

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



**LEEDS
WOOD
RECYCLING**

2020 WHAT A YEAR....

2020 has definitely been a year to remember and not just because of our 2nd birthday! As you may expect, we've had to adapt and change since the outbreak of COVID-19, but we are pleased to report that the 'out of the box thinking' that we have been forced to undertake has resulted in some really positive stories.

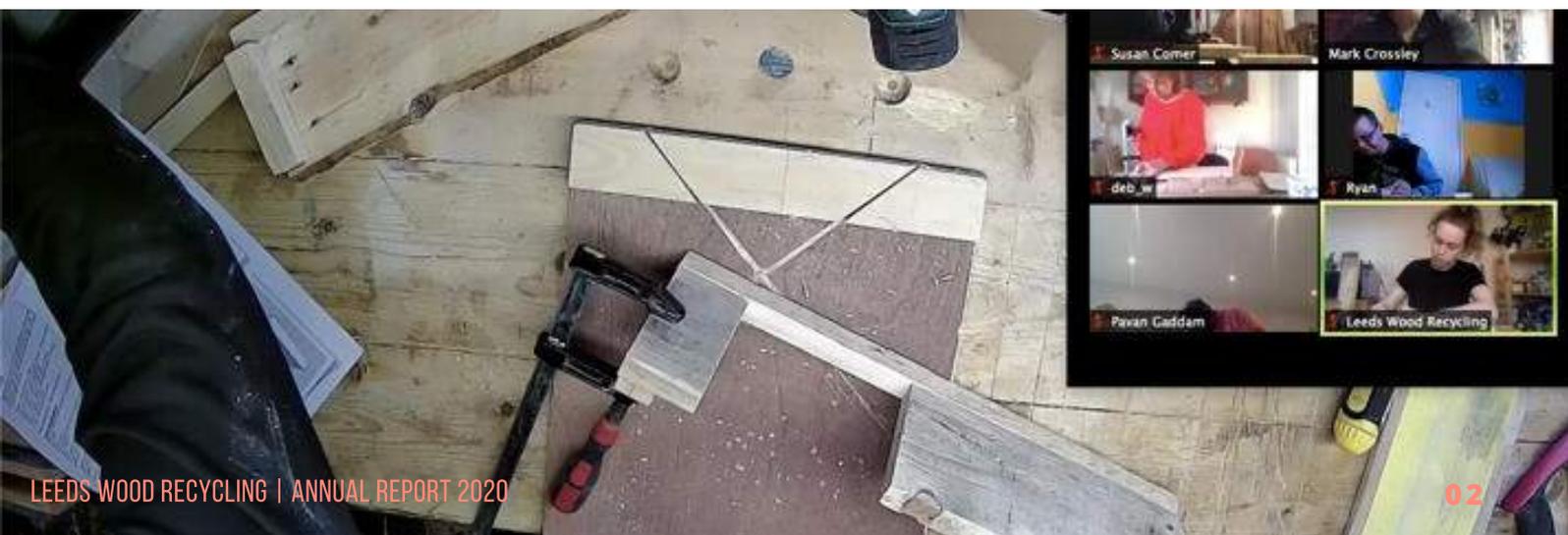
LWR closed its doors in April for 5 weeks. As a volunteer led organisation the pandemic has had a huge impact on our volunteering base. Our priority of course was to look after everyone, so we reduced numbers in the building to create a safe environment. Part of this overhaul required getting our collections team to work in 'bubbles'. Traditionally going out and collecting waste wood was a job done by our amazing volunteers, but we felt it was unreasonable to ask people to volunteer sharing a van. However there was a silver lining to this problem. We decided to take the plunge and offer permanent part time positions to two of our long standing volunteers. This job creation was life changing for everyone, and enabled our team to work safely in bubbles.

2020 was due to be the expansion of the collection side of the business, but we decided to consolidate and invest in the team we had. We also decided to raise the wages of all of our staff to show our appreciation for all their hard work during this time.

We were set to start our 'Skill Tree' volunteering programme, and the second year of our woodwork courses. We refused to halt on reaching people suffering from isolation and loneliness in Leeds and were spurred on by the negative effect that lock down was having on people. We employed 5 fantastic woodwork tutors and started running courses online. Working alongside Leeds Community Foundation we invested in 10 tool kits that we could deliver directly to peoples houses alongside packs of wood, so we could run Zoom woodwork courses. Although it was a steep learning curve for all of our team, the courses were such a success.

Our 'Skill Tree' project had to be postponed for a few months, which gave Conrad our Workshop tutor time to make a series of 'blue prints' and prep kits ready for when the volunteers could come back, which they did.

