



SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

THE 2022 YEARBOOK

CONTENTS

Introduction **3**

2022 in review **4**

Our commitment to CRASH **5**

Helping our communities **6**



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2022 yearbook

We're passionate about building better for people and the planet, which is why we launched our Building Better Communities programme in 2020. Our purpose is to make the world a better home, starting with the local communities around each of our sites.

By donating our materials, time, and funds to local causes, we contribute to happy and healthy people in each of our communities. We also focus on tackling poverty and improving inclusion and diversity.

As well as working with local initiatives, we're a proud founding patron of CRASH, the national construction industry charity that supports hospices and homelessness charities with vital building projects.

I hope you enjoy learning about some of the wonderful causes we supported in 2022, and I look forward to working with many more organisations that underpin our local communities in 2023.

Dean O'Sullivan, Managing Director



An outdoor lesson at Costock C of E Primary School



Volunteers at Renew Church Food Bank

2022 IN REVIEW

In 2022, we contributed almost **£35,000** as well as our time and products to **25** local causes.

Our yearbook will introduce you to thirteen of the causes we supported during the year, which focus on the following priority issues.



TACKLING POVERTY

We volunteered with and donated to food banks that support local families in times of crisis.



BOOSTING SOCIAL INCLUSION

We helped to improve the lives of people who face social isolation, addiction, and profound disability.



HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE FLOURISH

We contributed to projects that benefit young people, from an outdoor classroom to a musical youth theatre.



BUILDING HAPPY AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

We donated our materials and invested in building facilities that make sports more accessible to the local community.



SUPPORTING CRASH

We also raised **£8,578** to help CRASH with projects for homeless people as well as those receiving end-of-life care in a hospice.

OUR COMMITMENT TO CRASH

British Gypsum is a founding patron of CRASH, a construction industry charity committed to supporting hospices and combating homelessness. Since 1996, CRASH has been building spaces for people in need, and we're proud to help the charity continue its vital work.



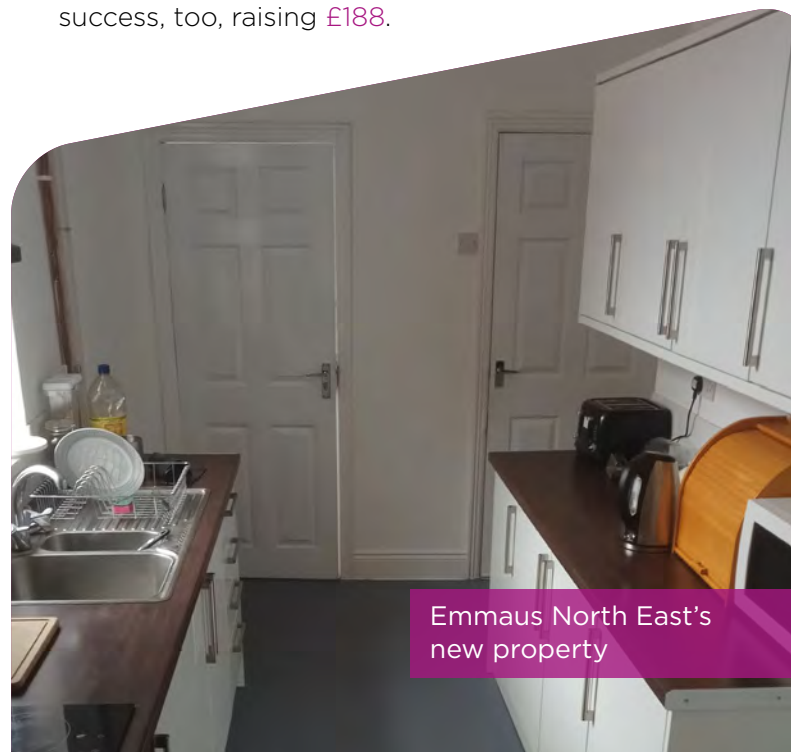
In 2022 we provided CRASH with donations, professional expertise, and fundraising totalling **£20,481**. This included taking part in a variety of fundraising events:

- A team of British Gypsum colleagues took part in RideLondon-Essex and raised **£2,035** in the process.



