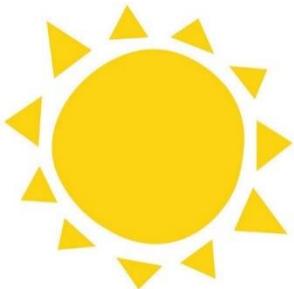




Annual Review 2021

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PRINCIPLES AND PATHWAYS

A synthesis of the '5 Ways to Well Being' and the '12 Permaculture Principles'

CONNECT

We value and nurture connections with people, organisations and projects. We appreciate the unique qualities that come from differences and the resilience that comes from diversity. We actively work with the marginal - both people and places on the edges - harnessing creativity and inspiration.

BE ACTIVE

We actively link people, projects and places, trying to improve how different elements connect. We encourage people and organisations to support themselves and each other to develop physical and mental resilience. We make sure the action we take is effective, relevant and sustainable, working together on long term goals and solutions to real life problems.

TAKE NOTICE

We take notice of people's feelings, including our own, helping us to work with empathy and compassion. We pay attention to our impact, ensuring that we use our resources wisely - harnessing the abundance of the natural world and limiting our negative impact on it. We observe and reflect on patterns we see in nature and society to help us make decisions on how we behave.

KEEP LEARNING

We are always open to feedback, helping us improve as an organisation, and as individuals. We seek out better ways of working, and adapt to change creatively. We reflect on how our interventions affect people and situations.

GIVE

We share surpluses, giving to people and organisations when we can. We reward people for their efforts and make sure gratitude is regular and sincere. We ensure that projects are meaningful to the people and places we work with, leading to yields that are rewarding and relevant.



OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

170

HEALTHY HOLIDAY
CHILDREN

218

VOLUNTEERS

16

COMMUNITY
PROJECTS & GROUPS

4

EDUCATION
PROJECTS

14

DESIGN & BUILD
PROJECTS

536

SESSIONS

1794

HOURS

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



It's been a busy year once again as activities got back under way and we responded to short notice funding that became available because of the pandemic. Our Community Care project has enabled a different way of working for us at HPS, where we have shared funding with other local groups to deliver on Covid Recovery Projects, and the increased funding available for local Healthy Holidays kids clubs has enabled us to provide much increased support to some of the families hardest hit by the effects of lockdown. This year our grant income accounted for 63% of our income with the remaining 37% made up with generated income.

Alongside balancing the books of delivering our operational activities and overheads, we have continued to make time for the development of our financial systems, making good progress this year in getting our Finance Manual signed off, which contains all our updated finance policy and procedures. We have also been focusing on how we can better track and analyse our generated income – integrating our Design and Build processes more with our central finance processes.



Following the challenge that was 2020, we have been able to rebuild our reserves this year and hope to meet our reserve's policy in the coming months. It's certainly been another rather unpredictable year, but we are confident that HPS is in a strong financial position to cope with the challenges that we may face in the coming years.



DESIGN & BUILD



This year has been a success for the Design & Build Team, from chasing our tail after a challenging year in 2020 to developing new projects for the Covid Recovery Project we have kept ourselves really busy.

Through our 'Building Skills Volunteer Programme' the work flow has been supported well and there have been many new faces along to help us out with our projects.

Our biggest successes include installing a beautiful pergola at Rosebank Primary and play area at Chapeltown Nursery as well as creating safe access for Love In A Box, improving 5 Ways Recovery Academy's roof garden and getting the Bird Hide installed at Leeds Industrial Museum at Armley Mills.

We have continued our work at Rocheford Forest Garden with LCC and Hunslet TARA and have installed various planters across the Leeds area to continue our mission to improve biodiversity and create valuable spaces for cropping fruit, meeting people and enjoying otherwise forgotten corners of our city.



In the office we have been developing our design process with the help of Leeds Fund, this has been and will be moving forward a great opportunity for us to get some of our ideas out there for the world to see!

Our building on Rosebank Road has seen further changes including a new kitchen and double glazing which we have been doing in between our main work out on sites and in the workshop at Cross Green.



A big thank you to Cross Green Growing Together for continuing to accommodate us on their site as we continue to expand.

Last of all a big massive thank you to all the Volunteers!

OUTDOOR EDUCATION



2021 has been a busy year for us, encouraging and enabling education in the great outdoors. This year, more than most there has been a thirst to provide opportunities for children outside, due to the effect of covid on physical health and mental wellbeing. Maybe the silver lining is that the benefits of being outside, especially in green space have been more frequently noticed and celebrated.

We ran the Rosebank Rangers club this year from March, and we've had a lot of fun with a full group of lively locals! This after school club allows children and families to feel more connected to the Rosebank which is just behind the primary school. After Covid lockdowns this chance to get outdoors to play has felt extra important for everyone.