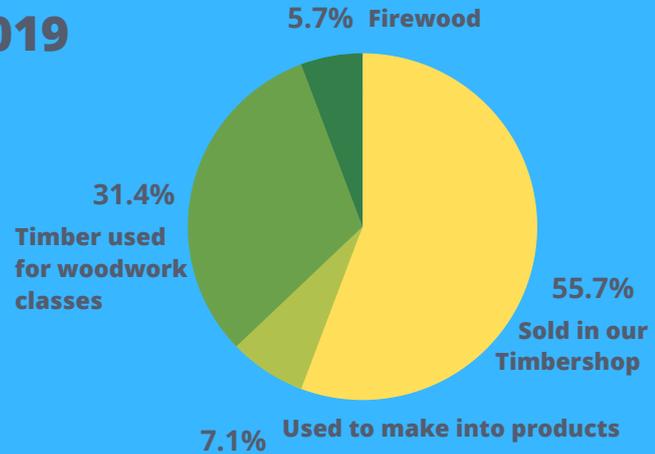
We have also been growing our commission base, working with Leeds City Council to make a series of planters, which are to be used for traffic calming. This commission has given jobs to 7 people, 6 of whom were long-term volunteers or who have come through our previous woodwork courses last year. We are so proud of the work they have done.



WASTE WOOD COLLECTIONS

November 2018 - November 2019

LWR collected a total of **3797 Cubic Yards of wood waste!**



34 Tonnes were recycled in-house!

2018-2019

70 Tonnes of wood waste recycled in-house

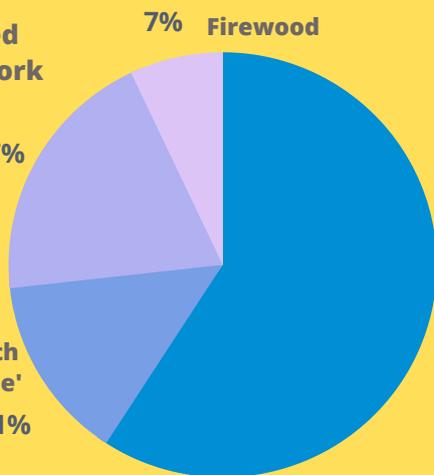
2019-20

November 2019 - November 2020



Timber used for woodwork classes

Made into products with the 'Skill Tree'



Timber sold in our Timbershop

59.2%

Leeds Wood Recycling collected 5095 Cubic Yards of Wood Waste!

2019-2020

Remarkably 2020 has seen a 34% increase in our collections and a 106% increase in the amount of wood waste that we can recycle and repurpose on site. Improving this number next year is of course our primary aim, but given the huge impact COVID has had on our volunteer lead organisation. It's a true testament to the hard work of our staff and those volunteers who have stuck by us during these hard times.

WOODWORKING COURSES COMBATting ISOLATION AND LONELINESS

Traditionally our courses were taught in person, this year we adapted to the online world. Courses were taught by two tutors via Zoom, this gave participants extra support if someone became stuck or needed help to catch up. We ran one face to face workshop with reduced numbers. Tutors taught basic woodworking skills with participants making – a boat tea light holder, a bird feeder and a hedgehog hotel. We started with two week courses, then as a result of positive feedback we extended the courses to a four week online course with great success. The impact our courses and events have had on our participants this year has been

tremendous and we've felt humbled by their feedback. Our first course fell at a time when many people had struggled through two months of lock down and many commented that the course gave them 'something to look forward to' and 'a light at the end of the tunnel'.

48 PARTICIPANTS REACHED. 4 COURSES. 1 POP UP-EVENT. 70 HOURS FREE TUTORIAL EITHER ONLINE OR FACE TO FACE. 3360 HOURS OF WOODWORK LEARNING THIS ON COURSES ALONE!

Our participants came with a wide range of woodworking abilities – over 55 % had never used any hand tools before - of these, every one said that they would continue with their 'new found hobby'.

“THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO TAKE PART IN THE COURSE, IT HAS BEEN MORE THAN A COURSE FOR ME, IT HAS HELPED MY MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING AND FOR THAT I WILL BE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL. THANK YOU.”

“I CHOSE THE MORNING SESSIONS HOPING THIS WOULD GET ME OUT OF BED AND ADD PURPOSE TO MY DAY & IT DID THAT PERFECTLY. EVEN IN THE AFTERNOON I WAS FULL OF ENERGY AND FELT MENTALLY WELL.”



