

Portobello Timebank
Chair's Report April 2021 to March 2022
Frank Ledwith (with small amendments by Anne Stevenson)

Note: This report is for the statutory year but may mention items of news since March 2022.

Status as a Charity

Thanks to the persistent and patient activity over some years of our Treasurer James Carver we now have status as an incorporated charity so our official name is now Portobello Timebank (SCIO).

Committee matters

During the year there have been two trustee resignations, which have been coped with well due to the broader committee acting as a mutually supportive team. Kirsty Carver announced that she wished to relinquish her role as Secretary as she looks to start a new business. Lynda Hepburn became our temporary secretary, but Anne Stevenson has agreed to put her name forward for the formal AGM vote. Frank Ledwith resigned as Chair due to his relocation away from Edinburgh and Lynda Hepburn has agreed to put her name forward as Chair. Richard Wright and Ursula have been working to maintain the Timebroker role (which promotes ongoing contact with all active members of the Timebank) as originally undertaken by Irene, our former Chair who is so sadly missed. This was also covered for a time by Clodagh. Richard also maintains and improves the technology and process matters of the Timebank, while also managing new memberships and the newsletter. Clodagh has also resigned from the committee, but Christine Wallis has joined. Josephine has continued to be a member of the committee, covering various aspects of the secretary role following Kirsty's resignation.

Activities during the year

Severe Covid restrictions have slowly reduced during the year leading to opportunities for more group activities as detailed below.

Conservation

This work was all organised and led from the front by James Carver with refreshments often organised by Kirsty. Members turned up in impressive numbers with ages ranging from 4 years to well over 80 to all of these activities.

At the Daiches Brae section of Brunstane Burn there have been two joint clean ups with 'The Green Team' who seek to involve young people in conservation work. All the old fencing alongside the path, which had been an eye sore was removed, a large tree was removed from the burn and much Himalayan Balsam was uprooted. James' ambition for a pond in the burn was finally realised and has continued to work well in attracting wildlife and keeping its water through the dry summer. In addition, 1000 flowering bulbs were planted in Magdalene Glen in the autumn and all of them came up flowering beautifully in the Spring.

At the Magdalen Glen site there were two litter and debris clean ups in (January and February) including the massive task of removing a mattress and accumulated detritus which had led to localised flooding during heavy rain.

At the Morton Street triangle Chris Cowie and Monica Hood with a few others have continued to put in many hours to keep the site looking ship shape. The Timebank has supported their activities with funding for paint and other necessities.

Membership numbers and activity levels

Richard Wright has continued his very valuable work in keeping track of membership and activity numbers and keeping the membership informed in the newsletter and updates. A separate report on the statistics for the year has been prepared by Richard and appended to this report.

Talks

With the easing of Covid restrictions it has been possible to restart the members meeting talks this year. There have been two talks on Wild Swimming and The Community Fridge which were well attended and much appreciated as part of the adjustment to the new normal of Covid awareness.

Tool sharpening

The ever-popular tool sharpening was held at Duddingston in July 2022 and will be reported, along with other tool and tool library related activities in next year's report.

Fundraising

There have been no applications for cash funding this year as Covid restrictions limited our spending. However, there was a very successful coffee morning at the Baptist Church Hall in April with attendant plant, jam and book stalls. Overall, £600 was raised which can be used for all kinds of charitable purposes.

The future

One of the great problems faced by many smaller charities in managing to keep continuity and activity with the committee. I think the Timebank has shown great resilience in recruiting new members to the committee and coping with resignations. This augurs well for the future of the Timebank. We have done well!

We are looking for additional committee members, particularly to support with the newsletter, general communications and social media. These do not need to be covered by one person! We would also be happy to receive more 'general' committee members who would be interested in sharing their time and ideas with the Timebank committee. We meet once a month, now in person with Zoom available for anyone who would rather join that way. Time commitment can be as large or small outside of those meetings as you are willing and able to contribute. Please don't be shy to discuss this with any current committee member: Lynda Hepburn,

James Carver, Anne Stevenson, Richard Wright, Josephine Doorley-Petersson and Christine Wallis.

