



# transition Stirling

Share and Repair 2018 - 2020



**TRANSITION STIRLING IS**  
**AN ENVIRONMENTAL CHARITY**  
**FOCUSING ON**  
IMPROVING AWARENESS OF,  
AND PROVIDING A POSITIVE  
LOCAL RESPONSE TO  
**CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**IN AND AROUND STIRLING**

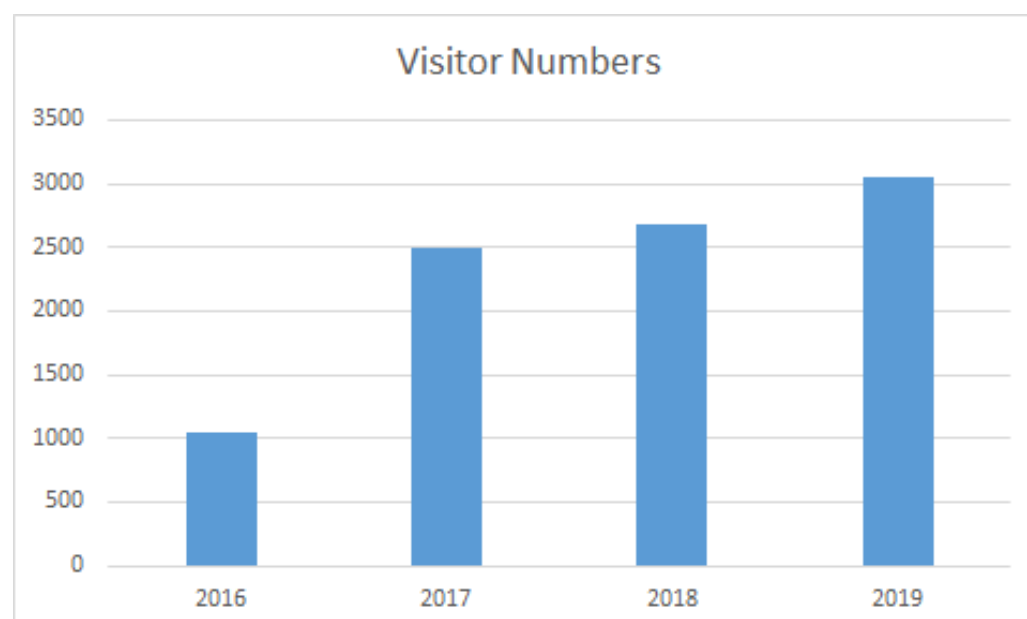


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# HEADLINE ACHIEVEMENTS

- 5427 visits to the tool library
- 3900 hours given by volunteers
- Carbon emissions reduced by 95 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e lifetime emissions
- 4896 tools loaned
- 6.9 tonnes items repaired
- 86 repair cafes and workshops held
- 437 workshop participants



# STARTING POINT

Before the project started, we had already successfully established our tool library, lending a range of equipment to people so that they didn't need to buy things they only use so often. We had also set up a repair service, fixing items that people were likely to send to the bin. Some repair cafes had been held where volunteers and staff taught participants how to repair their own things. Workshops on growing, cooking, foraging, sewing and mending textiles and furniture upcycling, and a couple of film screenings raising awareness of climate change had been held. All these activities were particularly popular with member and participants numbers increasing rapidly.

In a previous CCF project, finishing in 2016 when we started the tool library, we had run a wood reuse scheme. This taught participants how to build things out of waste wood. The project was really popular, but unfortunately had to come to an end, and no other organisation had replaced the activities, at least none that were open for women to participate in.

A member came to us with the idea of selling pallet kits – Ikea style flat-packed goods, such as coffee tables or raised beds. These would be built teaching volunteers skills in wood-working and sold to customers, reducing barriers to people wanting to make fashionable pallet furniture. We put out a survey to our members to find if this was something they would be interested in and used their feedback to refine the project idea for the CCF application.

Feedback showed us that members were really keen to build this furniture themselves, but were put off by the aspects they found less enjoyable – breaking the pallets down and sanding them. To help us with this we purchased a planer-sander which took a lot of the work out of sanding. We then decided to sell the sanded planks of wood as a product in itself.

We were concerned that for rural communities, it can be too far to travel to Stirling for repair cafes for one broken item that would be easier to dispose of. We hoped they would be more willing to learn the skills if repair cafes were more local. Our survey showed that 93% of respondents in the consultation from rural areas said they would attend a repair café if it were held locally. By having more of a presence in the rural areas we would be able to better promote the tool library and reach more people in additional communities across Stirlingshire. We also wanted to be able to show more people repair skills by reaching more in the community by holding them more regularly.

The outcomes we were funded to deliver were:

- Carbon emissions will be reduced by 148 tonnes lifetime savings as our community reduces the amount of waste produced through our tool library, repair café, workshops and wood reuse scheme.
- Carbon emissions will be reduced by 255.5 tonnes lifetime savings as we raise awareness in our community of a more sustainable diet with lower carbon emissions through workshops.
- Carbon literacy and awareness of climate change issues will be increased in our community by engaging 225 people through running 15 events and 36 people through running climate conversations.

# OUTCOMES

All our outcomes were partially delivered:

1. Carbon emissions were reduced by 70.7 tonnes lifetime savings as our community reduced the amount of waste produced through our tool library, repair café, workshops and wood reuse scheme.

- We loaned an average of 204 tools per month
- We repaired an average of 117kg items per month
- We helped our community gain skills in repairing their own items through:
  - 12 repair cafes that repaired an average of 49kg per repair café
  - A series of one-to-one IT repair sessions through which participants repaired 40.8kg of IT devices
  - 18 sewing and mending workshops, as a result of which participants went on to repair an average of 4.8kg per workshop
  - 17 furniture upcycling workshops as a result of which we estimate 4.6 tonnes of furniture was upcycled
- We ran workshops to show people how to build furniture and raised beds with reclaimed wood, and sold items made with waste wood totalling 719kg

2. Carbon emissions were reduced by 23 tonnes lifetime savings as we raised awareness in our community of a more sustainable diet with lower carbon emissions through:

- 14 workshops with 106 participants on growing food so people learn to grow their own food instead of buying it with a higher carbon footprint
- 10 workshops with 68 participants on cooking food to make best use of the food participants have grown themselves or foraged
- 12 workshops with 114 participants on foraging for food so people learn to make use of food available instead of buying it with a higher carbon footprint

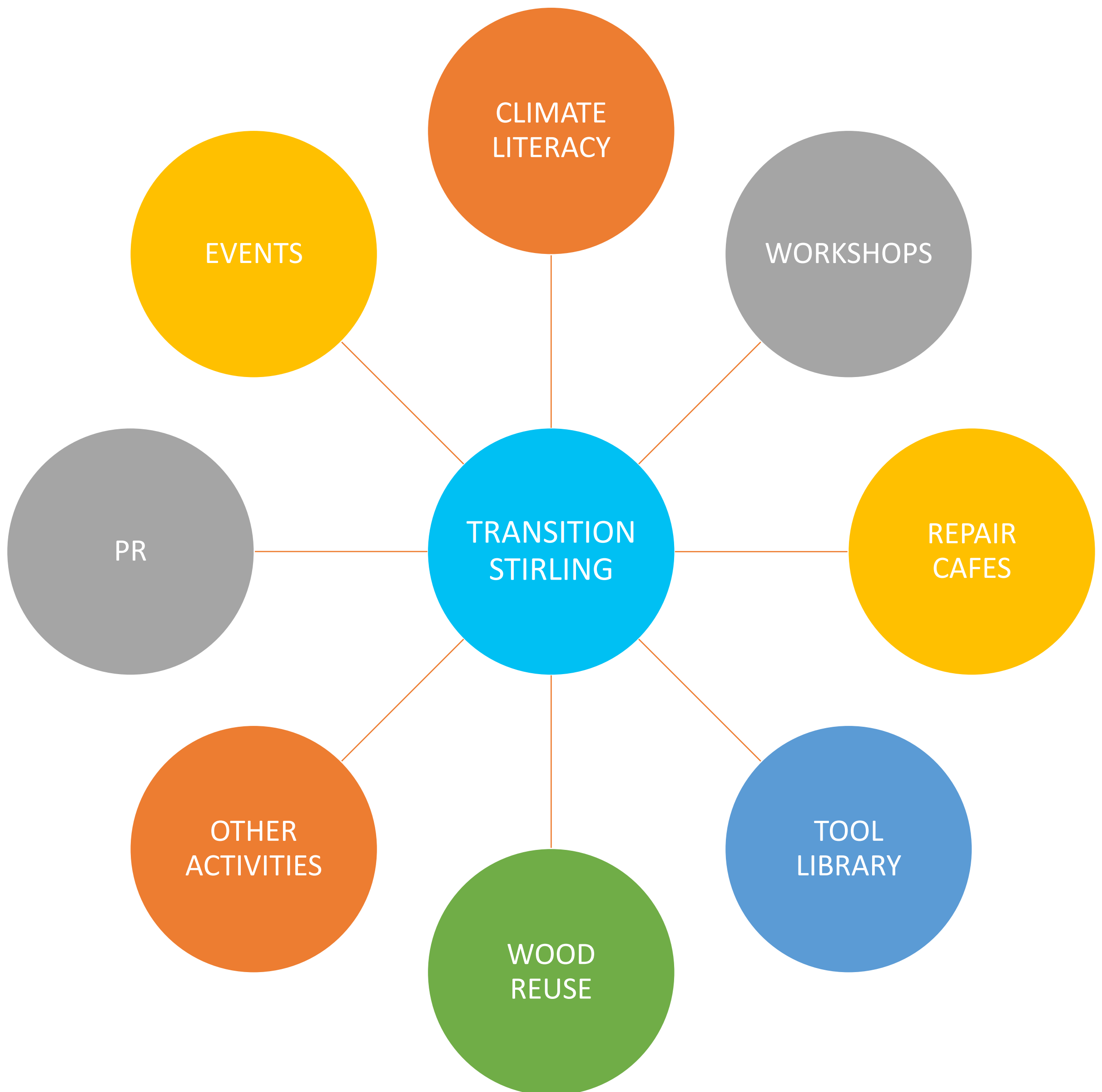
3. Carbon literacy and awareness of climate change issues were increased in our community by engaging 183 people through running 8 events and 10 people through running Carbon Conversations

