

BETTYS & TAYLORS GROUP
A GREAT YORKSHIRE FAMILY BUSINESS



2019





The difference we're making



Our Vision

Our 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 placement students, charities, customers and colleagues, who show their support and commitment to helping the Cone Exchange.

This document illustrates 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 on the back page or visit: www.coneexchange.org

Our Story

The Cone Exchange is a Bettys & Taylors community recycling project.

The story of the Cone Exchange began 15 years ago when a group of children with additional learning needs visited our tea and coffee factory. A young boy spotted a cardboard cone in the bin and asked to take it home to make an angel for the Taylors' Christmas tree. Word soon spread, and before long there were over 500 angels ready to top our tree. Working with the local 'In Bloom' group, a campaign was created to adopt an angel for Christmas and enough money was raised to set up a school gardening club and plant angel shaped flower beds in Starbeck.

It was this initial creativity that inspired us to think differently about out waste and how we could turn trash into treasure. Since those early days the Cone Exchange has grown from its original home in a shed in the grounds of Springwater School to a 'scrap store' on the outskirts of our Plumpton Park site.

The Cone Exchange 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.



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 materials go directly to social enterprises who upcycle for their own fundraising, most is sold via our Cone Exchange crafting 'scrap store'. This is an 'Aladdin's cave' of craft materials such as paper off cuts, unused packaging, hessian coffee sacks, discontinued fabrics and much more besides. All funds raised via sales from the scrap store are either donated to local good causes or used to plant trees through our Bettys & Taylors Trees for Life project.

In 2019:

£37,925

donated to 23 local charities and good causes.

15

local businesses recycled through the Cone Exchange.

The charities the Cone Exchange supported included:

Yorkshire Air Ambulance, Take Heart, Dementia Forward, Barnardo's, Harrogate Food Bank, RSPCA Harrogate & York, IDAS, Candlelighters, Frank's Fund, Ripon Walled Garden, SMA Support UK, The Donkey Sanctuary, Harrogate Homeless Project, Calderdale Smart Move, Follifoot Disabled Riders Group, Young Carers, Ryedale YMCA, Horticap, Jenny Ruth Workshops Oxfam, British Legion, Open Country and Bettys & Taylors Trees for Life project. We also supported smaller projects in-kind such as providing wool for knitting groups to make poppies, hats for refugees or blankets for local Special Care Baby units.

turning **Paper** back into **Trees**

Through our Bettys & Taylors Trees for Life campaign we are thrilled to have launched a new partnership with Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust to plant new trees in the Yorkshire Dales through the sales of paper, card and other paper crafting materials in our craft recycling shop. So far, this new relationship has seen the planting of 900 new trees, with a further 400 planned over the next two years.

"As a business, we're really excited to combine our local environmental and community work with our long-term passion for trees, by creating our own Cone Exchange Wood," says Chris Powell, our Community Champion who runs the project. "We're thrilled that the money raised will be used to create a project that our volunteers and customers can see first-hand the impact that their funds have had".

Chris Powell plants the first tree in the new Cone Exchange woodland with Carol and Sarah from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust



A group of our Cone Exchange volunteers visited the woodland to see how their efforts are helping to plant new trees in the Yorkshire Dales



Community Connections



Chris Powell and Sandra Earl presented Julia Bradbury at Countryside Live with a wreath made from repurposed materials from the Yorkshire Agricultural Society. Picture credit: Countryside Live / Yorkshire Agricultural Society



Chris with some of our fabulous team of volunteers delighting families at the Great Yorkshire Show

The Cone Exchange works with community groups, social enterprises, schools and education groups to promote and encourage recycling. Many groups and schools participate in our Cone Exchange 'Exchange Rates' scheme recycling phones, stamps and foreign currency for Oxfam, in exchange for Cone Exchange 'rewards' of 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. One example from the year gone by is the development of our relationship with Saint Michael's Hospice.

Our volunteers and customers have continued to make personal possession bags for patients when they are in the hospice and for their families to use to take their things home when they have passed away. They have also begun to make other items to help make a patients stay more comfortable; wash bags and cosmetic bags for those who may come in without one or for families who need to stay at short notice and catheter covers to help provide modesty for patients.

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 2019:



25
volunteers gave
4,600
hours of support

45
schools and clubs
participated in our
'Exchange Rates'
scheme

5,000
people reached

3,500
through...
10
educational
workshops



1,500
through...
35
community
talks

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 2019:

13

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

680

hours of placements hosted in total.

We worked with four local charities to co-ordinate the placements:

Henshaws, Time Together, Wilf Ward Trust and Harrogate Skills 4 Living.

An Award-Winning Year



Sarah Wells from the Cone Exchange and volunteers receive their award from host Harry Gratton



Our volunteers receiving their well-deserved Oscar

The Cone Exchange team were thrilled to receive not one but two awards in the year gone by. The first was at the Harrogate Excellence in Business Awards where we received the Green Business Award (large business) for *'the range of environmentally conscious measures taken by the Cone Exchange, from creating treasure from trash and raising environmental awareness...'*

The second award was a very well-deserved award for our team of community volunteers who work tirelessly on behalf of the project. From sorting stock for the shop to helping at educational events, the team use their knowledge of craft and their creativity to bring the project to life. It was a pleasure to see this hard work and dedication acknowledged at the Harrogate Volunteering Oscars where the volunteers were awarded with the Environmental Volunteer of the Year award.



