# ANNUAL REVIEW



# UMBRELLA SUSSEX

## APRIL 2022 TO MARCH 2023





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# UMBRELLA SUSSEX: AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

Umbrella Sussex is a Charitable Community Interest Company operating on cooperative principles to support community sharing projects **Co. no. 14001035**

## We are part of the Sharing Economy

- We focus on building community wealth and working cooperatively to overcome problems caused by poverty, or lack of access to things

In addition

- We try to keep our money local, treat people well and be gentle with the earths resources










Sharing economy projects try to avoid transactional relationships, obligations are social not financial
Success for us is community, not profit

### Co-operative Principles- We:

- Avoid hierarchy
- Listen nicely
- Let People In

### Umbrella Sussex:

Welcomes new sharing projects to potentially shelter under our umbrella: To share the
the benefits and responsibilities of running an organisation

**Want to get involved? email Shelley@umbrellasussex.org.uk**

We've 2 main projects, plus some side hustles, which you can read all about in the following pages



# MAKE AND MEND
## BEXHILL AND BEYOND



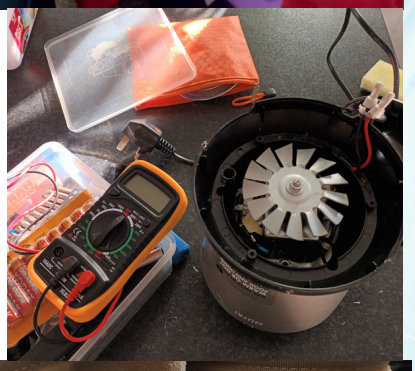

Rare photo of the head gremlin in action. Thanks, RVA!

**Make and Mend Bexhill and Beyond is the cross between a Repair Cafe and a Knit and Natter, and is the other main project of Umbrella Sussex.**

**We aim to get more people repairing and maintaining their items instead of throwing them away.**

*"If in doubt, bring it in!"*

**- famous last words.**



and we preside over a regular Friday crafternoon, a knit and natter that's seen a lot of crocheting and knitting, but also drawing, painting, card making and a fishing net making demo. all are welcome 12-4 fridays

**But no, the scope of items covered is so large that it's better to ask and/or bring it in.**

**Electricals? Yes.**
**Fabrics and Clothing? Yeah!**
**People? ...no, but I can point you towards the Pharmacy?**



**Make and Mend returns to Bexhill!**
**Mondays at the Eco Hub!**



**Demonstrating crafts and crafting gets people thinking about how things are made, and is a great way to make people think about what they have, how it was made, and - how to fix it if need be.**



**Reduce!**
**Reuse!**
**Reanimate!**
**Recycle!**

SUSSEX

LIBRARY OF THINGS HASTINGS

MAKE AND MEND Bexhill-On-Sea

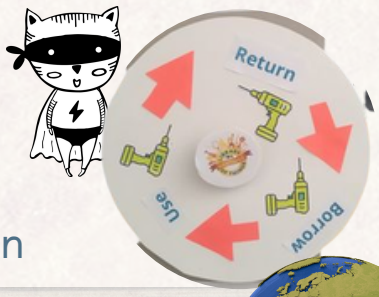


# HASTINGS LIBRARY OF THINGS

Hastings Library of Things lends Things

Members use the Things

Members return the Things and we lend them Again






Hastings Library of Things is a membership based community group. Members run the project, but everyone contributes as they can, by paying the membership fee, doing a bit of admin or social media, whatever they want.

SOLIDARITY NOT CHARITY

With the soldering kit I'm going to re-solder my bike light, for the second time!. The first time it broke I was told it was irreparable, but it cost £60 new so I didn't want to throw it away

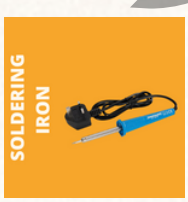
I think I've borrowed the wheelbarrow 4 times this year? It's been really handy

"Thank you ever so much for delivering an loaning the wheelchair, it's going to be a godsend for next few weeks"

"Thank you for rescuing me from my haberdashery emergency and letting me borrow the staple gun without a reservation"

"My daughter loved borrowing the lego sets, she was occupied for hours."