- We raised awareness of climate change issues through 8 film screenings, including discussions and/or activities.
- We supported our volunteers to build their ability to communicate climate change issues to others in the community by facilitating the discussions and activities after the film screenings.
- Furthermore, we embedded climate change awareness raising in all our activities, ensuring that people were learning both about climate change as well as the skills their workshop is on, and how the more sustainable activities they are engaging in and learning skills in, will impact their carbon footprint.

Unexpected Outcome

- Surplus items sold through the tool library weighed 276.18kg. Their reuse resulted in carbon savings of 0.7 tonnes savings.

# ACTIVITIES & CLIMATE LITERACY



# FILM SCREENINGS

We ran 8 film screenings with 183 viewers.

We showed films on a wide range of topics, such as 'The True Cost, a film about the (fast) fashion industry'; 'Bikes Vs Cars' which discussed the cycling infrastructure across many countries with a discussion afterwards with representatives from a number of active travel organisations; 'Just Eat It', which followed a couple who were exposing supermarket food waste; 'The Vanishing of the Bees', which looked into the decline of the bee population and the causes of this. This particular film was a few years old but we had a bee keeper along to update us. This was the most engaging discussion and we could easily have gone on another couple of hours just chatting with him! The film screenings were a great way to disseminate information to a large number of people and have an in-depth discussion after the film.

The wide range of films allowed climate and environmental issues to be approached in a variety of ways, such as individual behaviour, national and governmental behaviours and the direct and secondary results of the decisions we make as consumers. To find panellists and organise activities we recruited volunteers. One of our volunteers, Jon, had attended facilitator training and delivered Carbon Conversations sessions, so used this to run activities before or after films to engage people further on the topics. Zoe worked at SEPA and wanted to get involved in something she cares about.

A film is nothing without snacks. Therefore, we always provide seasonal and low carbon fruit and snacks wherever possible – in winter we may have more crisps than fruit, it must be said. There is usually an announcement about the food before the film. The informal nature of the screenings makes everybody comfortable to open up and discuss the content, and having an expert there guides the discussion and keeps it relevant and accurate.

## FEEDBACK

- *Unexpected food (snacks). Learning about palm oil and how it's not truly sustainable. Discussion at the end.*
- *Mainly, I have learned (become open to the fact) that people ARE involved in Stirling. Something, if you are not "really" in the bubble is hard to notice sometimes. I will become more involved.*
- *Many ideas, more knowledge about the green washing*
- *Looking forward to future events! Well presented, personal and engaging without excluding.*
- *The chat from the beekeeping man - Barry was awesome! Very informative!*
- *Be more aware of local producers. Buy more seasonal food*





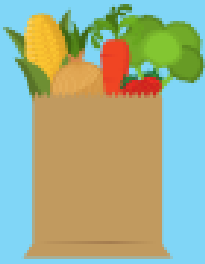
# CLIMATE LITERACY

We have been disseminating further information about climate change at workshops and created the following leaflet to raise awareness about the impact of dietary choices on climate change.

## TRANSITION STIRLING INFO: FOOD CHOICES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

EATING HEALTHILY, SEASONALLY AND ETHICALLY IS IMPORTANT FOR OUR HEALTH AND THE HEALTH OF OUR PLANET. FOOD AND FARMING IS ESTIMATED TO ACCOUNT FOR 1/3 OF THE UK'S CLIMATE FOOTPRINT.

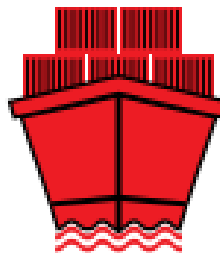
### EAT SEASONAL



Eating seasonally has a number of benefits. These include a reduction of unnatural agricultural practices such as force-growing fruit and vegetables. This reduces energy consumption during growing, transportation and storage. For example, winter strawberries are grown in a hot-house using fossil-fuel energy. This means the energy used can be up to 12 times that of seasonally grown strawberries.

### EAT LOCALLY

Eating locally reduces transport needs. This reduces air miles, shipping and trucking costs and associated emissions. Around 1/4 road freight is food. Less than 1/4 of the fruit and veg eaten in the UK is grown in the UK. Eating locally supports the local economy and producers. Check out Neighbourfood to order food from local producers.



### REDUCED MEAT AND DAIRY INTAKE



There are many positive benefits of reducing meat and dairy intake. For example red meat is not easily digested and has been linked to increased cases of cancer. Sufficient protein can be found in many non-dairy foods. While meat only provides 1/5 of the calories we eat or drink, 75% of global agricultural land is used for its production and meat and dairy production contributes 14.5% of global greenhouse gases- more than all forms of transport.

### WASTE LESS FOOD

A surprising amount of food is wasted in the UK every year. Some estimates put food waste throughout the food industry (from farm to fridge) at 1.9 million tonnes a year. 250 000 tonnes of this food is still edible. Decomposing food releases gases such as methane into the atmosphere. OLIO is a food sharing app which allows you to give food away to your community. Also a community fridge will soon be starting in Stirling, watch this space.



### EAT ORGANIC



Pesticides harm our wildlife and environment and add toxins to the food chain. Some harm bees and other pollinators which we rely on for our food. They can also affect the health of farm workers. Too much synthetic fertiliser can lead to pollution of local rivers and oceans with nitrogen, killing fish and plant life. Organic farmers don't use chemical fertilisers or pesticides, and farm using higher quality animal welfare practices. 40% of all antibiotic use in the UK is for farm animals. Eating organic meat means resistant strains of viruses don't develop as easily.

Your food choices impact your health and the health of the environment and the local economy. Next time you are in the supermarket check the origin of each product and check what is in season. If you are lucky enough to have a garden you can meet all the above by growing as much of your own as you can. More importantly you will taste the difference!

### Sources:

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Perkins, C. The Grocer. 17th Feb, 2017.  
Harvey, F. Guardian 16 Nov 2018.  
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[www.livelifewell.nsw.gov.au](http://www.livelifewell.nsw.gov.au); [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au)  
<https://fareshare.org.uk/what-we-do/hunger-food-waste/>

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# GROWING

We ran 14 gardening and growing workshops with a total of 106 participants.

Topics included composting, preparing raised beds for growing your own and pruning. Some of these workshops were not as well attended but those who did attend were very well engaged.

The last gardening workshop was amongst the best as it achieved so much. There was a hügelkultur bed made as well as mulching and preparing the beds for sowing later in the year. It was also good to return to the garden at the Cowane Centre over the course of the years to see the garden develop and become established. This garden has a number of talking points such as the companion planting, layered planting and raised beds. This garden is also great for showing the growing to cooking stages as it is attached to a community kitchen.

We also had a mini workshop at the launch of Riverside Naturally, where we sowed some seeds for the children to take away and look after. It was good to see such a large turnout at this event even though the weather wasn't great.

The main climate literacy points raised throughout these workshops were the air miles involved in foods, the impact on eating out of season (due to the resources needed to supply) and how a diverse garden is good for pollinators and wildlife. Water storage has also been demonstrated. Consistent feedback suggested how participants will use the knowledge gained in their own garden.

