We had existing commitments and no capacity for large builds. We were delighted when we got confirmation that they had put in a bid and **HPS** were booked in to make some great sized containers with Adam and the young people from **Breaking Down Barriers** at the Hub.

After many site visits and discussing their requirements, we recognised they actually matched with much of our original Gateway to Growing plan, so we transported many of our ideas and redesigned them to fit within the JSH space in combination with the developing vision and needs of the Hub. We presented the Gateway to Growing garden design ideas to the JSH Trustees and we were delighted to find that they liked them. We were given the go-ahead to work in partnership with them once the build stage was complete and get the garden ready for the official launch. The JSH garden also has step free access and the Hub is open in the evening and at weekends so access to the space would no longer be a problem for us as it had been at Shine.

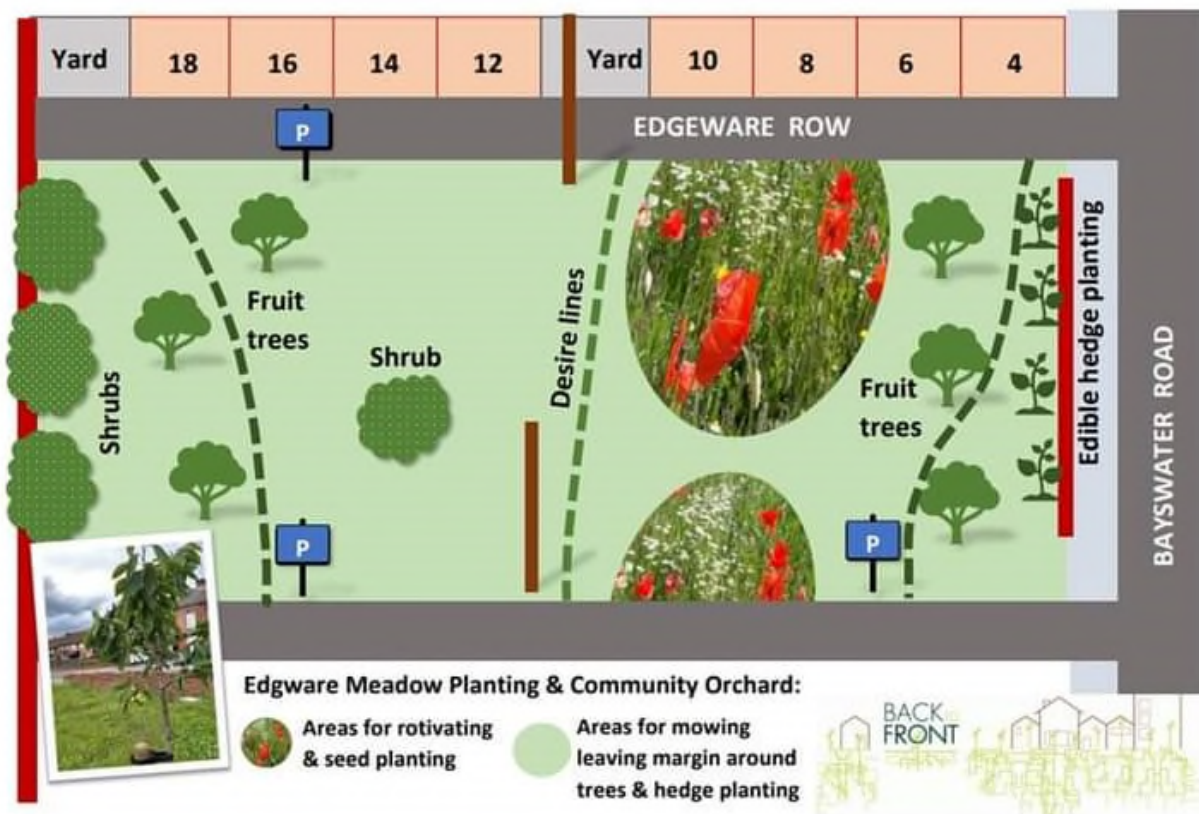
We wanted to build on the successes of last year and we planned to run a number of our most popular seasonal sessions such as wildflower seed sowing, educational maintenance and skill building sessions involving trees, especially fruit trees around Harehills. We also prioritised maintaining our previous social media successes and sharing regular project updates, informative posts and garden inspiration ideas.



We then divided our focus for this reporting period into three distinct strands, these were:

- **Building resilience - the path to our Covid recovery,**
- **Fresh starts and seasonal sessions,**
- **Sharing informative social media updates and garden inspiration.**

This reporting period Katie initially had her hands full with her new baby, so Karen took the lead on our social media priority and volunteered to continue the process of creating and updating our easy to read planting plans. The plans were designed to show exactly where our edibles and wild flowers were growing at each of the sites we work on and we put our local knowledge to good use by including other important details such as desire lines. These could then be shared with the relevant council staff and on social media.



We also responded to local residents' need for us to continue to support the newly forming Harehills Neighbourhood Forum and local people and other groups who were telling us they wanted to see environmental improvements such as greener streets with more street trees, better quality greenspaces and greener play areas.

Covid restrictions showed that the few local parks and greenspaces in Harehills struggled to meet the needs of one of the most densely populated areas in Leeds and were that were not as accessible as they could be. Locals were now much more familiar with the greenspaces on their doorstep and were asking for access to locked away hidden gems such as the Harehills Park Orchard.

With all this in mind we agreed our annual maintenance programme for the reporting year and made a commitment to continue to keep our larger seasonal sessions fully inclusive. We extended our offer of family friendly activities, especially now we were focusing on the new garden at the Hub. We continued this as a top priority for whenever we held skill building sessions and community action days around the area. Katie volunteered to update our risk assessments so everyone would be absolutely clear on what tasks were appropriate and those not suitable for younger attendees joining us as part of a youth group or with their families.

As is our policy we planned to continue to welcome people to join in without asking them to fill in lots of forms. Over the years we have witnessed how much this can put people off getting involved with other groups. We want to continue to remove as many of the barriers to growing and participating in community planting and action days as we can, so more and more people can join us for skill building activities and action days to learn to grow the Back to Front way.



1

Building resilience - the path to our Covid recovery

- **Gateway to Growing project:** Back to Front to lead on supporting community gardens, unlocking the local orchard, local inspiration walks and visits, promote local plant sales and seed shares.
- **Our response to challenges and set backs:** moving hubs, the Edgware Greenspace - picking up the pieces after the Covid years, then the Edgware site is the latest one destroyed by the council cutters. Obstacles faced: emails not getting through, staff changes. Gledhow Greenspace challenges were similar. **Focus on raising the profile of what we learnt about the importance of having good quality green spaces in built up urban and inner city areas and getting better council support.**
- **Identified in our Annual Report last year “From a Back to Front perspective the pandemic absolutely highlighted the inequalities that people living in densely packed, environmentally deprived urban areas face”.** Ongoing piece of work which **links with forum** - Karen/Katie supporting that. Katie will lead on this as bigger piece of work over the next three years to raise the issue and encourage **Harehills to bloom and grow together again.**



- Plans from April 2022: Back to Front to put together an annual calendar of **seasonal sessions, maintenance and educational activities, and ways of inspiring good growing**. Concentrate on running a **programme of outdoor events with a focus of fruit trees, berry bushes, shrubs and wildflowers**.
- Hold events at local hubs and promote our new **Gateway to Growing opportunity in partnerships with Breaking Down Barriers and JSH in the community garden** - focus on espalier trees, growing edibles and herbs.
- Establish ourselves at **Harehills Park** - in addition to the **annual Harehills in Bloom partnership wildflower sowing session**, hold **Orchard skill building maintenance sessions**.
- **Support the consultation for the Ashton Play area improvements**. This builds on what we did for the Harehills Road consultation Feb 2022. Asked for working groups and conversations to discuss planting and street trees.
- For 2023 - develop **our next annual calendar** of seasonal events and activities in **partnership with JSH. We committed to supporting the forum**.
- **Adam from Breaking Down Barriers joined us as a trustee in Jan 23.**



Planning Ahead

May 2022 sowing wildflower seeds at Harehills Park Horseshoe Meadow

Aug 2022 ongoing
maintenance at the HUB



- **Karen's uplifting social media posts.** Even though we were able to meet in person again we wanted to **continue information sharing and inspiring people.** Katie and Karen offered to share inspirational pictures of their own front garden growing.

Reporting Period 6:	April 22 - March 23 - Calendar of activities in detail:	
March/April 2022	• Started the year with optimism and our plans for planting in hope... • Social media promoted microgreens and edible wildflowers and weeds. Plant and share month. • Shared on social media our updated plan for the Edgeware Green space - we need the council to support more with this and other local planting.	
May 2022	• Spring seasonal session - 10th May our Harehills in Bloom and Back to Front annual partnership activity, wildflower seed sowing in Harehills Park. Thanks to LCC for preparing the horseshoe. Evening session was a success. We asked one of our returning growers how he found the session and he said "The wild flower sowing session was a really fun and informative evening, great for all ages and abilities with lots of hands on, practical seed sowing opportunities". • 28th May checked on Compton coppice... did an inventory of the trees and shrubs there (Laurel, rowan, silver birch, cherry, sycamore, elderflower, conifer, holly, willow, roses - could this be a wreath making session of the future in the making?) • Promoted on social media back street inspiration, red bauble tip for protecting tomatoes.	
June 2022	• Early summer seasonal session - 1st June we did a summer pruning maintenance session on the Edgeware green space cherry trees and a (hands-off) health check of the apples and pear tree. Checked on the hedge of Elder flower, rowan and raspberries which was doing well. • Shared on Social media a strawberry pebble painting tip to keep birds away from your strawberries, inspiration for edible flowers, container planting ideas with decorated tyres and mosaicked concrete blocks. • 21st June watering and maintenance update for the Ashton Road planter	

July 2022	• 1st July tomato and cucumber plant share donated by Trisha. • 3rd July - Local allotment inspiration visit (Katie and family visited Katy's allotment). Also 3rd July - Karen's wildflower meadow update. • Hottest days 18/19th July!!!! • Social media Yarden inspiration what Karen is growing plus passion flowers, passion fruit and Katie's plums.  The collage consists of two photographs. The top photo shows a car's interior with various plants and seedlings. The bottom photo shows a similar scene with more plants. To the right of the photos is a logo that reads 'BACK TO FRONT' in a stylized font, with a green plant sprout growing from the letter 'O'.  A photograph of a tomato plant growing in a pot against a brick wall. Several green, unripe tomatoes are visible on the vine.
August 2022	• <u>21st Aug Summer seasonal session JSH and Breaking Down Barriers partnership project</u> we shared our planting plans and held an event in the new community garden. We planted 5 fruit trees, a Fig, Rowen, tomatoes, fuchsias, willow cuttings, plus added the mosaics. Adam held a feedback activity with the young people who had attended to see how they found the session: "I love gardening but we don't have one here like back in Romania. I feel like I'm back on the farm doing this" "The old yard was so ugly, now it's brighter and even a little pretty" "This is so cool us developing our garden for the community together" "I thought this would be boring when mum sent me but I'm really enjoying this" "We need some green and trees here but it's gonna be a lot of work" "Imagine when this tree is old and I'm old. I'll bring my kids to play here" Their comments clearly demonstrate the passion for nature and growing in this group of young people. This is why we feel it is so important for us to continue to support our local groups with their planting projects. • Social media promoted making fire cider and pickles on social media.
September 2022	• Promoted pumpkin tips ahead of Halloween, edible flowers on social media.
October 2022	• Social media garden update, seed saving inspiration.

