The big move across Byker to Brinkburn Street and the closure of Hannington St was successfully achieved in the spring. Our refurbished 10,000 sq ft base is clean, dry and welcoming. Its layout and organization has improved the efficiency of all our operations and it’s a far more pleasant place to operate from. Thanks also go to our landlord Tom Lowrie for easing our way in over several months and providing upgraded toilets etc. The main thanks must go to all those who volunteered their time and skills to clean, paint and re-organise our operation. I'm proud of what we have created at Brinkburn Street and trust we can remain there for many years to come.

Durham has once again has an exceptionally good year in which our staff and volunteers have refurbished, sold and serviced more bikes than ever, at the same time providing superb services to students and residents of the City. Sadly we have been told that this is to be our last year operating from North Road as the property is to be redeveloped as part of a larger bus station by Durham Council, the owners. We are working with the Council to identify replacement property by next Spring. I'm grateful for the support of the Council in this task.

Two years ago, RYB fully took on the operation of The Journey in Newcastle to ensure that there continued to be an Active Travel Centre in the city centre and thus fulfill the pledge of the Cycling City bid to Government. At the end of the year and despite the best efforts of our staff and volunteers, Trustees reluctantly withdrew our outlet since it was too costly to operate. Our staff have been relocated to Brinkburn Street where customers have been directed for servicing, etc. In the short term we are continuing to sell refurbished bikes through the coffee shop and to operate one-off bike sale events at the Journey.

Our finances have been stretched in achieving the Byker move. The charity made a substantial loss over the year thus eating into our reserves. We also have further financial strain to face with the withdrawal from the Journey and the relocation of the Durham shop. However, we remain in a healthy financial position overall and are expanding the services we provide to the local community.

Our outreach work, which is described so well elsewhere in this Annual Report, has expanded greatly in the last year and is being supported financially by a range of grant sources such as the Lottery, Barbour Foundation etc. All sources are listed elsewhere in this report. A big thanks goes to all of them.

This year there have been no changes to our Governing Body. However this will be my final Annual Report, as I stand down after 5 years as Chair (and 9 years as a Trustee). I would like to place on record my thanks to all those who’ve helped so much to make my time as Trustee and Chair so rewarding, especially my fellow Trustees, all our staff and every single volunteer and supporter.

- John Litherland
Manager’s report

I’ve been a part of the Recyke team for one year now and I’m incredibly proud to be able to contribute to an organisation that tackles multiple issues (throw away culture and over use of landfill; access to affordable, sustainable and healthy transport; access to practical training and learning opportunities that bring people together and provide employment opportunities) with one core activity - recycling bikes.

It’s been a whirlwind year with a premises move, staff changes, new systems and a different way of working from The Journey (our central Newcastle base). I’ve been so impressed with the resilience of the Recyke team and their willingness to accept change; battle through disruption; constantly evolve, improve and find solutions to problems. It feels like we’re now emerging out of the chaos and I’m excited to work with the team to plan our next steps.

We’ve had so much help along the way and we’ve tried to name check all of the people who’ve contributed as much as possible at the back of this report but it’s simply not possible to name each wonderful individual. From our regular volunteers to one off corporate volunteer days, from our fundraisers to our Crowdfund contributors, from our bike donors to all of our amazing partner organisations, we’ve been overwhelmed by other people’s goodwill and generosity with their time, resources and advice. The fact that we managed to empty, scrub and paint the old railway arches, transport bikes and equipment and create a functional shop and workshop out of discarded warehouse equipment on zero budget is a testament to the incredible support we’ve had and hard work of the team.
Partnerships

Partnership working has played a key role in our development over the past year. We've really enjoyed working with, and learning from, a wide range of other organisations. Vital relationships have been with Key Enterprises and Deerbolt Prison to whom we've been able to pass on excess bikes. This enables us to manage our stock and provides bikes for their service users to work with. Key Enterprises send the refurbished bikes on to The Gambia where they enable children in rural areas to travel to school.

“The regular donations of bikes from Recyke allow Key Enterprises to fix some up ready for children to ride. Additional bikes are sent over to be refurbished in The Gambia. This creates opportunities for ‘The Key Foundation for Kids in The Gambia’ to support local people who are out of work to learn new skills and contribute to the project. These bikes are then sold locally and the profits used to fund future shipments as well as supporting projects within the schools such as installation of solar panels, and maintenance of perimeter walls. We’re grateful to Recyke y’ Bike for their invaluable support.”

- Kate Larkin, Service Manager, Key Enterprises
Deerbolt Prison are in the process of setting up a shop outside of the prison so that refurbished bikes can be sold locally to Barnard Castle residents. This provides an opportunity to reintegrate young people back into society whilst teaching them key employability skills.

“MP & YOI Deerbolt and Recyke y’bike have formed an excellent partnership which has significantly enhanced Deerbolt’s ability to develop its bike workshop capability and provide accredited training. Recyke have provided training and support to the bike workshop instructor, and also supply a steady stream of bikes.