We loved using the candyfloss machine, when can we borrow it again please ? ...



















SUSSEX

LIBRARY HASTINGS OF THINGS

MAKE+END Bexhill-On-Sea



# PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Our aim is to make space for anyone who wants to support the sharing economy

(If you added up all the volunteer hours it would be a full time job)

Some people do regular sessions- some find something and just crack on with it, some or dip in and out as and when




Librarians

Delivery Rider & Delivery co-ordinator



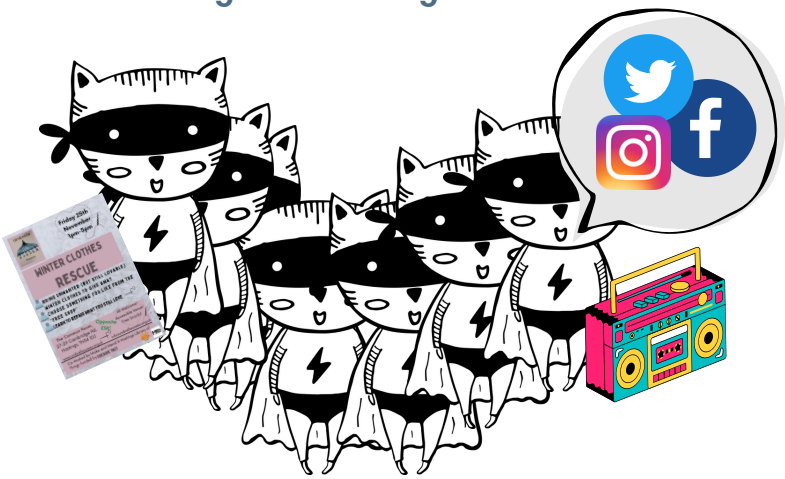
Tent Tester



Car users who collect "thing" donations



Fixing and Mending Gremlin




## Comms Folk

- 1 Comms Person who finds us media opportunities'- like getting us on local radio
- A legion of folk on social media, telling people about library of things and how to borrow from us
- A handful of folk who quietly take our fliers and spread them about

SUSSEX

LIBRARY OF THINGS HASTINGS

MAKE+MEND Bexhill-On-Sea



# OUR YEAR- IN WORDS

## Spring

- Christine at Kings Road Market
- After a few hiccups we finally became an independent CIC! With 3 diverse (and all female directors) Umbrella Sussex is open!

## Summer

- Shelley represented Hastings Library of Things in the Making it Happen Annual Review, and Lovely Craig of Craigs Cabin did us the cutest video
- We got a pot-load of funding from the Community Fund, which we used to, pay our rent, commission a website and buy a cargo bike. We brought funding from outside the town and spent 70% of it with local organisations, only going elsewhere for what we couldn't buy here.
- MAM ran a soap making workshop, then donated the kit to the Library of Things so others could use it
- MAM started a regular session at the EcoHub in Bexhill

## Autumn

- We used funding from Foreshore Trust to do host a "Free Shop"
- Very lovely Aaran built our library "showcase" and everyone helped to paint it.
- We set up Chess Club in the Common Room
- A volunteer scored us a spot on BBC Sussex Radio (Shelley says "um" 23 times inside a minute)

## Winter

One of our librarians signed up to do a fashion show, and we all got involved, sewing and modelling

Chess Club is working well- a mix of new folk and regulars play, including a Ukrainian teen and some Jazz loving older women.

We launched our functional print service to help people without printer access and to share one of our resources "Ol Grumpy" the Printer.

## Spring Again

Setting up to do our first years accounts, find funding for the year to come, take time to celebrate and support our volunteers and participants, getting ready for the next clothes swop.

We launched our E Cargo Bike Delivery Service with a celebratory tea party and finally managed to pass on some of our unlendable donations to a good cause, Cooking Pops in Sidley!