November 2022	• Winter planning behind the scenes for the next three events.
December 2022	• Promoted and went to Ashton Road play area consultation. • 11th Dec - Belated Autumn seasonal session - Ashton Planter maintenance day.
January 2023	• Adam joined us as a trustee at the AGM. • Social media promoted edible hedge growing.
February 2023	• 5th Feb Winter Seasonal session at the Compton coppice - litter picking, bulb planting, tree grafting, willow tree maintenance, planted a replacement cherry tree. Partnership even with Breaking Down Barriers and Junior Sports Hub. • 26th Feb Second Winter seasonal session winter pruning, mulching at Harehills Park Orchard. 
March 2023	• Planning for the next 12 month growing Calendar with Karen and Adam.

Conclusion and Reflection...

Our charity had endured all the challenges of a pandemic thanks to the sheer grit and determination of our most loyal volunteers and our ability as trustees to react quickly and positively to each of the different barriers and obstacles we faced. The further setbacks we experienced throughout this reporting period continued to demonstrate just how vulnerable small charities can be when the unexpected happens. It also shows how the work we do is absolutely priceless, especially in environmentally deprived inner-city areas like Harehills where the consequences of an increasing cost of living crisis are more visible and severely impact lives. This year we demonstrated our ongoing resilience with a change of growing Hub and in turn, we further expanded our focus and adjusted our activities to make the most of the opportunities that had arisen due to this fresh start.



Future proofing the Back to Front project

We have always wanted to keep the project sustainable and relevant. Recruiting more local trustees has been important to the project. And since we became a registered charity in 2016 it has remained one of our priorities over the last six years. In this time, we have attracted two more local enthusiastic folk, Karen and Katy, to join us. This foresight turned out to be absolutely paramount to the recent success of the project and our ability to keep things going during the lockdowns as we didn't have to travel to do necessary maintenance sessions and were able to run activities as soon as we were allowed. In January, at our AGM another Harehills local, Adam from Breaking Down Barriers, said he would be interested in becoming a Back to Front Trustee, so we took a vote and were delighted to welcome him on board.

Another strength that has grown over the past five years is that the core group of volunteers and trustees have become confident enough to run more of our own skill building educational sessions in house. This gradual shift has given us a far greater flexibility. Being locals, we have been able to help identify the challenges, spot the inequalities and find hidden growing opportunities as well as keeping running costs down so sessions can continue to be free. That said, part of the ongoing rebuilding and recovery plans this year has shown we now need much better support from the council. This year we chose not to get upset by all the challenges and merely put them back on to the to do and to replant list, but we don't want to come to expect our hard work and years of planning will be mown down again in the future.

Living and working in an environmentally deprived area, we are also acutely aware that one of the ongoing challenges for front garden growing is that so many properties, especially end of terrace shop houses or some of the private rented houses, have their hedges and gardens ripped up by people, who are not living in the area. They are then either totally built over to form a huge shop extension or concrete is poured over the remaining earth. On the hottest day on record where it hit 40 degrees centigrade in July 2022, the lack of shade was really felt in Harehills as there was just no escape from the sun.



Back to Front are in a fortunate position where we can continue to explore a variety of urban greening methods and principles as a core part of what we do. We had supported the council in their local response to the climate crisis with the launch of the Greener Gipton and Harehills campaign in 2020 – 2021. We had hopes this could be the start of more tree planting, better quality greenspaces and opportunities for nature and wildflowers locally. The meetings were held online and seemed promising until we were told that as we do not have large amounts of land for tree planting or verges, there was not much that could be done in Harehills. The pledge turned out to be more about establishing new woodlands, “we will be planting 4,500 saplings per hectare, a planting target of 225,000 trees each year and 5.8 million trees from 2020 to 2045”. But as this required having a large amount of land available in the first place, most of Harehills wasn’t suitable for this scheme and although a few got planted in Harehills Park, we are not yet sure if this is just a commitment to getting them in the ground as whips in those quantities or if it includes keeping them alive to get that amount of new trees to a good size by 2045.

This makes our efforts to establish fruit trees on any small patches of and in Harehills all the more important.

Looking onwards, upwards and forwards

In Harehills, the importance and impact of a splash of green wherever we can get and the shade it provides cannot be ignored for people like us who live in areas of high density housing. This reporting year, despite getting stuck into growing edibles at the new Hub, we could not ignore the wider local hunger for more accessible, better quality greenspaces and a continuing thirst for making the most of street greening opportunities. Residents were committed to watering and tending to the established planters situated on previously fly tipped corners and we were delighted to hear that another local we had only recently started working with, had turned their attention to growing edibles in a neglected bin yard.



This local interest was highlighted as part of a council consultation that took place at the end of the last reporting period about the next stage of work to be carried out on Harehills Road. We had continued to ask if there was an option for creating opportunities for introducing more urban street trees and meaningful planting locally. For example, when local roads are reconfigured. Harehills Road had been the obvious one to explore first to see whether street trees could be added as part of the road safety and general improvement scheme and whether they would be appreciated by the wider community. The responses to the consultation were very positive towards the greening part of the scheme.

We believe that regularly networking and supporting the council with their initiatives and newer opportunities such as interacting with the Harehills Neighbourhood Forum will help to raise awareness of local people's wish to see the environment improved. We also hope to ensure better future consultations and better co-produced strategic planning and funding towards greening Harehills. We want to help create and implement effective strategies for overcoming some of the existing barriers to local growing and encourage more urban tree planting. We

plan to extend our mapping of local greenspaces and inventory of trees and shrubs to help shape our future educational and maintenance sessions. Long term our hope is that a greener Harehills in general could lead to more Back to Front style front garden growing. With an increase in community growing and local foraging opportunities the fear of much loved garden plants and hard-earned produce being pinched could be reduced.



Opening up important community greenspaces, such as the locked away orchard in Harehills Park, became another central part of our Covid recovery this year. We recognised that listening to, and assisting with local peoples requests for admittance to an established but usually inaccessible orchard, directly feeds into our primary goal as a charity. Our aim is to educate and encourage people to grow edibles in their own front gardens and yards. Providing people with the opportunity to see an established orchard with a variety of fruit and nut trees on our doorstep and for us to then commit to offering annual orchard maintenance sessions might just foster a budding interest. To achieve the objective, we know we have to support them by a variety of methods. Ensuring access to a neutral public places where people can be inspired is important and by supporting people to learn the skills needed to maintain a fruit or nut tree, the offer to have one at home to grow in a large pot or in the ground will seem more doable. In turn more and more residents could start to feel uplifted when walking around a greener street and it might inspire them to give it a go too.

We might be a small group of volunteers working in the inner city area of a northern town in the UK, but we will continue to build on what we have achieved so far. We will find different ways to inspire, encourage and support even more people so that they can develop the confidence, knowledge and skills required to grow edibles, specifically in their front yards, the Back to Front way.





CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Back To Front CIO

1170920

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date

01/04/2022

To

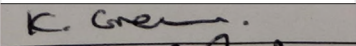
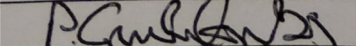
Period end date

31/03/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
	-	-	-	-	-
Leed City Council	-	2,500	-	2,500	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	-	2,500	-	2,500	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	-	2,500	-	2,500	-
A3 Payments					
Admin costs	16	-	-	16	8
Events	-	120	-	120	-
Gardening sundries	642	-	-	642	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	658	120	-	778	8
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	658	120	-	778	8
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 658	2,380	-	1,722	- 8
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	8,651	-	-	8,651	8,659
Cash funds this year end	7,993	2,380	-	10,373	8,651

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank account	7,993	2,380	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	7,993	2,380	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval
		Katie Greaves		30/01/2024
		Peter Cruikshanks		30/01/2024



**HAREHILLS
IN BLOOM**



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

JSH
COMMUNITY | FAMILY | WELLBEING



**BREAKING DOWN
BARRIERS**



Accounts

Back to Front - Annual Report:

(Reporting Period from April 2021 – March 2022.)

Chair's Welcome:

On behalf of the Back to Front Trustees I would like to offer a warm welcome to our fifth annual report since becoming a registered charity *in December 2016 (Back to Front CIO - Registered Charity Number 1170920)*. This year was another challenging one as the global pandemic persisted and the UK was under Covid 19 restrictions until 19th July 2021 with testing continuing and numbers of cases varying throughout this reporting period. Over the previous year we had learnt how to quickly react to the ever-changing situation and having the restrictions in place at the start of the growing calendar provided us with another opportunity to build on and cultivate what we had accomplished during the lockdowns.



Due to the seasonal nature of growing edibles and maintaining community planters and gardens, we were delighted that we now had our committed local working party who could step up and step in should ill health or increasing restrictions mean our plans have to be cancelled. We were also confident that we would be able to promote and run a variety of socially distanced educational sessions and activities without compromising the experience for local growers. It was fantastic to be able to plan to meet in person and get together.

We continued working on our local partnerships, both new and old. We met with and attended sessions run by **Alan**

and **Gini from the Fruit Works Cooperative** who we had linked up with last year and as a result it became the Back to Front year of the fruit tree! We also got behind and supported the **Great Get Together** at the **Harehills Bowling Club** and helped set up the **initial Neighbourhood Planning Forum** where we used our skills and experience to help bring people together and facilitate the early sessions. We worked closely with the **Leeds City Council Parks and Countryside team** to create the huge horseshoe shaped wildflower meadow in Harehills Park that we had been dreaming of sowing for years and we encouraged growers of all ages to be inspired to get involved. To achieve all this social media was a useful tool to reach as many people as possible and it felt like it was our best year yet for interesting posts, sharing exciting opportunities and documenting our activities.

We would like to thank the inspirational partners we have worked with this year and as ever **Donna, Trisha and Esther**, our generous supporters. I would also like to thank the Back to Front trustees **Karen, Peter and Katy** for continuing to be such a cheerful, resilient and dependable group of people throughout such an unpredictable year, both globally and much closer to home. I had fallen ill with covid in early 2021 and I ended up suffering with Long Covid symptoms, later in the year I also had exciting news to share as I was expecting a baby. With these two life changing developments we invited Karen to help co-chair the Back to Front trustees and step in should I be unavailable for a meeting, we were all absolutely delighted that she said yes. Finally, we would like to thank **all our local growers** for continuing to grow with us the Back to Front way despite all the barriers we face.

