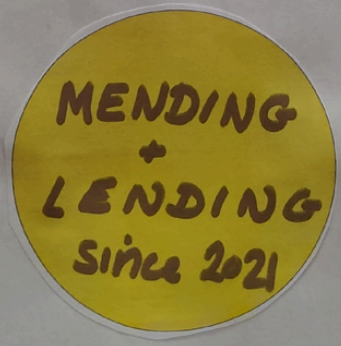
Umbrella Sussex Annual Review

-2023 - 2024-

What we did between April 2023 & March 2024











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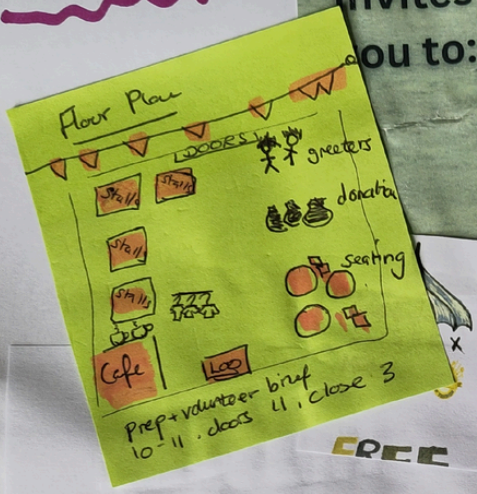
SUSSEX MIND FREE SHOP

Free Shops



SUSSEX MRN

Invites you to:

SPRING CLOTHES RESCUE

Saturday
22 April
12-4

Christmas ReGift Free Shop & Recyclable Gift Wrap Workshop

Why "Free Shops"?

When we set up Umbrella Sussex we did it so that we could run projects that put control in the hands of the community who doesn't always have much, but are willing to share. We wanted an alternative to buying stuff that was dignified and Free Shops are most certainly that: Plus they are fun, very social and they give us a chance to meet loads of lovely new folk.

Free Shops give people who have stuff they don't need a place to pass it on to, and people who can use it can have it, free, no questions asked, no means testing and no judgement.

We have run 5 free shops so far- 3 with the benefit of extra funding from Foreshore Trust, and plan to run at least 1 a year, on "black Friday" for the foreseeable



SUSSEX MRN FREE SHOP

SUSSEX MRN

Invites you to:

FREE

Sunday 2
10am

- BRING THINGS TO
- TAKE WHAT YOU LIK
- HAVE A CUPPA IN THE

THE COMMON ROOM, 27-29 CAMBRIDGE RD, HASTINGS, TN34 1DJ

Opposite ESKI

info and questions, or to help

Make & Mend's Year in Review

written by the Gremlin-in-Chief

No rest for the Weary!

As usual, there's been a lot gone on...

The Move!

Obviously, we moved venue! Getting used to being in the HEART Community hub is an ongoing process... but going well!



3D Printers!



Umbrella Sussex recieved funding for MaM to get a 3D printer. And the Gremlin-in-Chief retreated to the dark corners to print out spare parts and take comissions.

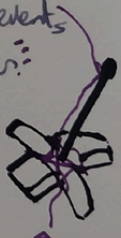
Thanks to the Prusa Makerspace scheme, we got an additional printer for the pace...





Outreach Projects!

My usual sessions on Mondays with Community Supporters in Bexhill continues with fun extra events like Coombe Valley's Green Fair.



And now, I also help with the 3D printers at OBX in the Observer Building.

New Projects!

Phone Fridays - Functional Phone Project



Even cracked phones can find future use! But mostly, we take donated phones, clean them up & pass them onto those who need them. Young project, but already been used by multiple people...

Fabulous Fabric Fridays!



Started as a one-off for International Sewing Machine Day, but was so popular we made it a monthly occurrence. The last Friday in the month.

MAKE + MEND
Bexhill-On-Sea

SPOTLIGHT



Make and Mend

Making things, Mending things, Remaking Things.
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.