- We contributed a combined total of **£2,645** to CRASH's Christmas card appeal and CRASHmas Jumper Day fundraiser.
- Some of our staff took part in The British Gypsum Sleep Out, spending a night sleeping outside to raise an impressive **£1,625** for CRASH.
- Our Early Careers Network raised **£1,141** through a sponsored walk, a bake sale and a raffle.
- Our staff picnic raised **£551** for the charity.
- We raised **£393** through two prize draws with plasterers on our Certified Plasterer Scheme.
- A staff 11-a-side football match was a great success, too, raising **£188**.

As well as funds, we donate materials to CRASH projects to help build spaces for those in need. In 2022 we donated Gyproc® FireLine, Gyproc ThermaLine Basic and Gyproc ThermaLine PIR plasterboard to the charity's Emmaus North East project, helping remodel a new property in South Shields to provide homes for an additional five formerly homeless people.



Emmaus North East's new property

HELPING OUR COMMUNITIES

We support our six local communities by volunteering, donating money, and contributing our products to projects that make a difference.



Anne Lewis at
Selby Foodbank

BARROW UPON SOAR

BARROW TOWN CRICKET CLUB

Encouraging women to get involved in local cricket

We donated £1,000 and building materials to Barrow Town Cricket Club to help them make improvements to their facilities, with additions including a female changing room.

The new changing room has made a real difference - not only does it provide a safe space for female players, but it's also played a part in encouraging more women and girls to sign up for the club - it's even kickstarted the formation of a girls' and women's softball team.

John Upton, Chief Groundsman at Barrow Town Cricket Club, said:

"We are extremely grateful for the generosity of British Gypsum for supporting this community project - the materials donated by them have allowed us to complete the internal renovations, which included plasterboard and fixings, as well as the plaster and finish."

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of British Gypsum for supporting this community project.

John Upton, Chief Groundsman at Barrow Town Cricket Club



BARROW YOUTH THEATRE

Helping young people access the arts

We donated £2,000 to the Barrow Youth Theatre to help them secure their performance and rehearsal space for 2022.



The theatre provides a fantastic creative outlet for young people in the area, as well as putting on great shows for the local community, and our donation enabled them to provide free tickets for people from low-income households, carers and those who wouldn't normally have access to the performing arts.

Some of the performers have even gone on to forge careers in the industry after gaining skills in lighting, sound, costume, make-up and stage management at Barrow Youth Theatre.

Abi Crossley, Director of Barrow Youth Theatre, said:

"The young people who participate in all aspects of youth theatre activities benefit hugely from the opportunities that are on offer. It's very rewarding to see the boost in confidence that comes from performing as well as the development of all sorts of life skills such as leadership, teamwork, empathy and communication.

"The youth theatre was only able to afford to use [this rehearsal space] because of the generosity of British Gypsum."



The youth theatre was only able to afford to use this space because of the generosity of British Gypsum.



Abi Crossley, Director of Barrow Youth Theatre



THE CARPENTER'S ARMS

Raising money for a local charity to celebrate 30 years in Barrow upon Soar

Our Barrow upon Soar site celebrated its 30th year with a community fundraiser, raising more than £1,000 for Loughborough-based charity The Carpenter's Arms.



Operating since 2007, The Carpenter's Arms is a Christian-led residential rehabilitation centre for men in Leicestershire who face homelessness due to drug and alcohol addiction. Over the last few months, the charity has seen referrals for its services increase to more than 70 per month - largely due to the cost-of-living crisis and the rise in homelessness.