Katie Greaves, Co-Chair of the Trustees of Back to Front CIO.

Introduction: **Bloom and Grow.**

Our main aim for this year was quite simply to get our growers together again. Covid had restricted everything last year, but we were heartened to see that more community events and group sessions were tentatively starting up again. Arrangements and booking procedures were still confined by the latest covid rules and guidelines about numbers for gatherings, mask wearing and social distancing and everything was subject to change so we decided to concentrate on what we knew could do, not what we could not.

We were keen to meet in person wherever possible so we started by planning things we could do in smaller groups or outside. We began researching what educational sessions we could look to promote, join, or host where we could link with our existing partners but still be flexible about changing things at the very last minute should the Covid situation suddenly change. We reached out to our growers and discussed the possible activities, plants and seeds they might be interested in which we could safely swap, and we noticed there was an interest in fruit and flowers this year. We divided our focus for this reporting period into four distinct strands, these were:

- **Nurturing links with new and existing partners,**
- **Continuing our Covid safe sessions, planning and plant shares,**
- **Seasonal social media presence,**
- **Looking into our local growing opportunities.**

With our objectives in place, we then shared out the workload. Katie looked at making connections and linking with partners, Katie and Katy identified a series of covid safe sessions that we could trial this year with a mind to recreating in the future to larger groups. Karen focused on our social media accounts and local growing options and our idea of creating an exciting **Gateway to Growing** opportunity for people living in the area. We were keen to build on the successes and ways of working we had adjusted to in the previous years and get growing.

1. Nurturing links with new and existing partners

We started the reporting period picking up where we had left off by getting our local working party together. Back to Front have collaborated with **Harehills in Bloom** on community planting days over the years and Fay from Harehills in bloom was keen to have a **replanting day** for the six planters in the play area known as Ashton Park. During lockdown, the play area had been closed so many of the plants died as nobody could get in to water them.

We suggested having an Easter Holiday community planting day. We were delighted when members of both groups told us they had been



Fay Johnson ▸ Harehills in Bloom Group
April 16, 2021 · 🌱

Harehills in Bloom and Back to Front have planted in Ashton Road Play Area today. The sun shone for us and the finished result looks fabulous 🌱

nurturing plants in their gardens for us to use and many of them said they were available to attend the weekday session.

It was a lovely day and the cheerful collection of flowers such as wild geraniums and dianthus, and edibles such as elderberry plants and strawberry plants soon filled the bench ready for allocating to the various planters. Some of our volunteers had to dash off to work after donating their plants but lots stayed to help plant and in half an hour all the planters were refreshed, and the plants were well watered in. This allowed time for much needed in person conversations between the local growers and young people who use the play area. The remaining strawberry plants we had brought with us found good homes with a local family who have three very enthusiastic budding gardeners who use the play area every day and offered to help water the planters.



Earlier in the year we had been contacted by **Fruit Works** as they wanted to run a series of **top grafting sessions** around Leeds and they were enquiring about whether we knew of any ornamental flowering cherry trees in Harehills. We told them about the trees at the Compton Road mini woodland site and they told us they would be perfect for this so a few weeks later some of our Back to Front growers and a couple of new friends attended the fantastic Fruit Works top grafting session in Harehills.

The introduction covered the reasons for top grafting and was followed by a short demonstration showing two different grafting techniques to top graft, the first by cleft grafting and the second by bark grafting some fruiting scions onto a flowering cherry tree so that this grafted piece could eventually produce fruit. The possibilities for this are endless and the idea really excited our growers. The attendees took lots of informative pictures which were shared with those who couldn't go on the day. We all left feeling inspired and with the skills and knowledge to run our own top grafting get together.

Our next partnership project had been years in the planning. We had approached **Leeds City Council Parks and Countryside department** with our vision for a large, curved wildflower bed at the biggest park in Harehills. Karen had identified the perfect spot and we got early permission in principle but unfortunately this was another plan that was delayed by the pandemic, but we decided to revisit it this year as we felt it was an important opportunity for residents to get together to sow seeds of hope in the area.



Katie attended a site visit with **Vicky Nunns from Parks and Countryside** to check the area for suitability for rotavating with their machine and we were pleased that they decided that it could be done. The Team from the **Harehills Bowling Club** also offered their support and helped us with measuring out the bed for us to estimate the size so we could buy enough wildflower seed to cover the area. Shortly afterwards we were excited to see that '**The Horseshoe**', as it became known, in Harehills Park was being prepared by Parks and Countryside ready for us to seed the wildflower meadow.



It was a beautifully sunny evening for the largest number of **Back to Front and Harehills in Bloom** volunteers to come together after such a long time of being kept apart by Covid. The wildflower meadow sowing event had turned into an early evening activity as our growers told us they could only join us when they had finished work. The activity and timing were suitable for our younger growers too and many hands make light work so in no time all the seeds had been bagged up, placed evenly along the length, scattered, and raked in well. We were all so grateful to the Parks and

Countryside team for preparing the area for us as without that we would have been digging for weeks. It was so uplifting to be doing something positive for the area we all call home. It helped to remind residents that there are lots of lovely folk in Harehills and when we had finished the area inside the horseshoe shaped mound looked like it would become the perfect spot to sit and picnic protected from the ball games that take place on the playing fields on the other side of the trees by a glorious splash of pollinator friendly cover.

The next partnership event we got involved with came from our newly found link with the **Harehills Bowling Club** who are based in Harehills Park. They invited us to the **Great Get Together** event they were hosting at the beginning of July. The weather forecast was changeable but on the request of Courtney, one of our young growers, we ran a microgreen sowing stall and despite the torrential downpours we had a lovely afternoon at the Harehills Bowling Green. Lots of folk of all ages enjoyed a chance to bowl, eat gorgeous pakora and enjoy seeing each other face to face. The cardboard boxes may have got a little soggy, but our spirits weren't dampened as it was such a fantastic day. Our young volunteer Courtney was confident enough to help show everyone how to do their own take away microgreens and Smita stepped in to assist us to prep the kits and they proved popular with adults and young people alike.



This year a slightly different partnership opportunity became available. Joanne Harrison the Back to Back historian had told us about a potential Government pilot scheme which was being designed to support inner-city areas like Harehills to develop their own Neighbourhood Plan. Many local residents had seen the power of having a Neighbourhood Plan in place and how much it had benefitted nearby areas who had already written one, but they had always felt they did not know where to start here. This pilot sounded exactly what the residents we have worked with have needed.

Some other residents who had been involved with the Great Get Together also showed an interest and when it was announced that Harehills had been selected for the pilot we were happy to collaborate and lend our support with the meetings and community workshops. We were able to support by bringing people together, co-chairing meetings and facilitating the “Big Dream” ideas and aspirations sections of the early meetings by facilitating PATH and MAP sessions. The feedback from these sessions showed there was a widespread genuine interest from everybody to improve the green spaces we have locally and a desire to green up the urban environment across Harehills. This fitted perfectly with our own long-term vision. After all the delays from Covid we felt the timing could not be better to begin working to set up a **Harehills Neighbourhood Forum**. We offered our support by joining the Initial Forum members to contribute to the application for recognition as a forum to begin developing a Harehills Neighbourhood Plan.



Our last collaboration of the reporting year was in February 2022. Gini from **Fruit Works** showed a few core Back to Front growers the basics of **Winter Fruit Tree maintenance** for apple and pear trees. This session was held in Harehills Park Orchard and some of the trees were in a sorry state due to a combination of vandalism and years of neglect. Thanks to the knowledge that Gini shared with us we felt confident enough to add winter fruit tree pruning to the list of sessions we could run ourselves to help maintain these trees for the benefit of the local community. We have such little space in Harehills

in which to create new community orchards, so this existing space is invaluable to us.

2. Continuing our Covid safe sessions, planning and plant shares

This year we wanted to give our growers opportunities to reconnect with Back to Front and each other as well as learning some new growing techniques and being inspired to grow something new. Our first chance to achieve this was by offering a new **Back to Front skill sharing session** where we demonstrated top grafting and bark grafting.

We spent an afternoon with a group of Back to Front volunteers grafting cherry scions onto more of the ornamental cherry trees at the Compton Road Woodland. Our growers commented that “grafting is like magic”, and we still can't quite believe that you can lop off a branch of an existing tree and slot in a shoot from another tree, seal it with glue and old plastic bags and have them grow together. We were so grateful for our successful partnership with Gini and Alan from Fruit Works for showing us how. If the grafts take it will mean that the trees could produce edible cherries, if not we will try again in the future.



The branches we cut away were put to good use replacing the stake that had gone missing from the cherry sapling and starting a deadwood habitat. There's a real variety of trees on this small plot that was once the site of a demolished row of terraces and it shows how even a small stand of trees can positively transform an area. It was also lovely to see that some of the bulbs we planted had come through. As with all Back to Front activities we did a litter pick around the area we were working in and used our new purple bags from Litter Free Leeds.

After the session Karen loaded her car full of the apple saplings (Katy variety) that were grafted as part of the online workshop in March 2020 for Back to Front. Fruit Works had been for growing them on for us, and we could not wait to share them around Harehills so more people can love a tree. Several growers at the top grafting session expressed an interest in having a fruit tree of their own so Karen delivered the trees directly to their own gardens.

We received some lovely feedback after the session: “We're so glad we attended your tree grafting session today. It was very informative & the hands on experience is just what I needed to learn this skill & develop my confidence to graft my own fruit trees soon. Thank you all so much for gifting us our own grafted apple tree & the strawberry plants. I can't wait to enjoy the fruits 🍏🍏🍏” Yunii Wennif



Due to popular demand, for the next outdoor session we organised another **wild garlic foraging walk**. We decided to have it in May as this time we wanted to show the group the edible wild garlic flowers too. Ashley led the walk and encouraged us to explore all the established wild garlic patches around Beckett Street Cemetery in Harehills. The wild garlic flowers were glorious, and we even found a patch of wild strawberries too. Some of our growers had never been to this beautiful old cemetery before and were amazed to find it's a real wildlife haven as well as a time machine to the past. We were all respectful of those who are buried there, and several of our growers found themselves peacefully looking at the names recorded in stone and wondering about the individuals and their lives.



By July many of the Covid restrictions were lifted so we took the opportunity to connect with our growers again and run our **Annual Summer Plant Share**. We distributed our donation of tomato plants from Trisha and the baby strawberry plants from Esther to new and existing growers. We also started to collect all the fruit and berry trees that our lovely growers had been looking after for us during the pandemic.

