



grassmarket

community project

ANNUAL REPORT
2022



“I am so grateful that the GCP exists. It has helped provide structure in my life at a time when things have totally fallen apart.”

Members census, Summer 2022

Letter from the Chair

Now more than ever, what we need are places like the Grassmarket Community Project. At the most simple level, the centre is a warm place to be when so many people will struggle to keep their homes warm this winter, if, that is, they have one.

Since the first Lockdown, the level of stress, anxiety and isolation felt by people has noticeably increased. For all those who come to the Grassmarket Community Project, whether they are members, volunteers or staff, they are joining a community of nurture, care and support, an antidote to the multiplicity of crises that loom over us all through these difficult times.

The catastrophe of the current cost of living crisis would be that those on the edge of society, already beleaguered by so much hardship, might suffer even more. If you are reading this and feel that you could help us in any way, by volunteering or making a donation, then please do.

I want to take this opportunity at the time of our annual report to applaud the remarkable team that we have at the Grassmarket Community Project. That team includes, of course, the wonderful staff and board who steer the ship, but it also includes Members and Volunteers who get stuck in and make a difference. I am trying to spend more time at the Centre simply because it energises me and gives me hope.

There is a list of achievements, as ever, to note. Catherine Jones, celebrated recently at the Scottish Parliament as one of Scotland’s social enterprise champions, is one who deserves praise. Following the shock of Lockdown, we are rebuilding our enterprise activity, giving us the revenue to fund all the educational and mentoring work we undertake. All of this is very much a team effort, so in singling one person out, I am not forgetting all those who make our varied enterprise and support activity so vibrant and forward looking.

A group of us walked the West Highland Way in the late summer. It was a huge privilege to walk-and-talk hearing people’s stories along the way. A group of volunteers supported the crowds making their way to St Giles’ Cathedral



to honour the passing of Queen Elizabeth. We have seen the opening of Coffee Saints 2 in our new pavilion café at Candlemaker Row. I cannot help but think that this wonderfully strong brand could spread across Scotland as congregations and community groups try to imagine how they can be more hospitable to their communities.

All the while, partner organisations and individuals continue to support our work, not least the people at Oliviero’s restaurant in the Grassmarket, the people of St Mary’s Catholic Cathedral, our friends at Mercat Tours and Hub South East, who yet again raised £16,000 at their golf tournament. I also want to thank all the groups and organisations who fund our work. We could not do it without you and you need to know that for many of our people the Grassmarket Community Project is a life-saver.

So, if you are feeling gloomy and beleaguered by all the troubling things that are happening in our world today, I can think of no better place to be than the Grassmarket Community Project.

Thank you to everyone who makes it such a special place.

**Rev. Dr. Richard Frazer,
Chairperson, Board of Trustees**

“The class has been essential for me. I read out my story at the end. I have done a lot of writing, and no one has ever heard it before, I felt heard for the first time.”

Member 2022, Year of Stories Event (Creative Writing class)

“After our swim, sitting by the fire, looking around the group, I just felt amazing. I never wanted that feeling to stop” Member 2022, Wild Swimming Group.

Achievements in 2022 (Dec-Nov 2022)

- Supported 474 vulnerable adults
- Cooked and served 1,648 meals to people who are homeless, vulnerably housed or have no recourse to public funds
- Cooked and served 9,754 Member’s lunches including at Souper Thursdays, on residential and at Christmas Lunch
- Delivered 1,386 classes, engagement activities or groups (3,297 hours of non-social enterprise activity) practical training, arts, music, creative, gardening, outdoor, day-trips, mental & physical health and therapeutic activities
- Delivered 5 supported respite break residential and a team challenge (for some Members this was the first time out of Edinburgh for years or at all). A total of 20 overnights delivered, including: Mercat House (Birnham) x 2, CAMAS, West Highland Way, London and Pilton Retreat (Ratho). 61 Members took part
- £487,831 generated from social enterprise commercial activity in 2022
- 5,496 hours of paid work experience and training (pre-apprenticeships and Modern Apprenticeship) in Woodwork and Catering & Hospitality and 5,148 hours of Volunteering in our social enterprises. 14 pre-apprenticeships/young people on paid training or work experience
- 152 Volunteers engaged with. 82 new volunteers recruited in 2022 delivering/ co-delivering 21 activities a week. 101 volunteers attended 10 training courses we delivered including First Aid, Health and well-being, ACEs & Trauma Informed Approach, Challenging Behaviour, Communication Skills, Suicide Prevention, Drug & Alcohol Awareness and Gambling Addiction Support
- 32 qualifications awarded to young people. 464 hours of training delivery and 39 Members completed accredited learning
- 47 Referral agencies and third/public sector partners referred a new Member
- Won 7 Awards: Scottish Social Enterprise of the Year (one-to-watch), Scottish Social Enterprise Champion (Catherine Jones), UK Digital Film Programme of the Year, Peter Cargin Award for Outstanding Contribution by an Individual (Rohan Crickmarr), UK Top 100 Women in Social Enterprise (Catherine Jones), as well as getting into the SE100UK index of top 100 social enterprises in the UK (Coffee Saints) & Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce Responsible Business of the Year (highly commended).
- Built a new pavilion space – increasing our space for social enterprise income and Community activities by 20%
- Launched ‘Coffee Saints’ Grassmarket (the second café in our chain of ethical Café brand)
- Launched ‘Rainy Hall’ Social enterprise in partnership with University of Edinburgh in their New College
- Benefited from 5 key partnerships: (1) Coffee Saints (with St Marys Cathedral), (2) Our Stories Your City (with Mercat Tours and 6 visitor attractions), (3) Pre-Apprenticeship & Young People’s Development Programme (Hub Foundation Building Brighter Futures Fund) (4) Woodwork Training & accredited learning (John Lewis) and (5) Digital Lifelines – IT training/support for at highest risk people misusing substances (NHS)