## FEEDBACK

- *I feel inspired to start gardening and growing things at home*
- *[I'll] research more re companion / antagonistic plants and guilds and see what will go in shaded spaces and well lit spaces.*
- *I'll have a look at how cold frames have progressed and making our own.*
- *all well presented, ideas welcome and very accessible to all abilities*
- *inspirational ideas, structures to include for community use*
- *learned you can grow quite a lot in a small space, pickling nasturtium seed pods, brambles without spikes, hairy bitter cress is edible! Pesto made out of nasturtiums*
- *being outside with the plants and talking with others about what we are doing*
- *how to manage disease control, how to prune fruit plants to encourage growth & help keep the plant healthy, how to separate a part of the plant to propagate*



# COOKING

We ran 10 cooking workshops with 68 participants.

The focus on these was to use seasonal and local ingredients. The aim was to make participants aware of the environmental benefits of using such foods, as well as sharing basic cooking skills and improving on existing ones.

One such workshop was the Potato cooking workshop. The idea was to highlight the versatility of the humble spud, and it was compared with other nutritionally similar produce, such as rice and pasta. Many participants were already aware of the difference in carbon of producing rice vs potatoes, but not the extent. Another great workshop was the one we did with Forth Valley College, showing some young students how to grow organic fruit and veg at Braehead Community Garden. They picked, prepared and cooked their crop. One student was very fussy with food, but she tasted some soup and loved it! Amongst the most popular cooking workshops were ones around vegan cooking, especially vegan baking. It is important for us to explain the values of a plant-based diet both for production methods and health benefits, but ensuring it isn't 'preachy' or 'shaming'.

We feel the balance was always right and what's more, the food was always great! Finally, as part of Foraging Fortnight we ran a workshop titled 'Cooking with Foraged Foods'. This was a very nice and relaxed workshop and it was great to have former events coordinator Claire come back and run this for us. Sadly it wasn't as well attended as hoped but gave a lot of scope to talk about the types of climate literacy mentioned above, namely local, seasonal and sustainable food preparation.



## FEEDBACK

- *Sara was very clear and specific about what she was doing so if one is new to cooking, they would learn a lot. For me having some experience, I did pick up a few new hints and ideas*
- *I think I will try to pay even more attention on how vegetables end up in my kitchen and support local producers*
- *we are going to sign up & buy a veg box from the neighbourfood stirling*
- *I am all round more inspired for experimenting in different ways with [cooking] foraged items I was already aware of and some new ones too.*
- *I will remember the principles of what I learned, especially in making the base*
- *I shall start baking vegan cakes*
- *It was fun, interesting event. Better than watching TV!*
- *Bake more with egg replacement.*
- *Use more veg/leftovers and make them into tasty meal.*

# FORAGING

We ran 12 foraging workshops with 114 participants.

The foraging workshops are amongst the most popular set of workshops we ran, especially the mushroom foraging one. It seems people are very glad to see such affordable workshops on this topic; most foraging workshops cost participants at least double what we charge. This means we can open up the wonderful world of foraging to a wider number of people.

Foraging is, by its very nature the most local, seasonal and sustainable type of food available. Of course, we always discuss the foraging guidelines to keep it sustainable (take only what you need, don't clear one area of the produce, check the environment for contamination and only use what you are 100% sure is safe, etc). We also hope that encouraging people to slow down and look at nature more closely it will help people to reconnect with it. If people are connected to and respect their environment, they will act more respectfully and see plants and trees in a different way. Indeed, some feedback we have received says as much.

Another very interesting workshop was the Medicinal Plant Foraging workshop. It was great to see how many local and abundant plants and trees have nutritional and medicinal properties. We had a group called Grass Roots Remedies run this one and they were great. Some people who had attended other foraging workshops were very happy to have attended this one with a different focus.



## FEEDBACK

- *Great knowledge and explanations! Learned loads!*
- *Making nettle teas and tinctures*
- *Learning to slow down.*
- *Brilliant experience. Fantastic guides and loads of information.*
- *All the information we were given about mushrooms and extra foraging tips when walking around. Enjoyed the tasting at the end too*
- *I would love to learn more and pass onto friends.*
- *Will definitely have a go at foraging in my local woodland.*
- *I'm Australian, this was my first foraging in Scotland*

# SEWING & MENDING TEXTILES

We ran 18 sewing workshops with 130 participants.

The focus of these workshops was to make everybody aware of the environmental need of recycling/upcycling scrap fabric and repairing clothes. During the workshops we would discuss the environmental impact of the textile industry, and therefore the importance of reusing as much as possible. Since these were meant to be fun, engaging and informal workshops, this was not the main focus.

The main focus was to show participants how easy and creative it can be to use scrap and off cut fabrics to make a variety of goods, such as cushion covers, bags and even reusable beeswax food wraps. We ran 3 workshops with a youth group in Drymen, which were very well attended and it was great to see a range of children aged between 10 and 14 getting so engaged in making things – one participant made a bag from an old T-shirt.

We have been asked back by the organisers as everybody concerned enjoyed it. By far, however, the most popular workshops were the Sewing Machine Basics ones. This opens up a wider world of recycling and upcycling textiles and one participant brought along his sail for his boat to repair and has subsequently repaired his friends' boat covers, sails and clothing.



## FEEDBACK

- *[I will] Help mum sew a button*
- *I didn't know how to sew or thread before.*
- *[I learnt] that not everything has to be perfect and patience and to change a needle*
- *How to thread a machine and different techniques, clever little tips.*
- *Amazing idea for great price*
- *Meeting people and problem solving*
- *[I'll] start a new theatrical costume for school.*
- *Lots of recycling ideas. Increased my confidence to try.*
- *nice, relaxed atmosphere and really helpful volunteers!*
- *I most enjoyed making a finished product*

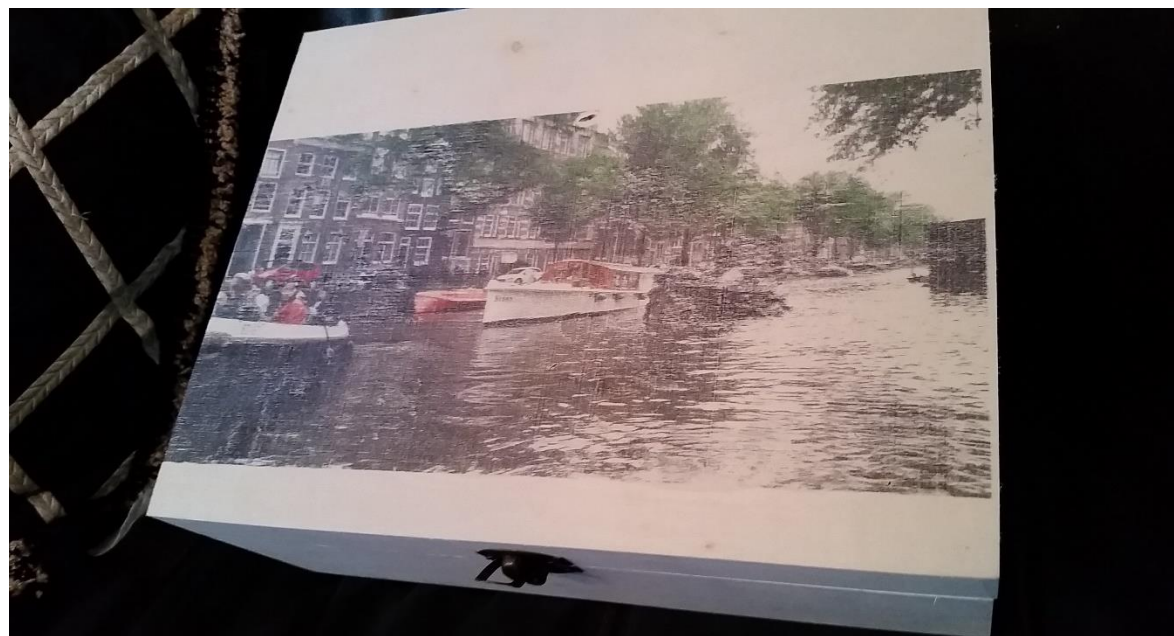


# FURNITURE UPCYCLING

We ran 17 furniture upcycling workshops with 119 participants.

The drive to running these workshops is to show participants how easy it can be and the variety open to them when giving an old piece of furniture a new lease of life. This means that instead of throwing away their furniture, they can upcycle it to fit into their home. This allows us to talk about the impact of waste and landfilling wood, metals and fabrics involved in disposing of furniture.

These workshops bring in a wide range of skills such as painting, stencilling, distressing and image transfer to name a few. This means that there is something in the workshop for everybody. These are the most popular workshops we run and we are often able to fill a class with the waiting list from the previous class.



