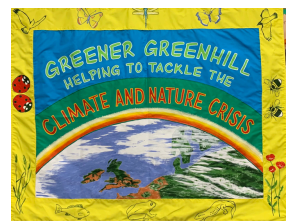


# Greener Greenhill

Autumn 2024



The **Greener Greenhill network** has had such a busy year since our last newsletter that we can't do justice to it fully here - so this is just a flavour of the activities and events we have been involved in over the past 12 months.

Our vision is to help tackle the climate and nature crisis through local action - and this can take many forms. There has been lots more **planting and growing** again this year, **benches installed** to help people enjoy the green spaces, recycling support, **talks, walks, a film** and we are particularly proud of the **Repair Cafe** initiative.

Alongside this, the management group has led on **two Economic Recovery Fund projects**, a Sheffield City Council initiative to boost local shopping areas - 'Growing Greenhill' and 'Lowedges Boost'. More on these projects will be covered separately when they are complete (by the end of the year) but they are both guided by the belief that **community is important** and as often as possible we should **#ShopLocal**



## Greenhill Repair Cafe

Our first Repair Cafes, at St Peter's church, were in April and June, and we hope to hold them every two months. They have been set up and run by a dedicated group and **a team of skilled volunteer 'fixers'** who offer to work on small electrical items, sharpen garden tools, mend clothing and other household items to show how they might be brought back into use. And all this is alongside a cafe providing **refreshments** while you wait!



Very often many people's first instinct would be to **throw away** an item which no longer 'works' and buy new but the people who come to our Repair Cafe recognise **this is really wasteful** - and unnecessarily expensive!

Repairing an item makes complete sense and tackles sustainability issues where every new item is using up precious resources. **Save money AND save the planet - a double win!**



Sometimes, too, a repair can be for sentimental reasons - and our fixers are delighted when a much-loved memento can be brought back into use - such as this clock whose tick its owners thought had had its last tock!



Wherever possible, **our fixers will work alongside the owner** to figure out the problem, sometimes using the internet to find a solution, and it's great when the owner then feels enabled to take the next step themselves or learns how to do a minor repair for themselves. Building confidence is a big part of the fixers job - and often two heads (and two pairs of hands) are better than one.



There are times, too, when **specialist equipment** is what's needed - not everyone has a sewing machine or the appropriate tools for a tricky job.

Our volunteer 'fixers' are not professionals but have **skills and experience they are willing to share**. They will assess an item before they begin, only start something they think they can finish in the short time available and sometimes simply recommend a course of action (such as a local business). Their generosity of spirit is much valued! No charges are made for the service, but **donations to cover costs are very welcome**.





## Growing

Lots of people locally are very dedicated to the natural world, keen to see new planting and to take part in it where they can. To see the fruits of your labour, whether in growing food for yourself or providing food for insects is always amazing.



Three **wooden planters** were installed in **central Greenhill** as part of the Growing Greenhill ERF project. The planters themselves are made of larch and were made and installed by the Percy Street CIC in Sheffield.

Over a weekend in April, **these were lined, filled and planted by a team of volunteers** under the guidance of Fran Halsall from the Regather co-operative. Fran, who lives locally, is a very experienced landscape designer with a specialist knowledge of native plants which are good for biodiversity and good to look at.

This planting scheme went one step further, with **all the plants being edible** - a mix of herbs and low-growing fruit such as the delicious strawberries seen here. 😊



Elsewhere in Greenhill, a group of local residents were inspired to take action to improve their local green space for people and nature. →

**Bocking Lane Garden**, at the junction with Greenhill Avenue, is now blessed with 50 saplings from the South Yorkshire Mayor's 'A Tree for Everyone' project but selected and planted by a local team alongside the existing trees. Not all may survive but they will be a lovely addition to the woodland there as time goes by.



With the support of the Council's **Parks & Countryside team**, the group have created and sown a wildflower bed, close to the corner, which **bloomed beautifully** this summer. Future plans involve further trees, some more bulbs, painting the railings and hopefully a bench from which to enjoy it all!



Another initiative, this time by **Greenhill Primary School**, saw more wildflowers sown - this time on Greenhill Main Road. The verge outside the school was being destroyed by repeated parking and was also a safety hazard.

