

AUTUMN 2025

REKINDLE



IN THIS ISSUE

Young Voices, Big Ideas: Meet the Dundee Youth Pioneers shaping a fairer future for education in Scotland.

At the Table in Stoke: Discover how honest conversations and shared meals are bringing local voices together.

In Action: Our new and future programmes across London and Manchester

AND LOTS MORE

FROM RUTH'S DESK

Dear friends,

I can hardly believe we're already in October. How is this year flying by so fast?! That said, I'm delighted to share our latest newsletter with you. Grab a brew and enjoy!

I'm continually inspired by the dedication and creativity of my teams across Rekindle, Roots and Northern Soul. Whether it's facilitating meaningful conversations in local schools, officially launching the ambitious Nello James Project with a community event in South Manchester, hosting imaginative sessions for young people in our beautiful London space with visual artist SOLDIER, or rolling out exciting new projects in Manchester, London and Dundee, our teams are making a real and lasting impact.

In this newsletter, you'll find highlights of their incredible work and a glimpse of what's coming next.

All this work is grounded in the spaces we create together and that's why we're taking a bold new step: working to purchase our building in Hulme, Manchester (pictured).

This is more than just a property; it's a stunning home for our work and a place whose legacy we hope to protect for years to come. It's a challenging journey, particularly for a small organisation like ours, but one that feels deeply worth it.





What makes it especially meaningful is the history within these walls. Many of the elders who still use our space today were the same people who ran this building back in the 1980s, when it was first a thriving activist community hub. Bringing it back into local ownership feels like a full-circle moment - honouring their legacy and celebrating what radical collective care really looks like.



Personally and professionally, the past few months in the UK have been rough. I'm sure many of you reading this will feel the same. It has been tempting to turn off all news and hide from the world. With anti-immigration rhetoric and acts of racism making headlines and affecting so many people in our communities, it's easy to feel demoralised, even hopeless.

How can our tiny organisations have an imprint when it feels like cascades of bad news headlines and ever-increasing vitriolic public narratives? And yet, it's in these moments that the mission of Rekindle and Roots feels more vital than ever. Creating spaces for dialogue, empowering young people, and fostering strong community connections isn't just meaningful. It's essential.

If you feel inspired to support our work or donate towards the cost of buying our building, I'd love to hear from you. Every bit of help brings us closer to making this audacious dream our reality.

Thank you so much for being part of our growing Rekindle family. Enjoy the read!

Ruth

VOICES OF CHANGE

YOUNG VOICES, BIG IDEAS: REKINDLE'S DUNDEE PIONEERS LEAD THE WAY

What happens when a group of young Dundonians come together to imagine a different kind of education?

Since autumn, our Dundee Youth Pioneers have been shaping what Rekindle could become in Scotland - exploring local life, education and the kind of youth-led space Dundee really needs.

They spoke about the need for more inclusive and adaptable learning, better mental health support and opportunities to learn practical life skills alongside academic subjects. Conversations have highlighted a shared desire for schools that recognise individuality, promote equality and encourage young people to define their own routes to success.



“

Charli [Dundee Programme Coordinator] and I have been blown away by the level of compassionate critical thinking demonstrated by these incredible young people. Using their empathy and creativity to mould and shape a joyful, safe space for youngsters in Dundee. Their positive energy is utterly infectious!”

- Nika Muthra-Shah,
Programme Director

[READ MORE](#)



MEET OUR NEW DUNDEE YOUTH PIONEERS

You've seen what they've been up to so far, now find out a little more about the fantastic young people bringing their diverse lived experiences from different areas and Dundee schools.

Their work with Nika Muthra-Shah (Programme Director) and Charli Perkins (Dundee Programme Coordinator) will lay the groundwork for shaping an after school provision that best serves Scotland.



Henry, 17- Nigerian born Henry moved to Scotland in 2023 in the middle of his secondary education. In his sixth year of high school, he is studying advanced higher maths and physics which are not offered at his school. He would like to improve access to subjects and activities for young people who may not have the postcode advantage while working on his own confidence and building relationships in Dundee.

Beth, 16 - As a young carer, Beth recognises that the education system is unsympathetic to the needs of young people who need to adjust their learning experience. She has advocated for the cut services that she and other carers relied on in school through letter writing campaigns. She does not want young people to feel like they do not deserve an education due to their personal circumstances and would like to develop a curriculum that adapts to everyone's economic backgrounds and stories.



