

Sustainable Life

Birmingham



Love Brum Voting 1st Place £2000 awarded in November 2019

Project Closed 08/06/20

Final Report



Introduction

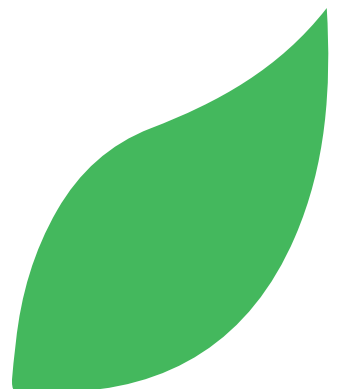
The Love Brum funding was awarded by popular vote in November 2019. We were awarded £2000 for the Stirchley Secret Garden (SSG) project.

This money was due to provide partial payment for rent of the garden for the year 2020 as well as to run 4 open days for the public to engage with the garden along with some needed tools, seeds, compost etc.

The garden closed in March 2020 due to new ownership coupled with the destruction of the main entrance wall rendering the entrance too dangerous for the public and with the landlord showing no plans to restore it.

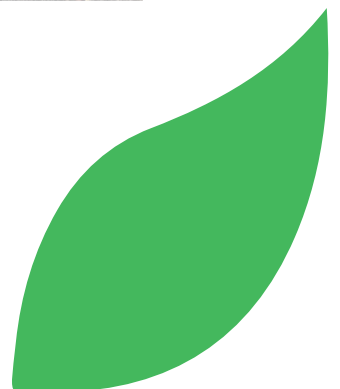
Unable to work further on the SSG and with the new pandemic crisis before us, we asked Love Brum if we could spend the money on our Covid-19 community work instead - which they were pleased to permit.

The first half of this project is therefore for the SSG and the final half is for COVID-19 community work.



Stirchley Secret Garden (SSG)

The SSG was originally funded by the Heart of England Community Foundation BBCC fund. It then received further funding from the Postcode Local Trust and finally Love Brum. It ran successfully for 1 year and 3 months and saw the transformation from derelict rubbish pile over a foot deep, to a working garden producing flowers, tomatoes and pumpkins.



Entrance to Garden Before...



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Entrance to Garden After...



Front of Garden Before...



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Front of Garden Current Progress...

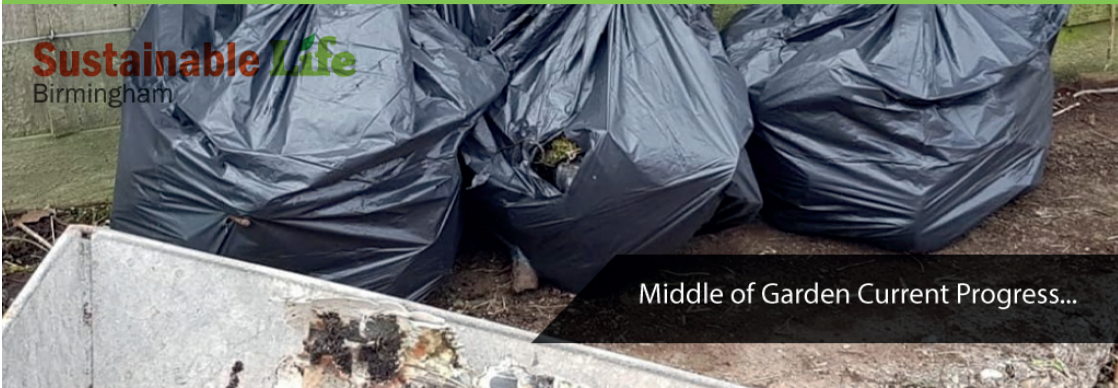


Middle of Garden Before...



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Middle of Garden Current Progress...



BEFORE...



AFTER...



What did Love Brum Fund?

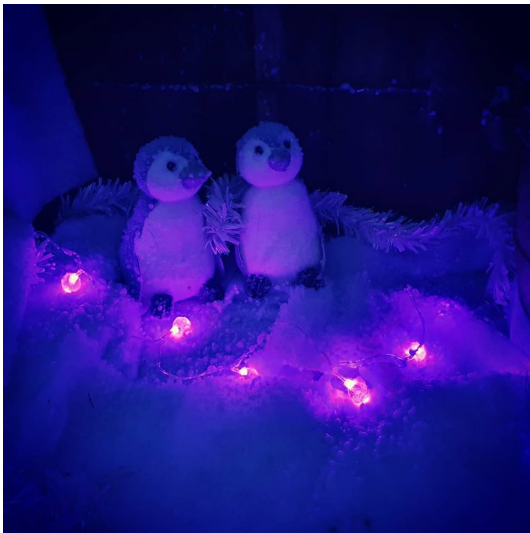
Love Brum gave us 2 months extra in the Garden before it was sadly and unexpectedly closed down. They invested in a pergola for the garden to protect the proposed new earth oven event which was also sadly destroyed by the storm damage where the wall fell.