Recycle your business waste

If you are a local business with waste materials that you think might be useful please do drop us an email to see if we can rummage in your bins. We work with a variety of businesses from local interior designers, curtain makers, printers and even a technology recycling company who all donate items that were being sent to landfill that now are given a new lease of life and helping raise funds for local charities.

Donate your stash

Next time you are clearing out your craft stash please do get in touch to see if we can help you find it a good home – we can help repurpose all manner of craft materials, magazines, books and tools so please do get in touch to see if we can put your rubbish to good use!

Help us to Help others

One example of how you can help us to support other charities making a difference out of items that would be classed as scrap is helping to collect tools and sewing machines for WorkAid. Workaid provides practical assistance to vocational training centres and self-help schemes in Africa, with the aim of enabling disadvantaged young people to build sustainable livelihoods. Workaid collects unwanted tools, refurbishes them to a high standard and ships them to some of the world's most disadvantaged communities.

Over the years the Cone Exchange has donated more than 45 sewing machines, helping young people to learn tailoring skills, find gainful employment or set up their own small businesses. We recently heard the story of Jane, a widow from Oyugis in Kenya, who benefitted from a Workaid supported project:

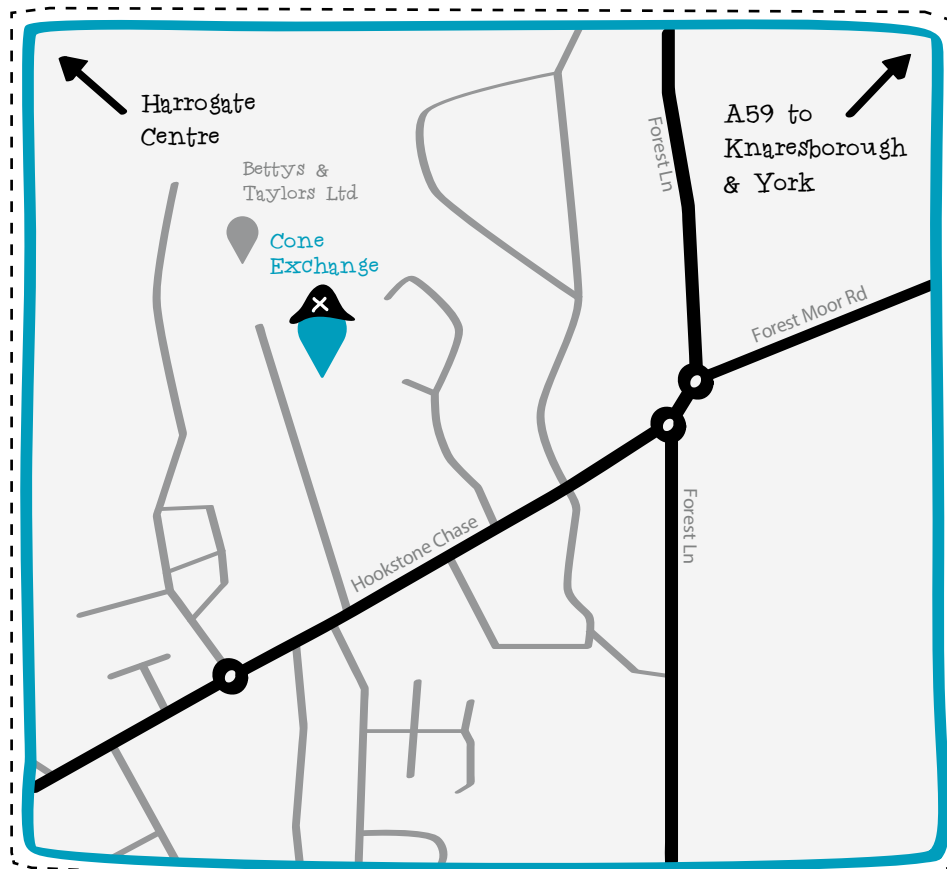


Following her husband's death from an AIDS related illness, Jane struggled to provide food and medical care for her two daughters and couldn't afford to send them to school.

Having completed her training in tailoring, and gained some business skills, Jane now makes school uniforms and clothing. Jane said, "I am free from the worries I had before. I know how to determine the price of my products so that I can take care of my family without a husband".

If you have a sewing machine, knitting machine or any handtools that you think might be useful please do get in touch, we can arrange to take delivery of them on behalf of Workaid.

Come and Visit



Where to find us

The Starbeck Cone Exchange is located on Hookstone Park, Harrogate, HG2 7DB.

Opening Hours

During school term time:

Tuesdays from 10am – 4pm

Thursdays from 10am – 8pm

If you have any questions or queries, get in touch:

Drop us an email

hello@coneexchange.org

Give us a call on **07515 061 721**

(during our opening hours)



@Coneexchangeharrogate



@ConeExHarrogate





www.coneexchange.org