**THE PARTICIPANTS CONSTRUCTED 47 BIRD FEEDERS, 38 BOAT TEALIGHT HOLDERS, 8 HEDGEHOG HOTELS AND ONE PLANTER UNDER A BEESTON APPLE TREE -NOT QUITE PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE, BUT NEARLY!
ALL THANKS TO FUNDING FROM LEEDS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION.**

SKILL TREE

THE 'SKILL TREE' HAS BEEN A NEW PROGRAMME WE HAVE PILOTED IN 2020.

2020 was our launch of a new project called the 'Skill Tree', volunteers learn to make products for our shop and then pass on their new found knowledge to their peers, building a confident capable workforce!.

THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE 106% INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF WOOD WASTE THAT WE CAN RECYCLE AND RE-PURPOSE ON SITE!

This team came as new volunteers, some are ex-course participants that want to learn more and stay with us, everyone comes from a range of backgrounds and experiences. The skills they learnt and teamwork that has developed between them has been fantastic creating ownership of this new branch of our business. We hope to start manufacturing furniture next year (prototypes are being made right now!)

"I MISSED THE CHANCE TO DO WOODWORK AT SCHOOL AND WAS BOUGHT UP IN A SINGLE PARENT FAMILY. MY WOODWORKING SKILLS HAVE BEEN SELF TAUGHT (BADLY!). JUST DOING THESE SIMPLE EXERCISES, PLUS THE TUTOR EXPERIENCE THAT WAS SHARED REALLY HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE — SAWING, DRILLING AT AN ANGLE, UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF WOOD AND HOW THEY NEED DIFFERENT TREATMENT."



STAFF & VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIALS

SOME OF THE AWESOME PEOPLE BEHIND THIS LWR

MARK

Mark was our very first volunteer in August 2018. Mark has some mild learning difficulties which affected his early development and education. His journey with LWR has been amazing, initially joining us for some work experience and to build confidence. In 2019 he completed our 10 week woodwork course and gained a qualification in the NCWR training programme. As a result of his hard work, dedication and professional attitude this year LWR have taken him on as a paid employee with the LWR collections team. In addition to this achievement we are also proud to announce that Mark recently passed his CITB Health and Safety Awareness exam and has gained his CSCS card. Mark has achieved so much and we are so proud to have been a part of his professional and personal development. We are looking to support Mark further with his Maths and English in the new year. He has come so far in such a short space of time it's a privilege to have him in the team.

HARRIET

When Harriet enrolled on the Leeds Community Foundation 'Woodwork class' in September 2019 she scored herself a 2 out of 10 for her woodworking skills. She wanted to learn carpentry as a way to empower and teach children and adults in her community. 12 months on and she is still with us, her skills have grown more than even she could have imagined.

"I RELUCTANTLY HAD TO CLOSE MY CHILDCARE BUSINESS DUE TO COVID, MAKING STAFF REDUNDANT. ITS BEEN A REALLY DIFFICULT TIME FOR ME AS I CARED A LOT ABOUT THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE BUSINESS. LWR GAVE ME FOCUS, VOLUNTEERING WAS A WELCOME DISTRACTION FOR THE YEARS HARDSHIPS."

Harriet now works as a paid freelancer, for our retail and commission building team; the same team that built 140 planters for Leeds City Council.

LWR SUPPORTED 3 OF OUR STAFF TO GAIN THEIR CSCS CARDS THIS YEAR!



HARRIET SMITH
FREELANCER



MARK SEDDON
COLLECTIONS TEAM

AWARDS AND SUPPORTERS

We are proud to announce that **A1 Engineering** have become our official supporter this year. Not only have they sponsored us, but they have also given us fantastic professional Health and Safety advice, consulting with LWR keeping us up to date with HSE safety practices. A1 Engineering also very kindly arranged 'Face Fit Test Training', for our staff and volunteers. This qualification has been really valuable to individuals' personal progression as well as helping LWR keep safe.

The Corporate LiveWire Awards represent the pinnacle of business achievement, championing the best in their respective fields. We're excited to announce that we won the Leeds & Prestige Award for Recycling Centre of the year.

Over the past 12 months, LWR have worked in partnership with JLL to clear two industrial unit sites. This collaboration resulted in the 'Green Apple Award for environmental best practice, recycling gold winner'. Alongside a partnership award for the 'International CSR Excellence Award'



CorporateLiveWire
LEEDS &
WEST YORKSHIRE
PRESTIGE AWARDS
2020 WINNER





Fun fact:
 We've used 6.7km of scaffold board so far, that's enough end to end to reach from Holbeck to Horsforth!

