Portobello Timebank SCIO

Trustees' Annual Report

01 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

Charity contact information

Portobello Timebank (SCIO)

Scottish Charity Number: SC050023

Address c/o Portobello Library, 14 Rosefield Terrace, Edinburgh

Postcode: EH15 2EB

Website: https://www.portobellotimebank.co.uk

Charity Trustees

1. Lynda Hepburn, Chair
2. Annette Woodham, Secretary
3. Marie-Christine Rigouleau, Treasurer
4. Josephine Petersson
5. Caren Moffett

Objectives and activities

Charitable Purpose: To advance citizenship and community development and the promotion of civic responsibility and volunteering by providing a local time bank volunteer service for the community in Portobello.

The overarching aims of the Charity are to increase social interaction between individuals in the community and to promote feelings of self-worth. To that end:

- Portobello Timebank generates opportunities for people in the community to use their skills to help each other in numerous ways, in exchange for a nominal ‘currency’ based on time spent.

- As well as ‘one to one’ transactions between individuals, members may earn time credits by engaging in our organised Litter Picking and local Conservation activities, which also benefit the environment and thus the wider community.

- The Timebank partners with other local organisations with a similar ethos, by loaning members’ skills.

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Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

The sole governing document is the Constitution of Portobello Timebank (SCIO) as adopted on 10 March 2020

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Trustees are recruited from within the membership of Portobello Timebank, at the discretion of the Management Committee.

Achievements and performance

There was a total of 344 exchanges of services from individual time bank members equivalent to 1021 hours. Services offered ranged from gardening, help at home (cooking, sewing, lifting etc.), DIY & minor repairs, teaching various skills, helping with timebank events, IT support, pet care, and goods exchanges.

Members also continued to receive community hours for volunteering in community projects like the Community Fridge, Bellfield Friday Cafe and community clean-ups.

These exchanges contributed to creating a great sense of community and in some cases supporting vulnerable members.

The Timebank has struggled to attract new committee members this year. In addition, Bellfield, our usual venue for talks, closed for refurbishment halfway through the year. These two factors have led to a reduced number of events held compared to previous years.

We organised one fundraising event this year: our Spring coffee afternoon in April, with delicious home baking, refreshments, tombola, games, plant sales and tool sharpening, providing funding towards our administrative costs and allowing us to make donations of £300 to two local charities: the Dog and Cat Home and the Cyrenians.

We also held the following events:

- an Open Gardens tour in August around Portobello and Joppa with a chance to see other gardens, get ideas and exchange tips and advice.
- a beautiful walk from Dean Village to the Botanic garden in September. This was led by a Timebank member who provided fascinating facts about the history and architecture of the streets, buildings and other features along the way.
- an excursion to Siccar Point in Berwickshire in October led by geologist Robert Gatliff, who generously shared his knowledge about James Hutton, the father of Geology. As a thank you, a donation of £40 was made towards the crowdfunder to mark

Hutton's 300th Anniversary to make the site more accessible via the creation of a *Deep Time Trail.*

- Our AGM was held at the end of November, with a potluck supper to encourage members to attend.
- a fascinating talk in January by the warden at the Aberlady Bay Nature reserve, where members learned about the history of the site and its varied fauna and flora and were given a chance for networking over coffee and cake.

In addition to the above, our regular activities included:

- Our weekly French conversation group continued to be well attended and enjoyed discussions on various topics or around French videos. All levels of ability were welcome. This year a few members were treated to a guided tour in French of some of the paintings at the National Gallery.
- Our new monthly Make and Mend group tackled various garment repairs and embellishments through patching, needle felting and other techniques. Some members chose to continue with individual projects in a supportive environment. A few sessions also gave members the opportunity to learn new skills like Sashiko embroidery, making slippers and lovely triangle zippy bags. Our Christmas wreath-making workshop was very popular once again and required a couple of sessions.
- Our litter picking and Community Gardening groups and other volunteers continued to help to keep our community beautiful. We had two litter pickings along the Brunstane Burn and Windsor Place and the Christian Path. Early in the summer, we also had two sessions removing False Barley weeds around various streets in Portobello to make the area safer for dogs. In July, our community Gardening group helped the Rotary Club of Portobello with planting along the platform at Brunstane train station.
- Two birdwatching sessions were organised at Musselburgh lagoons where members were treated to sights of many wonderful birds including pink footed geese, wigeon, teal and shelduck, snipe, curlew, redshank and kestrel.