A small group of our growers then paid a visit to the

Back to Front Community Yarden at Shine. It was great to see the beds were still thriving despite us having struggled to gain access to the Community Yarden since the first Lockdown due to the reduced opening hours.

We started by tidying the community shed and positioned our **mini nut, berry, and fruit tree nursery** in a sheltered spot so that the little whips could be cared for until they are ready for planting in their permanent home and we looked at how we could use the space better for future workshops and demonstration gardens.





Karen did a brief **plant check, tidy up and litter pick** around the **Ashton Road Planter** in July as part of the planning for our Autumn Maintenance session. The buddleia bush looked lovely, and there were only a couple of gaps for us to fill at the maintenance session with some new plants. Plus, parks had fitted a new fence around the play area that local people commented “now looks much less like a prison boundary”. We had noticed an increase in litter near here since one of the public bins further down the road had been removed and had been monitoring this.

Karen quickly filled a purple bag but had to leave the big bits of a TV unit that had been left to the side and she said it was sad to see evidence of fly tipping all along the other side of Ashton Road. This is an ongoing issue, but it was fantastic to see the planter is still going strong and preventing large scale fly tips on this busy corner.



Sadly, the problems with litter and fly tipping are widespread. With a population of 33,000 people in two square miles, a lack of recycling facilities due to the closure of the local waste centre and the removal of 80% of the green bins, Harehills struggles to manage its waste effectively. As well as litter picking whenever we run a greening activity, Back to Front volunteers also spend a lot of time emailing the council to highlight larger fly tips and when they can and will join other community groups such as the amazing young folk from the **Breaking Down Barriers Project** who regularly do their bit to try and address the areas rubbish issues. We also support the **Harehills Community**

Wombles and **Litter Free Leeds** who supply the purple bags and host litter picks in the area.

Before the pandemic we had wanted to organise some **Inspiration trips for Back to Front growers and supporters**. The Lockdowns and restrictions had put this idea on hold but this summer we started thinking about what local trips we could do. Around this time Katie was invited to explore an established allotment plot in Harehills. Ann Marie told Katie her friend grows in a forest garden style, and we were shown layers upon layers of fruit, berries, herbs, and vegetables. It looked like such a great way to get the most out of a space and would be suitable for the local community green spaces we have started and could even be done on a small scale in a garden. We were introduced to other allotment holders, met up with an old friend and were given lots of cuttings to try grow. It was a feast for the eyes and the tummy as we were encouraged to taste the ripe berries. It was so



inspiring and made me think that we should add **an Annual Allotment visit** for our core growers to the Back to Front Calendar.

Our next session was the **Ashton Road Maintenance Day** in November. Despite it being such a cold day there were plenty of willing hands to get stuck in. Local Back to Front growers split into two groups with the first giving the **Ashton Road Play Area Planters** a good tidy up. They pruned back shrubs and planted bulbs ready for spring and replaced all the gaps with new winter planting.

Again, there was an awful lot of litter picking to do, mainly due to the dumping of a business waste bin that had been taken from a local shop who must not have secured their bins properly. We contacted the litter teams who were out and about as it was too much for us to handle. Frustratingly they said it was not anything to do with them because the play area comes under the parks department. This was not ideal as it made access to the play area difficult. We will be looking to encourage more joined up working with the Council departments.



The second working group focussed on the **Ashton Road Planter**. As well as adding bulbs and new planting we gave it a smart new paint job to get it through the winter. It's always so uplifting to do these planter maintenance days because we always have lots of enthusiastic young folk rush up to us and offer to help. Some of the children joining us for this session had helped to plant up the original planters and knew exactly what they were doing. They also said they were keen to have their own watering cans so that they can water the plants when they come to play in the park. We said we would see if we could sort that out.



It is also notable that any negative comments we receive generally come from folk in the form of comments like "It won't last, the foreigners will spoil it, they don't care". Interestingly the people making these comments never offer to help us. The growers who had turned up all felt that this tired and frankly racist narrative needs to stop. Karen summed it up beautifully "The reality is that in general no matter where in the world folk hail from the efforts of local folk to improve the area is very much appreciated and generally those who actually stop to give a little time to help or offer encouragement, would be seen by

the naysayers as foreigners. These planters are a genuine community effort to improve the neighbourhood we share for the benefit of everyone. The bairns who helped today

represented a wide range of local communities. They helped in full knowledge that some plants might get nicked, they saw that some planters were set alight over the summer, they see the constant dumping, and yet like us they choose to work together to do something positive and to plant in hope. [#sowseedsofhopenothate](#) 🍀”

3. Seasonal social media presence



During the lockdowns when we were unable to meet, we had turned our attention to improving the **Back to Front page** and had received great feedback. Throughout this transitional phase we embraced the challenge of keeping up the social media presence alongside the emerging in person sessions. This reporting period turned out to be our best year yet for content with seasonal monthly updates and information sharing.

Each month Karen created posts that aimed to inspire folk at home to carry on growing. Following the seasons her regular posts shared ideas and

highlighted easy ideas to try at home. Recycling bottles to make pot irrigators, inspiration for growing edibles in small spaces, information about local groups, workshops, opportunities, and initiatives such as Women Friendly Leeds. We shared memories and recipes with a foraging and herbal focus and folk shared updates on their planting efforts. Links were shared to growing and compost advice and lots of different hedge ideas. There were regular Yarden updates from Karen’s small yard with a lockdown project to create planters out of unwanted furniture and activity kits made for children on her street. We also highlighted national days/weeks/months of significance for us such as **Earth Day, National Gardening week, Love a Tree Day, World Bee Day, Black History Month and the Great Garden Birdwatch.**



We also continued to share Karen’s beautiful local photographs. This had worked well during the lockdowns and provided inspiration for people who might not be able to get around the area if they were shielding or unwell, but we quickly realised these photos had provided us with a fantastic record of what we had done and could be used as inspiration for the future. This year Karen captured the wildflower horseshoe each month on a series of wonderful wildflower walks and would list what was flowering, the people she bumped into and comment on the next steps for managing the meadow.



August - Wildflowers Walk "Harehills Park Horseshoe Meadow planted by lovely local folk from Harehills, volunteering with Back to Front and Harehills in Bloom. Lots of interesting wildflowers: poppies, cornflowers, borage, yarrow, pink and white champions, calendula, and oxide daisies to name but a few. They went in late but hopefully more flowers are set to appear through September. After they've gone to seed we'll be looking to arrange a scythe, shake and rake session so that we can get an even better show next year. Thank you to all those who turned up to help us do our last-minute seeding 🌱"

September - Wildflowers Walk "These are the flowers currently still blooming in the Harehills Park Horseshoe Meadow. More flowers still to bloom and the bees are loving it. It shows what potential Harehills has to be a nicer place. On the way I stopped by St Cyprian's after seeing a group of kids ripping up waste paper and strewing it all over the green. They ran off when the street cleaners who happened to be nearby came to tell them off, but thanks to the gentleman further down the street who sent his kids over to help us clear it up again. 🌱"



October - Wildflowers Walk "Had an early start for work today so was walking round Harehills Park this morning at sunrise. It was lovely. A local wombler was out litter picking and the wildflowers planted by Back to Front and Harehills in Bloom are still adding a floral splash of colour. More importantly they'll be providing a last feast for pollinators before winter draws in 🌱"

We were still putting a lot of the material we would normally cover in person at workshops and on community days on social media but combining this with the socially distant gatherings helped during the shift back to normal face to face activities. Being able to get together helped us identify what people were interested in and shape ideas for future in person opportunities. To help promote the project we also produced and shared a new flyer to highlight what Bank to Front is about and encourage more people living in Back to Backs, both on the sunny and shady sides of a street to try growing edible plants.



4. Looking into our local growing opportunities

Generally, outside of the tiny gardens of Harehills, Back to Front operates in a peripatetic way – focusing on neglected patches of land around the area that have the potential to be lovely with a little TLC. It is our way of trying to save precious green pockets that might otherwise be concreted over. We will work with keen individuals who want some initial support to adopt and improve a space near them, such as shared bin yards or neglected verges. It is however helpful if we have some kind of space to use as a hub, somewhere for a shed and tree and plant nursery and to run learning activities. The need for such a space became very apparent when lockdown meant that we were literally locked out of the space we had at Shine. We have always had the use of some side yards there, but only had access when the main building was open.



Reduced opening hours had meant that we were unable to get in and water plants, maintain the space and access tools stored there at all. With this in mind, we began to think about how we could secure access to the space for evenings, weekends and indeed pandemic lockdowns. We developed the idea for the **Gateway to Growing Hub at Shine** and drew up an outline proposal for funding to install external gates to the space that would allow us to access the garden space even when Shine was shut as well as securing funding to develop the space into the kind of community gardening outdoor classroom we have always dreamed of. Somewhere to grow friendships, share ideas, learn and eat together as well as growing plants. We drew up a proposal and first stage plans and had a very positive virtual meeting with the Shine Director, who agreed that they would be OK with this plan.

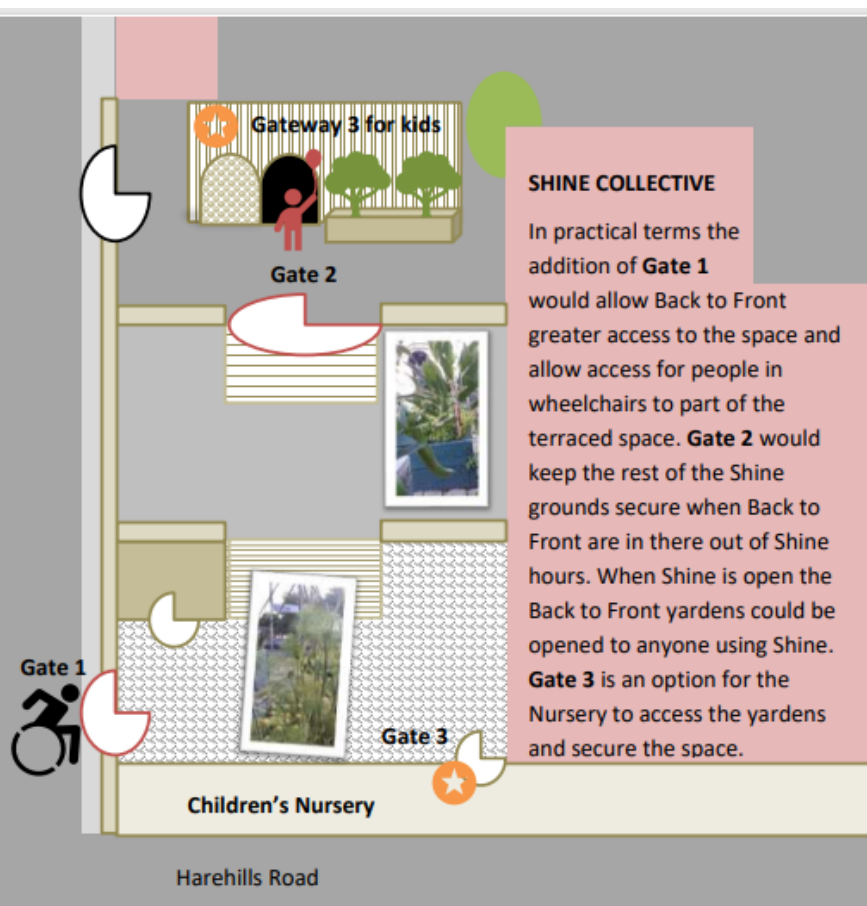


Making Back to Front at Shine sustainable

Back to Front currently has limited access to the space it uses for gardening and we are aware that this limits what we can do with the space. All the key volunteers work so mainly have free time at weekends or in the evenings when access to Shine grounds is limited.