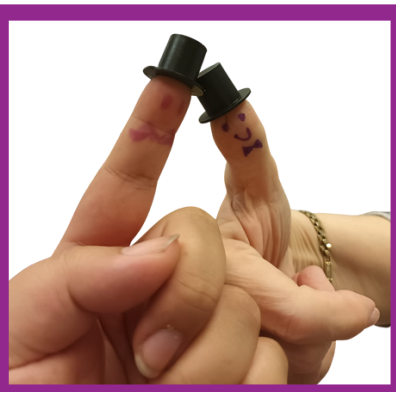








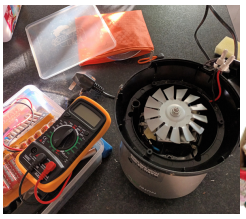




# OUR YEAR- IN PICTURES















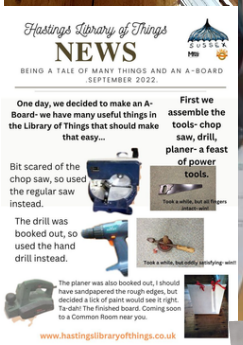












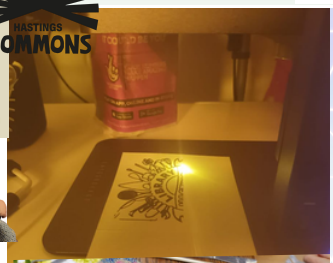


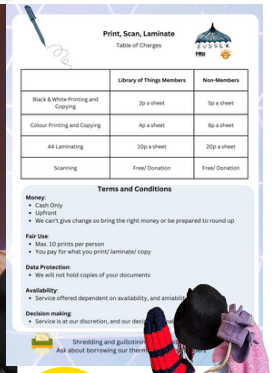




















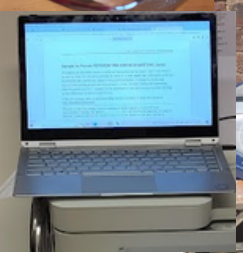










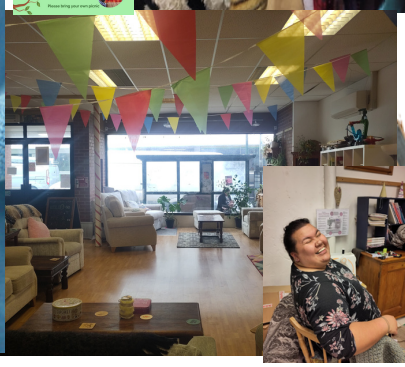


















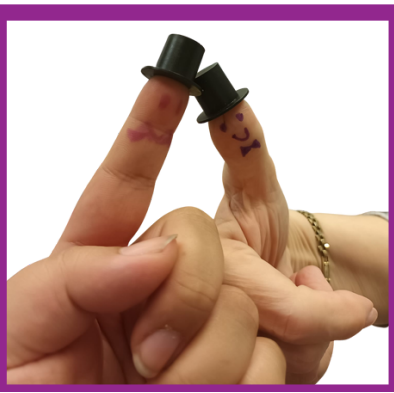








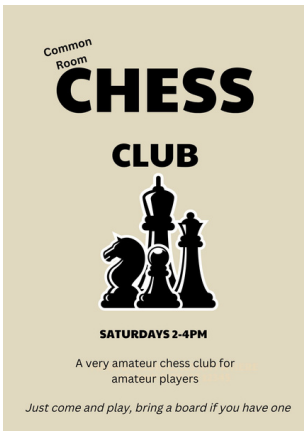


# SIDE HUSTLES #1 & 2
# CHESS CLUB & FREE SHOPS

## Chess Club

Chess Club was a little experiment in self-organising...
We did a poster, and people came




"Chess Club is great, no-one is in charge, but we seem to get along, I'd really miss it if it stopped now"

### 2023-2024 Update

Chess Club have gently organised themselves, sorting out times and venues, buying extra chess boards and welcoming new players.
There is talk of a new poster and a bit of advertising around the town.