The celebrations had everything from food stalls to fairground rides - a fantastic day for all involved. The Carpenter's Arms played a big role in the event, with volunteers marshalling and collecting donations from attendees.

We also hosted a Christmas dinner for residents of the charity's Six Hills residence, and donated a television, warm bedding, and winter clothing too.

Scott Wheatley, Area Manager at The Carpenter's Arms, said:

"The donations from British Gypsum enable us to help fund courses for residents, travel expenses to visit family, as well as other therapeutic activities to improve mental health and wellbeing.

Without donations such as this, we wouldn't be able to undertake the activities we do. One of the greatest benefits to the local community is to enable residents who have graduated from the programme to share their experiences with schools and other local organisations."



Without donations such as this, we wouldn't be able to undertake the activities we do.



Scott Wheatley, Area Manager at The Carpenter's Arms



EAST LEAKE

EAST LEAKE SPORTS PAVILION

Helping transform a community sports facility

When East Leake Playing Fields Charity announced a £1 million renovation of its sports pavilion, we were keen to help. Sports clubs boost wellbeing through physical and social activity, and it's vital that they're fit for the needs of the community.

We donated our ThistlePro® PureFinish high performance plaster to give the new pavilion a smooth, durable finish while improving indoor air quality.

The building has been around since the 1970s, and after five decades of use by thousands of people, it needed considerable work to bring it up to standard. It now includes brand new changing rooms, a clubhouse for spectators, and an external seating area. As well as providing an excellent home for East Leake's sports clubs and organisations, the new pavilion can be used for parties, meetings, and other community activities.

Rob Deet, Commercial Manager at Dako Construction, who led the works on the pavilion, said:

"East Leake are very grateful to British Gypsum for their donation. Their donation has enabled [...] enhancements like upgrading the finishes, which make for a more enjoyable end-user experience."

The donation has enabled money to be freed up from the budget to be put towards enhancements like upgrading the finishes.

Rob Deet, Commercial Manager at Dako Construction



COSTOCK C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Helping pupils connect with nature

When Costock C of E Primary School wanted to build a new outdoor learning area for its pupils, we contributed to the fundraising efforts with a £3,000 donation.



After the school's Parent Teacher Association (PTA) raised £4,200 through a movie night, a summer fair and a series of discos, and received a £2,000 donation from the East Midlands Airport Community Fund, we added our donation to help reach the £10,000 target.

The new outdoor classroom opened at the end of 2022, and it allows pupils to enjoy the fresh air as they learn, sheltered from the rain as well as from the sun on hotter days. It's being used by pupils of all ages, and some of the school's Year 6 pupils have even set up a book club to help younger children with their reading.

Christopher Gottwald, Chair of the PTA at Costock C of E Primary School, said:

"The funding has allowed us to proceed with the outdoor classroom a lot earlier than we had expected. For such a small village school it is very difficult to raise the amount of funds required for projects of this size.

The feedback from the children has been extremely positive; they love the protection it has been providing in the rain, and as a quiet space for reading and contemplation during break times."



The feedback from the children has been extremely positive.



Christopher Gottwald, Chair of the PTA at Costock C of E Primary School



FAULD

RENEW CHURCH FOOD BANK

Tackling poverty by supporting a local food bank

Food banks are crucial pillars of support for those in need. Renew Church Food Bank supports hundreds of people in and around Uttoxeter every year, receiving donations from local schools, businesses and food distribution charities like FairShare and Neighbourly who collect parcels via local supermarkets. These donations are then sorted, packed and delivered by local volunteers.

To support this vital service, we donated £500 and some of our Fauld site team spent a day volunteering at the food bank, collecting donations and delivering parcels.

Fiona Taylor at Renew Church Food Bank said:

“The donation has allowed us to stock up on items that we don’t get much of in the donation trolleys at the supermarkets, such as tinned meat pies, tinned potatoes, and carrots. We’ve also put some of the donations to one side to help towards our Christmas food shop for people.”

