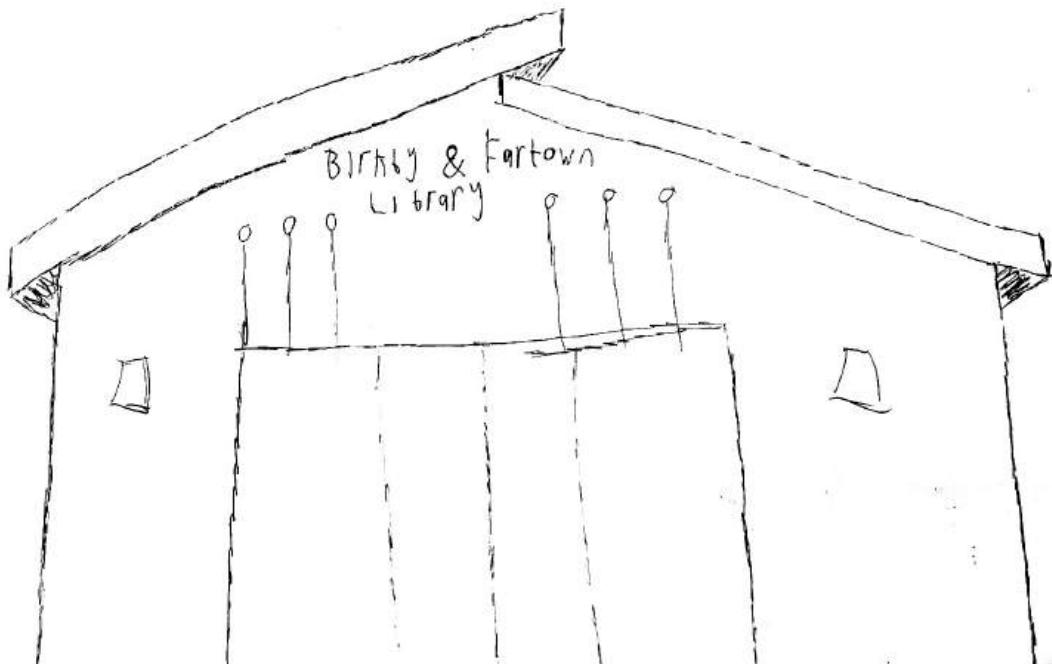


# A year in the garden

BIRKBY &  
FARTOWN  
LIBRARY  
GARDEN





The garden at Birkby & Fartown Library is cared for by a group of volunteers. We meet every Tuesday 11-1pm. Everyone is welcome, whether you're an experienced gardener or just curious to get involved.

We've made this zine to share some of the highlights of our year. The group meets every week, rain or shine and in every season. In the depths of winter, when there is little to do in the garden, we tend to work on a creative project, as well as a little planning for the growing year ahead!

The library here in Birkby was built, and opened during the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. When many other local services were closing their doors, miraculously, our tiny library opened. The first meeting of the gardening group was in Spring 2022, initiated by Support to Recovery (S2R) and since then we've maintained and nurtured this young garden into a tranquil space to be enjoyed by all who visit the library.

Taking wax rubbings outside the library  
for our collage project, 2025



The benefits of spending time in nature are well documented, and for many of us who attend it's getting our hands in the soil or smelling the herbs and flowers that gives us a sense of wellbeing. For others the social aspect of the group is what they love, a chance to learn from one and other and forge new connections.



During the winter months we work on creative projects inspired by the garden. This year we tried out different collage techniques, using wax rubbings collected from around the library, cuttings from magazines and our own photographs.

We welcomed Ammi and Ben from the Clay Mill pottery studio in Slaithwaite for a one off workshop. Under Ammi's experienced eye we made decorations for the garden and clay pieces that will become part of a display at the new library in town.





These groups are fun. They help me a lot, it's better than sitting alone at home. I like helping in the garden and doing art too. In the winter we do activities indoors, so there's always something to have a go at. It's a friendly group and I always enjoy myself when I come here.

there are people from all walks of life who attend.

It's a very joyful ambition.  
Putting plants in the flower beds  
watering them, and learning how to dead head.

