

Inverness Tool Library
(SCIO SC053665)

Trustees Annual Report
23rd Sept 2024 – 30 Sept 2025

Charity's principal address
40 Ardconnel Street, Inverness IV2 3EX



Names of the charity trustees

Clare Matysova	Chair	Full year
Trish Salt	Treasurer	Full year
Denise Sutherland	Secretary	Joined May 2025
Mark MacLeod		Full year

all other charity trustees during the period, if any, (for example, those who resigned part way through the financial period)

Andrew Hillier	Resigned 11/09/25
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Structure Governance and Management

Inverness Tool Library (ITL) registered as a charity in September 2024. It is a Two Tier, Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) with a voluntary charity membership.

The two tiers are members and trustees. All volunteers automatically become charity members with the right to vote on matters concerning the charity and have the option to stand for election to the board of trustees at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Trustees meet monthly to oversee the running of the organisation and plan for the future. Members and trustees meet once a quarter to share information and ideas about the organisation.

Trustees provide line management for paid staff. Throughout the year we have employed a part time worker, initially through receipt of funding from the Volunteer Support Fund (Oct 2024 - Mar 2025) for a Tool Library Coordinator (15-hour week) to recruit volunteers, followed by National Lottery Community Fund (April 2025 - Sep 2026) to run a Workshop pilot project (12-hour week).

Recruitment and appointment of board of trustees

At the outset of our first year as a registered charity, four members of the organisation volunteered to be the charity's trustees and a fifth person was recruited through a recruitment website, *Reach Volunteering* later in the year.

At our first Annual General Meeting (AGM), held 1st November 2025, members elected four people to form the charity's governing board of trustees, including specific responsibilities of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

Induction and training of directors

All new board members are invited to attend an induction training session to help them understand the role and responsibility of being a trustee and to familiarise themselves with the work of the ITL. Training is accessed by trustees, upon request.

Health and safety and risk management

The board is responsible for ensuring health and safety and safeguarding policies are in place and for undertaking regular risk assessments and recording these in a risk register.

Financial controls

The board review income and expenditure at their monthly meetings. The reserves policy and financial procedures are reviewed annually to ensure good practice of financial controls and the mitigation of financial risks.

Our Charitable purposes

Inverness Tool Library (ITL) was established with the vision of contributing to the circular economy in the Highlands, promoting the reuse of products to reduce waste for the sustainable health of the planet. Its charitable purposes are:

1. The provision of recreational facilities, specifically: to provide a lending library of tools and other things.
2. The advancement of education, specifically: to deliver skill sharing workshops using donated tools and other items.
3. The advancement of environmental protection, specifically: to raise awareness of climate change.

Our services are for the people of Inverness and surrounding area for the benefit of:

- Ecology – by preventing equipment going to landfill
- Saving carbon – reducing the need for manufacturing new equipment
- Education – raising awareness of climate change and earth's resources
- Community – building a group of volunteers, skill-sharers and members
- Equality – to access equipment at minimal cost to repair and create things
- Economy – saving people money through loaning not purchasing
- Creativity – to enhance wellbeing and mental health

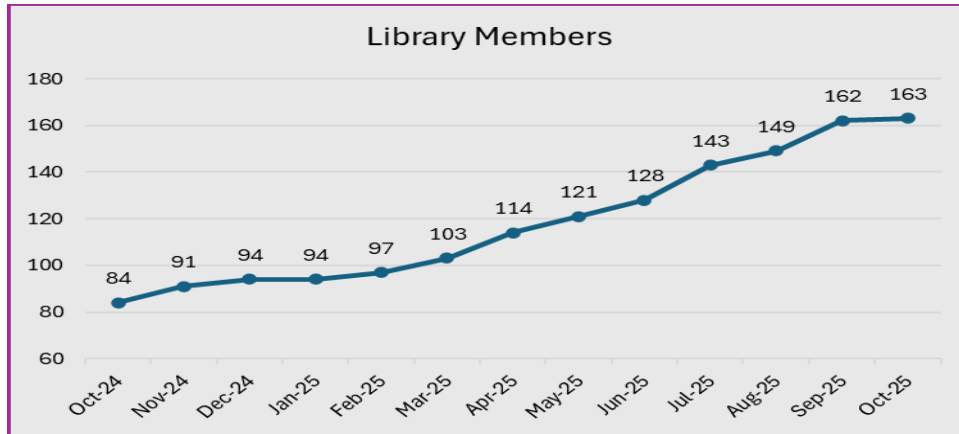
Summary of main activities in relation to the objectives