To allow us to develop and use the space more we want to put in a substantial bid to secure funds to:

- reinstate the gate entrance directly onto the Back to Front of Conway Street – which would give Back to Front access when Shine is closed and access for disabled people to the lower terrace.
- Install a new gate at the top of the stairs to the upper terrace so that the Shine remains secure.



SHINE COLLECTIVE

In practical terms the addition of **Gate 1** would allow Back to Front greater access to the space and allow access for people in wheelchairs to part of the terraced space. **Gate 2** would keep the rest of the Shine grounds secure when Back to Front are in there out of Shine hours. When Shine is open the Back to Front yards could be opened to anyone using Shine. **Gate 3** is an option for the Nursery to access the gardens and secure the space.

A Gateway Garden

By giving Back to Front greater access it will enable volunteers to spend more time within the space creating modular sample gardens that will inspire local people. We want the space to become a **Gateway to Gardening** even for people who only have yards, doorsteps or windowsills in which to grow.

As such we propose that the gates are not just utilitarian, but in themselves celebrate the idea of growing. We believe that the people who live in Harehills deserve community spaces of quality, that show people that they are deserving of something special and do not add to the narrative that Harehills is a place where everything needs to be behind bars of austerity and intimidation. Our bid would include funds for bespoke gates.

We want to create a space of ideas that are relevant doable and inspiring for people in Harehills.



Supporting aspirations

Harehills is defined by tightly packed and largely neglected terraced housing with yards rather than gardens, high rates of poverty and transient communities. Alongside this crime levels are high and the area is blighted by a reputation that does little to change this narrative.

This reputation overshadows the many lovely folk who call Harehills home, the thriving local high streets and the potential that Harehills has to break free of some of this environmental deprivation with a little faith and imagination.

Where people have the will and ability, small pockets of loveliness can be found all across Harehills. The Gateway Garden would provide a space to learn and get ideas and inspiration – with demonstration gardens that people could apply to their own yards, door steps and windowsills.



Dream

Space to Share

Back to Front works all around the Harehills Area doing Practical Planting Projects where local people are keen to start something good on their street. We have supported the planting of bin yards and neglected green spaces that have enthused those living nearby to take a greater interest in taking care of them.

With the help of local volunteers we have begun planting unused patches of land with fruit trees so that children growing in this area have a chance to see where fruit comes from.

With a better purposed space we could create a tranquil learning space where we can add to the work we do by having an outdoor learning sessions, and community gatherings. A retreat amongst the brick and concrete to nurture relationships as well as plants.



SEED AND PLANT EXCHANGES

Part of the upgrade we plan would include adding fit for purpose, structural planters to enable us to be more productive in what we grow. This would allow us to grow on seedlings and saplings that we could give to people to encourage them to start growing, along with seedlings that are already kindly donated by Back to Front supporters who have garden capacity.



TASTING TOGETHER

Developing a more serviceable space would allow Back to Front to run sessions where folk can try home grown fruits and vegetables and learn how to prepare them for eating, and just enjoy being together sharing a verdant space.

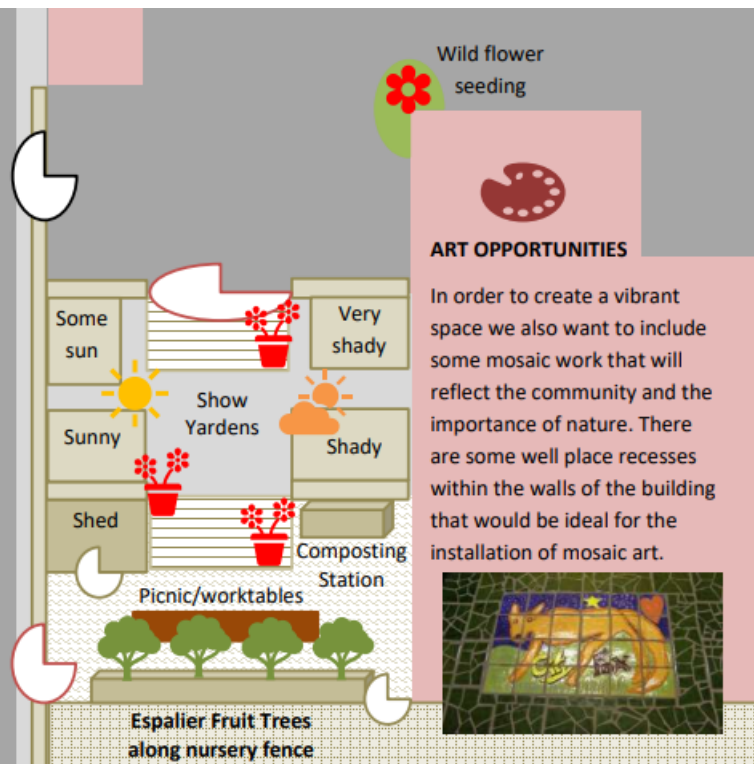


Planning for the Future

Back to Front has already run a planning session with local growers to think about how we could make the space more accessible and relevant. The whole site is on the shady side of the Shine building which means much of the space is challenging for growing. However, the upper terrace offers a sunny side aspect on the Conway Street side.

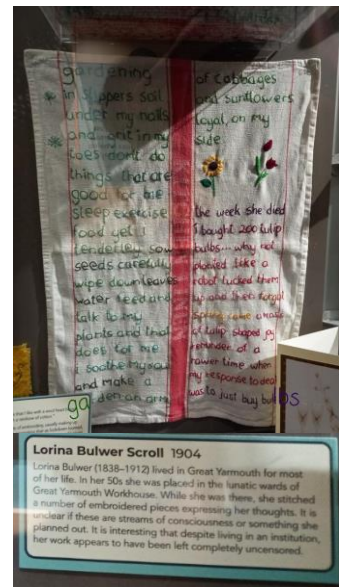
With this in mind we want to create planted areas that reflect the realities of people living on either the sunny side or shady side of terraces.

We also want to create a welcoming communal seating area on the lower terrace where learning sessions can be run, as well as improving the shed to allow shelter and a place to make refreshments.



Conclusion and Reflection

Soothing the Soul - We met with Donna from Space2 to visit the Thackray Medical Museum at the beginning of the reporting period to catch up on all things Harehills. We were attracted to the display which housed this brightly stitched little tea towel, and we were surprised to read had been embroidered in 1904 by Lorina Bulwer, a woman locked away in an institution. She conveyed something profound about the soothing powers of gardening that struck a chord with us as we were coming out of the worst of the restrictions. *"I soothe my soul and make a garden, an army of cabbages and sunflowers, loyal on my side".*



From a Back to Front perspective the pandemic and lockdowns absolutely highlighted the inequalities that people living in densely packed, environmentally deprived urban areas face. Harehills has one of the youngest populations in Leeds, but very few properties have gardens where children can play. Yet again Harehills found itself highlighted in the news in a negative light with images of young children playing in litter-strewn parks and back alleys splashed across the media. Meanwhile in the suburbs children were enjoying following rainbow trails through well maintained parks no more socially distanced than the children in Harehills.

It is seeing and experiencing these inequalities that spurs us on as a group entirely run by volunteers to continue Back to Front as a means to offer people opportunities to learn how to improve their immediate environment, be supported and make new friends and to be inspired by possibilities they may not have thought could happen in Harehills. The lifting of an area from grim and unwelcoming begins with a plant growing on a windowsill or a doorstep, seeds, cuttings, and home grown produce shared with neighbours and a neglected area improved by local people coming together who want to be part of the change.

We will do the dirty jobs, filling our purple litter bags, we will do the boring jobs writing to the council demanding better services and facilities for the area, but it is important that we all have the chance to create and do something fruitful. This year became our unofficial year of fruit and flowers as we continued to nurture numerous local fruit trees, plant edible bushes and sow wildflowers, so while we wait for the system to improve neglected areas, we can help people to make a garden. We will continue to demonstrate how you can transform an area in a season with a wildflower meadow and make people feel they are not alone through a shared activity and if we are all lucky, we will watch our hard work bloom and grow so more Harehills locals can have their souls soothed by cheerful planting and growing together with hope.

Back to Front Partners up to 31st March 2022: Alan Apple from Fruit Works, Shine, Space2, Leeds City Council, Trisha and Esther for plant donations, the local Harehills Groups - Harehills in Bloom, Harehills Community Wombles, Harehills Community Watch, and the Initial Harehills Neighbourhood Planning Forum.

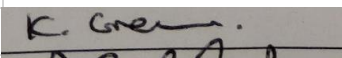
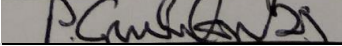
Funding up to 31st March 2022: Money left from Esmée Fairbairn, support from Alan Apple, Leeds City Council, local ward Councillors, Shine and Harehills in Bloom.

Treasurers report & accounts

 CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES	Back To Front CIO		1170920		CC16a
	Receipts and payments accounts				
	For the period from	Period start date 01/04/2021	To	Period end date 31/03/2022	

Section A Receipts and payments					
	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Learning Partnership Sparks Funding		-	-	-	100
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	-	-	-	-	100
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	-	-	-	-	100
A3 Payments					
Admin costs	8	-	-	8	120
Events		-	-	-	140
Gardening sundries		-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	8	-	-	8	260
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	8	-	-	8	260
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 8	-	-	- 8	160
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	8,659	-	-	8,659	8,819
Cash funds this year end	8,651	-	-	8,651	8,659

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank account	8,651	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	8,651	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Details			
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval
		Katie Greaves		30/01/2023
		Peter Cruikshanks		30/01/2023

FRUIT WORKS



Accounts

Back to Front - Annual Report:

(Reporting Period from April 2020 – March 2021.)