Reive, 19 - While entering her first year at university studying Social Sciences, Reive has joined Rekindle to create a support network for teenagers who experience anxiety in the existing system-and are facing dangerous challenges outside of school-to help them feel safe and excited to go to a place of learning.

VOICES OF CHANGE



Owen, 18 - Beginning his Community Education degree this year, Owen believes grassroots work is needed to thrive in a failing education system. He wants to facilitate a safer, cleaner and friendly environment for his wonderful community. Owen is already involved in a number of mental health projects working with young people and the LGBTQ+ youth, and published a fictional book focused on mental health.

Ikraam, 16 - After moving to Scotland when he was nine months old, Ikraam grew up in the Scottish education system but he wishes school explored stories from around the world, and not just the UK. He would like to encourage learning about other countries and create an atmosphere of fun while learning.



RK, 16 - Whilst creating a video educating teachers on young people's experiences of school, A has been encouraged to continue this work to improve teacher training in areas focused on mental health, trauma informed approaches and experiences in care. After volunteering in a local nursery with the goal of supporting children who need alternative methods of learning, they have begun studying Childcare in college this year.

Travis, 18 - As a passionate advocate for improving the education system for children with additional support, Travis decided to join Rekindle's Youth Pioneer team. Having personal experience of this, Travis aims to improve understanding for teachers and support young people to embrace what makes them different. He now works as a Primary Early Years Support Assistant.



Robyn, 23 - A fashion designer celebrating the Scottish working class identity and a representative for her local area in Dundee, Robyn is a creative force who wishes to shape a space where young people do not need to fit into a specific mould to succeed. She values creativity, self-expression, and giving young people the tools to define their own path.



RE-ROOTING GREATER MANCHESTER: YOUNG VOICES AT THE HEART OF HALF-TERM – REKINDLE AND ROOTS

This October half-term, Rekindle is teaming up with sister organisation The Roots Programme to host Re-Rooting Greater Manchester - a 3 day youth conference in central Manchester for 13-16 year olds.

At its heart, the gathering is about young people interrogating Greater Manchester's present and re-imagining its future through their eyes. Across the three days, young participants will dig into the issues shaping their lives in Greater Manchester - from inequality and prejudice to education, community and the environment.



Sessions are built to be accessible, with a focus on creativity and collaboration. Alongside facilitated discussions, we'll be working with a local artist to visually capture ideas as they unfold. Joining us will be Manchester born Liv Clarke - former RECLAIM alumna and proud social activist - whose work demonstrates the power of youth voice in action.

Re-Rooting Manchester is as much about sparking imagination as it is about sparking action. Bringing Rekindle and Roots together for this event reflects an exciting step towards deeper collaboration, as both organisations continue to champion critical thinking, curiosity, connection, compassion and community.

A few last spaces are still available - if you know a young person who'd like to take part, the application deadline is 5pm, Friday 24th October.

GET INVOLVED



TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT - MEET AUBREY RODGERS

From grassroots sport to financial services, Aubrey Rogers has always been rooted in community.

Now a Rekindle trustee, he reflects on the moments that shaped his path - from experiencing bias in his early education to finding lifelong role models in his parents and teachers. Aubrey shares why critical thinking, opportunity and questioning the status quo matter so deeply to him, and what excites him most about Rekindle's mission today.



[READ AUBREY'S INTERVIEW](#)

MEET JOSH EYAKWARE: CREATIVE EDUCATOR, WRITER AND PERFORMER



Josh brings words to life in classrooms and on stages. As part of our team in Tulse Hill, his work fuses creativity, education and self-expression - inspiring young people to find their voices and tell their own stories.

In our latest interview, Josh shares what drives him, how spoken word can unlock confidence in young people, and why creativity has the power to connect us all.

[READ JOSH'S INTERVIEW](#)

THE VOICES OF SOUTH LONDON: THE STORY BEGINS



Now a few weeks in, The Voices of South London is buzzing with energy at Rekindle Tulse Hill.

The project brings together young people aged 11–14 to explore life in South London through creativity, collaboration and film. At its heart, it gives them a platform to share their stories, dreams and perspectives. What do they want for their future? How do they define their identity and sense of belonging in a multicultural city like London?

The first sessions have been packed with ideas, from dreaming up film concepts (including one hopeful cameo from Stormzy!) to team building challenges and plenty of laughter. Games and activities have also created spaces to explore themes like class, culture, and belonging.