“We wouldn’t be able to run the food bank without our volunteers or without the great support we get from the Uttoxeter community and we are so grateful for this donation from British Gypsum.”

The donation has allowed us to stock up on items that we don’t get much of in the donation trolleys.

Fiona Taylor, Renew Church Food Bank



KIRKBY THORE

WARCOP PLAY PARK

Creating an inclusive social space for local families

Warcop Parish Council's play park was in need of renovation after years of use. The equipment had become tired and unsafe, leaving local families without an outdoor social space to enjoy with their children.

Alongside donations from The National Lottery Awards for All scheme, Cumbria County Council and various other organisations, we donated £2,000 to the council to help reach a total of £62,000.

Over eight weeks, the old play equipment was removed and replaced with brand new inclusive equipment, including two toddler swings, two standard swings, a basket swing, a rocking frog, a spinning saucer, and a large activity tower complete with two slides and a zip wire.

Warcop Parish Councillor, Katie Hauser said:

"The new playground is a great asset to the village and the local community. The children have had to play on old, tired swings and a slide for a very long time. It's now an amazing space where children and adults can meet and play safely.

This project came at the perfect time to give our community a great boost after being affected by the Covid-19 lockdowns."

The new playground is a great asset to the village and the local community.

Katie Hauser, Warcop Parish Councillor



TEMPLE SOWERBY CRICKET CLUB PAVILION

Upgrading a cricket club's community hub

Temple Sowerby Cricket Club has been a fixture in the community for more than 80 years, providing exercise, entertainment, and social connection for people of all ages. When a storm caused significant damage to the pavilion, it was decided that major upgrades were needed.



We provided our Gyproc® ThermoLine Plus thermal plasterboard to help with renovations, and the club organised its own fundraising to supplement funding from Sports England and Eden District Council. This raised the £40,000 needed for the renovations.

The club has doubled the size of its pavilion and built a comfortable, cost-efficient kitchen, changing area and social space. The pavilion now offers better facilities for players and visitors, which means more games and community events.

James Farmer, Chief Grant Team Leader at Temple Sowerby Cricket Club, said:

“It has been a huge team effort building this project, using local suppliers and local firms from the village where we can, such as electricians and plasterers - as well as having the plasterboard materials donated from British Gypsum.”



It has been a huge team effort building this project.



James Farmer, Chief Grant Team Leader at Temple Sowerby Cricket Club





We are so grateful to have received the donation, helping bring some festive cheer to what can often be a difficult time for many. Thank you!



Dani Leslie, Chief Officer at Carer Support Eden

CARER SUPPORT EDEN

Festive fun for carers in Cumbria

Carer Support Eden helps unpaid carers who provide vital care for ill and vulnerable people. The charity currently works with 193 young carers, 80 parent carers and 600 adult carers, offering one-to-one support, training, assessments, and social events for people who don't always have time or money to spend on themselves.

We donated £2,000 to Carer Support Eden to help them put on two Christmas lunches for their adult carers, as well as a children's party for young carers. The party featured a disco, a magician, and Father Christmas himself.

We were delighted to be able to give carers across the Eden District a thoroughly deserved and much-needed chance to relax and enjoy themselves away from their caring responsibilities.

Dani Leslie, Chief Officer at Carer Support Eden, said:

"Eden is a particularly rural location in Cumbria, making it difficult for people to care for themselves and difficult for friends and family to visit regularly to care for them. Many of our network live in rural areas, and often struggle to carry out essential everyday tasks like visiting the doctors, the pharmacy or even going to the bank or post office. That's why so many rely on friends and family to help care for them.

We are so grateful to have received the donation from British Gypsum, who helped bring some festive cheer to what can often be a difficult time for many. Thank you!"