Statistics Report:

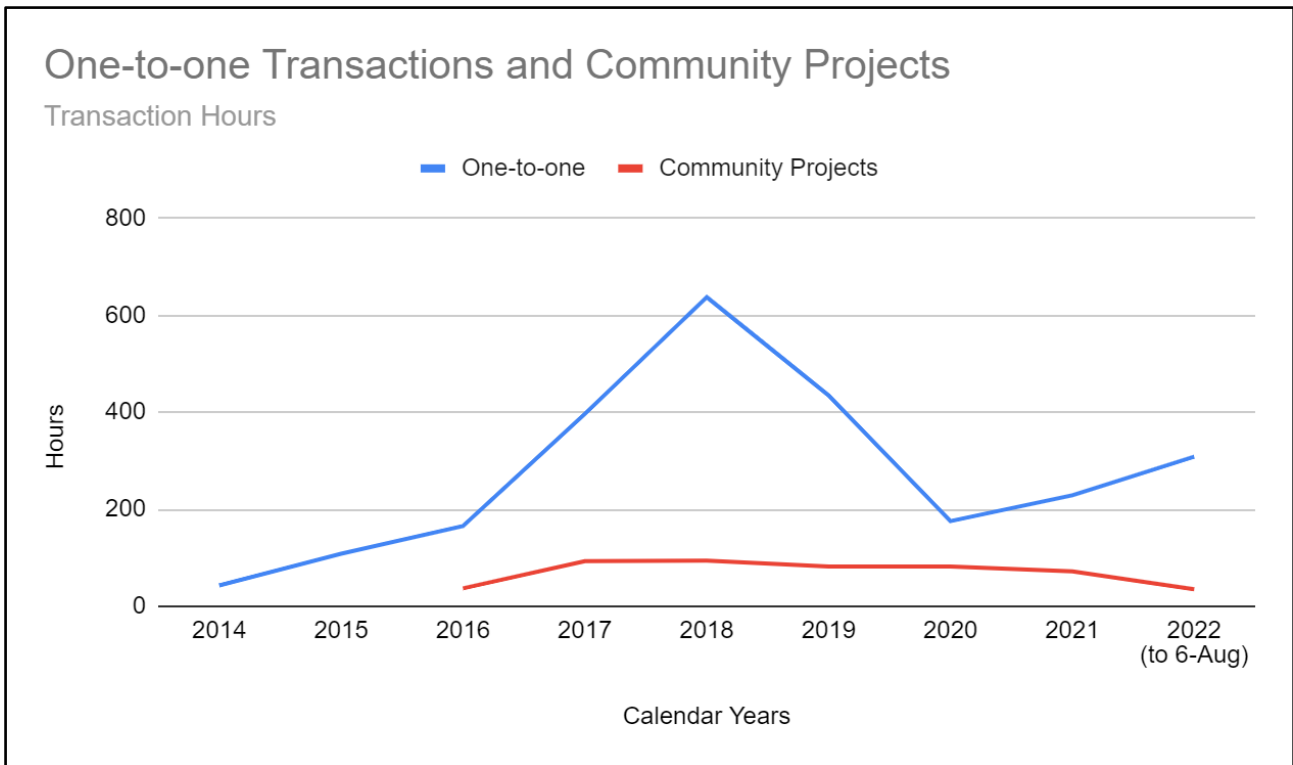
Historically transaction statistics have been reported for the financial year i.e. 1st April to 31st March.

For consistency, the first transaction report below is reported in this manner, however please note that we then switch to calendar years for the longer term view, which considers the impact of Covid.

Transaction hours (1 April to 31 March)				
Service Cat	2020-21	2021-22	variance	
Goods Exchange	47.5	44.3	-3.3	
Help at Home	51.6	116.3	64.7	
Miscellaneous	4.5	1.0	-3.5	
Social	30.0	37.0	7.0	
Teaching/Learning/Professional	9.5	76.0	66.5	
Totals	143.1	274.5	131.4	up 92%
Community Projects	160.5	160	-0.5	

The overall trend from 2014 is more important than year on year as it really tells a story about the effect of Covid. Also, we are only 60% through 2022 and one-to-one transactions are already exceeding last year, while community projects are less than half which is not picked up in the above figures.