Each week builds towards a short film that reclaims the South London story, to be shared with family and community members at a December screening.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



SKATEBOARDS, SPRAY PAINT AND SELF-EXPRESSION AT REKINDLE LONDON

Spray paint, acrylics and imagination filled the art rooms in Tulse Hill at the beginning of October as young people created their own skateboard art.

With guidance from SOLDIER - a multidisciplinary artist whose work explores identity, belonging and critique - supported by Mission 44. A celebration of creativity and self-expression at its best.



It has literally made one of her dreams come true!"

- Parent of young participant

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



A CELEBRATION OF YOUTH CREATIVITY: YOU'RE INVITED



We're excited to invite you to Is This Art?

Over the past year, the young people at our Manchester school have been exploring the intersections of art, technology and AI. This special evening brings their work to life through art installations, spoken word, music and live discussion - all asking bold questions about the future and what it means to be human today.

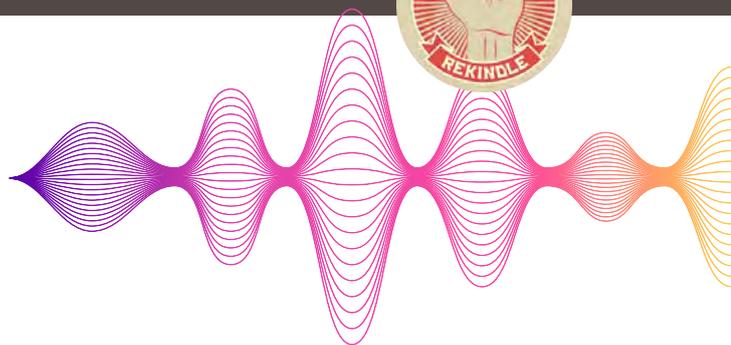


It's incredible to see how young people are using creativity and technology not just to express themselves, but to explore what our shared future could look like."

-Alieh Amuntung, Programme Manager Manchester.

The event is **free and family-friendly**, with food and refreshments included - but booking is essential.

BOOK YOUR SPOT



A NEW RHYTHM RISING: SOUNDS OF SOUTH MANNY

As October's exhibition draws last year's programmes to a close, our next Manchester programme, Sounds of South Manny, carries that same spirit into new forms.

Inspired by the Rekindling Nello James project and the legacy of community activism, the project invites young people (aged 11–14) in Hulme & Moss Side to explore their own stories through music, lyric writing and audio-making. Starting in November and over six weeks they'll collaborate, experiment and produce work that reflects both their creativity and their community.

Our Creative Educator, Demerece Green (pictured), has been busy spreading the word about the programme in local secondary school assemblies and inspiring a wave of interest from local students keen to take part.

Accessible, free, and rooted in youth voice

Sounds of South Manny reflects Rekindle's belief that young people shouldn't just be participants and observers of culture - they are the creators and changemakers shaping it.

If you know someone who might be interested, please share the programme link with them.



SHARE WITH A YOUNG PERSON

THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF REKINDLING NELLO JAMES: A POWERFUL BEGINNING

Project Manager Bianca Danielle, shares reflections from our community launch event at Kath Locke Centre.

On the 13th September, we launched Rekindling Nello James (RNJ) at the Kath Locke Centre in Hulme, Manchester. This 12 month community-led project aims to preserve the voices, culture and radical spirit of African and Caribbean communities across South Manchester.

The event brought the local community together for a vibrant day of archive film, shared voices and celebration. In her first blog for RNJ, Bianca shares reflections on what it meant to bring history and lived experience together.



Such an exciting project, when I was invited I didn't know I would meet up with so many of my own community ... it was nice that this day celebrated us."

- Community member at the launch

READ BIANCA'S FULL BLOG WITH PHOTOS AND REFLECTIONS



YOU'RE INVITED: STORIES OF NELLO JAMES - A COMMUNITY STORYTELLING GATHERING



Saturday 29 November | 11am–3pm | Rekindle School, Hulme

After the energy of our September launch, the next chapter of Rekindling Nello James invites the community to take centre stage.

We're calling on anyone with memories, photos or artefacts from the Nello James Centre in Whalley Range and those who want to learn more, to come and share their stories at this special gathering - a day of collective remembering, reflection and celebration.

With food, music and conversation inspired by the era of the centre itself, this event marks the beginning of a living archive that will be held at the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Trust, preserving these vital histories for future generations.