The sessions are a combination of nature activities, growing food and looking after the area. This has included making leaf and petal crowns, playing 'Fire' and clearing up litter. The children have helped tidy up the steep steps to the top of the Rosebank several times. There's also been a really successful community litter pick that the Rangers joined in, organised in conjunction with the school.

One parent mentioned that her son checks on the raised beds every time they pass. One was built especially for the Rangers, where they planted flower and onion bulbs and then a winter green 'manure'. Every year we have raspberries on the Rosebank which the children love to find and eat!



Another success has been returning to run 'The Wild Gardeners' at Bracken Edge Primary in Chapeltown. This group tend to the garden within the school grounds, and have a lot of fun doing more 'wild' activities such as campfire cooking, den making and nature based art.



HEALTHY HOLIDAYS!

This year we recruited a new member of staff (the wonderful Kelly) to run the Healthy Holidays programme, and what a success it has been!



Healthy Holidays supports families who might need extra help to tackle holiday hunger, inactivity, and isolation. With funding and support from Leeds Community Foundation, Department of Education and Leeds City Council we have successfully run two groups on the Rosebank and Cross Green – Growing Together. We have made it possible for children aged between 5-11 to eat healthy food, learn new skills, make new friends, and explore the outdoors!

We worked together with the Yorkshire Dales National Park to deliver four separate guided tours around Malham Cove. The children loved the stunning views and had the best time river dipping, with even some claiming it was their **'best day out ever!'**

Later in the year we planned a couple of visits to West Leeds Activity Centre, where children experienced archery, go-karting and worked together to complete an obstacle course ending with a huge very slippery water slide. Due to the success of these trips, we are hoping to plan a residential for next year.



Working closely with REthink Leeds, Fareshare and Hamara so far, we have **fed over 100 children and provided 3860 meals**, including culturally specific food parcels.



HEALTHY HOLIDAYS!



Learning bushcraft skills, the children have experienced cooking on a rocket stove and a fire whilst learning how to use food wisely with as little waste as possible.

Over at Cross Green they have developed skills in the kitchen and worked together to prepare and make lunch for each other. Catering Leeds have offered huge support for our upcoming Christmas holiday plan. With their help providing hot meals and Christmas hampers this means, alongside our exciting timetable of events we can put together some fun, creative and educational activity packs for over the Christmas period.

We have had so much fun learning, creating and playing, it's nearly made up for last year!

We all loved learning about the life of a bee and welcome David the Beeman back to our gardens. The children loved exploring the gardens and learning about edible flowers. They had great fun making willow sculptures, mosaic mirrors, tie dying t-shirts and making animations with food and LOVED eating hedgehog mangos!!!



Leeds Community Foundation have been utterly amazing, making it possible for organisations and makers and shakers to work together to run these diverse sessions whilst also ensuring families are getting fed during the school holidays. We have made solid connections with lots of amazing organisations and are now working closely with the Left Bank to plan a big Healthy Holiday Christmas Panto Party to end the year with a big sparkly bang!

COMMUNITY CARE VOLUNTEERING



15,563 food parcels, hot meals or vouchers provided

1,997 volunteer deployments

2021 saw our partnership with Oblong and Rainbow Junktion continue with additional funding provided by Leeds City Council. The joint effort to co-ordinate delivery of emergency food supplies to Covid affected residents in our respective wards was still a need. July saw all community care hubs awarded with additional funding for the rest of the year with the aim of using this money to assist in recovery from Covid and to move forward. There are a number of elements that are covered within the funding and we decided to fund organisations in our area that we thought were best placed to deliver these elements alongside us for recovery and transition. Well done to all our partner organisations for the great work they have been carrying out!

Element 1: Practical support – We have worked with Rainbow Junktion and Love In a Box @ Leeds Grand Mosque to provide ongoing Community Care Hub support to Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) and those required to self-isolate with food parcels, hot food and vouchers.

Element 2: Transition to independence – We have worked with Rainbow Junktion and Better Leeds Communities to appropriately link people to sustainable support, or transition to independence. Better Leeds communities are running money management workshops. Rainbow Junktion continue to refer people to the services they need to most through the signposting service and offer advocacy when needed. Hyde Park source have been providing a range of volunteer opportunities within the local community.



COMMUNITY CARE VOLUNTEERING

Element 3: Sustainable model - Left Bank have established a connection with the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Forum and they plan to produce a community anchor booklet holding information about services in the area. The booklet is a great chance for us as local community groups or businesses to get to know each other better and what we all offer to our local community.

Element 4: Support - Through this element our partner organisations have provided a range of activity which has helped people to regain confidence and physical wellbeing. These activities are based around existing strengths within the partnership. We have been working with the Cardigan Centre & All Hallows Church to carry out improvements to gardens and green spaces so that people can have greater access to nature and nature based activity to support wellbeing and connection. These improvements will help both Rainbow Junktion and Cardigan Community Centre to offer more activities to the community.

