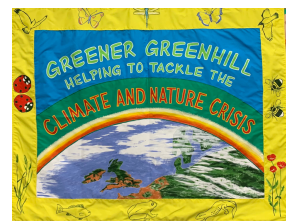


# Greener Greenhill

## Autumn 2021



Welcome to the first printed edition of the **Greener Greenhill** newsletter! We are a new network set up to encourage and support local initiatives which help tackle the climate and nature emergencies.

Although we have taken Greenhill centre as our hub (the library, school and shops) we recognise that neither the problems nor the solutions to environmental issues pay attention to any boundaries and we are actively wanting to be involved in helping develop anything relevant in any of the surrounding areas.

A small start-up team has set the ball rolling. The network launched at the end of September since when we've had a busy month 😊 Read on for details of our activities - ongoing and planned. We would love it if you would like to become involved. Find us on **Facebook - @GreenerGreenhill** or email us at **greenergreenhill@gmail.com** with queries, ideas, suggestions or offers of support.

### Waste & Recycling



Our first venture was to set up a **Zero Waste box** in the library to collect some of that 'hard to recycle in Sheffield' plastic – in this case oral health products (that's toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes to us!). Once the box is full it will be recycled into plastic pellets by the company TerraCycle for re-use in anything from bottles to children's play equipment. Since recycling plastic uses only about 20% of the energy required to create new plastic, extensive recycling makes perfect sense so we should do as much as we can.

We were able to do take on this project with the financial support of **GHB Dental**, hosting by **Greenhill Community Library** and collection support from **Greenhill Primary School** which is an example of the sort of community connections we hope will be reflected in a lot of what we do.

**You can help as well (please)** by collecting any used oral products - it does include the heads off electric toothbrushes, floss & inter-dental brushes, too. In future we'd like to consider how we can better recycle in Sheffield, particularly here in Greenhill. Any ideas welcome!

### Changing hearts and minds

These gorgeous panels, stitched by the Greenhill Quilting Hive, were displayed in the library for nearly 4 weeks as part of a national campaign. **Greener Greenhill** introduced the crafters to the **Stitches for Survival** project which was enthusiastically taken up by the group

As well as being beautiful creations, the panels are messages to global leaders gathered in Glasgow for the **COP26 UN Climate Change Conference** where they form part of a 1.5 mile banner on display on Glasgow Green.



Photos of the banner panels will remain on display in the library for some time to come. You can head over to our **Facebook page** or the **Greener Greenhill** section of the **library website** to see the wonderful work representing our corner of the UK to the world at COP26.



## Books, books, books

**Greenhill Community Library** welcomed the suggestions from **Greener Greenhill** for enhancing the selection of books on a climate and nature themes, both for adults and children, and some excellent new titles have been purchased.

We were particularly pleased that the books have been provided with funds donated in memory of **Patrick Coghlan**, a long time advocate and campaigner for environmental awareness and a tireless library supporter, including as chair of trustees. These new books carry a dedication to him.



## Nature Recovery

Catherine McDougall, the Sheffield City Council **Parks and Countryside Manager** for our area has been working with local residents, the Beauchief Environment Group (BEG) and Greener Greenhill on plans to improve the area currently known as the **Beauchief Open Space** on Hemper Lane/Beauchief Drive (it was apparently once known as Stone Cross Field - perhaps it should take up that name again?)



These plans are now well developed and out for consultation and include new tree and wildflower planting, a 'scrape' - a shallow pond with enhanced drainage - as well as security features to prevent unauthorised vehicle access. Catherine came to our launch event with Toby Pillatt from the council's **Community Forestry team** to present the first draft taking comments and responding to questions from participants and the plans are now posted around the open space for further comments from local residents.

Once this is all agreed Catherine intends to work with BEG and **Greener Greenhill** on some of the practical tasks, so let us know if you'd like to be involved in this - or in developing other local areas for nature recovery.

All the activities described above were highlighted at our **launch event in the library on September 22nd** attended by nearly 30 people - particular thanks go to Catherine & Toby from Sheffield City Council for their contributions. We also had lots of good discussions in small groups about emerging initiatives.

## Active Travel

We held a very successful **Bike MOT event** outside Greenhill Community Library on Saturday 23rd October. People were invited to bring their bikes along for a general check, advice on maintenance and even small repair and more than a dozen bikes were brought back to life which was really great for a first event.



A volunteer team of experienced local cyclists (including Cllr Richard Shaw and also library trustee Peter Atkin who handily does this for a living! - thanks, Peter) got over a dozen bikes back on the road and we were delighted with Jenny's Facebook post telling us that she had had her first bike ride in 25 years! We will repeat the event next spring so look out for details.





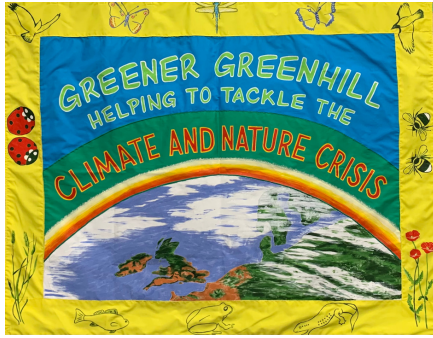
**UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2021**  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

## Themed evenings

The first of our themed evenings was held in Greenhill Community Library on October 21st on the hot topic of **COP26, the UN Climate Change Conference** which will be held in Glasgow in November.