[BOOK YOUR TICKET](#)

COMMUNITY CARE

AT THE TABLE IN STOKE-ON-TRENT

As part of the ongoing series of Community Conversations, The Roots Programme recently joined their friends, All the Small Things CIC, in Stoke to co-host a discussion at YMCA North Staffordshire during and after their monthly community meal.

The room brought together an eclectic mix of around 40 residents of all ages and backgrounds and followed Roots' 'Keep, Scrap, Reimagine' model - helping residents think about changes they want to see, what they value, and what needs rethinking.



After the meal, residents spoke with honesty about life in Stoke - the pride in its heritage, the challenges facing Hanley's town centre and the desire to preserve the close-knit feel of its six towns. Frustrations were voiced about issues such as crime, transport and housing, but also ideas shared for how the community could come together to create positive change. The value of the regular community meal in bringing people together was widely acknowledged.

The community meal also welcomed around 75 members of ASHA, a local organisation supporting asylum seekers. The topic of immigration surfaced naturally - reflecting the realities and conversations shaping the city and how communities can stay connected and compassionate amid change.

The conversation was open, honest and grounded in everyday realities, capturing exactly what these gatherings aim for - real people and authentic, brave dialogue and a sense of connection that extends beyond the room.

The reflections gathered in Stoke will help shape how Roots continues to grow across the UK - echoing Rekindle's commitment to learning from lived experience and putting community voice at the heart of change.

Information contributed by Clare Richardson, Creative Lead at The Roots Programme



STANDING TOGETHER: REKINDLE JOINS ROOTS AT SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY'S EDI DAY.

Another powerful example of Roots and Rekindle in action - this time at Sheffield Wednesday Football Club's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Day.

The teams facilitated workshops with local pupils on race, identity and allyship, exploring fairness, respect and what it really means to stand up for others.

The collaboration grew from Roots' new programme exploring connection through the lens of sport, and reflects the shared values that also underpin Rekindle Foundation's anti-racist teacher training. It's a reminder of how shared principles can come to life wherever people meet.



[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

ANTI-RACIST TEACHER TRAINING

Part of the Rekindle Foundation's work is developing an Anti-Racist Teacher Training Programme for educational settings.

Racism and social divisions remain deeply rooted, and schools play a vital role in shaping how young people understand difference. This programme will support teachers to reflect on their own perspectives and develop practical, inclusive approaches to anti-racist education.

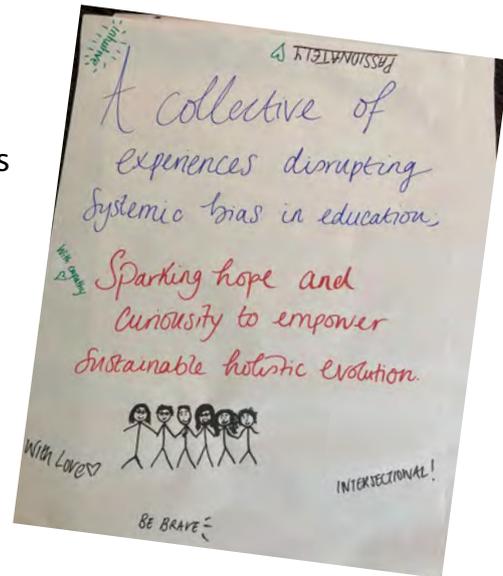
Crucially, we want this to be co-created with young people, families, and educators, the programme reflects real experiences. So if you'd like to get involved contact ellie@rekindleschool.org for a chat.



18 MONTHS OF INQUIRY: REKINDLE'S FIRST RESEARCH COHORT CONCLUDES

Over the last 18 months, Rekindle has supported six extraordinary first-time researchers to challenge the status quo of 'how we do things here' in schools - asking bold questions and answering them with care, creativity and courage. [Click here to watch highlights from the event.](#)

When the researchers first met in May 2024, they set out a shared vision for change that has since taken shape through six deeply personal projects, each exploring a different lens on what transformation in education can look and feel like. Together, their projects paint a vivid picture of what education could be: a system built to heal, not harm; to listen rather than label; and to truly serve everyone it touches.



Now, as we share their findings and final reports, we pause to celebrate what they've achieved and ask: what have we learned from this first phase and what comes next?

BELONGING AS A HUMAN RIGHT AND A KEY DRIVER FOR POSITIVE CHANGE



Finty Royle's Fostering Belonging in Schools combined research, storytelling and game design to show that young people's sense of belonging matters profoundly. Her work demonstrated that inclusion can be designed with purpose, and that belonging is not a bonus, but the foundation for thriving.

