

Portobello Timebank AGM 02/06/2021

Chair's Report for April 2021 to March 2021

OVERVIEW

This has been a year in which the Covid pandemic had a big impact on the Timebank. Whilst much of the normal activity of mutual exchange has been reduced, the Timebank has shown resilience in that new activities have been pursued in response to Covid and the committee has managed to fill many of the functions which had been carried out by the previous chair who sadly died whilst in office. Richard Wright has stepped in as membership secretary to look after recruitment, documentation of exchange activity, compiling the regular newsletter to members and managing the IT functions. Clodagh has taken over the function of webmaster to help manage the process of requests and offers among members.

It has not been possible to finalise the transition of the Timebank to full incorporation as a SCIO, In spite of the continuing efforts of the Treasurer it has not been possible to get the bank to setup the new bank account and so close the incorporated Timebank charity.

STATISTICS

One to One Activity

There were 143 hours of one to one exchanges compared with 387 in the previous accounting year (63% reduction). In the category Help at Home 50 hours were logged compared with 136 the previous year (64% reduction) whilst Teaching and Learning logged 9 hours compared with 74 the previous year (reduction of 89%). However Goods Exchanged were maintained at 50 hours compared with 54 the previous year. The category most affected was General Admin and Fundraising (mostly involving coffee mornings and the September Portobello Show stall had no hours recorded compared with 136 the previous year.

Community Support Activity

There were 160 hours logged compared with 218 the previous year (25% reduction). The Gardening and Litter picking activities were much the same in hours as the previous year but Conservation and Volunteering for formally associated charities were much reduced. The gardening activities mainly included work at Morton Street triangle continuing development and tree planting alongside Portobello Golf Course and in Joppa Quarry Park.

Membership.

There were 10 new members who joined during the year making a total membership of 190. From 2014 to 2019 the annual growth was around 30 per year but since then there has been some slowing in the rate of growth.

COVID SUPPORT

In response to the obvious needs for those who were isolated at home TB members provided help to anyone who expressed a need, irrespective of whether they were TB or not. The help provided included doing shopping, telephone support, help with attendance at medical appointments, helping set up and be involved in individual street based WhatsApp groups and disability support. Eventually all these activities were handed over to Party Coronavirus Action who organisationally were better equipped to provide support. Note that all of the hours involved were not logged as they were not within the normal ambit of the Timebank hours between members but did represent a considerable number of hours provided by a small group of members.