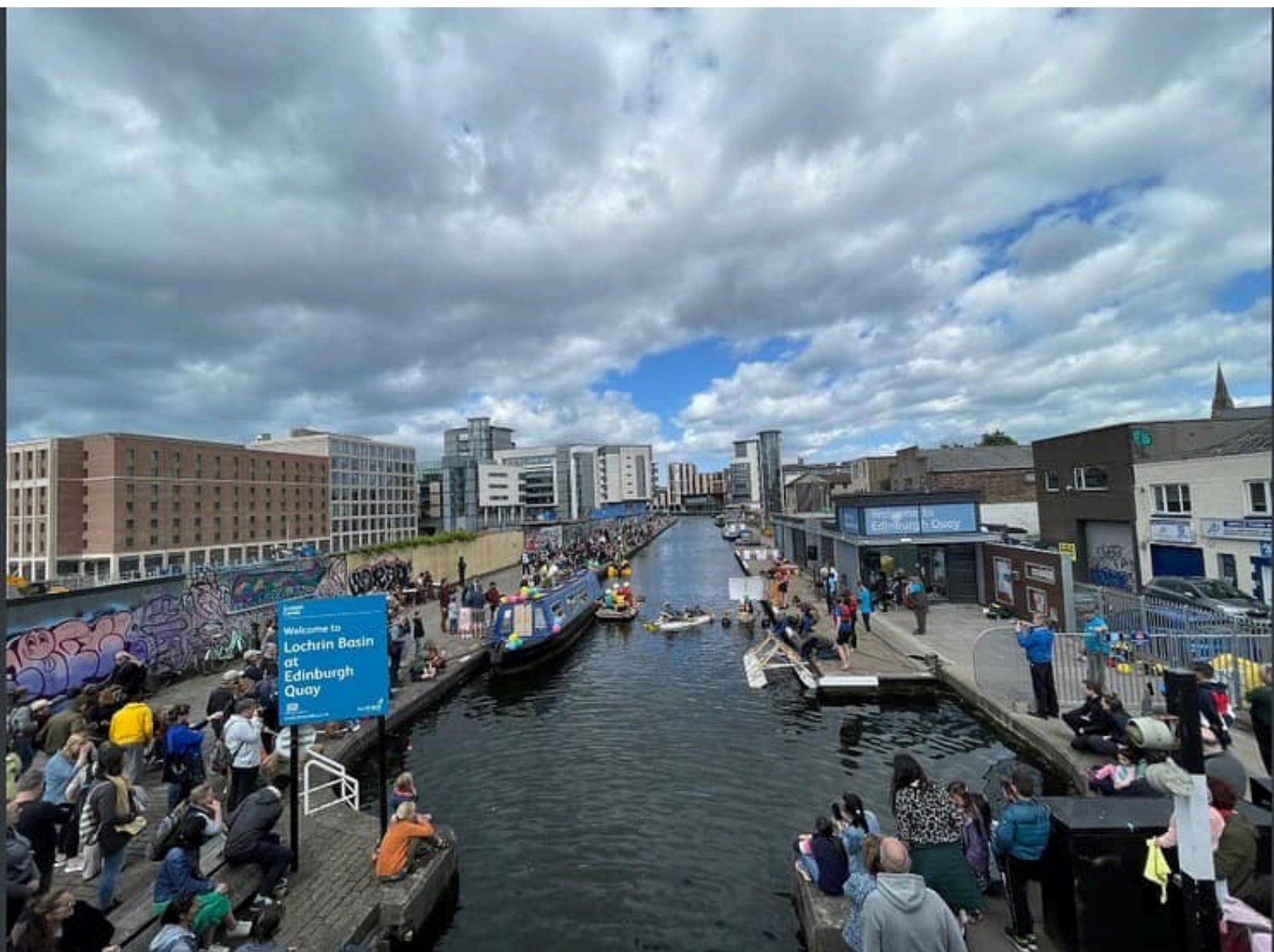




ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2023-MARCH 2024





AIMS FOR 2023-2024

Our Mission

Fountainbridge Canalside Community Trust (FCCT) aims to make our local area a better place to live, work, do business and visit!

Generally we are interested in any opportunities that strengthen our community economically, environmentally or culturally, and promote social inclusion, sustainability and well-being.

Our website - www.fcct.scot - has more details about our projects and upcoming activities and events in the local area. We are also on most social channels @fcctEdinburgh

Our Objectives for 2023-2024

- To continue to develop the regular weekly activities of Fountainbridge Canalside Community Trust (FCCT) - namely our Wellbeing Walks and Greenspace Group.
- To offer a full programme of events, private and community hires on Lochrin Belle and begin to introduce the two newer boats - Waterwitch and Kingfisher.
- To continue to offer informal and certificated volunteer training and support a 'route to employment' through training up Boatmasters.
- To build upon the second year of the Edinburgh Canal Festival as a 'Community Doors Open Day' along the full stretch of canal in our area of benefit.
- To ensure the financial stability of the organisation by seeking funding for projects and activities from April 2024 onwards.

2023-4 ACTIVITIES

GREENSPACE GROUP

This group started in August 2023 as a pilot and quickly gained momentum and continuation funding. It now runs every Tuesday. Attendees are mainly female and include adults of all ages. Some of our attendees report experiencing long term health issues, poor mental health and having caring responsibilities. We also ran a number of free weekend greenspace events aimed at families.

