

BETTYS & TAYLORS GROUP
A GREAT YORKSHIRE FAMILY BUSINESS



2017

Cone
exchange
est. 2003



The difference we're making



The Story of the Cone Exchange

The story of the Cone Exchange began when a group of children with learning difficulties visited our tea and coffee factory. A young boy spotted a cardboard cone in the bin and asked to take it home so he could make an angel for his Christmas tree. His creativity inspired us to think differently about our waste. So, with the vision of 'turning trash into treasure', the Cone Exchange opened in 2003.

Since those early days, the Cone Exchange has grown from a small shed into a 'Scrap Store' on the outskirts of our Plumpton Park site. It now supports our community and the environment in a variety of different ways – whether it's by selling waste materials to raise funds for charities, providing work placements for people with additional learning needs, or raising awareness for recycling within our local community.

This document explains more about how the Cone Exchange works and looks back at its impact over the last year. To find out more come and visit us – a map and opening times can be found at www.coneexchange.org

HOW it WORKS

The Cone Exchange collects waste materials from our own and other local businesses.



Some items go directly to social enterprises who up-cycle it to raise funds for themselves.

Other waste is sorted and packed at the Cone Exchange – either by volunteers or by adults with learning difficulties on work placements.

Community talks and workshops promote recycling and encourage people to visit the Cone Exchange to shop.

Cone Exchange customers buy craft kits and other materials from the Cone Exchange scrap store which is open two days a week.



Funds raised through scrap store sales go to local good causes.



Our Work Placements

The Cone Exchange provides positive and meaningful work experience for adults with additional learning needs. Typically our placement students visit us one day a week and help with a variety of tasks which build their confidence, communication skills, self-esteem and self-worth. In some cases, placements are a step towards paid work.

In 2017:

27

adults with
learning needs
experienced
a placement
with the Cone
Exchange.

800 hours of
placements
hosted in
total.

We partnered with 4 charities to co-ordinate the placements: Henshaws, Time Together, Wilf Ward Trust and Springwater School.



from TRASH to TREASURE

At the heart of the Cone Exchange is our vision to give waste a new lease of life while supporting others. In the year gone by we've reused waste from our own business, as well as other local companies. While some waste goes directly to social enterprises who upcycle for their own fundraising, most is sold via our Cone Exchange 'scrap store'. This is an 'Aladdin's cave' of craft materials and equipment for gardening and baking, such as old packaging, paper off cuts, discontinued fabrics and much more besides. All funds raised via the scrap store are either donated to local good causes, our Bettys & Taylors Trees for Life project, or used to purchase packaging and materials used within the scrap store.

In 2017:

£15,000

donated to good causes thanks to scrap store sales.

12

local businesses recycled through the Cone Exchange.

The charities the Cone Exchange supported

included: *Jenny Ruth Workshops, Horticap, Easiworks, Dementia UK, Henshaws, Bakewell, Tidy Gardens, Saint Michael's Hospice; as well as supporting many smaller projects in-kind such as providing wool for knitting groups to make hats for refugees or knitting for local premature baby units.*

Community Connections

The Cone Exchange visits community groups, schools and events to promote and encourage recycling. Many participate in the Cone Exchange 'Exchange Rates' scheme, recycling phones, stamps and foreign currency for Oxfam, in exchange for Cone Exchange 'rewards' such as craft and junk modelling materials.

Through its extensive connections, the Cone Exchange also brings together a diverse range of groups and people, making things happen in the community. Examples from the year gone by include linking together groups such as Homebase and Horticap to work together to minimize Homebase waste

garden materials; inspiring volunteers and customers to make over 300 patient belonging bags for Saint Michael's Hospice; and supporting craft group 'Tadcrafters' to explore the possibility of setting up a similar enterprise to the Cone Exchange in Tadcaster.

Finally, the Cone Exchange also brings together a team of volunteers, who give their time, ideas and connections to help protect the planet and raise funds for local good causes – while making friends and being creative. The Cone Exchange couldn't exist without their support.



In 2017:

40

**schools and clubs
participated in our 'Exchange
Rates' scheme**

300

**bags made for Saint Michael's
hospice for patients to use for their
belongings**

4,500

people reached

through...