Sharing is fun, positive and builds community, so, rather cheekily, we arranged a massive "Free Shop" on 25th November, AKA Black Friday, AKA International Buy Nothing Day
The aim was a nice day, with lot's of different people having time to mingle, and to celebrate sharing and repairing:
Around 90 people came, and about 200 bits of clothing were given and taken. A few things were mended, and 25 sewing kits given away
We plan more pop up free shops in the future









(disclaimer- we are 100% not interested in shaming or judging people for buying stuff and wanting stuff)





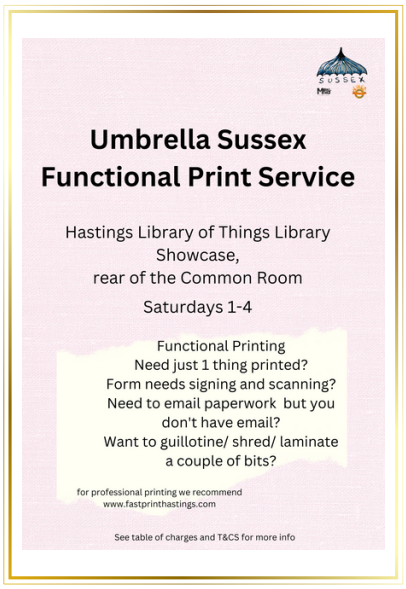


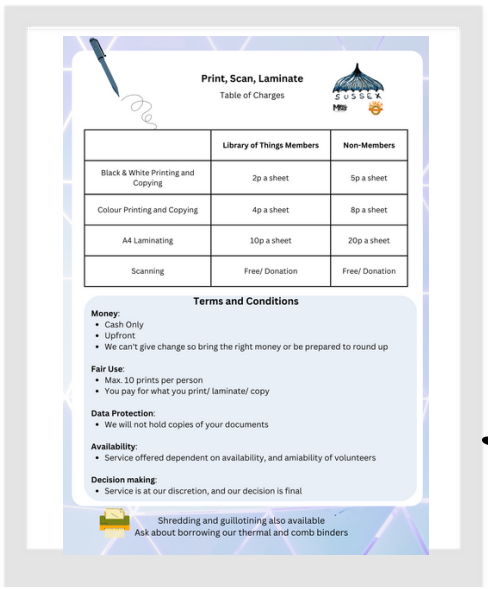





# SIDE HUSTLE #3 FUNCTIONAL PRINTING

## Printing



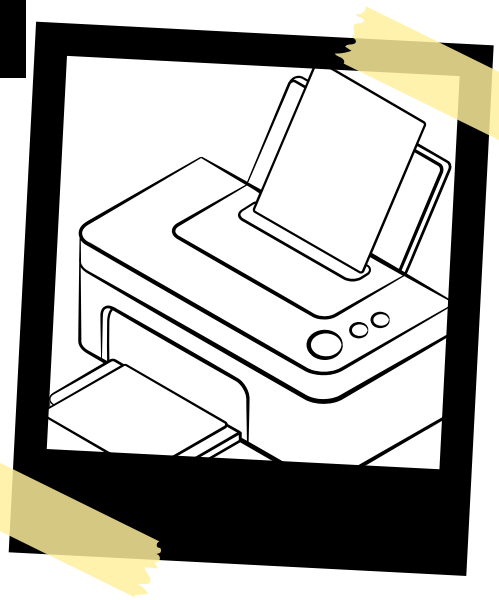




**We** share access to our printer and we use the free wi-fi provided by Hastings Commons to print/ scan and send stuff)

Here's an example

We fill a gap for folk without IT skills or IT equipment:
Pete was looking for work and was offered a job. They sent him loads of paperwork to print, sign and scan back to them. We printed Pete's documents (over a cuppa), he signed it, we scanned it and sent it to his email to send back. Job Done!














# HASTINGS COMMONS

September 2021- **Hastings Commons*** opened the **Common Room** in Eagle House. The Common Room is a **Public Living Room**** and Umbrella Sussex H.Q.

*Hastings Commons is a collection of buildings and spaces in which commoners (tenants, team, trustees... anyone who steps up to take action with others for the common good) can connect to one another, grow, have fun and make an impact

**Public Living Rooms are the brainchild of Camerados. Public living rooms have sofas and cuppas, maybe some tunes, maybe some board games. They are warm welcoming places with people who listen, who treat everyone the same, who don't judge or try to fix each other

The Common Room has an accessible loo, kitchenette, bookshelves, games, a piano kids "zone" and lots of plants.