## FEEDBACK

- *very friendly, helpful & informative. A good combination of supervision & letting you get on with it!*
- *I did some upcycling before but have learned so much I can't wait to go home & update my tools / decorations!*
- *Didn't know anything, now feel little informed and a lot enthused to explore this craft more*
- *Michaella, the instructor, was very open & helpful.*
- *To complete rest of my set of drawers.*
- *upcycle for my home and presents*
- *loved the workshop today, will recommend to everyone*
- *lots of techniques, products, ways of tackling issues*
- *Opportunity to try new things and builds confidence in trying out techniques*
- *Teach pupils and friends*
- *I am going to decorate furniture that a friend was going to dump*
- *my husband won't know what's hit him I'll be upcycling everything in the house. Next project upcycle my girls furniture.*
- *on future home furnishings & pass on to friends & family*



# REPAIR CAFES

We held 12 repair cafes with 182 visitors.

These events always have a lively atmosphere. Even the one we had for #TheBigFix2020 where the second of three big storms threatened us, the turnout was amazing. These workshops inspire many people to have a go at fixing their own items as they are taught diagnostic and fixing skills. There have been many garden shears sharpened and even a sickle. We also had a number of new volunteers help us out in sewing, woodworking repairs and 'front of house' welcoming participants.

The ethos of these events is to do as much as we can to repair people's items so they realise it is often not necessary to throw items away, thus reducing resource consumption. The feedback that we gather has always been positive about the social aspect of the event too. This is an important step to developing and increasing resilient communities. Another notable repair café was held at Braehead Community Gardens. This was primarily a sharpening workshop where a number of the garden's members learnt the required techniques to sharpen and maintain a wide range of garden tools.

In the following months we have run a number of other workshops there and it was encouraging to see this maintenance has been continuing.

## FEEDBACK

- *the patience to teach me, the friendship & kindness of Lyndsay, learning to do the repairing myself*
- *informal, competent, educational, more please!*
- *the people, volunteers and staff were very happy and helpful . The approach to learning*
- *the people are so helpful and explain very clearly on the workshop. The food was delicious*
- *I am now able to continue maintaining my garden & tools.*
- *Did you know there are electromagnets in toasters? I didn't!*
- *I'll definitely be more keen to try to open the electrics and at least try visually ascertain where the problem is.*
- *[I have the] Confidence to take apart vacuum cleaner in future if necessary.*
- *The team did a brilliant job dismantling and identifying broken components. They also found a replacement on Ebay which I will buy and bring into the tool library for replacement.*



# WOOD REUSE

We had a long delay before being able to set up our wood reuse workshop, but this didn't stop our scheme. Peter did a fantastic job of running wood reuse workshops for the local community and building items in situ, including a nursery, primary school, furniture at the university and raised beds at Zero Waste Scotland. He also built items for people to buy or borrow, from Christmas trees to bird boxes. When the workshop did open we began accepting volunteers to help build bespoke items requested from local businesses, including Thistles Shopping Centre who wanted furniture built for their "snug" – an area for visitors to come to relax that showcases different community groups in the area. For this we used waste pallets from the centre itself.

Cornton Nursery asked Peter to help them make a greenhouse which they wanted to use plastic bottles for.

We were asked by Kings Park to help them make some signs for the orchard. We provided the signs and the pyrography kit from the tool library. The signs mean visitors at the park know what the trees are.

Peter and Kirill went to Allan Primary to build them a new bench for their playground using waste wood. They came back to run a workshop with children from the school building vertical planters to grow food.





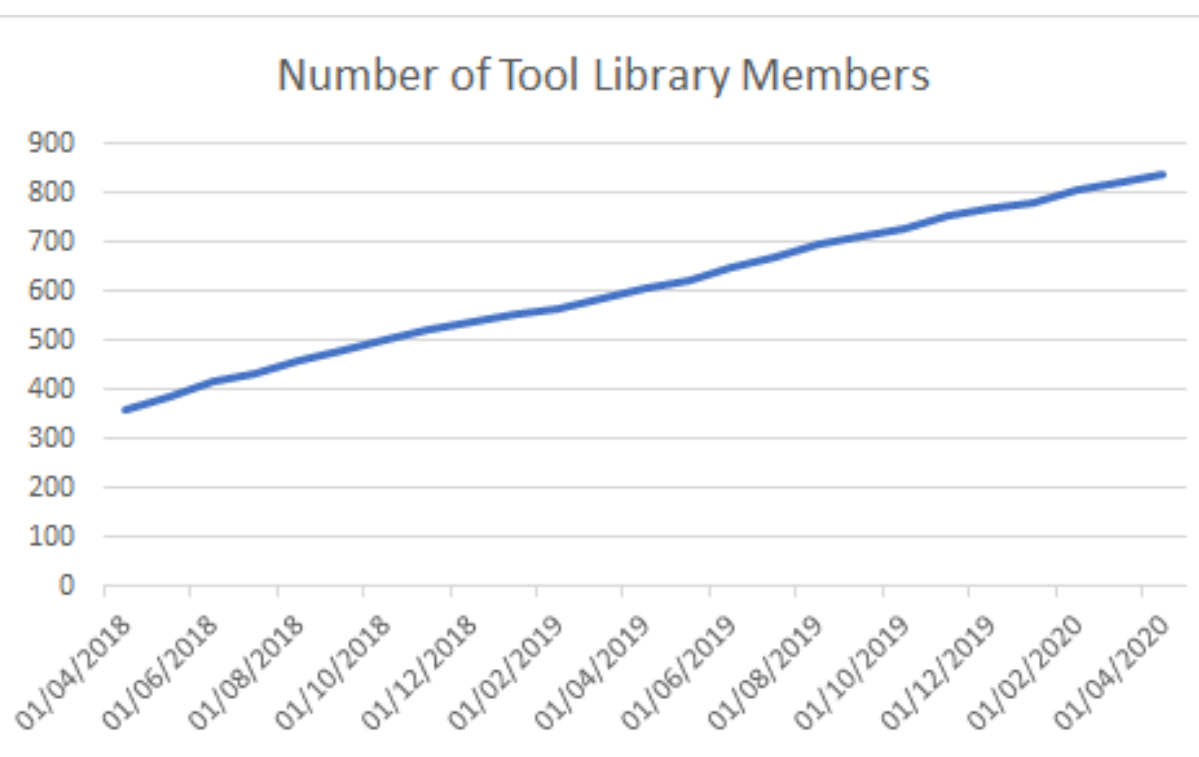
# TOOL LIBRARY

During this project we loaned our 7000<sup>th</sup> item and signed up our 800<sup>th</sup> member.

The number of people using the tool library has been increasing steadily and more than doubled over the period of the project.

Forth Environment Link kindly donated us their apple press which we have been loaning to community groups, farms and individuals on constant rotation throughout the Autumn months.

“We used the apple press to allow Buchlyvie Primary School to press their own apples. The whole school was involved and the feedback from both the staff and the pupils was 100% positive. We couldn't have done this without the Tool Library.”



Rosi shows off the 7000<sup>th</sup> items borrowed!

## TOOL LIBRARY CASE STUDY

Jonny Beeley, Tool Library Member

“Transition Stirling has been a vital starting point for my business. With access to free tools and support it allowed me to start my business with 26p in my bank account and a limited amount of tools. Since then I have had a much better standard of life. From starting as a sole trader, I've now been able to employ two full time staff. It's also handy when you don't have a tool and you just have a small job to do. You can borrow tools and donate unused tools to help other people in a similar situation. Many thanks to the Transition Stirling team.”



Jonny Beeley at work

## TOOL LIBRARY CASE STUDY

Claire Burns, Tool Library Member

“I borrowed a circular saw from transition Stirling early last year to rebuild a fence. We used the leftovers (and the saw) to build this planter. This year we finally built the cloche lid for it and my plants are growing away happily. All reused materials as we had the cloche material from an allotment we used to have. Thought it might be a half decent example of what can be done with some tools and no knowledge except google!”



# PROMOTING OUR ACTIVITIES

We had two opportunities to speak on the Kaye Adams show on BBC Radio Scotland. Every time we appear on the programme, we have had new customers arrived as a result so it is much appreciated.

Reporters from Sunday Express came along to one of our repair cafes and wrote the article below (on right) about the event.

It was also nice to get a tiny mention in a [Guardian article](#). We were invited to be interviewed for the article but unfortunately the email was missed as we were on leave over the Easter holidays.

We got a little mention at Scottish Parliament at the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee meeting thanks to Community Resources Network Scotland (CRNS). The discussion about the right to repair can be found [here](#).






