



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

April 1st 2021 - March 30th 2022

Chris Hellowell

Overview

This year saw the beginnings of the return of 'normal' for ETL and the wider world. We still felt the effects of the pandemic, particularly in the workshops, but we adapted and implemented changes as the world gradually opened up. It was a particularly encouraging year for the library, seeing the membership numbers recover from the pandemic, and people feeling comfortable to share again. We were able to open up the open sessions in a controlled manner, and restart our outreach programme, focussing on taking the workshop to the groups, rather than bringing them into our enclosed workshop spaces.

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HEADLINE FIGURES

Financial year 2021-2022

- Members completed **5938** unique loans
- This equates to an estimated **£240,000+ saving for members** compared to the cost of buying the same tools
- **43.4tons** of CO2 was saved by members in total (driving an average car round the world 43 times!)
- These figures are a **68% increase** on the previous 12 months (but still **20% down** on the last pre-pandemic year)
- The average active library member saves **over £365** compared to buying the tools they borrowed

HUMAN RESOURCES

Staff updates and changes

We had some comings and goings with staff during the 2021-22 year. Alice McGillicuddy moved back to the USA in February 2022 after doing some fabulous work during a very strange time to join the organisation. We were fortunate to be able to directly replace her in a job share between two of our volunteer group, James King and Joe Buckley, who brought with them fantastic woodworking and fabrication skills. They both took part time roles and we were delighted to be able to welcome them into the group.

We also recruited two new staff member through the Community Jobs Scotland scheme from SCVO, Gabe Gardiner and Rosie Sinclair. Gabe had been one of the young people supported through our Tools For Life programme, and we were delighted to be able to turn this into a paid role. Rosie was the amazing volunteer who we worked with on the Edinburgh Mask Makers project during the pandemic, and we were delighted to be able to recruit her. At time of writing, the funding for CJS has been cut, but we have been able to keep Rosie on the staff team, and Gabe is still part of our volunteer community.

Janet had a second little one, and took maternity leave, allowing us to give more hours to Terence Finnegan, who had been working for us on a freelance basis.



Alice anoints her successors

Volunteers

On the board, we saw Cathal Hone move on with our best wishes after 3 years of sterling service, and welcomed Louise Cardani and John Wallace (Treasurer) to the trustees to support us in our accounting and reporting duties. Whilst adding valuable professional skills, they are both very creative people - they get the importance of creative outlets to the all round health of our community.

Our team of over 50 volunteers stepped back in to deliver many of our services, once covid restrictions allowed. There was lots of training and retraining undertaken, and many new faces joining and feeling the tooligan vibe. As always, we couldn't do what we do without volunteers, contributing what is effectively two members of full time staff every week. They managed our library, ran workshops sessions, helped us with graphic design, data handling, building

things, upgrading spaces, stepped up at community events, gave up their spare time to make ETL the groundbreaking trailblazing thing it is. That makes such a difference. If you are reading this and feel an inclination to get involved, contact cecile@edinburghtoolibrary.org.uk



Volunteers at a volunteer assembly build

THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED

COP 26 Announcement

COP 26 took place in Glasgow in November 2021, and the Scottish Government and Zero Waste Scotland [announced support](#) for a joint proposal from Circular Communities Scotland, The Edinburgh Remakery, and ETL to fund a [Scottish](#)

[Share and Repair Network](#) to support the proliferation of sharing library and repair cafe models across Scotland, with the target of 100 such organisations working across the country within 3 years. ETL was active in pushing for this additional support, and involved in the recruitment process for new staff for the network, and we will be taking active ongoing role in developing the network, passing on our knowledge and experience from starting the first sharing library of any kind in the UK.

Meadowbank Tool Library

We successfully applied to [Place for People](#) take over an empty unit in the Meadowbank/Lochend area of the city, approximately half a mile from our unit on Spey Street Lane. This is on a rent free basis for 2 years, saving ETL around £3k a year, and more importantly, putting sharing libraries in a more prominent location. No longer are we a back street secret! The move into the building was financially supported by funding from [Travis Perkins](#), and in kind help from [Novus](#) to make the space accessible, versatile, usable and beautiful.