The school's **Eco Warrior team contacted MP Louise Haigh** for support with getting new barriers erected and they were successful with this. Left with bare patches, the children were keen to brighten up the area and support biodiversity with wildflowers - a successful step, as you can see. (And Louise came to help!) ←

We were happy to provide the seed and adult members of the network helped break up the rock hard soil ready for planting. (That was hard work!)

The last green space highlighted here is the **Greenway Triangle**, on the right hand side as you go up Greenhill Avenue. Our work here has been ongoing for nearly three years now with trees, bulbs and flowers planted and all the railings painted (that was a huge task and we are grateful to external volunteers for helping us to complete that!) →

Last autumn and spring, a couple of **community days** saw more bulbs planted, and beds tidied with some additional plants put in, alongside four apple trees in the top corner. The plants, bulbs and trees are all donated by supporters to provide joy to people and creatures alike. ❤️





## Some of the 'Growing Greenhill' planting



A central part of the **Growing Greenhill ERF** project is to enhance the central area to make it more attractive. We have been pleased with residents' response to this - both the willingness to get involved and to offer praise and thanks.



The team working on the library lawn had a beautiful morning for planting - a situation not shared by the roundabout team another weekend - but look how well those plants have grown!



All of this central planting will develop over time. The scheme is perennial meadow, and as it becomes established it will need little maintenance, except some weeding (which should decrease over time) and cutting back each autumn. **All of this needs volunteer support and the more willing hands, the better!** Do get in touch if you could help.



### Apples!



The autumn apple harvest is upon us now and the **Greener Greenhill network** will be leading on the collection and distribution of excess apples from local gardens.



This fantastic initiative **avoids waste** (and the mess rotting apples can create!) and **enables the sharing of the bounty** with others via outlets such as Greenhill Community Library, with the providers of cheap, healthy meals such as FoodWorks or pulping for apple juice in the Regather presses.



Many residents may not know that there is a **well established orchard** on the Greenhill School grounds, designed and planted up as a professional project funded by **FROGS, the parents and friends group** around 10 years ago.

Last October, the Eco Warriors team decided they wanted to celebrate this and, with the support of ourselves and FROGS, and guided by the expertise of Greenhill Community Apple Pickers, organised an **Apple Day**.

Children and their parents gathered the apples, which were then cut up before being pressed into juice and tasted. Families took apples home with them to cook, school kept some to be eaten by the children after the weekend, the waste was added to the school's compost pile, the remaining apples were taken away for community use and **much fun was had by all!**



Occasionally, tasks associated with growing need professional support and Greenhill School were fortunate to have been offered a week's worth of orchard management from Regather Cooperative as part of a funded project. But generally, we are all volunteers and **the more willing hands, the better!**

**Please get in touch if you can help.**





## And there's more! Other activities from the past year include.....



A showing of the film **'Six Inches of Soil'** about regenerative farming



Working with Greenhill Primary pupils on their **Environment Day**



A talk by Prof Ian Rotherham on **'Wilder Gardens'**



A **'Summer Street Stroll'** with Gerry Firkins, exploring the plants growing in walls and gullies of historic Greenhill village

↓ **Events in the community** consulting about some of our growing projects



A **Bat Walk** last September along Beauchief Drive and through Old Park Wood, led by local expert Nicky Rivers

Where we can, **we work in partnership** with schools, churches, the Scout and Guide movements, Greenhill Community Library, local businesses and local community organisations as well as **linking with groups** with a focus or an interest in nature and climate issues such as the Beauchief Environment Group, Bradway Action Group and the 'Engaging Your Wild Side' project based in Graves Park.

Some of the local activities we linked with, supported with funding, played a part in or simply celebrated are shown below:



A dry stone walling project of **four benches** in Stone Cross Field, by a BEG working group.

Cubs **litter picking** sessions



For more (and bigger!) photos, please **follow us on Facebook or Instagram.** There's just not enough space here!



Two gorgeous **nature-themed panels** for well dressing at Greenhill Village Pump



The **Greener Greenhill** network seeks to link local people in any endeavour that helps to enhance our community through tackling 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 could:

- **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).
- **Take a look** at our website: <https://greenergreenhill.co.uk>.
- **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.