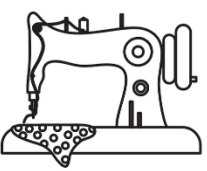


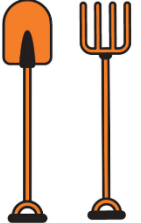



We became the 150<sup>th</sup> group to get Revolve certification. As a result we got a lot of publicity through the [National](#) newspaper, Stirling Observer and Stirling News.

We were given a [video](#) by Edinburgh Tool Library which we were allowed to edit to use to promote our own tool library. The advert reached 6155 people on Facebook.

A [video](#) was made by a very talented volunteer, Annika Balonier, promoting our repair cafes. The video has been great for showing people what they're all about and has reached over 10,000 people on Facebook.



Our volunteer, Daniel, created a range of promotional material under different themes, for example cooking equipment. We can then bring these to events to show people what items they can borrow from the tool library.

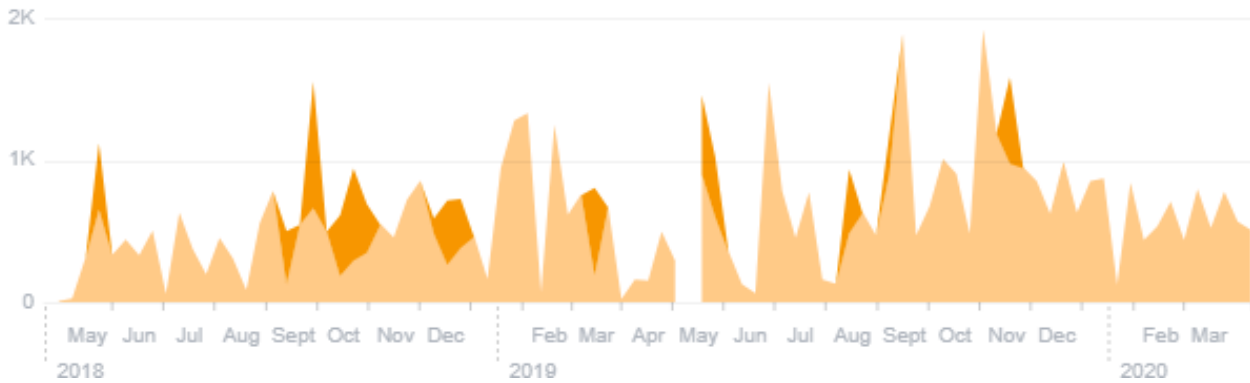
 <h2 style="color: orange;">EVENTS EQUIPMENT</h2>  <p><b>BORROW TODAY - FOR FREE</b></p>  <p>Indoor/Outdoor Extension Cables, Events Shelter, Fan/Halogen Heaters, Laminator, LED lights, Projector, Projector Screen, Camping/Folding Tables and many more. View the full tool library catalogue at:</p> <p><a href="http://WWW.TRANSITIONSTIRLING.ORG.UK">WWW.TRANSITIONSTIRLING.ORG.UK</a></p>	 <h2 style="color: orange;">CRAFTING EQUIPMENT</h2>  <p><b>BORROW TODAY - FOR FREE</b></p>  <p>Sewing Machines, Pyrography Kit, Scissors, Spoon Carving Knives, Stanley Knives, Tape Measures, Glue Gun, UV Lamp, and many more. View the full catalogue at:</p> <p><a href="http://WWW.TRANSITIONSTIRLING.ORG.UK">WWW.TRANSITIONSTIRLING.ORG.UK</a></p>	 <h2 style="color: orange;">GARDENING EQUIPMENT</h2>  <p><b>BORROW TODAY - FOR FREE</b></p>  <p>Garden Rakes, Shears, Electric Tiller, Leaf Blower, Lawn Mowers, Hedge Trimmers, Forks, Spades, Scarifier, Secateurs, Loppers, Pruning Saws and many more. View the full tool library catalogue at:</p> <p><a href="http://WWW.TRANSITIONSTIRLING.ORG.UK">WWW.TRANSITIONSTIRLING.ORG.UK</a></p>	 <h2 style="color: orange;">KITCHEN EQUIPMENT</h2>  <p><b>BORROW TODAY - FOR FREE</b></p>  <p>Blender, Cooking Dehydrator, Jam Making Equipment, Juicer, Food Processor, Hand Blender, Hand Mixer, Induction Hob, Scales, Slow Cooker, Steamer, Flasks, Toastie Maker. View the full catalogue at:</p> <p><a href="http://WWW.TRANSITIONSTIRLING.ORG.UK">WWW.TRANSITIONSTIRLING.ORG.UK</a></p>
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# PROMOTING OUR ACTIVITIES

Our online presence during the project has been greatly increasing. Particularly on social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram), our posts have been reaching individuals all over the world informing them of the impacts of climate change and the possible lifestyle changes they can make as an individual to reduce their carbon footprint. Although the majority of our followers are from Scotland it is always great to see how far our posts can reach.

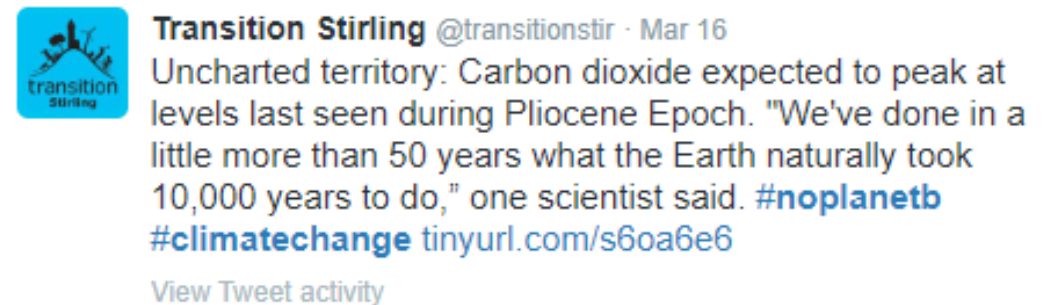
## FACEBOOK

We posted over 90 climate specific articles on Facebook which reached 60,847 individual people with the most successful post reaching 1788 people. As can be seen from the chart below, Transition Stirling's reach has been continually increasing.



## TWITTER

Our reach with Twitter was great too during this project, with 80,800 impressions made from our social media posts, 42,000 of those impressions on climate change specific posts with the most popular Tweet reaching over 2500 impressions.



# OTHER EVENTS

## 10<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY PARTY

We celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> birthday of Transition Stirling with a large gathering in Stirling Rowing Club, a fantastic venue for such a thing.

There was a mix of staff, volunteers, members (including a number of founding members) and workshop presenters and representatives from other community groups in attendance. The idea was to showcase as much of what we do and have done over the years by including some 'taster workshops' including sewing, foraging and cooking.

The evening progressed with food and a wonderful birthday cake supplied by a local caterer, music and networking/socialising.

Finally, there were a number of speakers who have been involved in the organisation over the years. This included a video link with our founder, Glen, and the co-founder of the whole Transition movement, Rob Hopkins which can be seen [here](#).



## MID-WINTER CHEERS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Pam, our Volunteer Coordinator, suggested it would be a good idea to hold an event to celebrate the wonderful work all our volunteers do and to improve their knowledge of Transition Stirling.

We wanted to increase their knowledge of where we came from, our aims and vision for the future. It was important for this to be informal and fun including a way to increase their carbon literacy. The event brought together volunteers, staff and board members. We had a good turnout.

The afternoon began with an ice breaker, speeches from staff and board and Carbon Conversations games. We then had some food provided by Sara at Sprinkle Happiness. The main aim for the event (to get people meeting other people involved in the organisation) was achieved very successfully.



# EXTERNAL EVENTS

## CCF AWARDS

We were really grateful for being nominated for an award at the CCF Gathering. It was lovely to get in touch with board and staff members from all the years we've been running and let them know their work had contributed to this recognition of what we've been doing. The event was really exciting, and the Gathering was an excellent opportunity to network with like-minded groups as always.

## SHAREFEST

Chris, Nicola and Emma went to ShareFest, the first tool library conference in the UK which took place in London. It was a really energising and inspiring day meeting others facing similar challenges and describing similar benefits of their projects in their areas. It was great to see how different models work and what others thought were the best ways to be self-sufficient. Only libraries in Wales and Scotland were aware of any funds like the Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) which support groups to deliver this kind of project and we felt very privileged when looking at the challenges other groups faced.



## SCOTTISH WILD FOOD FESTIVAL

Another external event we were asked to join was the Wild Food Festival organised by Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER. This was the culmination of Foraging Fortnight (through which we also held several events including films, medicinal foraging and cooking with foraged foods). We took along some 'showcase' tool library items such as the fruit press, macerator, dehydrator and pasteuriser, as well as some woodcraft items such as carving chisels and the spoon carving set. It was positive to be able to inform a large number of people as to the items we have other than DIY tools as well as the wide range of workshops we run. The concept of a tool library was new to a lot of people and was extremely well received.



