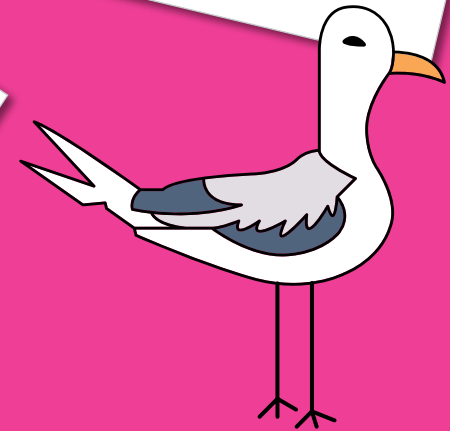
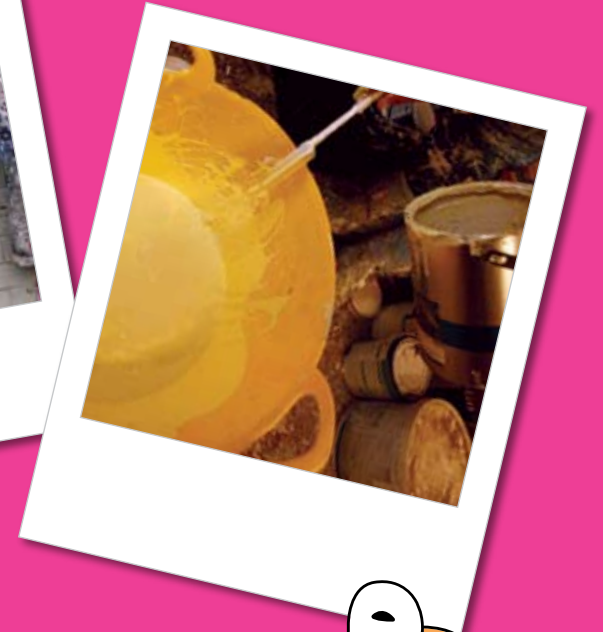


The Alternative **Paint Manual**



Seagulls **ReUse** Ltd.

Forward

This manual has been put together by Cat Pearson, Kate Moree and Ashley Rose.

The aim of this manual is to give you an over view of how a home grown social enterprise has taken shape, the passion needed to pursue a vision and hopefully some inspiration for your own life and what really can be achieved out of nothing.

It is worth noting that this manual has been written at a pivotal time in the enterprises short history. We are on the cusp of either having a sustainable paint reuse scheme if we are successful in being awarded a contract by Leeds City Council for the reprocessing of household paint or having to go back to the drawing board and re-think the future of Seagulls. Either way 2010 looks set to be an exciting year; full of change, grit and determination to make Seagulls a truly successful, grassroots social enterprise. Hopefully the future is bright and full of paint!!

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Who Are We?

We began to develop Seagulls towards the end of 2001. Cat and I met whilst volunteering for a local project; working to turn the bin yards of Burley, LS6 into gardens and usable, friendly spaces. We bonded over our passion for the environment and social justice. At the time the area did not have recycling bins and it was evident that residents had little awareness of recycling. Over several glasses of wine we discussed our desire to bring recycling and reuse awareness to Leeds.

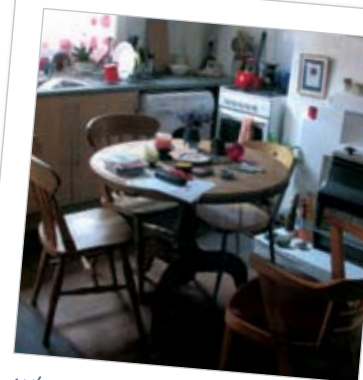
From 2002 we worked from my kitchen to establish Seagulls as an enterprise, exploring different ideas of how we could combine our environmental and social passions. We were clear from the beginning that one man's rubbish is another's gold and somehow we could make money from waste. We spent a lot of time networking, building up contacts in the world of waste and the voluntary sector in Leeds. We held many meetings with local councillors and council employees around the kitchen table. During this period we also talked to a lot of local residents to gain a clear picture of the barriers people faced when trying to recycle and this knowledge still informs our work to date.

Cat and I had had no previous experience of project management but learning from scratch has given us resilience and belief, and we have now reached a point where we are helping and advising other communities on how to establish working relationships with statutory services.

Our activities have grown from within the project through involvement of local people. Seagulls are a grassroots community project, and our continued development offers us the opportunity for our volunteers to realise their aims. The emphasis is on the balance between 'social' and 'enterprise'.

In 2004 it was time to fly the nest and we moved from the kitchen to a small office with a damp cellar. Although not ideal it gave us experience of running a building and a place to start our paint reuse service. In late 2005 thanks to funding from CRED we were able to move into our current premises: a large, draughty, mill building with holes in the roof and a need to wear long johns in winter. We have been able to expand our floor size as the business has grown. We are locally based and although it is an industrial mill yard there is a sense of community and visitors always enjoy their time at Seagulls.

Seagulls' is a Social Enterprise and a Company Limited by Guarantee.



Where it all began – Kate's Kitchen



The Seagulls Kitchen now...

