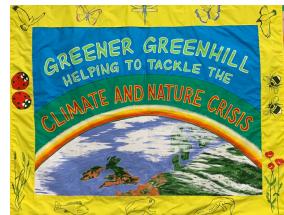
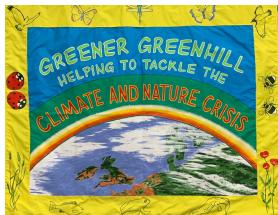


# Greener Greenhill

Autumn 2022



## Nature and Green Spaces

Our last newsletter, back in May, included news of lots of planting events which the Greener Greenhill network had been part of and as the summer progressed residents were delighted by the gorgeous displays of **wildflowers** in front of **Greenhill Community Library** and also on the banking in the **Greenway Triangle**. None of us were expecting such a show of colour for so long and were really pleased with the increase in insects and butterflies amongst the blooms.

The seeds were provided to us by the council's Parks & Countryside team, but the hard work of preparing the soil was down to **Greener Greenhill** volunteers (wildflowers don't like to compete with grass so this had to be taken away.)

The flowers flourished despite the hot, dry conditions which was a relief but we have learnt lessons that we hope to make use of in other parts of the area next summer.



Less showy, but still successful, were the **tree plantings** we were part of last winter on Stone Cross Field, on the Greenway Triangle and in Greenhill Park. As part of a monitoring project, a research team led by Sheffield University are also monitoring the growth of the trees on Stone Cross Field remotely - using photos we supply. Follow the instructions on this post!



## Local walking

**Valuing our local green spaces as we do, we wondered how we could link some together in a circular walk.** Some of us explored various paths before settling on a circuit that comes in at just under 8 miles. The route is almost entirely on paths and links an amazing number of green spaces including the Beauchief and Hutcliffe Woods and Greenhill and Graves Park.

We were then thrilled to be awarded funding for the design and print of a **leaflet of the walk** to be shared with the community.

The grant came from **South Yorkshire's Community Foundation** and the **South Yorkshire Outdoor Pursuits Endowment Fund** the design (from our text and photos) was by **Volta Creative** and we thank all of these for their support.

Though many walkers know some of the paths, not many have ever joined them up in this way and we are very pleased to be able to share our secrets in this way. ☺



Copies of the free leaflet are available in **all local libraries** (while stocks last!) **or a pdf file** can be requested from [greenergreenhill@gmail.com](mailto:greenergreenhill@gmail.com) Because it's almost all on maintained paths, it's a good winter walk too!



## Great Big Green Week

In late September, we **celebrated our first year** as a network in style with a week of events as part of the national Great Big Green Week which aims to celebrate community action to tackle climate change and protect nature.

Organising some events ourselves and working with partner organisations, there was a spread of activities across the (extended!) week **showcasing lots of things that are happening locally**.

We printed a leaflet with our full **Great Big Green Week** offer which was distributed to 4,500 homes locally (thanks, volunteers!) we were referenced by **Active8** (deadlines didn't work for a full article) included in a report in the **Yorkshire Post** and also interviewed twice for articles in the **Sheffield Telegraph**. Go, Greenhill!

The week started with our '**Splash on the Grass**' outside **Greenhill Community Library** on Saturday 24th September. There was only a small amount of water involved (thank you Pete & Pauline for the water-saving ideas!) and it stayed completely dry (phew!) but hopefully no-one was expecting a log flume so there was no disappointment!

What people did get were examples of activities which can **help tackle the climate and nature emergency** locally, both from the Greener Greenhill network and more widely across Sheffield.



There were stalls showcasing activities ongoing by our **three working groups**.

'Blister-Pack Man' was an eye catching draw on the **Waste & Recycling** stall as they gathered comments about a planned project to collect these empty pill-packs locally and took suggestions for action.