AN INTERSECTIONAL LENS GIVES CLARITY & DEPTH OF UNDERSTANDING



In The Intersectional Experience of Education, Pal Patel explored how overlapping identities shape young people's experience of education and perspectives. Her research calls for new practice that begins with intersectional understanding and builds support around what emerges from those conversations.

CHALLENGING THE STATUS QUO

THE VALUE OF YOUTH VOICE IN SCHOOL DECISION MAKING



Aaron Hipgrave-Lewis's [Book of Youth Voice](#) challenged schools to become spaces where students help to shape their own futures. Blending history, activism and practice, he reframed youth voice as a right, and an impactful necessity: a route back to connection for a generation too often unheard.

DREAMING OF NEW SYSTEMS OF CARE



Melanie Da Silva Pinto's [Dreams on the Education System](#) reimagined school as a place where care is not an add-on but a foundation. Through workshops, storytelling and proposed solutions, Mel explored how kindness, safety and dignity can transform lives, reframing care as a radical framework for justice as much as wellbeing.

CHALLENGING INHERITED LIMITS



In her study of [Aspiration, Confidence and Cultural Capital](#), Melisa Hida focused on the subtle hierarchies that shape who feels 'worthy' for higher education. From teacher expectations to hidden class codes, Melisa explores how confidence and opportunities are distributed unequally and can be rebuilt through community, mentorship and belief.

BUILDING A HOME FOR VOICES



Through film, sound and digital storytelling, Owen Mitchell built a [Home for Heard Voices](#) - offering a growing refuge where stories are welcome: a living archive and act of care in itself, holding experiences with dignity and warmth.

To our 2024–25 researchers - and the volunteer academics who guided them – thank you. Your work reflects Rekindle's spirit of courage, imagination and care.

As we welcome the next cohort, Phase Two will explore what mainstream education can learn from the supplementary school model - continuing to spark transformation across the system. Watch this space!

STAY UP TO DATE

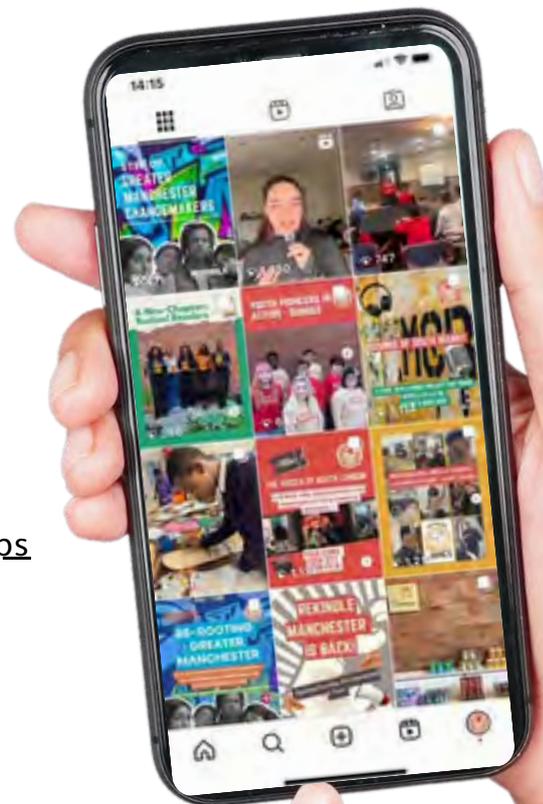
REKINDLE ONLINE: STORIES, EVENTS, UPDATES & MORE

Follow the latest news and updates from Rekindle School, Rekindle Foundation, and Rekindling Nello James.

Join the journey as we build soulful education and stronger communities. Click the icons below to find us online - we'd love to have you with us.



Rekindling Nello James -
Upcoming Events & Workshops
rekindlingnellojames.org/events-workshops



REKINDLE

General Enquiries

hello@rekindleschool.org

Volunteering

Cara Kennedy

Community and Partnership Lead

cara@rekindleschool.org

Funding

Tariq Shabazz

Funding and Sustainability Lead

tariq@rekindleschool.org

Nominations

Rory Dickinson

National Head of Learning

rory@rekindleschool.org

Press

Nika Muthra-Shah

Programme Director

press@rekindleschool.org

Rekindle Manchester
St Mary's Courtyard
St Mary's St, Hulme
Manchester
M15 5WB

Rekindle London
Oasis St Martin's Village
155 Tulse Hill
London
SW2 3UP