The Team



Cat & Kate – Founders and Managers



Ashley – Funding Director and Finance & Development Manager



Alison



Ruksar



Angela



Big John



Alex



Ansari

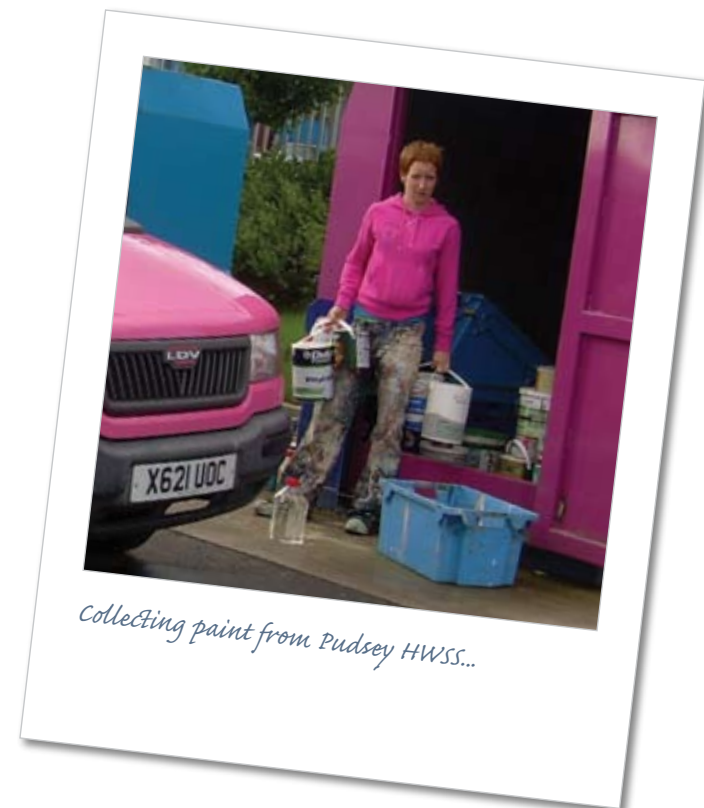
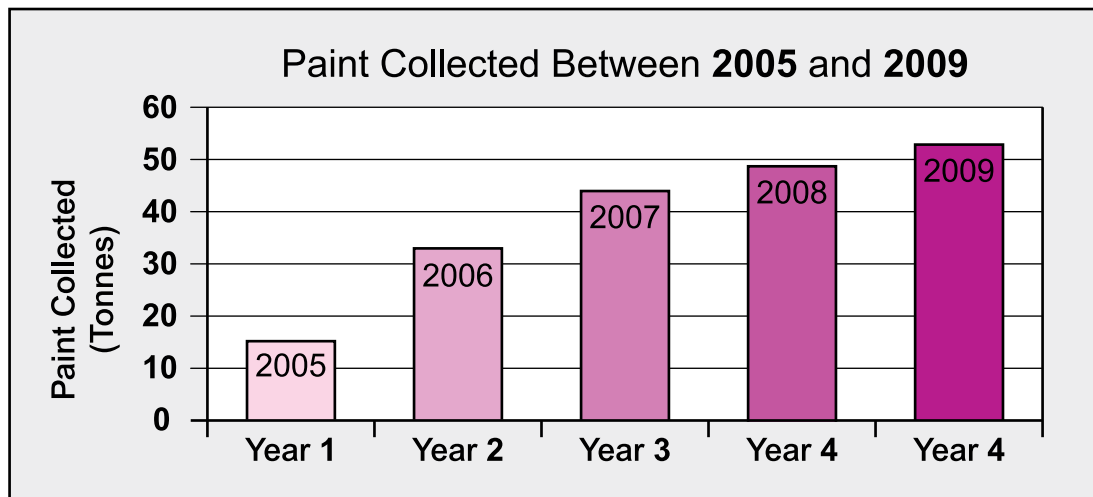
A World Of Paint

How did we start reusing paint?

When Kate and I were sat in the kitchen wondering how and what Seagulls could do to make money the opportunity of starting a paint reuse scheme was presented to us. There had been a scheme in Leeds in the past and Resource Futures (based in Leeds) were keen for a new scheme to be established. Kate and I decided that this could be the opportunity we needed to ensure an income for Seagulls.

We started to talk to Leeds City Council Waste Services and after many dead end conversations we managed to find the right person to speak to: Toby Gritten, now an ex-employee of Leeds City Councils Chemical advisory service.

At first Leeds City Council were reluctant to allow another community group to start collecting household paint from their Household Waste Sorting Sites (HWSS). The previous scheme had failed and Leeds City Council were left with a large amount of paint they had to dispose of. We were also a new project with no track record or experience in delivering services. After several meetings and encouragement from Toby Gritten, the powers that be decided we could start a pilot scheme from one HWSS.



What exactly is paint reuse?

When we were given the go ahead to start collecting paint, funding for our van had not come through and we were forced to start collecting paint in my car. Once a week the seats would go down, a large tarpaulin laid out and paint piled how to the ceiling. Obviously this was not an ideal situation but we had waited so long for it to begin we did not want to turn around and say we couldn't start collections.

From the beginning we needed this service to bring in an income for Seagulls and were clear with Leeds City Council that we would charge for collections. In 2005 we charged £30 per collection, this rose to £65 per collection in 2007 and we are now hoping to hear any day that we have been awarded the contract for paint reprocessing in Leeds, thus making the paint reuse service

On each HWSS we have a paint bank (walk- in metal container) where householders leave their unwanted paint. Site staff will often sift through the paint and dispose of empty tins and put chemicals in a separate container.

We learnt through trial and era the best ways to collect paint, building up the amount of sites gradually and we now collect from 6 HWSS with the amount of paint we have collected has steadily risen.

What paint do we accept from the HWSS's?

We have always been able to cherry pick the paint we take from sites; leaving behind anything that has a hazard warning label (COSHH) and tins that are very rusty or obviously full of water. This is an essential requirement to the current Community RePaint model and is an important factor to bear in mind when talking to local authorities. It is reasonable for local authorities to require a service that incorporates taking all paint and associated substances left in a paint bank therefore it is important to be realistic about the amount of waste you will bring back and what will happen to it. There are ways to overcome this by working with the commercial sector and we are happy to help advice people if this is an issue.



The paint arrives at Seagulls