CANALSIDE WELLBEING WALKS

This weekly group has been going for over 1 year. Walkers have clocked up a total of 593 walking sessions between them, with an average of 8 people attending per week. 25% of participants surveyed 6 months after joining the group reported having changed from being 'inactive' to 'active'. We also engaged with 32 people through a targeted programme called 'Walks for Wellbeing' which supported those with poor mental health, anxiety, low/no income or experiencing loneliness with encouragement and confidence to choose walking to travel places in their everyday life.

EDINBURGH CANAL FESTIVAL

Having tested the new format as a Community Doors Open Day with 5 zones along a 1.2 mile stretch of The Union Canal, we looked to build on this in 2023. It is difficult to estimate the number of attendees at the event but we believe we went from several hundred attendees in 2022 to several thousand attendees in 2023.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

A big breakthrough for our organisation was achieved through gaining a National Lottery Heritage Fund three-year grant, which will start in April 2024.

10 PEOPLE
on average
attend our weekly
greenspace group
and we have

**25 PEOPLE
REGISTERED**

70 PEOPLE
have attended at least
one Wellbeing Walk

12 PEOPLE
have completed
more than

25 WALKS

worked with over

50

local organisations
and individuals to put
on the Edinburgh
Canal Festival

141
people attended one of

15
free mental health
and wellbeing
events

Canal Boats

Being a canalside charity and growing out of the legacy of Re-Union Canal Boats (a name we still use to describe our 'on-water' activities), means that boats play a large part of our day-to-day work.

LOCHRIN BELLE

Lochrin Belle is our main trip boat and is skippered by a paid Boatmaster and two volunteer crew members. This year we ran 25 funded community trips (all free to participants), 23 paid community group hires, 76 private hire trips, 41 Gin Cruises, 21 Afternoon Tea experiences and 29 Canal Cruise Concerts, as well as 18 static events.

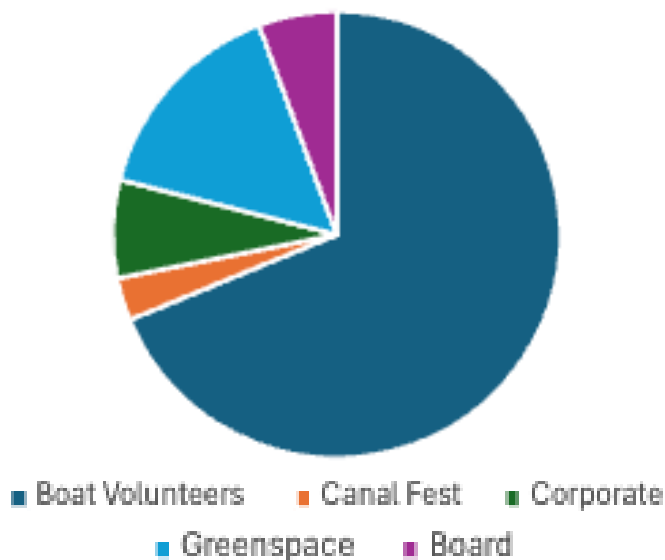
INTRODUCING THE TWO NEW BOATS – WATERWITCH AND KINGFISHER

We had intended to get trips on the two new members of our fleet, Waterwitch and Kingfisher, up and running this year. Unfortunately renovations to Waterwitch and other logistical arrangements took us longer than expected but the plans have been made to put them both into active service in the 2024 season.

INFORMAL AND CERTIFICATED VOLUNTEER TRAINING

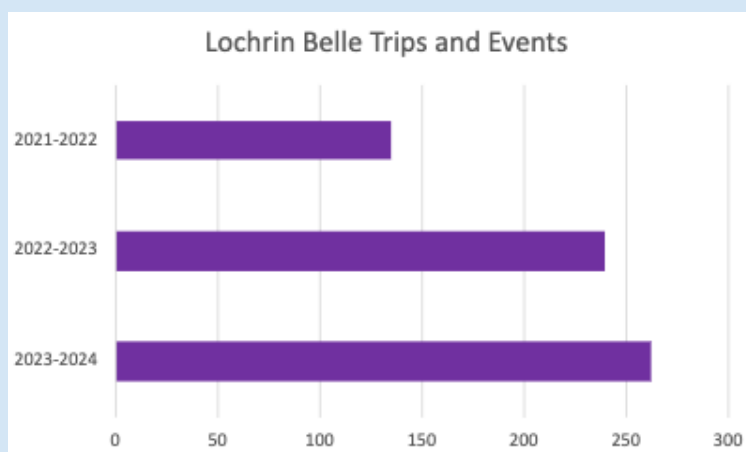
A large part of our boat activities revolve around informal and formal training opportunities. This year we held 13 open volunteer sessions. 12 people completed their First Aid certificate, 6 people achieved their RYA Helmsman and 1 person qualified at a Boatmaster (Skipper).

Volunteer Hours By Activity



**THIS TIME IS VALUED AT
£41,064!**

Lochrin Belle played host to **over 4,000 passengers** enjoying community trips, private hire cruises, gin experiences, afternoon chai and canal cruise concerts.





Thank you to our funders in 2023 - 2024!



Reg. Charity: SC035342 - Reg. Company: 265866

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