Volunteers celebrating the move in at Meadowbank Tool Library in March 2022

Yard Sale

We had our first 'Yard Sale', inspired by Alice's childhood experiences back in America. Volunteers pitched in over the course of a weekend and we raised £2789 selling giving excess tools yet another life!



A well earned celebratory refreshment at our Yard Sale

Volunteer Wellbeing pack

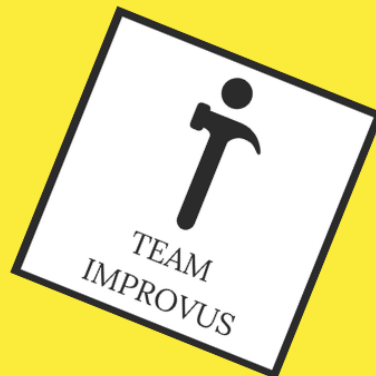
Thanks to a small piece of funding from the Tudor Trust, we were able to develop a Volunteer Wellbeing Pack, to welcome, support and maintain our volunteers (maintenance isn't just for tools!). As well as the pack itself, containing procedures, tips, tricks and signposting, we also hosted a variety of events for volunteers to work on their personal wellbeing, as well as setting aside money for coaching and counseling services.



PROJEKT42

**THE PARTNERS
WHO SUPPORT OUR
VOLUNTEERS WELLBEING**

WTBK



Partnership with Music Broth

We began a partnership with [Music Broth](#), a Glasgow-based charity which works in a similar way as ETL, but with musical instruments. As their loans are for months rather than days, they were able to use ETL as a base for the distribution of instruments in Edinburgh and travel through once a month to deliver and receive their instruments.



Some people still haven't worked out the difference between ETL and Music Broth

Volunteer Assemblies

Our Volunteer Assembly programme restarted in September after it's covid delays. At the September event volunteers decided to do weekend builds for Parson's Green Primary School and Granton Hub. 40 people helped out on the two volunteer builds.

We ran a second event in January which selected projects by Bridgend Farmhouse and Lauriston Farm, which took place in April (so tune in to the next AGM to find out about them!)

The graphic features the Edinburgh Tool Library logo (a circular emblem with a hammer and wrench) and the text "Volunteer Assembly Selected Project 2021" next to a gold medal ribbon. Below this is a collage of photos showing the school's outdoor area before and after a volunteer build. The text "Parson's Green Primary" is written in large, stylized yellow letters with a pink outline across the center of the collage. The word "Before" is centered under the left half of the collage, and "After" is centered under the right half.

Before and After photos from Parson's Green Primary School



Benches for Granton Hub

Workshops and Outreach Reopening

Having restricted access to the workshops over the pandemic, this year marked the return to people using our workshop spaces. Initially we had volunteers coming in pairs to make things for charity groups (little free libraries for example), then we implemented a new system of booking using Eventbrite, which allowed us to limit numbers in the spaces, as well as maintaining safe numbers. We also trained up volunteers to do many of the safety inductions to respond to the huge demand for people using the workshops. We not only had to induct new members, but as it had been a year and a half since other members had been in our workshops, we also had to retrain them too.

Volunteers inducted 221 members to safely use our workshops (in only 9 months)



The 'banana library' made for the Banana Flats

100 Planters w/ Edible Estates

We partnered with Edible Estates to make 100 planters in 2 months with people in Leith so they could create their own little growing spaces.



Leithers making planters

Community Outreach

Our community outreach started up again in February 2021 and continued throughout the year, although with restrictions about numbers and settings. We worked mainly outside with our groups, delivering long term interventions with a variety of groups in the city including Rowan Alba, The Thistle Centre,, LGBT Youth Scotland, The Citadel, Saheliya, Granton Community Garden and Social Bite amongst many others.



Building a community workshop at The Thistle Centre



Residents at Rowan Alba enjoying an outdoor bench made by the ETL team

Our Nailing It! Project restarted, working with groups of marginalised and disadvantaged women around the city, as did our Women and Non-binary Makers sessions.