Financial information 2021

Income 2021	2021	% of Total	2020	Difference	% Increase or Decrease on 2020
Enterprise Income (£235K / 22%)					
Catering Sales	£153,383	14%	£199,086	£45,703	+23%
Events Sales	£8,476	1%	£20,163	-£11,687	-58%
Furniture Sales	£62,440	6%	£50,970	£11,470	+23%
Textile Sales	£5,535	1%	£4,389	£1,146	+26%
Other Income	£4,010		£5,774	-£1,764	-31%
Grants & Donations (£864K / 78%)					
Donations	£437,336	40%	£92,092	£345,244	+375%
Grants	£376,385	34%	£315,166	£61,219	+19%
Gift Aid	£4,506		£3,172	£1,334	+42%
Investments	£252		£1,439	-£1,187	-82%
Coronavirus Job retention scheme	£46,066	4%	£105,210	£-59,144	-56%
Total	£1,098,389		£797,461	£300,928	+38%
Expenditure 2021					
Salaries and staff costs	£463,231	64%	£517,155	-£53,924	-10%
Project Delivery/Support Costs					
Direct Costs	£114,742	16%	£107,641	£7,101	+7%
Premise Costs	£86,646	12%	£84,232	£2,414	+3%
Administrative Costs	£37,432	5%	£45,852	-£8,420	-18%
Depreciation	£14,654	2%	£25,193	-£10,539	-42%
Irrecoverable VAT	£5,713	1%	£1,990	£3,723	+187%
Legal Fees	£1,000			£1,000	
Audit / Accountancy Fee	£4,705		£4,255	£450	+11%
Total	£728,123		£786,318	-£58,195	-7%
Surplus	£370,266		£11,143		

Less funds restricted for the ‘Pavilion’ Capital Build Costs £32,128 = net income for 2021

Restricted funds £736,705 (£360,776 in 2020) • Unrestricted funds £361,683 (£436,685 in 2020)

“Thank you for helping me out when I needed it the most. Thank you for supporting people in poverty when others have given up on them. Without you this city would collapse.” Open Door Meal Attendee 2022 email.

“felt amazing. I never wanted that feeling to stop.” Member, Wild Swimming Group



Acknowledgements

Thank you to our Members – you are our inspiration. We learn so much from how you overcome challenges and benefit from your contribution to our lives. With our Members are the heart of what we do we can sustain this community and provide a safe, supportive and nurturing environment. We also thank our founders Grassmarket Mission and Greyfriars Kirk and hope they continue to be proud of how far we have come and what we have achieved with their support.

Our enormous thanks to the hundreds of people who continue to volunteer with us and those Volunteers who joined our community this year. From serving at the Open Door Meals, assisting our activities, facilitating our outdoor activities, lending a hand during our return to the centre, leading Make and mend, history classes, swims, walks, day trips, supporting our social enterprises, to safeguarding our mission on the Board. Thank you for helping, welcoming, cooking, driving, teaching, supporting, encouraging, planning, and promoting our values – you are ever indebted to you for our success and survival.

Thank you to our many donors, customers and core funders (listed below). As we emerge from one global crisis and enter another global financial crisis we would not have survived and will not thrive without your continued support and your recognition of the value and necessity of our work.

Thank you to our funders

Agnes Hunter Trust
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Augustine United Church
Baird Trust
Bank of Scotland Foundation
Barcapel Foundation
Basil Death Trust
Binks Trust
Capital City Partnership (City Region Deal)
Christine Price Clark Charitable Trust
Cinema For All/BFI
City of Edinburgh Council
Clothworkers Foundation
Digital Lifelines Scotland
Edinburgh Airport
Edinburgh Third Sector Interface (TSI)
Foundation Scotland

Fyrish Foundation
Garfield Weston Foundation
Gloag Foundation
Grassmarket Mission
Greyfriars Kirk
High Constables of Edinburgh
Hope Trust
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Tabhair Trust
TOR Christian Foundation
UK Government Kickstart Scheme
University of Edinburgh
Viewforth Trust
William Grant Foundation
William Syson Foundation
Wolfson Foundation

We would like to acknowledge and thank in particular the number of Trusts and Foundations that reached out and granted us an uplift to support us through the cost-of-living crisis.

www.grassmarket.org



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“a good place to be”