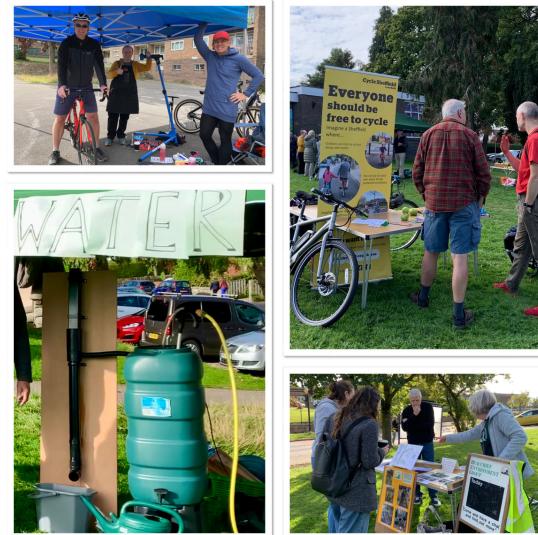
The **Nature & Green Spaces** stall had photographs of local tree and wild flower planting projects and took names of people keen to be part of a **'Groundforce' team** to extend this in the next year.

The **Home Energy** stall shared best practice ideas on home insulation (a theme taken up later in the week too) and explored the possibilities of electric car chargers .

All these are works in progress and everyone is welcome to join in with the working groups - for as much/as little time as you can spare. Contact us at the usual email address [greenergreenhill@gmail.com](mailto:greenergreenhill@gmail.com).

The day also featured partner groups whose work locally and across the city enhances all our lives. The wonderful **Beauchief Environment Group** whose hard work and commitment over many years (decades, in fact!) in partnership with the Woodlands team at Sheffield City Council, has ensured safe, easy access to the enhanced green spaces in our local woods.

**Greenhill Community Apple Pickers** took time out from a busy schedule of picking householders' surplus apples and distributing these widely including to food banks and the Regather community (and their apples served as temporary handy paperweights on lots of other stalls!) . **Cycle Sheffield** brought an example of a 'cargo-style' bike and lots of advice, the **Climate Conversations Hub** spoke with lots of people in an informal way across at the shops. And the wonderful Carol sold lovely plants to raise much-needed funds for us - thanks so much, Carol!



We also had examples of Toolshare initiative from **Green City Action**, another **Bike MOT session** bringing another 15+ bikes back into use (thanks, Richard & Pete!) and opportunities to try out e-bikes (thanks to patient Westwick Rd residents.) And there was more (but not more space here....)

Finally, though - in the end it's all about the children, isn't it? Their lives, their futures. We were delighted that **Sheffield Green Parents** came along to talk with others and to provide lots of activities for the young ones, we had a '**green-themed' story-time** in the library (thanks Clive & Lynne!) and welcomed the **Greenhill Beaver group** who made litter picking followed by our event their September meet. ☺



We had a full programme of evening events through our **Great Big Green Week** with talks on '**Insulating your Home**', '**Climate Science & Engineering Solutions**' and '**Sustainable Food**'. Our expert speakers gave their time voluntarily - huge thanks to Paul Testa, John Grant and Peter Jackson.



The attentive audiences gained a fuller understanding of the issues and took away ideas and proposals for action.

We had repeat use of **Greenhill Community Library** - who have been hugely supportive of our network's mission from the start (more thanks!) but for the first time also used spaces at **Greenhill Methodist Church**. Strong environmental themes are embedded in the faith communities' work and we are pleased to be developing a strong link with this congregation.

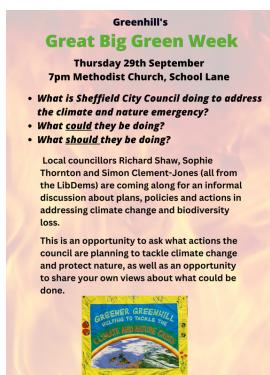


On a bright Monday morning, Carol Behagg from the **Beauchief Environment Group** led a tour of the BEG-managed woods, showing examples of all the work the group have carried out over the years. This was a brilliantly informative and interesting walk - very well covered in that week's Sheffield Telegraph!



