INTRODUCTION

Bike Back is an innovative bicycle recycling scheme that teaches prisoners at HMP Bristol the skills to refurbish unwanted bicycles. It
came about following a desire to get more affordable bicycles into use in Bristol – and give prisoners a way to learn new skills.

The scheme is a partnership between Life Cycle UK and HMP Bristol – although we are grateful to partners like UoB who clear out abandoned bikes and donate them to us.

Bike Back is a community project that aims to connect people from different backgrounds for the common good. Local people donate unwanted bikes; prisoners learn to fix them; a team of volunteers (including some students) help us prepare them for sale; all bikes are then sold at affordable prices to help people on low incomes get cycling.

We received £100 from the Community Fund in 2016/17.

**THE EVENT**

Our fixed bikes are returned to the community at weekly bike sales and many of the bikes we sell are to students (around 50 last year). Each year, over 300 local residents donate an unwanted bike for recycling (and we usually receive donations of abandoned bikes from UoB too) and the project gets over 300 bikes back into use.

**OUTCOME**

Bike Back both helps on two key fronts. We help prisoners to learn new skills, re-build their confidence and contribute positively to the community:

“Being with Life Cycle helped me cope with prison life. It meant a regular day...out in the morning, back for lunch, out in the afternoon, back by 4.30. It really helped with relationships with other prisoners....freed up any tensions that might be brewing back on the wing.”

We also help hundreds of local people - including many students - to leave the car at home and reduce their transport costs:

“Easier/faster to go to university, see the surroundings”

“I can go around the city in less time without having to pay money on buses etc.”
“Much cheaper! Saved money which is life saving for a student!”

“It has been great to allow me to get around Bristol, as it is my only form of transport besides walking.”

LOOKING FORWARD

We will continue to collect donations of unwanted bikes from the local area and get them back into use at affordable prices. We also aim to increase volunteering opportunities at the project.

THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to the Community Fund for your support!

You can view our latest impact report at:

www.lifecycleuk.org.uk/our-impact