After an introductory 'explainer' video, Richard Teasdale of Sheffield Greenpeace (ex 'local lad' - grew up on Old Park Rd) talked about why he was going to Glasgow himself and about events happening in Sheffield. Further discussion linked to how we might mark this under the **Greener Greenhill** banner - and that gave rise to.....



On **Saturday 6th November** we will join in the **Global Day of Action for Climate Justice** march in Sheffield with our **Greener Greenhill** banner. 'Climate Justice' highlights how the poorest countries in the world are the ones who have done the least to damage the climate but will suffer first and hardest unless they are supported to adapt to the changes. Join us and many other Sheffield people on the march, gathering on **Devonshire Green** (opposite the Medical Centre) from 12 noon **for a 1pm start** on a short march through the city and round to the City Hall.

The next theme event will be **Wednesday November 24th** and will focus on **Home Energy** – how you can cut your energy bills, heat your home and save the planet all in one. We will be considering insulation, different energy sources and all the practicalities involved with local experts and there will be a chance to ask questions and discuss points raised.

In response to requests, the session after this will be **Gardening for Nature & Wildlife** in late February or March.

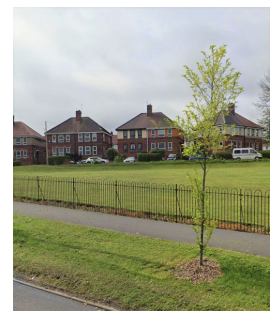
## So - what next?

There are lots of other possibilities bubbling under and we welcome any additional suggestions. We aim to connect people who want to take some local action - working together as a community makes many things much easier to accomplish. Meanwhile, here's a taster of what some people are currently working on.

### Potential for the Greenway Open Space

Several people have already contacted us about the rather bare space surrounded by **The Greenway** (bordering Greenhill Avenue.)

The relationship we have established with the council Parks & Countryside and Forestry teams around the Beauchief Open Space, has enabled us to have very early discussions with them about the potential to improve the Greenway space for residents, at the same time developing the space for nature.



Nothing can happen in the winter 21/22 planting season but the council staff are keen to work with a group of people locally to talk about how the area could be improved. The residents who initially raised the issue will be making door:door contacts with those living closest but anyone local who would like to be part of this can email [greenergreenhill@gmail.com](mailto:greenergreenhill@gmail.com).



### Working with Greenhill Primary School

The pupils and staff were very welcoming when we ran an assembly on the recycling initiative and the school were keen to be involved in this and other initiatives. They are just setting up an Eco group and have lots of ideas that we might be able to help with.

**Greener Greenhill** people also have links with Sheffield based groups **Schools Climate Education South Yorkshire** and **Kids Plant Trees** which the local school can tap in to and benefit from. It would be great to link with other local schools too – ***if you have any contacts, please let us know.***





## Working with local churches

Ned Lunn, the vicar at **St Peter's** church in Greenhill, would like to see how the area around the church and rectory might be used to benefit wildlife and/or be used as a community garden. Two workers linked to the Anglican diocese, Jo Edwards and Diane Etchell have already made contact to see how we might all work together to take this forward, which is very exciting.



We have also had really positive early conversations with Scott Lavery, Community Outreach worker at **Greenhill Methodist Church**, with Trevor Orr of **Michael Church** and also with members of the **South Sheffield Evangelical Church** and would be delighted to work with members of these congregations.



## Health Benefits of Nature

We have started to play a small part in facilitating the extension of 'green prescribing' by health professionals locally. We have begun to work with established bodies such as the **Terminus Initiative** in Lowedges which have experience in supporting people whose mental and physical health would benefit from walks and activities in green open spaces.

Joy Arnott of the Terminus Initiative has recently submitted a funding bid for outdoor activities, and we are hoping to integrate improvements in Greenhill Park - plus any new community gardens - into an attractive circular walking route. Talking of which.....

## Walking maps

One of the benefits (the only benefit?!) of lockdown for some of us was the chance to explore our local area more fully and we are keen to harness the new-found routes and paths to share people's favourite shorter and longer walks around the area.

As well as routes themselves, it would be good to draw walkers' attention to points of environmental or historical interest on the way. Plenty of help will be needed for this - including drawing skills! if you're interested in this, (yes, you've guessed it!) let us know.



## Finally: a plea - to please get involved!

This might be by raising a query, making a suggestion, coming along to an event getting involved in a project or taking a lead. That email address again - [greenergreenhill@gmail.com](mailto:greenergreenhill@gmail.com).

**To keep right up to date: follow us on Facebook! @GreenerGreenhill**

## Greener Greenhill Aims

- *to raise public awareness locally about the urgency of the global climate and nature emergency;*
- *to initiate and publicise local projects and actions that help to counter these emergencies;*
- *to create a local network of people and organisations that would like to participate in, or be kept informed of, these initiatives;*
- *to protect and enhance Greenhill's environment to ensure that it is a healthy place to live.*