Wednesday saw the launch of the **Greenhill Circular Walk**, when two groups, one starting at Beauchief Abbey and the other at Chantrey Monument near Norton Church, both completed the (very nearly) 8 mile walk at a leisurely pace in under 4 hours.

Fun, informative and a bit of a challenge' said Vicky - a sentiment shared by all.



Our network is focussed on helping to tackle the climate and nature emergency at a local level, but we know that decisions taken at local council and national government level have the most impact.

Consequently on Thursday we invited our **local councillors** along for a discussion about the council's priorities and the issues we felt needed addressing. We were pleased that all three councillors came along on the Thursday and thank Simon, Sophie and Richard for their open engagement. We hope this is the start of a good forum for discussion.



Our final event of the week was a showing in Greenhill Community Library of the **documentary film '2040'**.

The film-maker wanted to explore the future for his young daughter who will reach adulthood around 2040; what would her life be like if we adopted the best of the current technologies and developments?

A capacity audience, including families, found the film moving and hopeful in equal measure - a good end to the week.





Greener Greenhill's over-arching aim is to 'help tackle the climate and nature emergency' and our activities are wide-ranging.

During the Autumn, we have had two working sessions **planting bulbs** and **painting railings** on the Greenway Triangle.

These were lovely family events and we look forward to seeing most of the 500+ bulbs flowering in the spring - though we have had a bit of a tussle with the creatures (badgers? foxes?) who have enjoyed digging them up!



We have set up a new **TerraCycle collection** in the library, this time for crisp packets and blister pill packs, following a successful 6 month collection of dental items last winter.

TerraCycle are a company who can recycle the **hard-to-recycle plastic** items that otherwise are burnt or end up in landfill (or our streets!) It's not a permanent answer to the problems of plastics but it's a help.



And we also participated in the Yorkshire rally during **COP27** that focused on calling for **'Climate Justice'** - a fair deal for the communities first and worst affected by climate change, when they have contributed least to carbon emissions

Working with partners is a key part of the **Greener Greenhill** network's way of working and two recent examples are the **'Adventure Story Trail'** in the summer holidays, set up by **Greenhill Community Library** volunteer Laura which encouraged children to explore our green spaces to find story clues to a puzzle.



Much more recently, we teamed up with the recently formed **Chancet Woodlands Group** to help out with a Woodlands management Day under the guidance of the council's Ranger team. The rangers had started a clear up of Abbey Brook which runs through the wood and the working session then involved **clearing invasive species** from various areas to open them up for greater biodiversity.



In the past few months we have also supported local initiatives by **Greenhill Community Apple Pickers**, the **Lowedges Community Allotment** and **Greenhill Open Gardens**; we have had stalls at **Lowedges Festival**, **Greenhill Community Events** Jubilee celebration, **Bradway Fun Day** and the **Farmers/Makers Markets** at the Library and also initiated links with more local **Scout and Guide groups** as well as local **churches**.

We ran a series of assemblies for Year 8 students at **Meadowhead School** in September and were delighted that they took up the opportunity for some of their older students to attend the **UK Schools' Climate Assembly** at the end of October. We are delighted that **Greenhill School** have embarked on their journey to become an **Eco School** and this is also something we are helping with.

### What part can you play?

The network seeks to **link local people** in any endeavour that helps to improve our community and tackle the climate and nature emergency. Working on small (or larger!) projects together can have a great impact. The more people and organisations on board, the better! You can:

- **Join our mailing list** to stay up to date with our plans and projects [greenergreenhill@gmail.com](mailto:greenergreenhill@gmail.com).
- **Follow us** on Facebook [@GreenerGreenhill](https://www.facebook.com/greenergreenhill).
- **Come to** our advertised events - or work with us to set one up.
- **Join in** on our advertised projects - or suggest new ones.
- **Look out** for our stall at community events and come and chat.