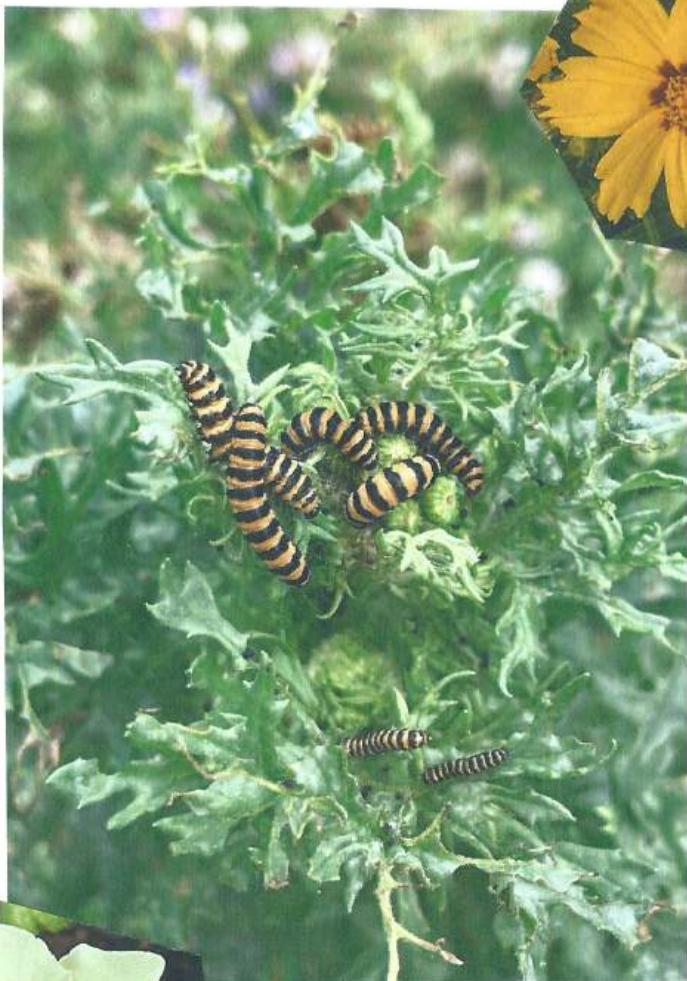




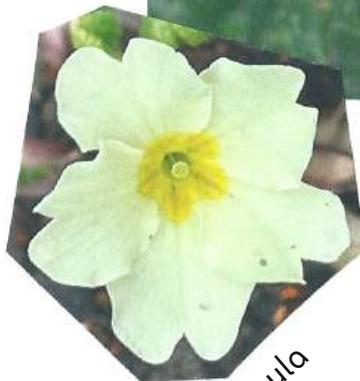
Saxatilis tulips and blue anemones were the first to open in the garden this spring. Planting bulbs is a wonderful way to bring some colour to the winter garden, especially as they come back every year.



Mick tends to the jasmines. High summer brings a hosepipe ban and water shortages across the county. We spend a little more time each week making sure the plants are adequately watered and the garden is awash with flowers.



Coreopsis



Primula

Ragwort (above) is the main foodplant for cinnabar moth caterpillars, and we've had plenty in the garden this year. They are a species currently in decline, so we were pleased to see so many. When these caterpillars emerge as butterflies they are instantly recognisable by their distinctive red and black markings.



Long

Hot

2025



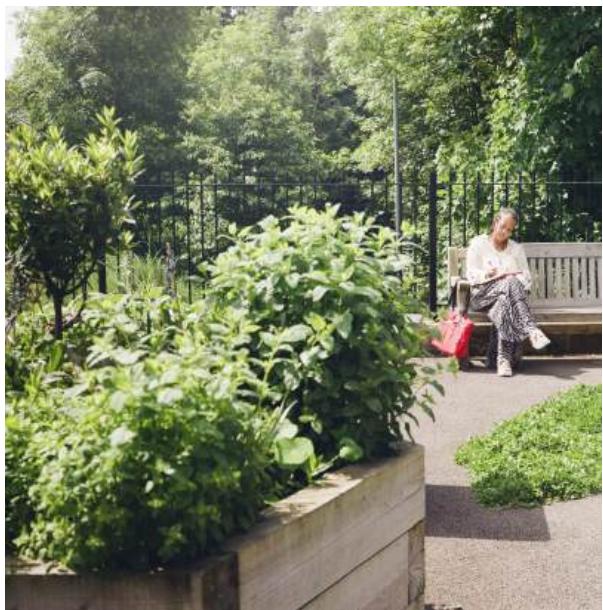
Summer



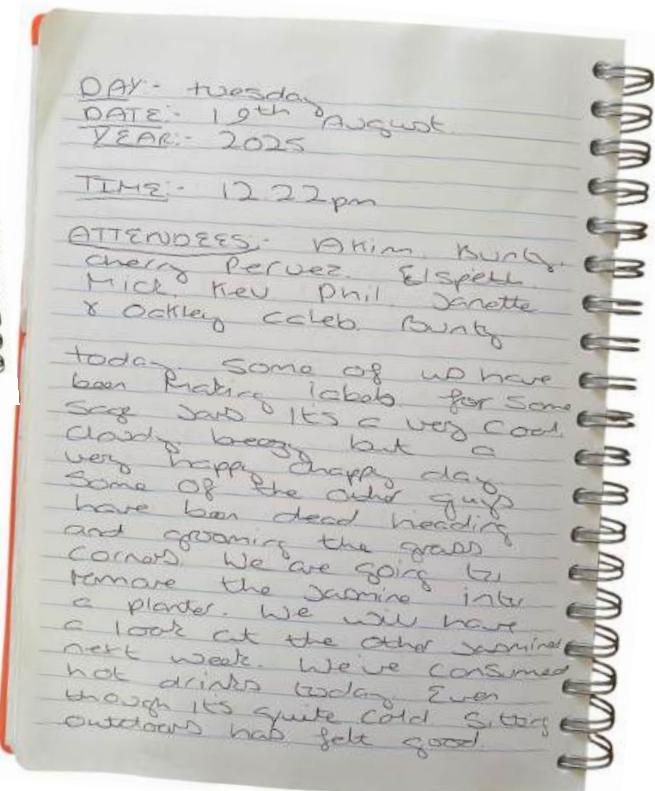
Thinking about what the garden group means to me.... acceptance, nurturing, kindness, courage, connection, safety, humour, confidence and growing. This group is all that is good about humanity, giving and receiving support in nature. Thank you Cherry, our much loved facilitator, to S2R for starting & finding it and to the very best library staff who are always welcoming and friendly. Come along and join us.



Picking bay leaves, sage and one of our resident mint moths enjoying the herbs



Here's Bunty writing in our garden journal. It's great looking back through the entries to see what's been happening in the garden over the months. As the weather becomes more extreme, and the seasons less predictable, our notes offer a window into our changing environment.





Birkby & Fartown library  
gardening group  
Every Tuesday  
11-1pm

At Birkby & Fartown library, Lea  
Street, Huddersfield, HD1 6HF

For more information  
[contact@s2r.org.uk](mailto:contact@s2r.org.uk) or pop in on a  
Tuesday morning!

**S2R**  
CREATE  
SPACE

We are:  
**Kirklees  
Libraries.**