Hyde Park FC have provided football sessions to young people, who have benefited from professional coaching and supportive training sessions.



COMMUNITY GARDENING

Throughout 2021 we have worked with a number of Covid restrictions to keep everyone safe, but our aim has always been to keep the spirit of the groups the same (despite Covid-19), providing a supportive space for people to come together to connect, be active, learn, share and have fun! Our community gardening volunteers have been able to maintain their connection with each other throughout 2021 and continue to tend 7 beautiful spaces across Leeds, benefitting the wider community.





The group at **Clarence House (Leeds Mind)** focussed on growing some incredible fruit and veg including a giant runner bean tower that escaped into a tree (!!)+ plus have been tending the mature woodland garden and borders there and each week looking after the bird feeders and wonderful wildlife including a resident woodpecker!



The Pennington Perennials group has been caring for a unique open green space which includes a forest garden area where they planted new plum, pear and apple trees early in 2021 to add to the existing mulberry tree and tasty currant bushes. They have also completed their new seating area with 3 lovely benches and a wider woodchipped area so they can enjoy relaxing in the space more and have a better spot for picnics and outdoor cooking!

The Lost Plot have been growing fruit and veg and experienced their first ever abundant harvest of potatoes. They have installed raised beds and focussed on building a large outdoor shelter with the help of our Design and Build team. It looks great!



Armley Colour Garden have continued to maintain the beautiful grounds at the museum and had fun with local walks and dye experimentations. The gardens now have an amazing array of plants and are full of colour all year round – their spring bulb display is definitely worth a visit!

Other activities across the groups have been our annual Bluebell Walk to Riffa Wood near Otley (a chance to reconnect and catch up), Tree Planting at Hetchell Woods in March with Leeds Coppice Workers and trips to the Grand Theatre and cinema and we look forward to doing many more in 2022!



What our Volunteers think:



“I really like the project...I get support, friendship and ideas” Armley Colour Garden

“What I find special is the people. The sense of belonging” “The group is like a family” The Lost Plot.

“What i find special is being able to look back at the end of the day and say 'I did that' and I go home happy" The Lost Plot

“Volunteering in the garden group has been very rewarding to me both physically and mentally. Fresh air, exercise, meeting people and working together as well as learning about growing plants and vegetables” Clarence House.



“Going forward I would like to keep on keeping on. As we are, continuing to grow together” The Lost Plot



“What I find special is the positive energy / the social aspects. It’s good to learn gardening. It’s helped out with my career such as CVs and references” Armley Colour Garden

“It’s a nice place for your mind” Armley Colour Garden.

“The enthusiasm for the project by both staff and other volunteers is special” Armley Colour Garden

“It’s diversity (social and cultural) and it’s relaxed atmosphere - no pressure” Armley Colour Garden.



All of our Volunteers have given their precious time, energy, ideas and love to the spaces and groups throughout 2021 and we thank them dearly for this.



Live Well Leeds

This year our **Kirkstall Abbey Live Well Leeds** group have been tending their brand new perennial and annual flowerbed design within the walled garden area at the abbey - with a big focus on creating drought resistant and pollinator friendly habitats. In its first summer this project has really blossomed into a striking rainbow full of new colour that was happily loudly buzzing with bees and beneficial insects!



8 bumblebee species were identified on these borders at a special bumble bee ID workshop that the volunteers took part in, meaning they felt really chuffed that their hard work had paid off!

Learning about biodiversity, insect life and ecosystems in growing spaces within the Leeds local green environment is also a focus for our volunteers at our second Live Well Leeds garden group at in Chapeltown, **St Mary's Rooftop Garden** group.

They have had their first full growing season of vegetable and fruit crops in their new raised bed layout and volunteers there are really proud to now be harvesting and taking home to cook an extensive variety of tasty food including new veg like asparagus and artichokes. Plus the group have had a truly record breaking height sunflower reaching well over 10 feet tall!



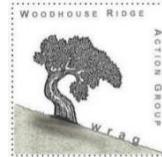
This group also sketched out their ideas and started some hard work on the wild end of the site with their own design for a native wildflower area which was sown this autumn, plus a new winding path and relaxing corner seat area has been designed and started.

Two Live Well Leeds garden group members Matt and Ayesha have also recently moved into part time work in the horticultural field who had never worked in this area before - so big congrats to them both - amazing progress!



As you can see we are a big fan of partnership working! Without all our partners and funders our projects wouldn't be possible!

THANK YOU!





We aim to improve health and well-being through improving the environment. We are committed to increasing the potential of individuals and communities, promoting equality of education and training.

We work with local communities to improve their surroundings, designing and creating attractive, exciting and useful places for people to live, work and play.

A massive thank you to all the people (especially the volunteers) involved in designing, building, growing and sharing



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