35

**community
talks**

8

**days of
educational
workshops**

15

volunteers gave

3,000

hours of support



MY Cone Exchange



“
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ALEX

Alex attends Henshaws College and has been taking part in work experience at the Cone Exchange over the last three years. He thoroughly enjoys his time at the Cone Exchange as he loves to complete the tasks set for him and to cut as many felt shapes as possible. He likes to go through all stages of the process including Quality Assurance, checking each shape is perfect and ready for sale. He says 'The Cone Exchange is my favourite place to come, it makes me feel happy when I am here. I look forward to Cone Exchange Thursdays and feel upset if for any reason I can't come.'

LEE

Lee is the Work Experience Manager for Henshaws and is involved with placing students in a work place environment that they can flourish in. He tells us, 'The students we send to the Cone Exchange get so much from being here, it's almost like it's a therapy session for them. Autistic students like Alex find it therapeutic to do repetitive tasks with a set process behind them.'

'The Cone Exchange provides meaningful work experience but it's important for the student's wellbeing to have sessions down here too. For Alex there is heightened behaviour at college. Increased frustrations, tantrums and refusing to participate in other activities are all seen as a direct result of him not being able to attend his sessions at the Cone Exchange. His time at the project helps to calm him down and stabilise his behaviour.'

'The Cone Exchange is part of a group of providers we work with but for us is where the largest number, and varied type, of students attend. Because of the warm, supportive environment it suits a broad range of students and is a perfect introduction for students considering work experience.'





EMILY & HILARY

Emily and her daughter Hilary are two of the Cone Exchange's 15 volunteers. Like the other volunteers, the pair spend time at the Cone Exchange each week, as well as additional time at home, producing fundraising craft packs.

'I'm 89 now, and I moved from Scarborough to Harrogate to live with my daughter a few years ago,' says Emily. 'I've worked as a nurse, midwife and teacher, so I've never been one to sit still and do nothing. I love keeping busy and crafting. Being part of the Cone Exchange, lets me do both.'

'I might find myself sorting boxes of buttons, cutting and stamping card, and sewing them on to the card to sell as packs. Last weekend I made 150 packs. It keeps me out of mischief and it's satisfying to see the job done from start to finish and then sold in the shop.'

Hilary first heard about the Cone Exchange at a community talk three years ago. 'I enjoy being creative and crafting and I'm a keen recycler, so when I retired I visited to find out more,' says Hilary. 'Since then, I've volunteered a day a week, and later started to bring my mother along as well. Volunteering here is both enjoyable and worthwhile. There's a great mix of people, who bring different expertise and skills and we learn from each other. It's sociable and good to interact with other volunteers and customers.'

PHIL

'Here at Horticap we have been involved with the Cone Exchange for a number of years and it is a fantastic, mutually beneficial relationship. It makes a huge difference to us as a small charity to have a large organisation like Bettys & Taylors Group supporting us. It's links like this that are so important for the local co-operation that charities need.'

The students so enjoy coming to the Cone Exchange to visit crazy Captain Rummage. They enjoy the banter and receive a warm reception that they don't get anywhere else. It helps them understand the value of swapping things that would be more valued by the other party and sharing in each other successes. A great example of this is the garden furniture made from pallet wood collected from Taylors. It's something that benefits both parties and has grown in popularity over the recent months so is great for our guys to be able to make a product that generates funds for ourselves.'



**The Cone Exchange's
vision is to help create a
stronger local community
by giving waste a new
lease of life.**

We value resourcefulness and creativity, enterprise, generosity of spirit and service to our community. We believe in seeing and releasing potential – including the possibility in things that others see as waste, and seeing the ability, not disability, in people.

We promote environmental awareness, particularly amongst school children and young people; we provide opportunities for recycling and make recycling fun; we provide safe, nurturing work placements for young adults with additional learning needs; and we provide practical support and build connections between charities, social enterprises and grassroots groups.

We aim to be a role model community project, demonstrating how business and community can work together to make a lasting, substantive difference to people and planet.

We don't do it alone. Our thanks go to all those businesses, volunteers, work placements students, charities, customers and colleagues, who show their support and commitment to helping the Cone Exchange.





www.coneexchange.org