Chair's Welcome:

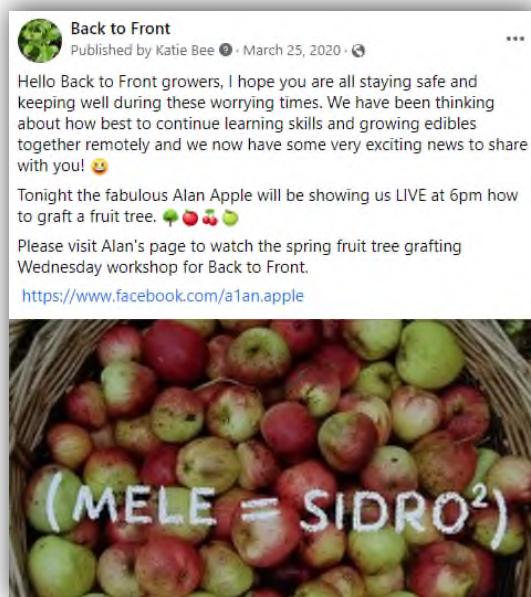
On behalf of the Back to Front Trustees I would like to offer a warm welcome to our fourth annual report since becoming a registered charity *in December 2016 (Back to Front CIO - Registered Charity Number 1170920)*. This year was our hardest one yet as the global Coronavirus pandemic hit the UK just before the start of this reporting period. Many of our plans had to be put on hold as we had finished the end of last reporting period in a full lockdown. This was far from ideal, but we were determined to carry on and we had all the skills, knowledge and experience gained over the previous three years which provided us with a strong foundation and enabled us to react quickly and get creative.

We revised all our plans and made the decision to focus on what we could do safely and remotely. As non-priority shops were closed and everyone was discouraged from travelling in their cars, it made trips to garden centres out of the question and pictures of empty shelves and talk of seed and food shortages circulated. Many people panic bought and stockpiled what they could from toilet paper to tomatoes.

The weather was fantastic in spring 2020 and as the lockdown progressed local people were really making the most of the little bit of outside space they had. We found people who had not grown food before were much more interested in having a go, especially where they were concerned about food shortages, online deliveries and fresh items not being available and not being able to get to shops. We had cancelled all the in-person arrangements we had in place for spring 2020 and the foreseeable future after that and we decided to do as much as we could that could be shared on social media so that we could continue to inspire and support others remotely, even if we could not grow together. This meant demonstrating more in our own yards and setting up a "seed swaps" WhatsApp group so that people could drop off any surplus seeds and plants to each other on their daily walks.

Despite the challenges of Covid 19 I am very proud of what we were able to achieve this year. We could not have done it without our amazing team of trustees, our partners and supporters. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Karen and Katy for their creativity, energy and resilience, Peter for his boundless patience and understanding, Alan for his passion for fruit trees and willingness to share this with us too and Trisha and Esther for their consistent plant donations to the Back to Front project. I would also like to thank our local growers new and old for sharing our enthusiasm for growing edibles in small urban spaces.

Katie Greaves, Chair of the Trustees of Back to Front CIO.

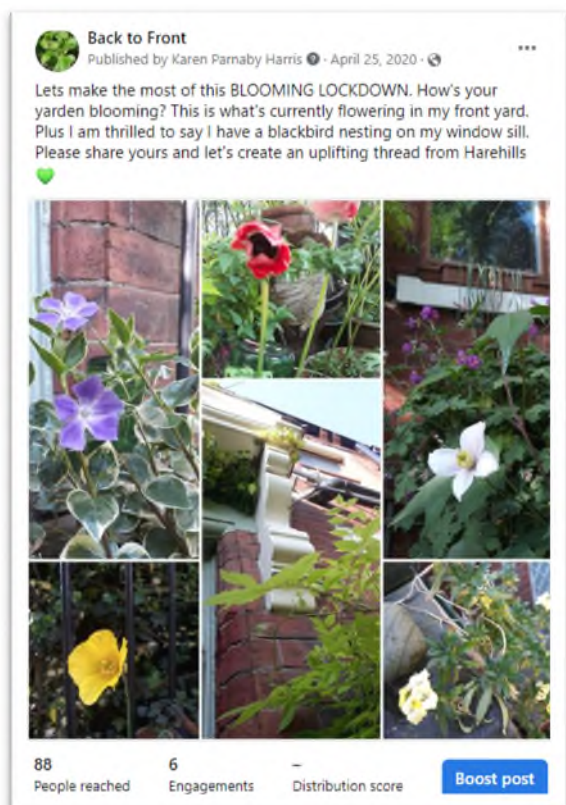


Introduction: **Creating Connections.**

Our main aims for this reporting year had to change overnight but we still wanted to keep local people growing the Back to Front way. We had to get more creative than ever about how we would manage this as all our planned sessions and community events had been cancelled. We identified the best ways we could continue to reach our growers safely despite all the restrictions and decided to focus on what we could do on social media and with the resources we already had in place. We then divided our focus for this reporting period into four distinct strands, these were:

- **Continuing our local networking opportunities online,**
- **Celebrating outside space and inspiring growers who were shielding or growing edibles for the first time,**
- **Continuing connections with socially distanced in person opportunities,**
- **Planning for the future – Our Next Steps.**

Once we had our objectives in place, we shared out the workload between the local trustees. Karen and Katie focussed on the social media and finding or creating safe opportunities to connect in person. Katy set up a seed swaps WhatsApp to help local growers share what they had and ask if they were short of anything. The hope was to support local growers, combat loneliness and to keep people connected despite the UK Lockdown.



We shared the positive stories and our beautiful photographs on social media at every opportunity. Month by month we started to notice our posts were reaching more people and getting more reactions. New people were contacting us through the various groups on social media and meaningful connections were starting to be made across the area.

We pooled our efforts with some of the core members of Harehills in Bloom and Harehills Community Watch too. We were able to make safe socially distanced contact with local residents who were shielding, and packets of chilli seeds were dropped off up and down the hill as residents went on their daily walks, as more locals made contact with each other. Strawberry plants were exchanged for homemade carrot cake, and a batch of vine weevil nematodes were shared in a joint effort to help save a community planter we discovered was under attack from evil vine weevils.

1. Continuing our local networking presence and growing opportunities

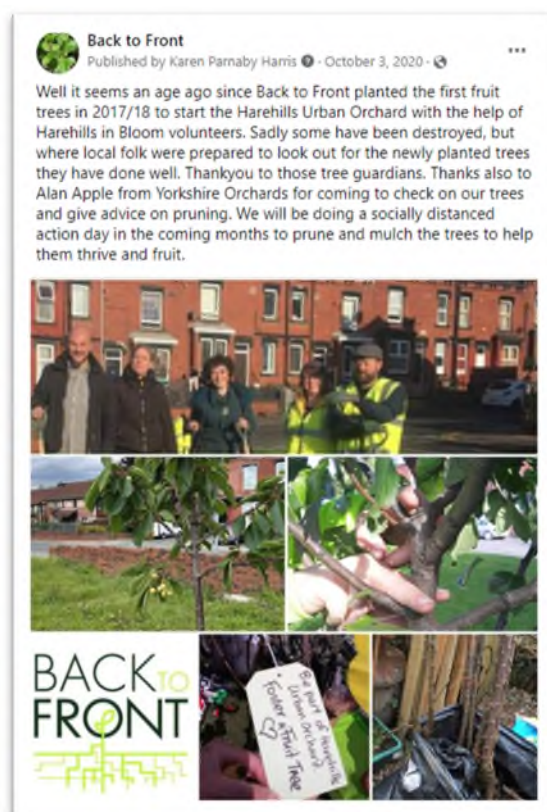
We had already built up a network of like-minded local groups and organisations over the past few years so this aim was identified so we could continue to support each other when and where it was most needed during this reporting period.



We were aware we wanted to carry on working with more experienced growers so we could stay connected ourselves and learn more about growing edibles. One of the first things we tried was to use our page to **share online food growing workshops and positive opportunities** offered by others. We also promoted online any plant shares from local groups such as Space2 so they could reach as many people as possible.

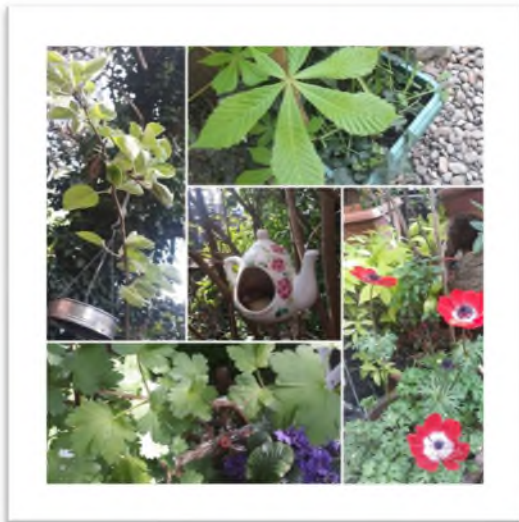
As an educational charity we were keen to look to continue to explore and develop ways to share our own knowledge, experience, and skills with others. We had just completed the online fruit tree grafting session with Alan Apple from Fruit Works as the lockdown began so this year we kept in regular contact with him. We did several orchard related posts to promote fruit tree growing and our growers seemed very keen to learn and explore more.

When it was safe to do so Karen showed Alan several of the sites around the area where we had planted an orchard of fruit trees and where there was an orchard sitting locked away in a local park. There seemed to be plenty of scope to nurture and develop the **Harehills Orchards** and possibly attempt some top grafting techniques on established flowering trees as if they take, the grafts become fruiting branches. Leeds City Council were supportive of us trying this on the flowering trees on their land and we were delighted that our persistent networking online had transpired into real world educational and skill building opportunities for local growers too.



Spurred on by this we contacted local growing group **Harehills in Bloom** to help promote growing **wildflowers, bulbs and pollinator plants** around the area. On our daily walks we started to photograph and document what was blossoming and fruiting in Harehills to share with others and let people know about the diversity that can thrive in a built-up urban environment.

We also shared our progress on the **local community page Harehills Community Watch** and this meant more and more people were becoming aware of the Back to Front project. Donna, a local resident contacted us to let us know how much this had meant to her: "At times, when the lockdown was first introduced, being locked up for 23 hours a day was hard. Also, having no accessible outside space, the local park was invaluable. This made me realise just how important social media, community groups and local people are.

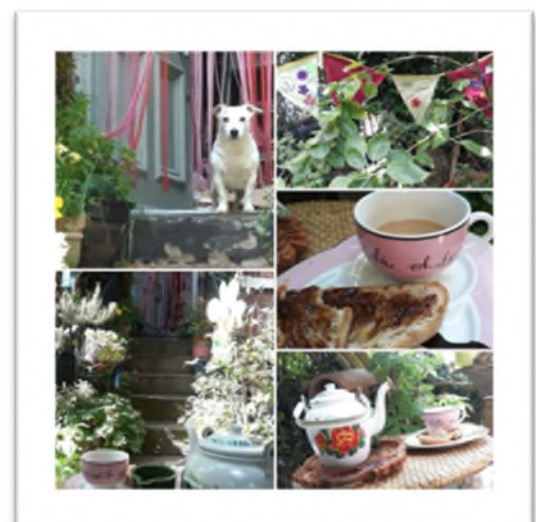


One of the highlights of my days and weeks were the beautiful and inspirational posts from Back to Front. I saw these posts shared on HCW and HIB and was amazed. The photographer has made the flowers pop! The posts were so pretty but also, there were the practical posts. I come from a family of keen gardeners but found myself with just a tiny back yard. Concrete slabs and a brick wall. What was I to do? I visited their Facebook page, and gathered inspiration, ideas for projects that I would never have dreamed were achievable in such a small space, and also just the pure joy I took from the beautiful posts.