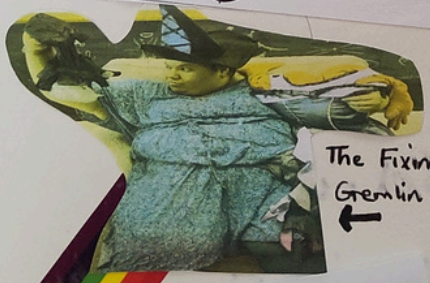
Get involved:
www.umbrellasussex.org.uk

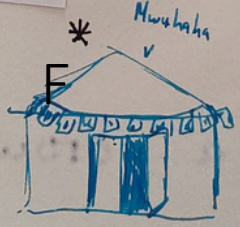
SUSSEX
MAKE + MEND FREE SHOP

FIXING FRIDAYS

THE COMMON ROOM, 27-29 CAMBRIDGE ROAD, HASTINGS, TN34 1DJ

1PM TO 4PM, MOST FRIDAYS







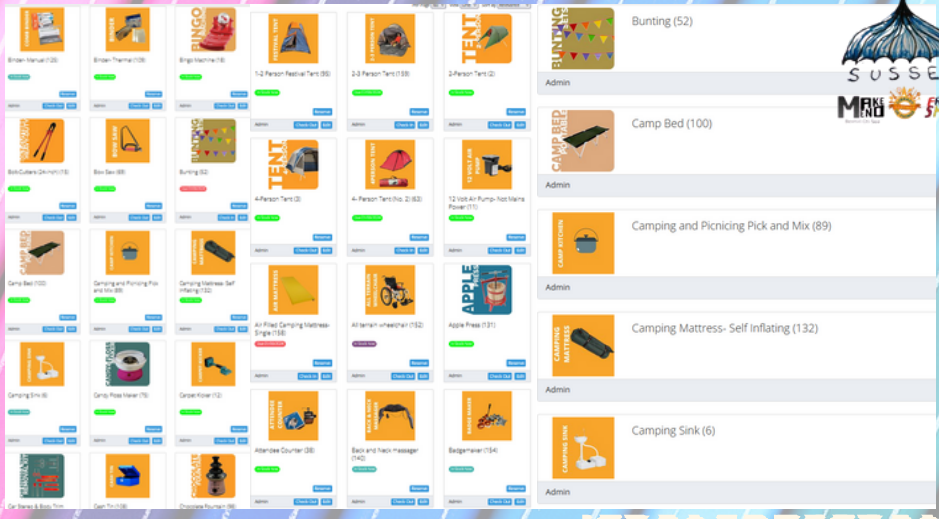
MAKE + MEND
Bexhill-On-Sea

Find out more:
umbrella sussex.org.uk

VOLUNTEER!

makeandmend.bexhill@gmail.com





join: umbrellasussex.org.uk/join

Hastings Library of Things

SUSSEX
MAKE MEND FREE SHOP

No. of things borrowed:
682

No. of things available:
124

Total money saved per member:
£75

Most popular things:
- Power tools
- Wheelchairs
- Folding tables
- Camping equipment

#Sharing not Shopping





LIBRARY OF THINGS HASTINGS

Get involved:
UmbrellaSussex.org.uk

Diary

SUSSEX

April

Free Shop 22 April 2-4pm
Funded by Foreshore Trust and run by Umbrella Sussex volunteers. AJ, Sue, Kez, Christine, Marian, Allan, Shelley Sian + Stephanie

May

A regular month with no extras just:
Tuesday 12-2 Library of Things + running the Common Room
Friday 12-4 Library of Things running the common room. Make + Mend Fixing Friday. Sat 12-4: Library of Things + running the common room.