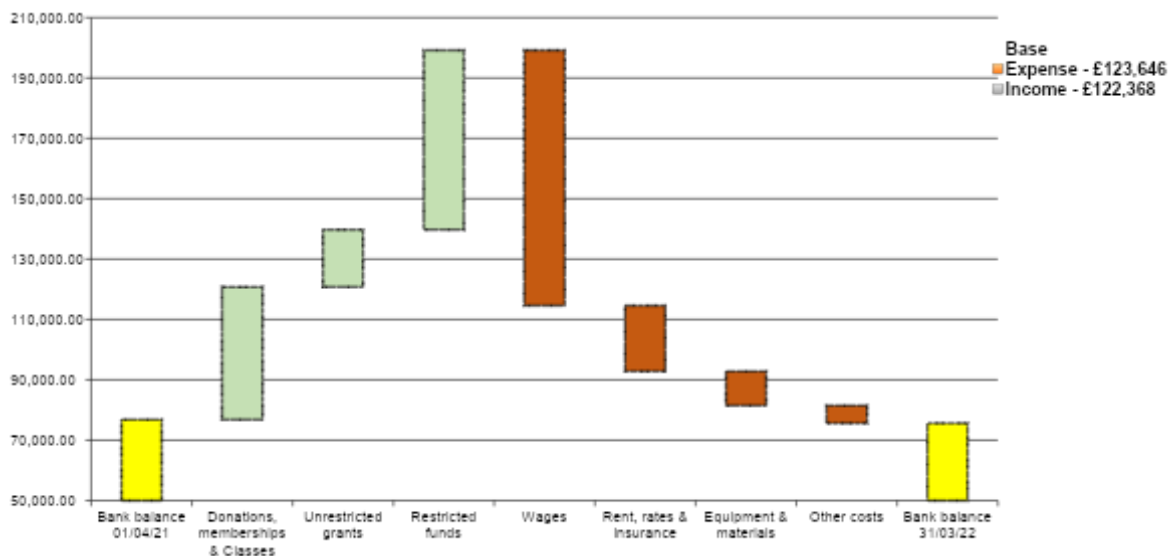
Nailing It! worked with the Saheliya's community to build a garden in their car park for their children to learn about growing

FINANCES

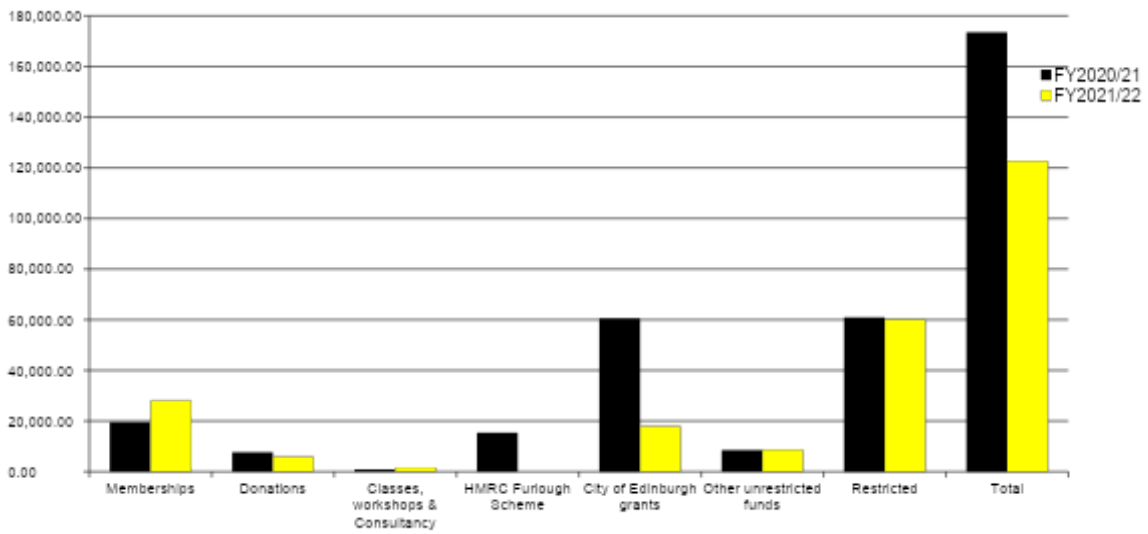
Annual Accounts FY 2021-22

- Receipts and payments accounts for the year ending 31 March 2022 accounts are in final stages of preparation.
- Thanks again to our Independent Examiner, Claire Love.
- Accounts will be submitted to OSCR by 31 December 2022, subject to approval at the AGM.
- Thanks to the board
- Thanks to Louise in particular for her tremendous support
- As mentioned previously the ETL began opening up more freely and this has had an impact on the finances. This makes comparing year on year difficult.
- A massive on-going thanks to all our funders throughout the year and of course, to you, our members for your continued support of the ETL