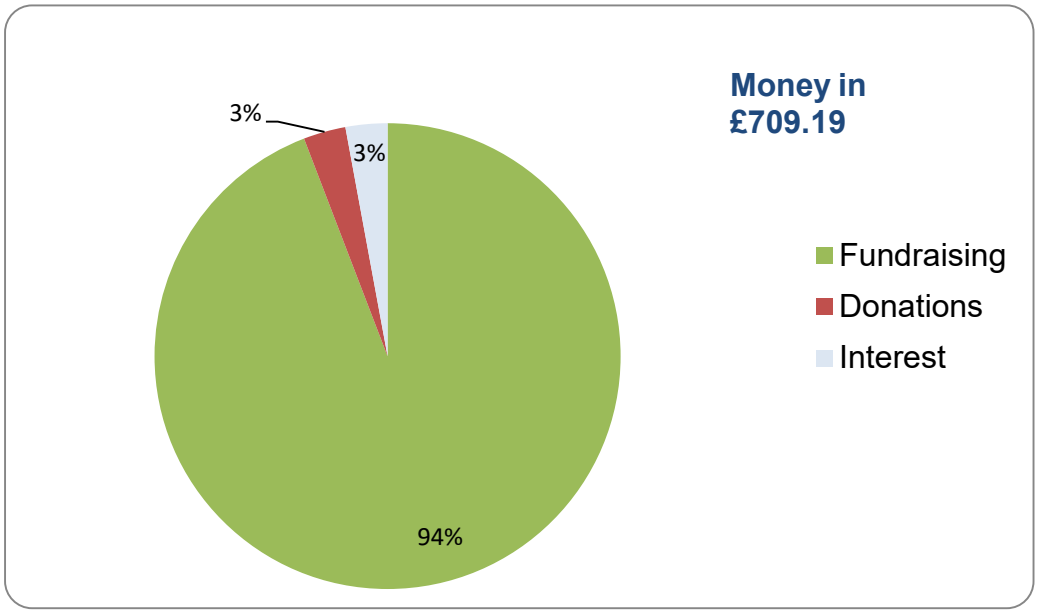
- We had 4 pub meet-ups which gave members an opportunity for lively chats and a chance to connect with friends old and new.

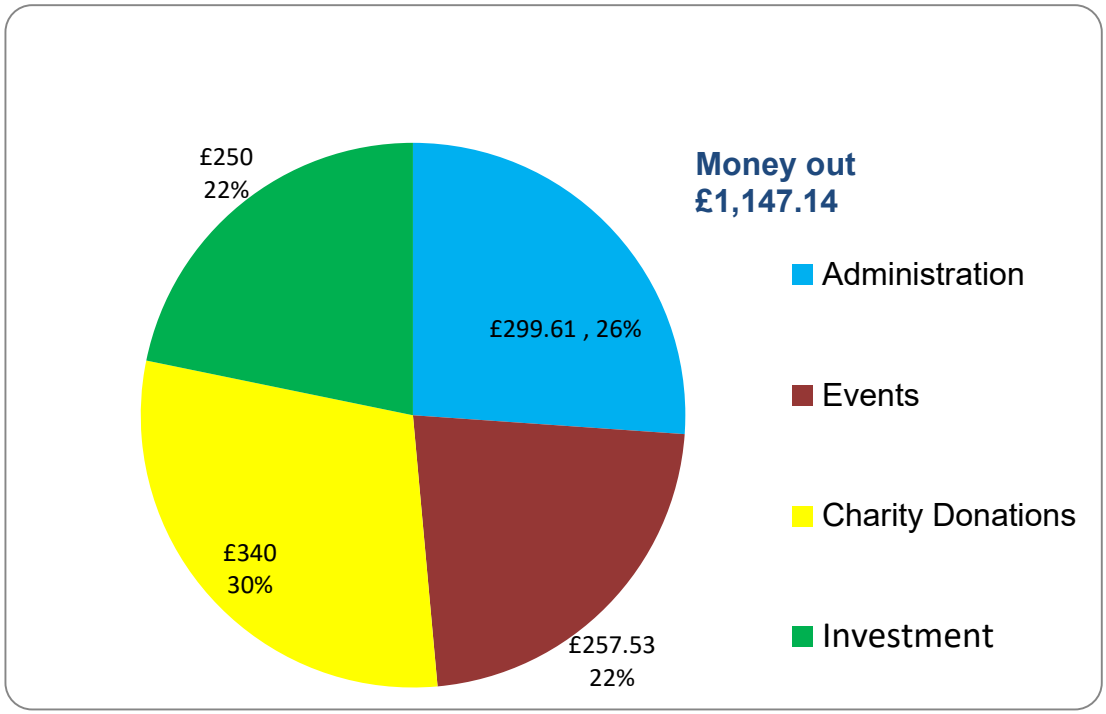
"Time and Talents V2" was launched on 1 July 2025. This is an upgrade from the hOurworld application used to record exchanges (Offers and Requests) and help communication between members.

A few group and individual training sessions were organised to help members to become familiar with the new application. Thanks to our helpful unofficial membership secretary who facilitated this.

At the end of April 2025, along with many other local organisations, we bought shares in Bellfield's Big Build: the project to upgrade and reshape the space inside Bellfield's main sanctuary. We were delighted to give our support to this amazing project, which will benefit the whole community.

Financial review





Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity aims to maintain reserves of above £200 to allow us to meet administrative costs and continue our activities, which promote and increase social interaction between individuals in the community.

Our cash balance is currently £3,299.71, thanks to previous years' fund-raising activities, grants and donations. We are not expecting to raise our reserves significantly above this level in the immediate future.

Details of any deficit

We had a deficit on operations of £187.95 this year due exceptional costs: an additional insurance premium of £100.80 which should have been accounted for in 2024-25 and was only paid early in this financial year. In addition, we contributed £97.51 to hOur World in recognition of their assistance with the upgrade of the Time and Talents application. This deficit can be met from existing reserves without compromising the future of our operation.

Future plans

In future years, we aim to encourage more members to get more involved with the organising of events and the administration of the Timebank, so that we can continue to raise funds to support local charities and enhance the wellbeing of our community.

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Print name	**Marie- Christine Rigouleau**
Designation	**Treasurer**
Date	**15/10/2026**