June

HVAs Mens celebration event, Sat 17th June at the Observer Building. Kez + Sue covering Library

July

Kez and Shelley meet a woman from Cork on Hastings Seafront and begin to dream of a 'Beach Library of Things'

August

- 2nd Birthday Tea Party 5th Aug
- Free Shop 20th Aug
- 'Grow' Grant Awarded our things used at Hazel
- Lodge garden party 31st Aug

September

WAVE Artisan Fair at the Compound - Christine and Kez Sunday 30th

October

- Craigs Cabin / Art in the Park
- Community Fayre 1st October
- Crowdfunder Launch
- Community Sensemaking Polegate
- Fixed the printer - what a palaver!

worlds smallest Public living room?

November

Christmas Regift Free Shop 24th November - also - Black Friday. Shelley win Christine and H.V.A volunteering awards.

December

- Heart Christmas Fayre 12th Dec
- Hastings Library Christmas Fair
- Closed for Christmas 23rd dec to 5th Jan Volunteer meal - postponed to Jan 24

January

- Umbrella Sussex Volunteer meal at Flavours of India
- Crowd funder Reward / Thankyou tea party

February

Visit from Eastbourne Scrap Store - a project in progress' Loaded the trombone out!

March

The big move - 14th March helped by Library members and helped Steve, Aaron and our wheel barrow Christine + Shell @ Lunch Positive St Leonards











SUSSEX
MAKE AND MEND
FREE SHOP

How We

Fixed the Printer

A tale of woe & perseverance

The stupid printer jammed. So we carefully removed the paper and tried again



That didn't work, so we tried:

- Tweezers and a torch
- Compressed Air
- Cotton Buds laced with 99.9% alcohol



None of that worked, so we tried:

- the "university of you tubes" complex button pressing dance designed by octopuses

lies, lies, lies



that didn't work either , so we undid the back



and removed the PEN!!!
Which finally worked
The printer is fixed, we are broken

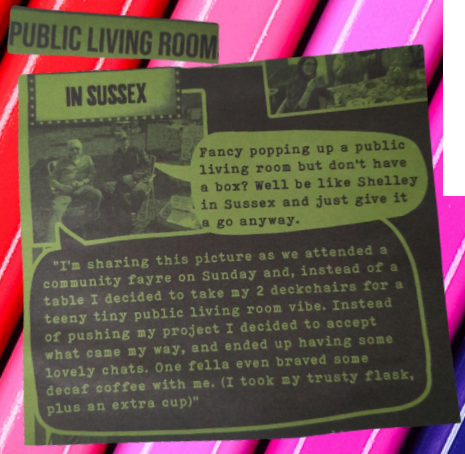
Christmas ReGift Free Shop &

Recyclable Gift Wrap Workshop

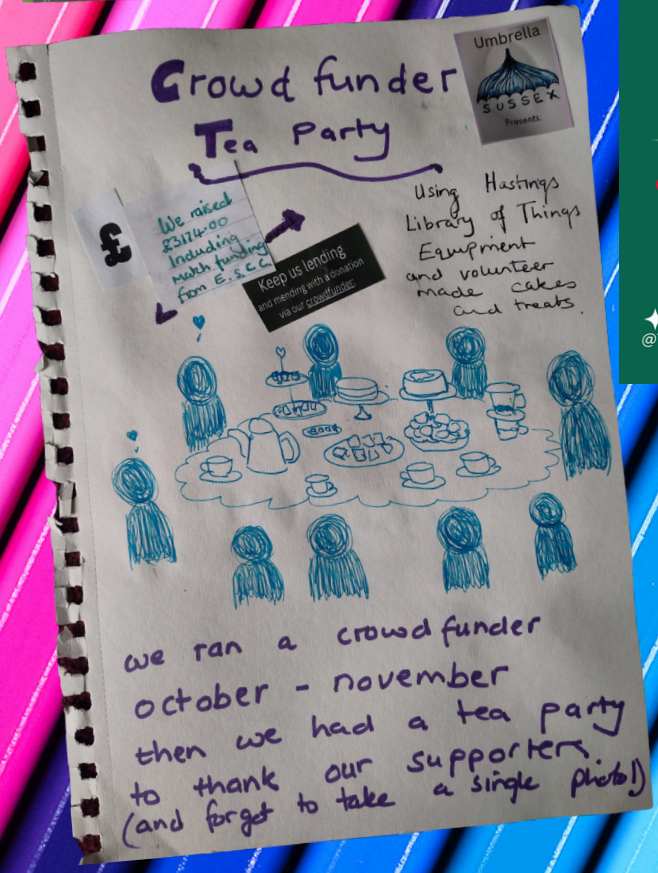
Friday 29th Nov 12-2
Community Info Hub Town Hall,
Priory Meadow Entrance