# EXTERNAL EVENTS

## CHRISTMAS CRAFT MARKET

We were invited to have a stall at the Christmas Craft market in the Albert Halls. We took along a number of items made through the wood reuse project including Christmas trees, planters and bird boxes. We had a lot of interest but unfortunately no sales. It was also a good time to promote some upcoming workshops which we were able to half fill on the day.

The main aim for the day was to promote our work and the many different things we have going on such as I.T repair, Makerspace and repair service. It was encouraging to see a lot of people had already heard of us and had used our service. The whole market was extremely well attended with large queues out the door. This gave us a great opportunity to get the word out to other people who weren't familiar with our work and services. It was a healthy mix of people who were familiar with us and weren't.

We also took the opportunity to run a Christmas Stocking making workshop, using scraps of fabrics. This was also well attended with a waiting list of people who sadly couldn't attend. Our two volunteers (plus one on the stall) were great and helped out loads. The day had loads of energy and was a great deal of fun.



## TILlicOUNTRY COMMUNITY GARDEN OPENING

We were also invited to hold a stall and run a workshop at the grand opening of the Tillicoultry Community Gardens. Again, there was a stall which was aimed at promoting our many services and workshops. It was good to chat with representatives from other organisations such as the Men's Shed, the SPCA and Butterfly Conservation.

The workshop was a masterclass on making your own plant milk. We made hazelnut and a chocolate almond milk which the children especially enjoyed. The process is the same for most milks so the recipe for oat milk was also explained. The prices of each of the base ingredients were discussed as there is a bit gap in the price of oats vs hazelnuts, but it was also explained that hazelnuts can be foraged when in season. Since we are encouraging a zero waste lifestyle, we also used the remaining pulp mixed with dates to make protein and energy balls – the representatives from Lush couldn't stop coming back for more! We used only kitchen items available in the tool library to run this event.

We have also attended several other external events, raising awareness about our activities by giving presentations. These have included an event about plastics held by Lush, an event about waste and litter held by Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, a regional forum organised by Community Resource Network Scotland (CRNS), a waste networking event held by CCF, three rotary clubs, a 2050 Climate Group event and more.

# LEGACY

## STRATEGY

In 2018, as part of Emma's Masters dissertation on Strategic Sustainable Business, several workshops were held, to which staff, volunteers and board members were invited, to create an organisational strategy. The aim of this was to give the organisation direction and to identify ways that would make us more self-sufficient in the long-term. Out of this came the decision to concentrate on three areas:

1. Short-term: to create an "eco festival" raising awareness locally about sustainability issues
2. Medium-term: to open a reuse hub selling items discarded at the local recycling centre
3. Long-term: when sufficient capacity was built to look into the possibility of owning a building that would allow us to not depend on funding for rent

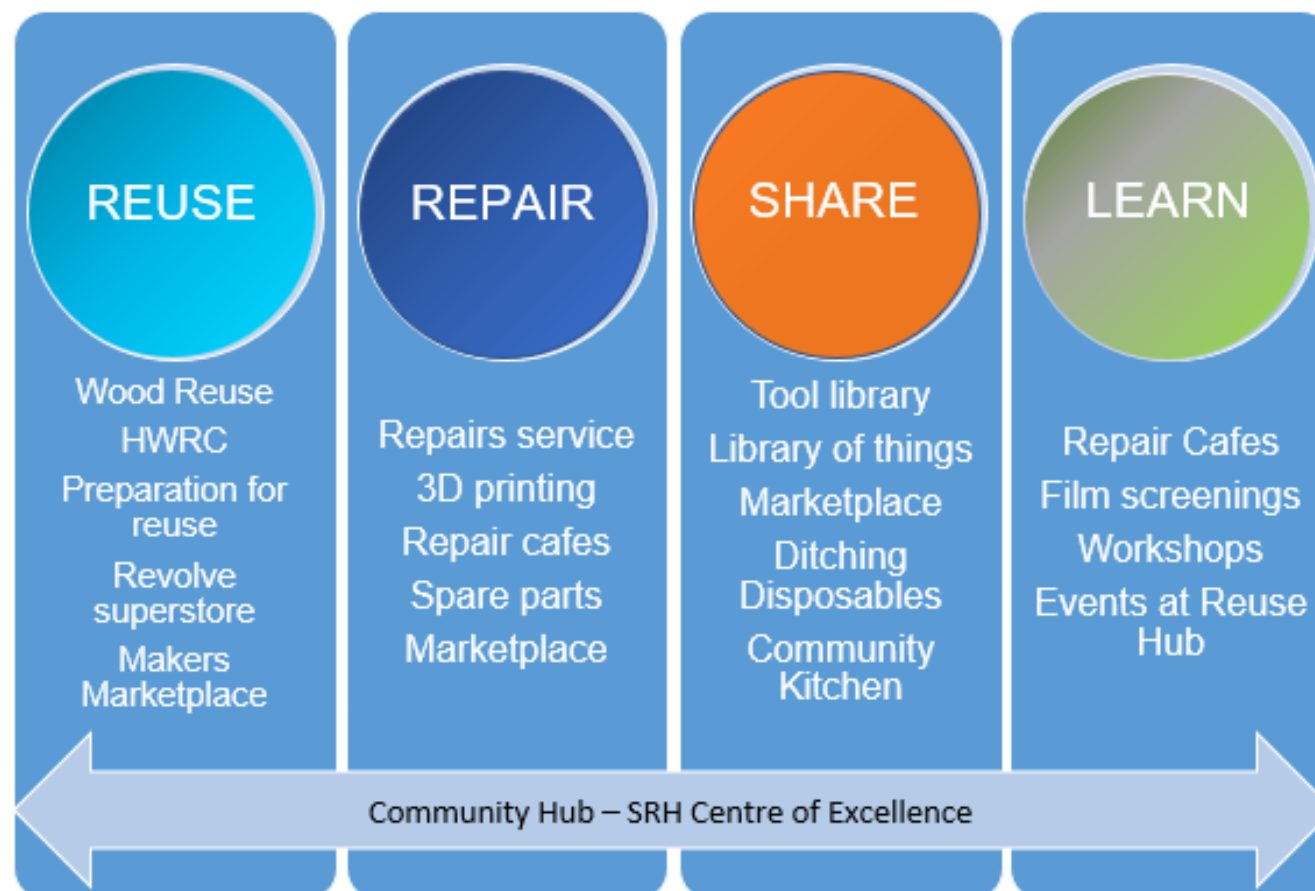
We hope that by becoming self-sufficient we can create a model that can be demonstrated to other local groups and a network of groups doing that their own way could be created across the region.

While this first short-term goal hasn't been realised as yet, we have been awarded funding from Zero Waste Scotland to create a reuse hub. Unfortunately, we have been unable to secure the appropriate space for this project, but our hope is to merge all our projects under one roof, while inviting other similar groups to join us to create a centre of excellence for the circular economy.

This year we held another strategy meeting through which we changed our mission to:

"to help people in Stirlingshire, transition to a more resilient, sustainable way of living, providing a positive local response to climate change"

We will do this through the following four focus areas:



Our activity in these four areas is underpinned by:

- Outreach
- Communication and Marketing
- Community Development
- Partnership

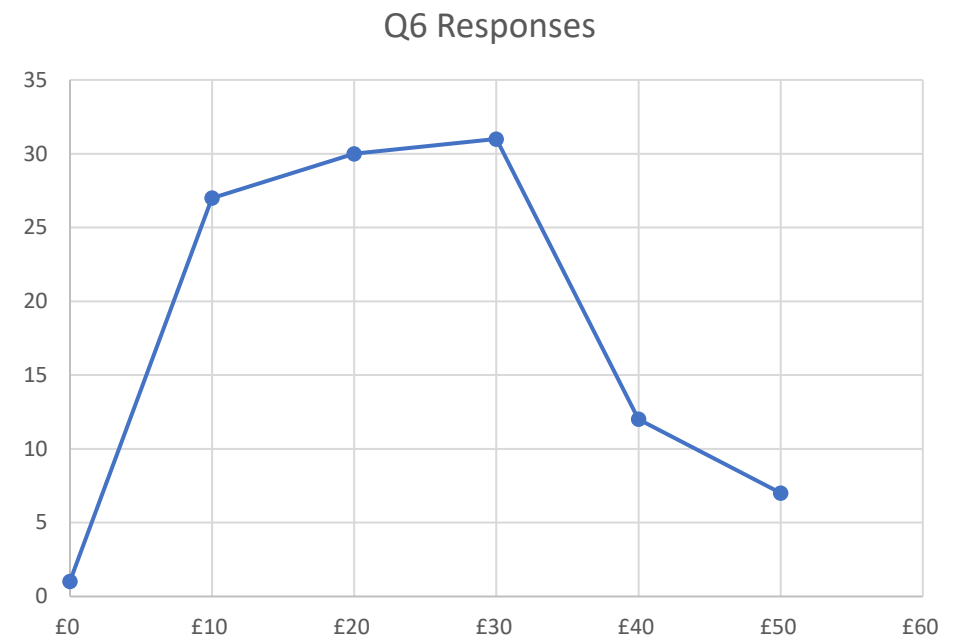
Working groups will be established to work on how we can grow those underpinning areas to strengthen the organisation moving forward.