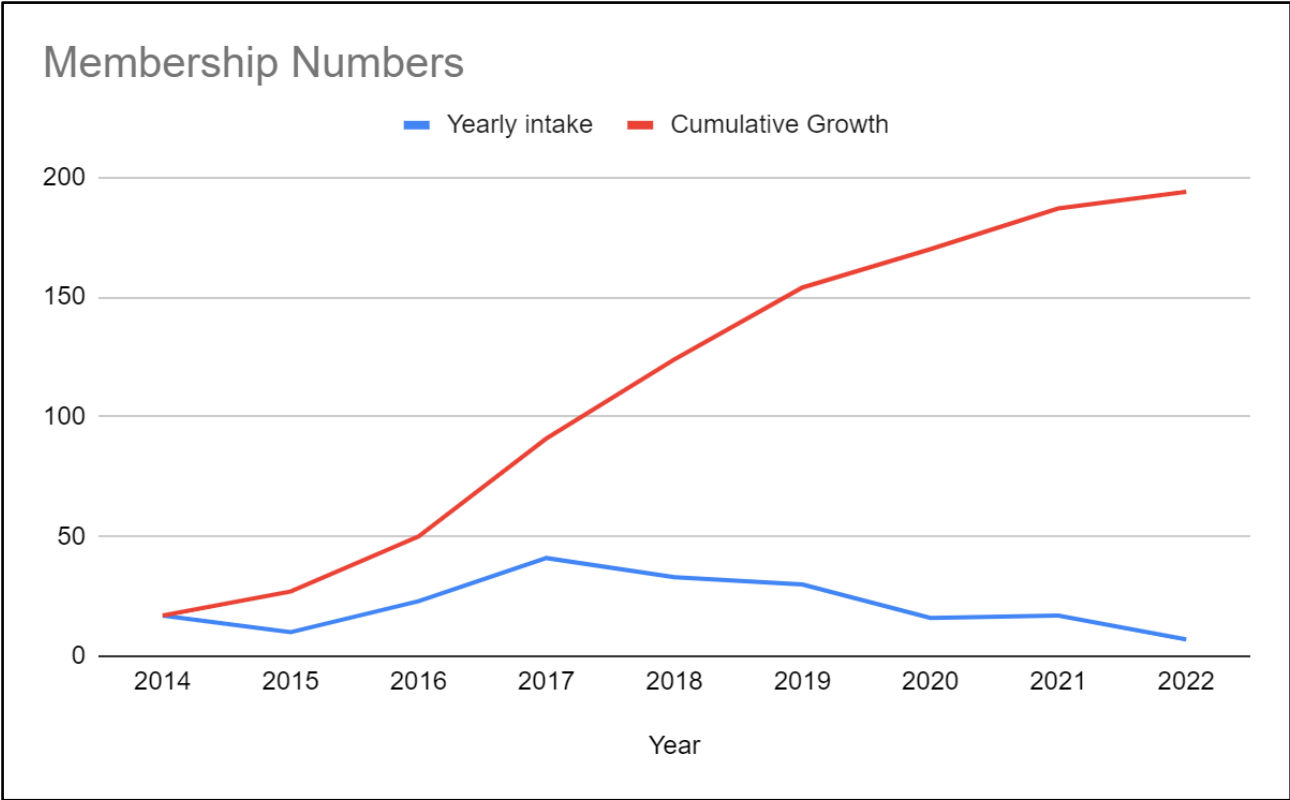
The following is based on calendar years:



This is the data for the above chart:

Year	One-to-one	Community Projects
2014	43	
2015	108.5	
2016	165.65	37
2017	396.5	93
2018	637.6	94
2019	434.75	82
2020	175.6	82
2021	228.75	72
2022 (to 6-Aug)	308.5	35

Here are the membership numbers (by calendar year) which clearly peaked in 2017:



This is the data for the above:

Year	Yearly intake	Cumulative Growth
2014	17	17
2015	10	27
2016	23	50
2017	41	91
2018	33	124
2019	30	154
2020	16	170
2021	17	187
2022	7	194