



Julian House
The home of opportunity

Employability Through Cycle Skills at the Julian House Bike Workshop in Bath

Impact Report

April 2022 – March 2023

38

participants completed our hands-on Build-a-Bike course, refurbishing a donated bike over the course of 4 weekly sessions and riding away on it at the end

16

participants received tailored one-to-one support to help them reach their personal employment and education goals

8

participants gained AQA accreditations in Building a Bike, Maintaining a Bike, and Health & Safety at Work

All gained essential employability skills and experiences, as well as a much-needed confidence boost

In exit surveys:

75%

of participants rated their flexibility (ability to adapt to changing situations) as excellent or good

75%

of participants rated their skills in team working as excellent or good

88%

of participants rated their time management skills as excellent or good

88%

of participants had more confidence in themselves and their abilities



Project participants receive tailored, one-to-one support from our Employment Support Worker, Ben

75%

of clients said the project had a positive impact on their mental health and emotional wellbeing

75%

of clients rated their experience of the project as excellent or good

Geoff's Story

I was born in Bath but moved to Australia at 13 and lived most of my life there. I never really settled. I had a hair salon business that collapsed and I ended up losing everything. All my money, my flat, all my friends, everything. I sold my car and got enough money together last year to get back to the UK. Everything I had left I spent on a flight to Heathrow, then got a coach back to Bath. I felt good immediately, like I was meant to be here. In my wildest dreams I never thought I'd end up back here.

My first night back I tried to sleep in the park near Pulteney Bridge. I found a bush which I hid out in, hoping nobody would give me any hassle. It was my first and only night rough sleeping and it was really tough. I was scared about losing the little bit of money I had. Then in the morning I asked around and found out about Julian House. It was hard to start with. Really hard.

The staff at Julian House helped me find somewhere to live in the end. After a while I got involved with the Bike Workshop to try to Build A Bike. Four weeks every Tuesday. I found it fantastic! You look at a bike but you just don't realise how much is involved in putting it together. The mechanic was there, teaching me how to dismantle it, clean it, find and assemble new parts and I got loads out of it.

The second session was harder as I was having trouble with my mental health. But the staff just kept saying "don't worry Geoff, just keep going and see how you feel later". They were really supportive. I didn't have any experience of bikes beforehand— only punctures! – and it's a beautiful bike that I got to ride away and keep. Putting the finishing touches to it is really satisfying in that final session.

I sometimes feel down and out and don't really want to carry on, but I often say to myself that I must be a strong person. Having the support of Julian House really helps. I'm really glad I went there.

"I'm really grateful to the staff who were all brilliant. It taught me that you're never too old to learn new tricks. Everyone should do the Build A Bike Workshop, I really recommend it. I even got a certificate which will help me get some work in the future hopefully."



From 2022-2023, our Bath Employability Through Cycle Skills project produced social value of

330

refurbished bikes were sold at our Bath Bike Workshop

£122,451

our refurbished bikes are a minimum of

93%

carbon neutral