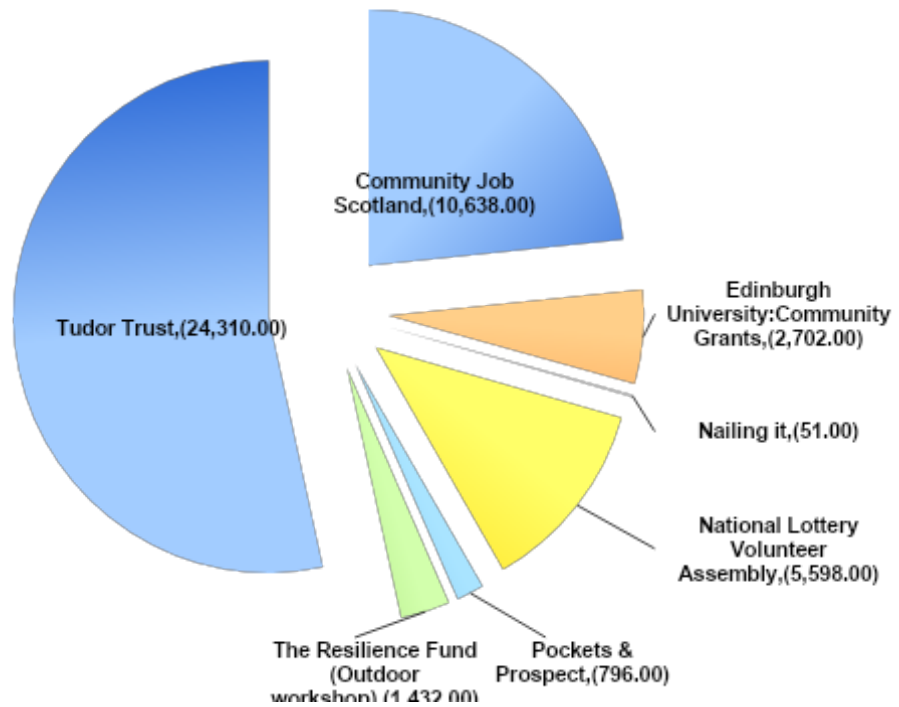
Receipts and payments FY2021-22



Year-on-year funding sources

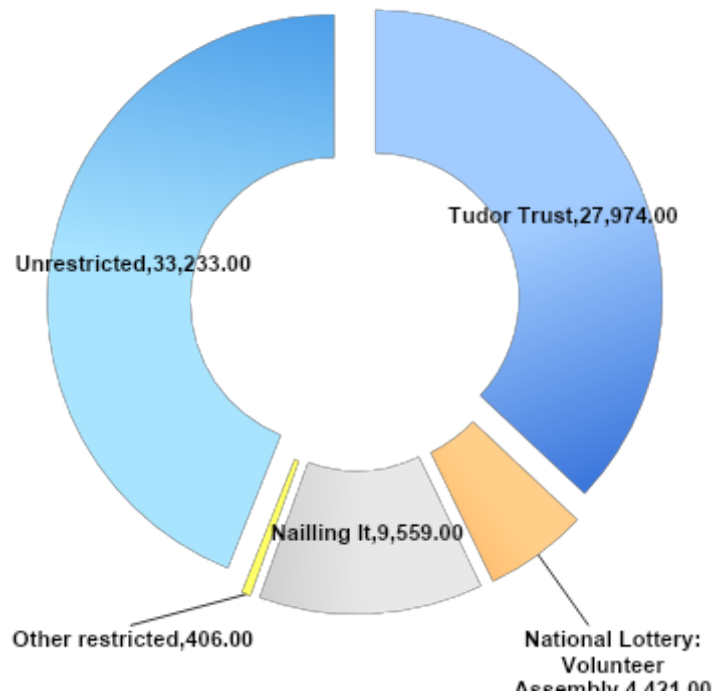


Restricted fund use in FY2021-22



- Restricted spend - £45,528
- Unrestricted spend - £78,118
- Total spend in year - £123,646

Cash balance at 31st March 2022



- Total cash balance = £75,594