We managed to get one open day successfully run and funded by Love Brum before we closed.



Santas Grotto

Love Brum funded a magical santas grotto open day in December 2019 in the SSG. We had volunteers, a Santa in full costume, decorations and the pergola still up for santa. The garden was decorated with fairy lights, tinsel, candles and candy canes to make it look more magical. We were also able to borrow a snow machine and made the experience really exciting for the kids with a flurry of snow!







Our santas grotto included a free hot chocolate (with dairy free alternative available), compostable cups (or bring your own), festive background music, free candy canes and sweets, and of course, a real santa giving out presents!

We decided on eco-wrapped presents using brown paper and festive stamps. The presents were donated books new and old from volunteers and the public to encourage little ones reading!

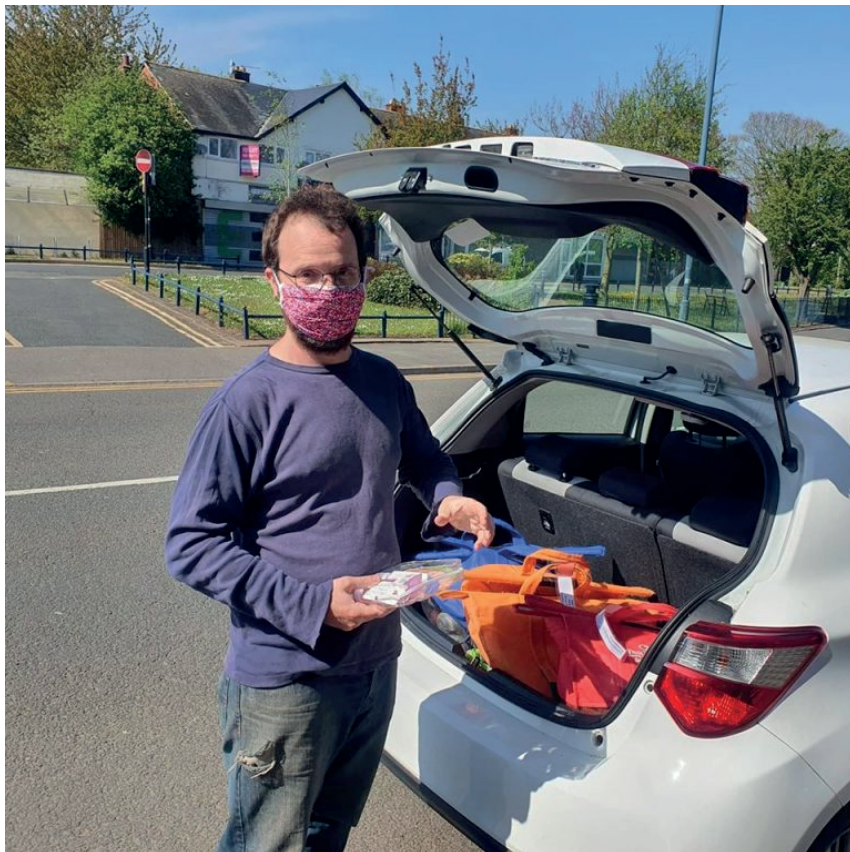
We had approximately 30 residents join us for our santas grotto experience.



Covid-19 Community Work

The leftover Love Brum money funded 3 separate Covid-19 projects:

- * 4 weeks of essential customised food deliveries to known local families in isolation. These families already had some form of contact with Sustainable Life through volunteering or working with us previously.
- * Distributing free washable masks and mask adapters to local keyworkers in Stirchley
- * Distributing free seeds for local families to grow at home, tackling wellbeing during lockdown.



Deliveries to local families

>> 5 local families in isolation, shielding or otherwise struggling to reach a supermarket for various reasons accessed our weekly deliveries for 4 weeks.

>> 5 local families in isolation, shielding or otherwise struggling to reach a supermarket for various reasons accessed our free refillable sanitiser scheme for 4 weeks.



Free Washable Masks and Mask Adapters

>> 40 Washable masks supplied to local keyworkers in the area including:

BIRMINGHAM BIKE FOUNDRY
PATIALA

ASH TREE PHARMACY

BOURNVILLE BREADBASKET

STIRCHLEY NEWSAGENTS

3 LOCAL KEYWORKERS/CAREGIVERS



The masks were made by A is for Alice Costumes, a local small business.

The mask adapters were made by Sustainable Life volunteers.



Free Seeds for Local Residents

>> Distributed a total of 124 free seed packets to local residents through Love Brum funding.