Whilst there is still a long way to go with my "yarden", I now have a small but perfectly formed outside space. I have bird feeders made from broken teapots, I leave a spoonful of sugar water for the bees, even my flowerpots are planted to attract pollinators. I didn't know what a pollinator was before lockdown! Safe to say, the posts from Back to Front have helped retain my sanity, given me the sanctuary of my own personal little paradise, and inspired me to dream of what more can be done. That is why I wanted to send this message, to say thank you, unsung heroes indeed! If you could perhaps forward this to all the Back to Front people for me please so that they can be aware of how they are valued? I would really appreciate that. Thank you for your time, both reading this chapter of war and peace, but also for all the joy that you bring to our community."

2. Celebrating outside space and inspiring growers who were shielding or growing edibles for the first time

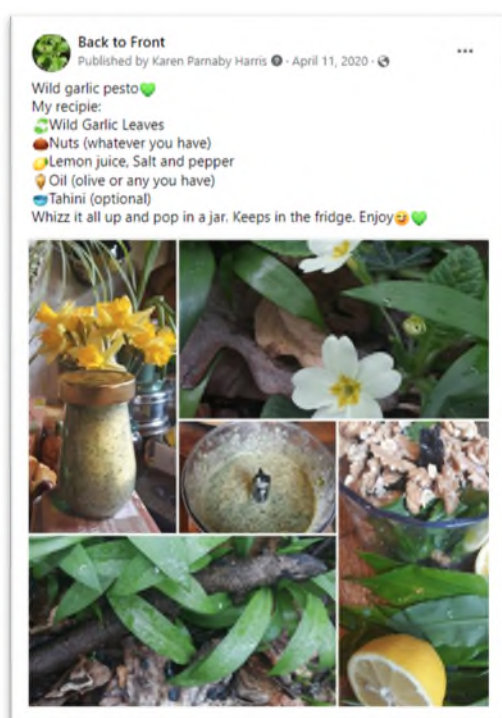
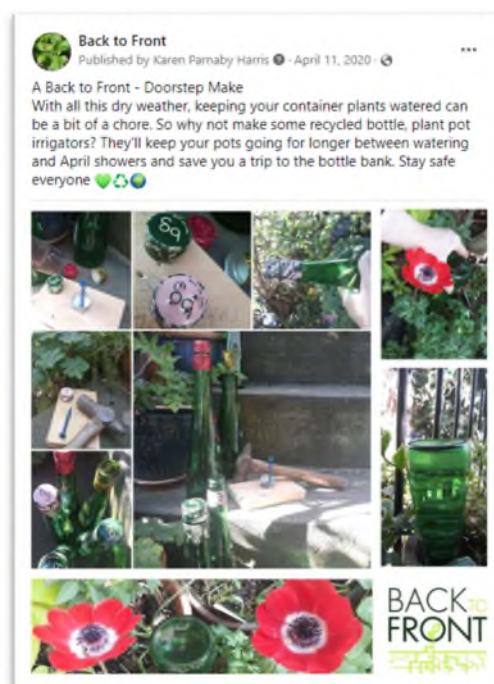
Making the most of outside space and connecting with nature had become more important than ever during the pandemic, and many people started growing food at home for the first time ever. We have always valued our little gardens, yards and windowsills and used them for food growing so to deliver this objective without being able to offer our usual in person workshops we decided to provide visual garden inspiration with practical tips, recipes, cooking experiments, DIY recycling projects and share our own attempts at food growing. What came out of this was more



successful than we could have imagined as it became a genuine celebration and fantastic record of what can be achieved in very small outside spaces.

As Katie's garden became the plant store, Karen had been tasked with trying to communicate some of the activities we might cover in workshops and pop-ups and bringing them to life through the Facebook page. The first we tried was a **Make Do and Mend - Doorstep Make** because we had covered container watering in a previous workshop and Karen showed us how it could be done in style with what you have at home. Connecting what we have covered in our previous workshops and showing it in situ worked well as it acted as a recap for growers who have been with us for a while but provided fresh inspiration for people who had only just joined the page.

At this stage of the lockdown it was hard getting shopping deliveries and supermarkets were struggling with keeping shelves stocked and it felt like the whole country was baking banana bread.



We were all at home spending a lot of time cooking too and we shared our various **Home Grown and Locally Foraged Cooking Experiments** on and off the page with our Back to Front growers to offer inspiration about what could be made from locally grown and foraged edibles. Some notable examples that made it onto the Facebook page were the Wild Garlic Pesto, Wild Garlic Bud and Flower Pickling, Hawthorn Leaf Suet Pudding and a celebration of Elder flowers and berries.

All the posts included a selection of beautiful photographs demonstrating the plants and process which in themselves were a feast for the eyes. Growers who had been inspired by the posts would send us their efforts and recipes; it was fantastic to hear them tell us they had shared these recipes and results with their neighbours too.

Spending more time at home during the lockdowns had some other benefits, as we had the time to try out some of the more ambitious **DIY Garden Projects** that we might usually not have the time to do. Karen had been wanting to repurpose an old wardrobe into a planter for some time and she documented her progress over a couple of months. It was inspirational to see it take shape and it was another great example of reimagining something you already have and giving it a new purpose.

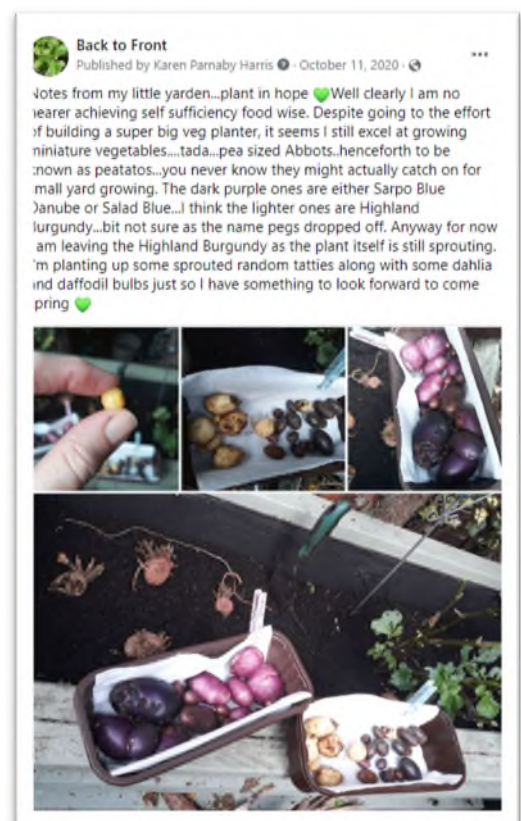


As well as the impressive makes and bakes, we continued to share our own gardening experiences, successes, and challenges with trying to grow new things such as potatoes and raspberries. Growers would contact us off the page to ask for **Growing Tips and Techniques**. We are all enthusiastic dabblers who have been involved with the project for years so felt confident enough to share our knowledge, experience and skills with people who were new to growing edibles.

When we asked one new grower who we had helped get started how they had got on growing edibles, Jane replied and told us just how invaluable our support was. They had been having such a tough time entertaining a toddler and getting hold of fresh items to eat in lockdown and had contacted us after they had bought whatever seeds they could and then realised they did not have much space to grow or know where to start.

“Thank you for being so helpful when we first decided to have a go at growing veg in our garden at the start of the pandemic. We were complete beginners and all the information out there felt very overwhelming - what equipment we’d need to set up, what to grow where, when to plant etc etc. Your clear tips on starting simple, picking a few things we know we will eat and arranging those things into the beds we had, thinking about companion planting and crop rotation. We’re now expanding our garden plot as we’ve grown the best veg we’ve ever tasted and I’m so addicted I’ve spent all winter counting down the days until we can get out there and start again.”

It was so lovely to hear that another family have not only had the confidence to start growing edibles and have had some successful harvests but that they have also got the food growing bug and are wanting to continue to grow even more, so their garden will continue to not only look good but taste even better.



3. Continuing connections with socially distanced in person opportunities

As many of our activities had moved online, we made sure we prioritised this strand of work throughout the year so that **planting, maintenance, seed swaps and plant sharing** could continue in these Covid-19 times.

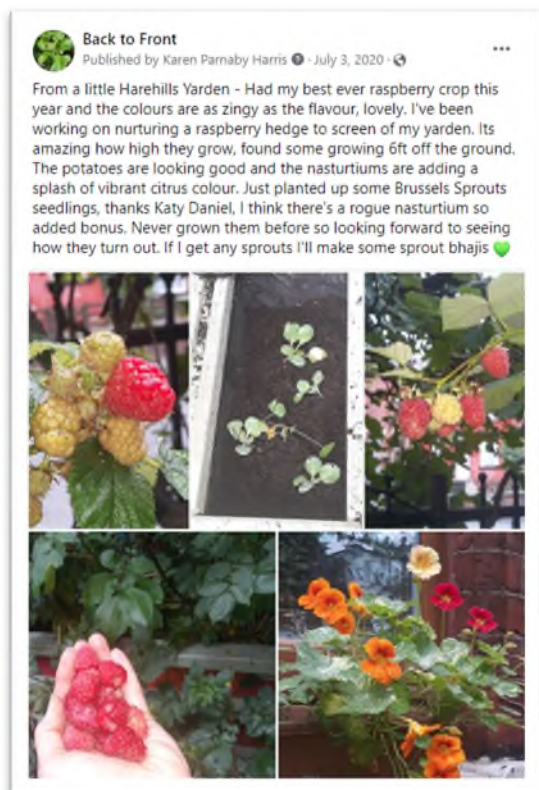
Karen had sourced a colourful range of potatoes from a Potato Day just before the lockdown that we were able to deliver. Katy set up a “**seed swaps**” WhatsApp to enable growers to let other people know what they had a surplus of and ask if anyone had spare seeds or plants that they could not get hold of, then we would help organise socially distanced drop offs or collections from our little gardens as part of the local daily walks. Our regular contributors contacted us to say they had our usual strawberry plants and tomato plants, so Katie organised to use her garden as a base and we were able to distribute these from there.

We shared with our existing Back to Front growers easily but thanks to our social media presence we started to be contacted by other growers, Jenny was one local grower who got in touch:

“When the pandemic first hit, I was put into the extremely vulnerable category and told to isolate.