# LEGACY

## SURVEY

As well as learning how being members of the project benefitted tool library members, we were able to learn what they think about different aspects of the tool library, which we can use to improve in future.

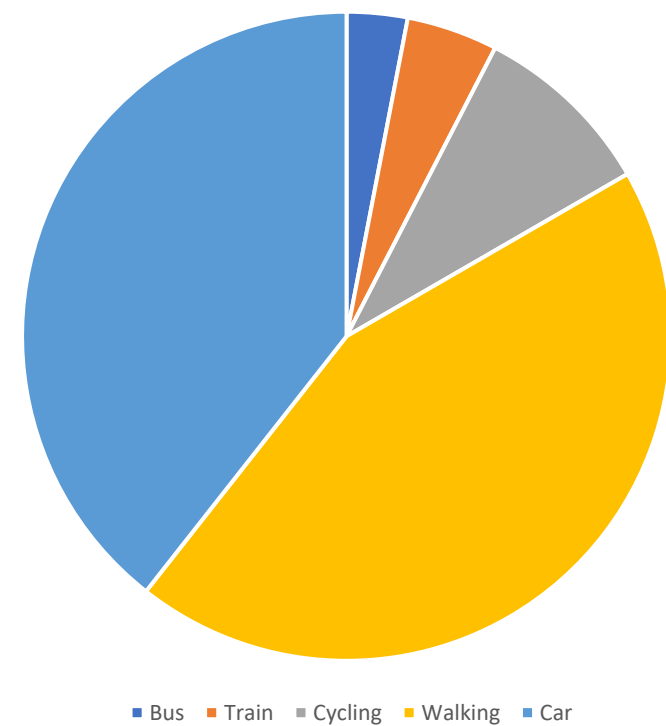
Most respondents were very positive about the pricing structure and found it fair and inclusive. Others suggested having a set fee with lower or free options for those who couldn't afford it. When asked if we stopped receiving funding and could no longer run on a pay-as-you feel basis, how much they would be happy to pay annually for their tool library membership, we received the response shown in the graph (right). This would suggest the suggested donation of £30 per year is the highest it would be reasonable to expect from our members.



We asked people how they normally come to the tool library. The number of people who drive is similar to those who walk. Many who walk will then take the car if an item is heavier.

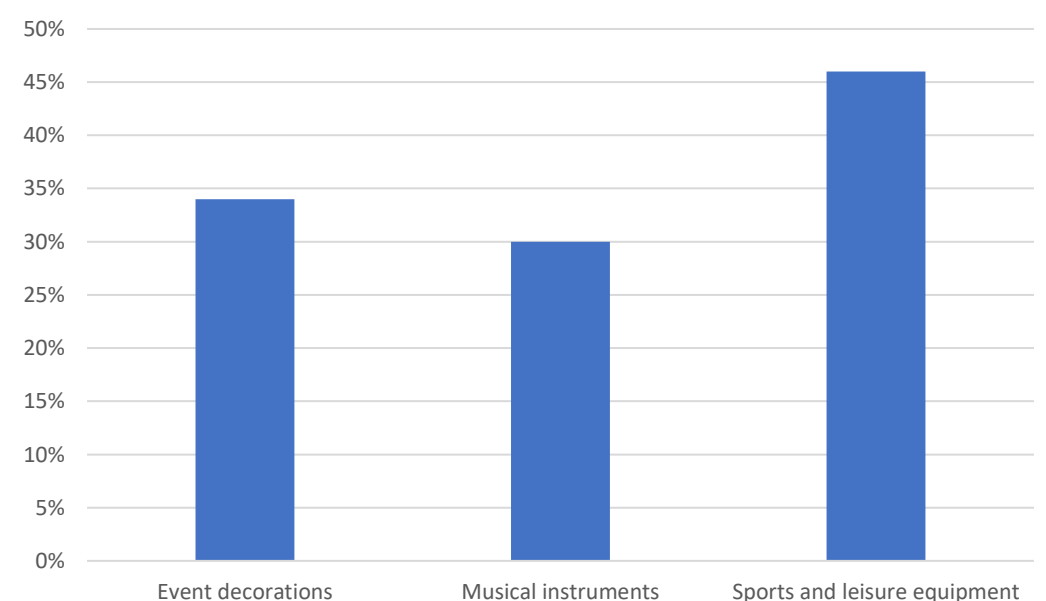
This has an impact on what they think of the location. While many love the convenience of the city centre location, others find the Arcade to be too quiet and losing out on foot traffic and a lot of customers say that it is too difficult for picking up heavier items due to the lack of parking and recommend moving to somewhere like Springkerse. This would suggest that if we move into the reuse hub in Springkerse, most of our members would find that a positive step.

Q9 How do you normally come to the tool library?



We also asked what else they would like to see loaned out and it appears sports and leisure equipment would be popular so this is something we could hope to move into in future.

Q7 Is there anything else you'd like to see us lending?





# LEGACY

## LEARNING

We used the Community Learning Exchange to visit Remake Scotland in Crieff. We are very interested in establishing our own Scrapstore in Stirling at a later date so the visit taught us a lot about what we should consider if we do.

On a visit to Emma's hometown of Belfast, she visited Belfast Tool Library. It was excellent to learn how this volunteer-led organisation had established themselves so well and compare what challenges we face and what we do about them.



Emma has been participating in a European project called [UrbanA Arenas](#), through which she has been promoting the project with people from across Europe. The project aims to bring together knowledge on how to make sustainable and just cities, empowering participants to apply the knowledge locally. Continuing until 2021 it gives the opportunity to attend 'arena events' in different cities across Europe and see different innovative projects. The first was in Rotterdam and included a trip to some really inspirational initiatives. Much of the discussion centred around how projects aiming to make cities more just and sustainable could cause the opposite effect. For example, by creating issues to do with gentrification. This has been really interesting and sparked some good conversations about what we can do to reduce barriers to using the tool library.

We have been getting volunteers and staff put through PAT test training. This will give us a wider pool of people to check items before lending them out if we are without staff.

Emma attended training on facilitation organised by Scottish Community Climate Action Network. This taught skills for running workshops to facilitate the community to make decisions. This is hoped to help us as we always endeavour to be community-led as an organisation.

Jon and Emma visited Sustaining Dunbar through a trip organised by Scottish Community Climate Action Network. They got to see their community garden, reuse hub and hear about the many the successes they've had as an organisation.

A team building day was organised for the whole staff team to help us learn to work together as a team. It was a really pleasant day spoon carving with Green Aspirations.

Emma attended both the Circular Economy Hotspot conference and Social Enterprise World Forum. These were both international events held in Scotland and were really inspirational to meet groups from around the world working on similar initiatives or completely new and exciting ideas.

Beverley attended training organised by Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations on managing volunteers which was very worthwhile. Emma attended training on "building positive staff and volunteer relations" through Volunteer Scotland. It was interesting to learn from them the importance of detail in processes and really considering the motivation of volunteers to be able to give them the best experience and keep them happy in the organisation for as long as possible.

Pam received emergency first aid training whilst on the project. It made her feel much more confident to be working with the public and handling tools which may be sharp. It was a good refresher of training she had done years ago, and updated her with the current thinning on how to treat various injuries.

# LEGACY

## TOOL LIBRARY

We put out a survey to tool library members during the project which gave us an idea of how much the project has impacted the community.

“When I arrived in Scotland, I opened a handyman business with two domestic Dewalt drills, and my first job was a fencing job requiring heavy muscle tools. Someone told me about Transition and they saved my job with real tools. I've made use of the library several times since and it's brilliant.”

Helped >55 people to build up or improve a business or get into work

“Allowed me to improve storage in a temporary homeless flat. I didn't have any other access to suitable tools and would not have bought them so without the Tool Library I wouldn't have been able to do the job.”

Nearly 85% saved money

“I came to Transition Stirling having been ill for a long time. The projects I undertook with the tools help build my confidence; I couldn't have completed them without the tools provided.”