WWW.UMBRELLASUSSEX.ORG.UK/FREESHOP

Bring gifts, take gifts
Learn fabric gift wrap techniques
#SharingNotShopping







Hastings Library of Things
and
Make and Mend
Bexhill and Beyond
are moving

we are taking a short break from March the 15th and will reopen 5th April

Visit our website for updates

www.umbrellasussex.org.uk/news

Friends + Supporters

SUSSEX MAKE AND FREE SHOP



. org

Hastings commons. com

Craig Cabin. org.uk



Community supporters. org.uk





. org.uk

Hastings Mens Shed.org.uk

Hastings Heart. com





The Compound wavearts.org

Get involved:
UmbrellaSussex.org.uk

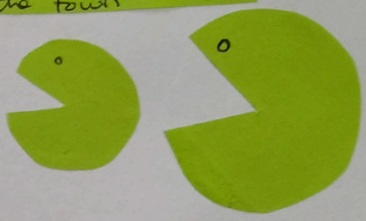
Money Money Money

Where it comes from

most of our money comes from grants and a bit from donations, membership fees and sales.

our plan for future years is to be less grant dependent by encouraging Library of things members to pay a bit more (while keeping the basic charge affordable), and earning fixing fees using our 3-d printer!

80% of our income is money brought into the town and 70% of our spending is spent in the town



where it goes

we spend as much locally as we can, supporting small independents, cos we think its good for the town

This is a snapshot look us up on gov.uk for our formal accounts: Umbrella sussex. 14001035

Rent	-£3086.84
Insurance	-£814.69
Volunteer	-£1084.25
Computers, phones, Software	-£786.96
[redacted]	
Admin, Comms, fixing + maintenance	-£1415.40
Events + activities	-£916.46

Money in - £19346.90 money out - £9247.11

Thank you to our fantastic accountants

Ashdown Hurrey

www.ashdownhurrey.co.uk

Ashdown Hurrey are local, approachable and, they really understand C.I.C.s





Send helen
1. Bank statements

part of shelley list

Looking forward 2024 - 2025 we plan to:

Umbrella Sussex

sharing not shopping

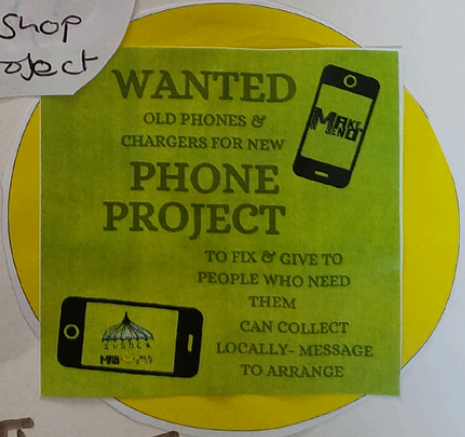
- Keep lending with Hastings Library of Things
- Keep mending with Make and Mend Beehill and Beyond
- Keep running at least 1 Free Shop each year
- Be open to other 'sharing economy' activities
- Keep to our principles, be inclusive look after our amazing volunteers

FREE SHOP

Find ways to stay in the black, grants, earned income and membership fees .... what else?

Beach Library of Things
3D printer sales
Swop Shop
Phone project





Keep up with our news:

www.umbrellasussex.org.uk/news

The Future