The continual supply of bikes from Recyke ensures that we can engage young men in purposeful activity, increasing the employability options of an individual when released. Securing employment has been statistically proven to reduce the likelihood of recidivism. An example of those skills acquired could be; working as a team, following instruction, learning a new skill, recording learning development, supervising others, implementing QC process’ etc. It is within this context, that the partnership between Deerbolt & Recyke y’bike is having a direct impact on the rehabilitation provision which we provide, with the aspiration of changing people’s lives by reducing the harm which crime causes and consequently reducing the number of victims within our society.”

- Del Fiddes, Industry Manager, HMP and YOI Deerbolt
We’ve provided bikes for individuals referred via their support workers as well as providing bikes for organisations including Sherburn Road Police Station, Durham City of Sanctuary, Home Group, Peaceful Mind Communities, Friends of the Sunderland Drop In and Walking With.

“Recyke y’Bike has provided our project with a great deal of support over the past year. The bikes we have received have helped us to support our clients on a huge scale; providing them with a means of transport and freedom. We work with Asylum seekers and refugees who find it hard to travel on local transport due to lack of funds. Most of our clients walk everywhere.

The bikes also create volunteer roles for our clients; they check the bikes over and ensure the bikes are road ready for other clients to use. It has given them a sense of belonging, purpose and confidence while building and learning new skills.”
Joan Hoult, Manager, Walking With in North Tyneside
We’ve worked with Sage who’ve provided volunteers for numerous activities, team challenges and one off volunteer days. In exchange we helped out with their annual fun run and summer fayre!

We’ve delivered monthly sessions to Better Days, refurbishing their fleet of donated bikes so that their service users can enjoy cycling. We’ve also donated a fleet of bikes to Newcastle City Council for the Bikeability program so that children who don’t have a bike or are unable to get their bikes into school can participate.

We’ve worked closely with Heaton Goonies providing bikes, parts and accredited training.

“We are very happy to work alongside Recyke y’bike to help out those in need in our local community get fit and active and on 2 wheels and of course providing a green mode of transport. Recyke y’bike very kindly donate salvageable bikes that we overhaul and make into safe, fully functioning and road worthy to donate to members of the public in the East End of Newcastle. I am now fully Velotech qualified thanks to Recyke y’bike. We couldn’t do what we do without Recyke y’bike helping us to help others in need.”

Dean Holmes. The Heaton Goonies Group
We've been involved in Big Bike Revival events organised by Byker Community Trust and Tyneside Outdoors. We've also provided 20 BMXs for Tyneside Outdoors and delivered training to the young people, staff and volunteers who attend their bike group.

We've been able to share our new Brinkburn Street site with organisations who share some common interests. ZMOVE, a zero emissions delivery company are now based with us and Foundation Futures and St Michael’s Church (who both work with local young people) utilise empty office space.

“Moving in with Recyke y’Bike has helped ZMOVE to get our business off the ground much more smoothly. Not only have Recyke provided us with the space to store our bikes and gear, their mechanics have also been on hand to help us keep our bikes in good nick too. As a tiny new business it’s been great to be based alongside Recyke, to learn from their expertise and to feel like part of the team. I hope the relationship can continue to grow and benefit us both from here. Thanks to everyone at Recyke from everyone at ZMOVE.”

Tom Maskell, Operations Manager, ZMOVE
We’ve worked with Kids Kabin who have 25 years of experience delivering street-based work in the local area. Will Benson shared with us some of his key learnings and introduced us to different areas of the Byker Redevelopment and the residents who live there. The team from Kids Kabin are well known and trusted in the community and through Will’s introductions we’ve been able to build our own relations with residents which would have been much harder to establish without support. Our team has grown in confidence delivering street-based bike repair sessions (a brand new venture for Recyke y’bike) and we’re looking forward to building on this next year.

“The children and young people in particular have loved the pop up bike repair sessions. The big positive is that they have been free, so accessible to all! The impact for those whose bikes otherwise would have been sat in the shed unused and unloved is huge! Kids are able to get back on their bikes again and play out which is fantastic.”

Emma Leggot, Community Engagement Officer, Byker Community Trust
Stats

- Bikes donated to Recyke y’bike: 2753
- Bikes sold: 1586
- Bikes donated to other projects and individuals: 924
- Volunteers who moved into paid work in bike shops: 3
- Community outreach sessions delivered: 32
- Volunteer hours recorded: 3560
- Velotech course attendees: 24
We’d like to say THANK YOU to:

Sage
Avison Young (UK) - formerly GVA
Muckle LLP
Akzo Nobel
Price Waterhouse Cooper
GT3
Key Enterprises
Deerbolt Prison
Emmaus North East
Avondale House
Good Gym
EE
Kids Kabin

Chia Charge
ARP Design
Three Motion
Sir James Knott Trust
Rotherly Trust
Hadrian Trust
David Gray Solicitors
Tyne and Wear Community Foundation
National Lottery Awards for All
All of our bike donors
Our generous Crowdfunding supporters
Our incredible volunteers
Our lovely customers
Byker Tel: 0191 265 4197
164 Brinkburn Street, Newcastle upon Tyne  NE6 2AR

Durham Tel: 0191 447 1770
25 North Road, Durham, DH1 4SG

Newcastle @ The Journey (Bike Sales Only)
Higham House, New Bridge Street West, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8AN

www.recyke-y-bike.org