41% have increased confidence using tools

“After my separation things were very tight and I needed to repair things myself and recycle rather than buy new.. the tool library was a god send to get things done without having to invest in expensive tools. There have been DIY projects I have done I wouldn't have ever thought I could do due to the availability of a range of tools here. This service is great and should be available everywhere.”

65% repaired or upcycled things

# LEGACY

"It has really made me think about what I need to buy. I check the library first, and then with neighbours etc. My neighbours are also starting to borrow rather than buy. This has spread into other areas too, such as checking charity shops before buying new for other items, all from the concept of a tool library."

56% said it challenged their idea of what they need to buy

"Built several raised beds using tools borrowed from the library. Also improved my sewing skills with the classes."

Over 50% said it enabled them to build their own things rather than buy new

"The tool library and the wider transition Stirling events have helped me to settle into Stirling following a move from England. It's been great to meet people who have similar values."

Nearly 50% said it made them feel like part of the community

"Using items from the tool library I've - Identified heat loss in my house. Completed DIY and decoration projects. Completed work in the garden. Found a fun new hobby in spoon carving. And had great support from the staff. Thanks for all the work that's gone into it :)"

Over 100 members have improved energy efficiency in their home

# LEGACY

## SHARING OUR LEARNING

We applied to the Ideas Bank through CCF and were successful. Through this we hope to help other groups who are interested in starting a similar project. We have hosted several project visits for people hoping to begin tool libraries or repair cafes, from as far away as Arasaig. We had a meeting with Edinburgh Tool Library and discussed implications for the Sharing Network and have agreed to work in partnership with them when it is established.

A volunteer joined us, Teri. She was hoping to start a tool library in Cumbernauld, and joined us to learn how we go about things to apply learning to her project in future. Teri has a lot of knowledge about environmental issues which was really helpful, as well as an MBA which she used to help us review funding applications we put forward. She helped us to keep our catalogue up to date with photos, which helped her to learn her way around Myturn, our lending software. Since then, Teri has begun a new tool library, Tool Library Cumbernauld. Emma also joined the board of the organisation. Tool Library Cumbernauld is being much more enterprising, by charging higher amounts for membership and selling a range of zero waste items. We are hoping Emma can learn from this and take back successful ideas to Transition Stirling, and assist Tool Library Cumbernauld with her experience.



## ROLE CHANGES

We decided to split Lyndsay's role of Marketing and Volunteer Coordinator into two roles: a Marketing Coordinator and a Volunteer Coordinator. We then recruited people whose skills were specifically suited for those roles. This has meant that each member of staff has been able to concentrate completely on one area rather than trying to balance two very different roles. Gigha has come from a marketing background and worked for a mixture of environmental and corporate organisations. She has loads of expertise in boosting donations and reach through social media and Google. Pam, our "new" Volunteer Coordinator was one of our founding members back in 2009, worked for us as Project Manager on our previous project 'Wood for All', and has served twice as a board member. She has a wealth of experience in supporting volunteers and has done a great job of getting lots of volunteers on board.

# LEGACY

## COMMUNITY FRIDGE

We have been interested in starting a community fridge for some time. However, we had a negative reaction from Stirling Council regarding the environmental health aspects and put the idea on the back burner. During this project we were approached by Julie McPhee from Stirling Council. She wanted to start a community fridge and wanted Transition Stirling to run it. She applied for funding and was successful. It was decided that the fridge should be hosted by the Kitchen at 44 as there would be enough space, Sara who runs it has all the necessary hygiene and environmental health certification, and she kindly offered to make sure the fridge was clean and cleared of food that was no longer appropriate. Transition Stirling's role would be to make links with supermarkets and restaurants to get the food and to coordinate volunteers to collect that food and bring it to the fridge. Due to changes that were to be made to the Kitchen at 44, this project was delayed by a considerable length of time.

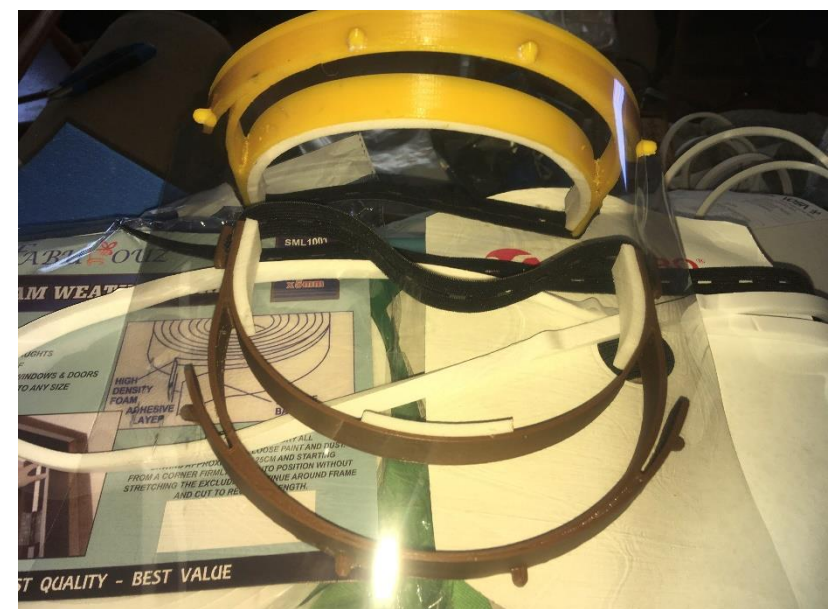
In March, 2020, however, with the impacts of Coronavirus meaning that many restaurants had large amounts of waste food before being forced to close up, Sara decided to rush opening the fridge through. Links were made with supermarkets who would ordinarily donate surplus food to nurseries and schools which were all closed, meaning they had nowhere to donate it. Changes in their supply system also meant they were often ordering too much of some products to sell. The fridge was therefore receiving huge amounts of food, up to 600kg in a single day. Furthermore, with so many people suddenly out of work and existing systems unable to cope, we had over 100 people per day coming to collect food. We recruited a member of staff as quickly as possible. Carly has since been doing an incredible job of setting up the processes needed for volunteers to get involved, such as risk assessments, schedules and task checklists. Pam has recruited over 20 volunteers that Carly has inducted before we decided to stop accepting applications to volunteer. When Carly's role finishes it is hoped this will be a self-sufficient project



## PPE CHANGES

With the shortage of PPE across the UK to cope with Coronavirus, Kirill has actually been able to 3D print parts needed to make visors to protect faces. We will be using recycled material to print the head bands used to hold the face shields on the head.

Then we will recruit volunteers to source plastic bottles and cut them up to make the shields. These will then be supplied to the NHS, care homes and any other organisations needing PPE. This way we are reducing waste, while helping to support our community during this crisis.



# LEGACY

## FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

### WORKSHOPS

We have been experimenting with the price of workshops to find if they can be self-sufficient in future. To do this they would need to cover the cost of the tutor, venue and staff time to organise. However, we are finding that the ticket sales on the pay as you feel basis does not cover the cost of the tutor alone. We currently charge £10-£20 on a sliding scale. The average a participant pays is £11. We have considered putting the price up to find how much people will be willing to pay but are concerned this might put off the most disadvantaged. Another possibility we are considering is ensuring there are several allocated free spaces for people who can't afford the workshop, but other participants are charged a higher amount.

### REPAIR FEES

Some limited income has been generated through our repairs but we decided we should try to increase donations for repairs by changing our charging structure from £5 per hour to pay-as-you-feel with a £15 suggested donation. We'll let the customers know how long it took to repair and let them decide how much they think they should pay. Making it pay-as-you-feel makes the service open to those who can't afford much and means that people with an item that they would have thrown away if it couldn't be repaired due to its low value will still bring it to repair as money shouldn't be an obstacle. It is difficult to evaluate the success of this change as it was implemented shortly before the Coronavirus outbreak.

### WOOD REUSE SCHEME

We are going to make the wood reuse workshop available to the public and rent the space out. We're hoping that the profits made by renting the space will help pay toward the project being self-sufficient in the future.

# CONCLUSION

This project has been an amazing opportunity to learn and grow as an organisation. The biggest addition to our activities has been the wood reuse scheme, which has grown from building a few small items to bringing in volunteers to work on big projects.

We never take for granted the opportunities afforded to us by having this funding. It has meant that we have been able to keep our activities open to everyone without cost being a barrier to those who could benefit most, which is extremely important to us. It has also allowed us to experiment, through which we have learned lessons which will help us to improve our offering moving forward.

With the reuse hub project and continuation of our funding from the CCF until 2022, we will create a hub that will bring together our existing reuse activities and grow into new areas of reuse, sharing space and therefore overheads, to become more self-sufficient and create new opportunities for all the more ideas and organisations who could benefit.