FELLRUNNER BUS SERVICE

Supporting crucial community connections

After donating £5,000 to the Fellrunner bus service in 2021 and seeing the positive effect on the local community, our Kirkby Thore team decided to contribute a further £2,000 in 2022. The community bus serves people across rural parts of Cumbria, offering routes to Penrith and Carlisle.

Not only does it help vulnerable people with limited transport get from place to place, but it provides them with crucial connections, support and companionship.



Kevin McGilloway, Fellrunner Chairman, said:

“For many of our customers, the bus is their transport lifeline, allowing them to get into town to shop, collect prescriptions, get money and keep appointments.

Without the bus they would be stuck and reliant on family and friends - if they have them. Without financial help from a group of supporters like British Gypsum, we would not be able to continue our services.”



Without financial help from a group of supporters like British Gypsum, we would not be able to continue our services.



Kevin McGilloway,
Fellrunner Chairman



ROBERTSBRIDGE

MARTHA TRUST

Renovating a sensory garden for care home residents

Martha Trust is a charity based in East Sussex that provides lifelong care for people with physical and learning disabilities. It's the nominated local charity of our Robertsbridge site team, which has raised nearly £6,000 through raffles, a cake sale, a sponsored event, and even representing the charity in the London Marathon.

The Robertsbridge team worked with local contractors Riverline to repair and renovate the care home's sensory garden. The garden is extremely important as it provides stimuli for the residents as well as space to relax and admire the beautiful surroundings. The team and Riverline created an accessible route for residents and manicured overgrown areas so that residents could use previously inaccessible areas.

Fundraising and Events Officer at Martha Trust, Kerry Banks, said:

"On behalf of the residents and staff at Martha Trust, we are incredibly grateful to all at British Gypsum for choosing to support Martha in our 35th Anniversary year and are so excited that you have chosen to support our young people and adults with profound disabilities."

We are incredible grateful to all at British Gypsum for choosing to support Martha in our 35th year.

Kerry Banks, Fundraising and Events Officer at Martha Trust



SHERBURN IN ELMET

SHERBURN HUNGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Encouraging pupils' passion
for reading

We were delighted to donate £7,000 to Sherburn Hungate Primary School to help them add more books to their library. After undergoing an expansion in 2021, the school now caters for 450 pupils, and the library needed enhancement to provide the children with a wider range of reading and learning materials.

As well as donating funds, our Sherburn team fundraised and volunteered for the school, transforming an outdoor area into a sensory garden for the pupils to explore and grow their own vegetables.

Martyn Broom, Head Teacher at Sherburn Hungate Primary School, said:

"British Gypsum have been very supportive over recent years, providing donations and manpower to help us provide an outstanding education for our young people.

The most recent donation of £5000 has had an incredible impact on our pupils. British Gypsum have had a significant impact on children's love of reading and, for this, we will be forever grateful."

British Gypsum have had a significant impact on children's love of reading and, for this, we will be forever grateful.

Martyn Broom, Head Teacher at Sherburn Hungate Primary School



SELBY & DISTRICT FOODBANK

A welcoming space for those in crisis

Selby & District Foodbank combats poverty and hunger in the local area by providing food bank users with three days' worth of food and supplies when they need it. To supplement this service, the charity wanted to create a space in its new centre for people to sit, talk and build important support networks with others.



When two technicians from our Sherburn site heard that the food bank was moving to new premises, they applied for support from the Building Better Communities fund, which donated £2,000 to the food bank to put towards new furniture for the centre.

Cheryl Whitton, Project Coordinator for Selby & District Foodbank, explained the impact of the donation on the local community:

“We can now welcome people into the centre to share conversations, hot drinks, and snacks. This allows people to relax, open up, and chat about their needs. Signposting our clients for further support is something we are very passionate about.”




We can now welcome people into the centre to share conversations, hot drinks and snacks.



Cheryl Whitton, Project Coordinator for Selby & District Foodbank





Find out more about our
Building Better Communities
programme and apply for
support [here](#)



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Local community-2022 yearbook



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