Lots of Things Happen in the Common Room: Chess Club, Make and Mend, Energy Advice, Home School Teens Meet Up, and general people being people






As Umbrella Sussex HQ we help "anchor" the Common Room: opening up, welcoming folk, watering the plants... It's a great place for us to be and we love hanging out there

You don't need our permission to visit the Common Room. Just walk right in and make yourself a cuppa

If you 'd like to help anchor the Common Room get in touch



# FANCY DRESS (AND DRESSING UP FANCY



World Book Day
2 March 2023
- an annual feature in many schools, an an annual challenge for many parents to get costumes. This year we lent 6 costumes and next year we hope to lend even more.

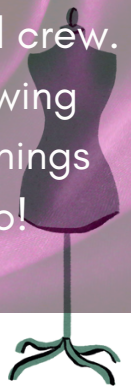
One little Dalmation won a book token, which led to wagging tails all round (or should that we tales)?




**0pulence From Waste Sustainable Fashion**

Librarian Kez did a fashion show and Librarians and the Make and Mend Gremlin stepped forward to be dressers, models and crew. The Make and Mend sewing machine and Library of Things mannequin helped too!







# NUMBERS

Fixing and Crafting:

- 65+ things fixed including a pair of glasses, a tent, and a teddy bear
- 12 people basic sewing (mending and darning skills)
- 49 Crafternoons enabled

## Lending:

- 421 things lent*
- 120 things saved from landfill

(*with a value of £6000)

People Power:

- 1598 hours of volunteering
- 560 cups of tea drunk
- 750 Hours Anchoring the Common Room
- 6 Regular Volunteers and
- 7 Occasional Volunteers (who dip in and out when there are things to be done)

## Summary Accounts

Membership Fees & Donations- £1230.84
Workshop Fees-£25.00
Grants
Restricted-£ £7250.00
Unrestricted-£12481.00
Total: £20986.84



**Money Out**

Rent- £4200
Insurance-£710.81
*Cargo Bike-£3803.05
Volunteer Expenses & Training- £528.50
*Computers and Software-£3311.77
Admin, Comms and Sundries-£1392.91

Total: £13947.04

*Includes big one off costs for cargo bike purchase and website set up

Money Spent locally: £9071.00



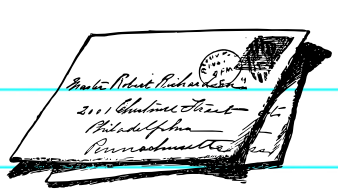
Side Hustle Things:

- 1 Free Shop
- 40 documents printed or photocopied
- 12 Chess Club sessions enabled



# THANK-YOU

## We All Need HELP! Sometimes, and, you gave it to us:





**Ryan Coleman Codes**
(website and email hosting)
**TheyThemStudio**
(the Hastings Library of Things Logo)
**Hastings Commons**
(our landlords and our friends)
**Bullet Coffee House**
(Awesome cake and for meeting all our insanely specific "free from" challenges)
**Funders:**
Chalk Cliff, The Lottery, Sussex Community Foundation, Foreshore Trust
**Library of Things Members**
**Our immense community of volunteers**
**The Common Room Anchors**
Who field enquiries when we are closed

**Get in Touch**
info@umbrellasussex.org.uk
umbrellasussex.org.uk
Come and see us: Tuesdays 12-2, Friday and Saturdays 12-4 for Library, Fridays 12-4 for Make and Mend
The Common Room, 27-29 Cambridge Road, Hastings, TN34 1DJ
Socials: Facebook- MAM/ HLOT
Instagram/ Twitter

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# HOPES & AIMS FOR 2023-2024



This Year Coming we hope to:

- Get more people involved:
  - More members
  - More participants
  - Keep making space for people to do things
- Do more "free" shops
- Grow the delivery service
- Keep making connections and working with other awesome projects
- Celebrate and thank our volunteers (with a festive parrrty)
- Cover our running costs (and pay the rent!)
- Expand the range of things that can be mended

Hastings Library of Things is well known, but not always by name: Our favourite wrong names:

- "Library of Little Things"
- "Library of Everything"
- "Community Library"
- "Thing Library"

