At the time, I don't think anyone realised how long we would be isolating for, and it was definitely a struggle. What gave it some bright points was being able to reach out and find people locally where I hadn't thought to do so before. I found Back to Front and Harehills in Bloom, and they've been brilliant. There are some really lovely people involved, who would do almost anything to help someone out. I'd had a particularly bad attack of vine weevil grubs and I'd lost all of my strawberry plants to them, and someone very kindly brought me up some new ones! (They were subsequently lost to the vine weevil grubs the following season too, but never mind!)

I was also able to give them some nematodes of my own to kill off some vine weevil grubs in their planter, and I gave a lady a cake just because she was so lovely. All from socially distanced front garden drop offs! I'm still involved with the groups however I can be, and if it wasn't for the pandemic then I don't think I would have been. So there have definitely been positives to it all along the way, and things to be thankful for.”



In addition to the plant shares, we usually run a variety of seasonal sessions each year and these sometimes take the form of pop-up activities at community events where we can reach a large number of participants and teach them a growing skill and give out seeds. As this was not possible during lockdown, we decided to run very small, localised sessions on our own streets. The first was the **Microgreens Spring Seasonal Session**.



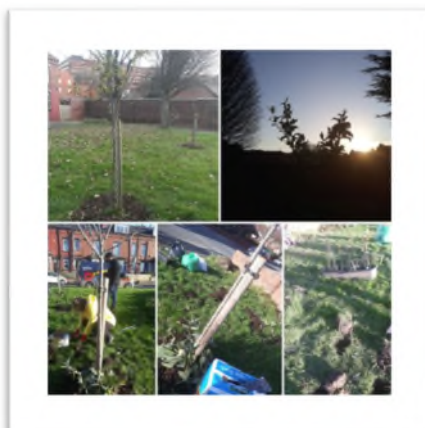
Karen made up kits and instructions to inspire residents to have a go and distributed these individually. The kits were well received, and the pictorial nature of the instructions meant it could also be given out and understood by people with little English. Preparing kits like this in advance rather than running larger group activities was one of the ways that allowed us to continue to teach people about 'fast food to grow' but in a covid safe way.

By the Summer the lockdown restrictions had been lifted slightly but many of our growers were still being cautious and did not want to meet up for workshops so the next activity we planned ended up being a pop-up educational skill building session that we then shared on social media. At this time there was a clear interest in taking cuttings rather than risk going to a garden centre, especially as the pandemic had really disrupted what was available to buy. To continue the self-sustainable theme, we researched making our own rooting hormone to help the cuttings take.

Katie discovered that you could make a **natural rooting hormone** out of soaking willow shoots and as there is a willow growing locally, we decided to try it out. A group of our young growers who had received strawberry and tomato plants and were regularly updating us on their crops asked if they could help, so rather than just do social media post we organised a **Summer Holiday Street Session** as the activity could be done outdoors, socially distanced and without sharing tools.



We also organised an **Autumn Socially Distanced Orchard Maintenance Session**. This was at the time of the 'rule of six' where up to six people could meet outdoors. We followed all the guidance and planned a hedgerow planting, mulching and maintenance session at the Edgware Orchard as the trees and planting activity could be done whilst keeping two metres apart. We had enough gloves and tools that growers did not have to share, and it was a very productive session.



All the fruit trees received the TLC they needed, and we put a row of whips in that should start to form an edible hedge. As some volunteers from Harehills in Bloom had joined us we also put a few bulbs in around the trees. All those who attended agreed that it was great to be outdoors and getting stuck in.

4. Planning for the future – Our Next Steps.

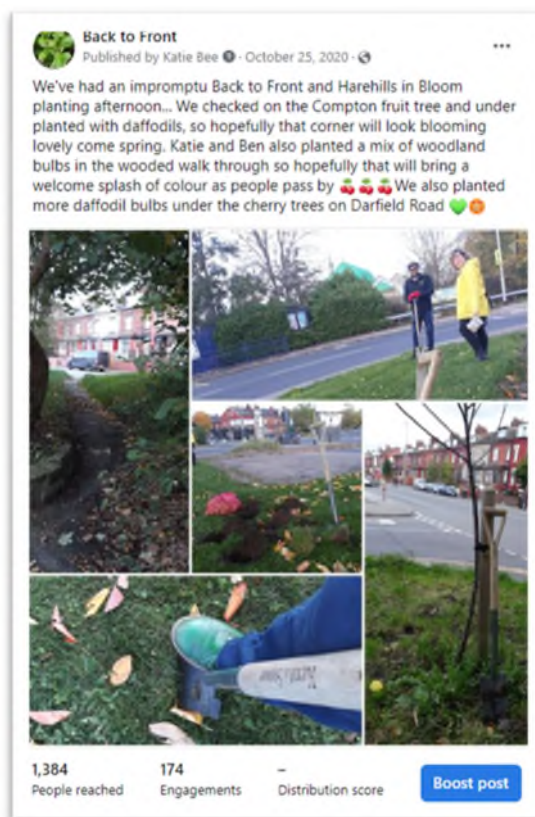
This year had more than its fair share of challenges, but it did at least give us an opportunity for reflection. A key development to come out of this year was that we decided to start looking into the possibility of a revamp of the Shine Hub as the edible and herbal beds there were looking tired and the lower area had been shaded by a new fence put up by the nursery school. We hope to start to plan, liaise with Shine and come up with the seed of an exciting new project next year, covid restrictions permitting. At this stage, being realistic, we imagine this might end up being a three-year project. We do not want to rush it through as we want to be able to realise some of our more ambitious ideas in order to make the most out of the space and ensure it meets all our needs in a flexible way with room for us to continue to grow.

The ever-changing situation with the pandemic had made planning difficult throughout this reporting period as the lockdowns coincided with our busiest times for planting when we would hold action days, seasonal maintenance sessions and workshops. We had become more confident running our own sessions and this gave us greater flexibility to plan them when they suited us and our growers rather than arranging workshops around the availability of another organisation.

As the Covid numbers started to rise again in the Autumn and another lockdown began we responded by forming a small working party of local growers who could be called on at short notice to tackle pressing tasks rather than how we would previously operate which would often involve organising a community action day well in advance.

This new style of working was very productive as we could work around the changeable Autumnal weather, the everchanging covid rules and restrictions and still meet to get an important job done. We found it also helped to keep the core growers of Back to Front and volunteers from Harehills in Bloom connected without the additional pressure of organising and then hosting a big event or session where we always end up separated from each other. We even had the time to have productive informal conversations and discuss our ideas. Ben from Harehills in Bloom told us “The socially distanced meet-ups organised by Back to Front were a great excuse to get out of the house, meet people and do some good. It was something that really made me feel that I was adding something positive to the community and improving the local area as well as returning to social interaction with like-minded friends.”

When we shared our efforts on social media we noticed it was well received and reached large numbers and engagements. We decided that although we would still organise and take part in bigger action days when it was safe to do so, this way of working was something we all wanted to keep up in the future.

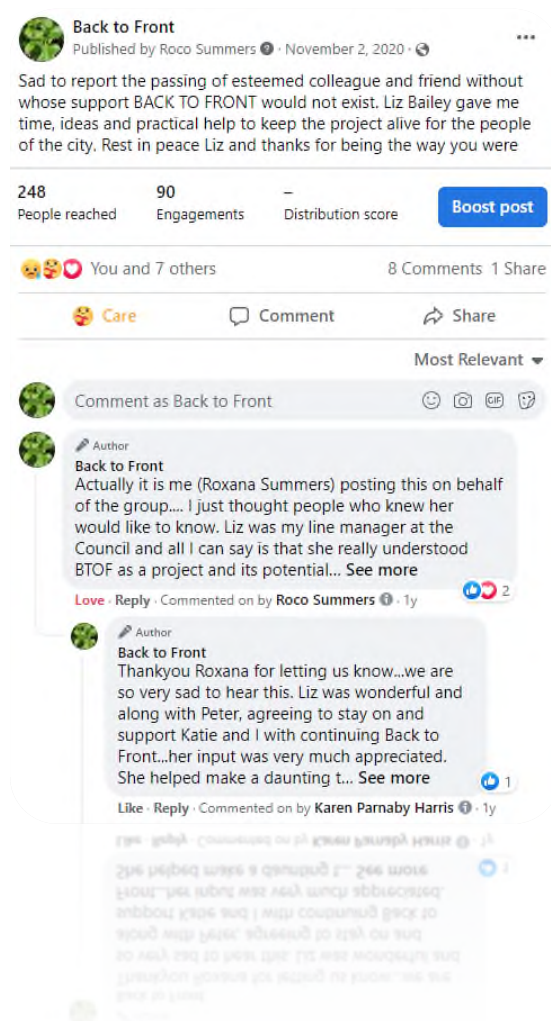


Special Dedication - November 2020

We cannot recap on this year without expressing our heartfelt loss of Liz Bailey in November 2020.

Liz continued to act as secretary of the Trustees when Back to Front moved from Space2 into local community management. Without her knowledge and guidance this transition would not have been so successful. Liz continued in her role as secretary whilst undergoing treatment, a testimony to her care for Back to Front and its aims.

We will miss Liz dearly, but remember fondly the quiet, self-effacing woman who helped a small community project flourish and grow.



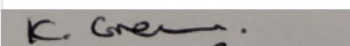
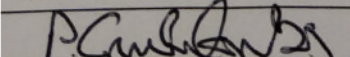
Partners up to 31st March 2021: Alan Apple from Fruit Works, Shine, St James's, Compton Centre/LCC, Space2, Trisha and Esther for plant donations, the local Harehills Groups - Harehills in Bloom and Harehills Community Watch.

Funding up to 31st March 2021: Money left from Esmée Fairbairn, Learning Partnerships totals £8659 at the year-end. Support came from Alan Apple, Leeds City Council, local ward Councillors, Shine and Harehills in Bloom.

Appendix 1 Charities Commission Accounts

 CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES	Back To Front CIO		1170920		CC16a
	Receipts and payments accounts				
	For the period from	Period start date 01/04/2020	To	Period end date 31/03/2021	

Section A Receipts and payments					
	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Learning Partnership Sparks Funding	100	-	-	100	60
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	100	-	-	100	60
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	100	-	-	100	60
A3 Payments					
Admin costs	120	-	-	120	60
Events	140	-	-	140	827
Gardening sundries		-	-	-	170
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	260	-	-	260	1,057
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	260	-	-	260	1,057
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 160	-	-	- 160	- 997
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	8,819	-	-	8,819	9,815
Cash funds this year end	8,659	-	-	8,659	8,818

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period				
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank account	8,659	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	8,659	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
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			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval
		Katie Greaves		24/01/2022
		Peter Cruikshanks		24/01/2022