1. Running of the lending library

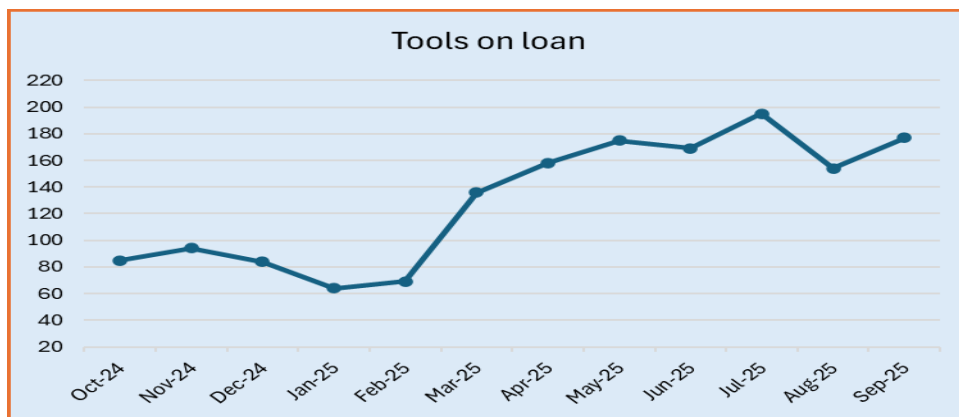
The library opened in May 2023 as a pop-up in an ex-retail unit on Carsegate Road, Inverness, where we opened the library twice a week on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings. The library is run by volunteers who restore donated tools, catalogue them onto the library database and engage with the public to loan tools out.

Volunteers who are confident with tool use often share their skills with people borrowing the tools, discussing the projects they are working on and reinforcing how tool reuse supports the circular economy and environmental protection.

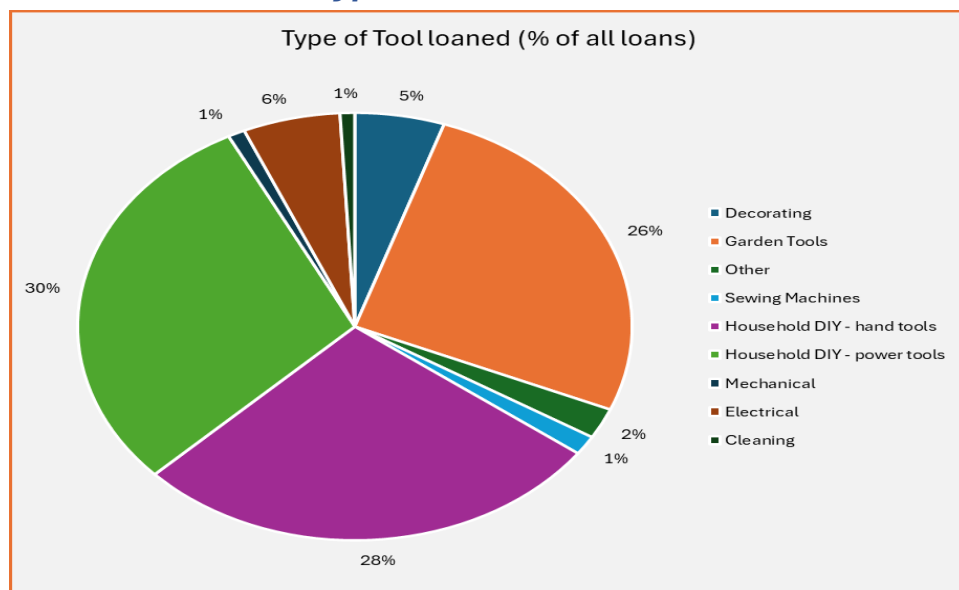
Achievement: Library membership increased from 84 to 163 members



Achievement: In total, over 1,500 loans have been made



More on the type of tools we have loaned out



2. Funded Projects – Running skills sharing workshops

In April 2025 we commenced a pilot project to increase access to tools through the development of a collection service that can operate outwith opening hours. The project includes offering skill-sharing workshops in the safe use of tools this is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. To date (Apr – Sept 2025) we have provided six workshops. In addition to this a professional tool sharpener agreed to train a group of volunteers in tool sharpening, something for which we receive a lot of requests.

Achievement: We have run six skills workshops for 4 -8 attendees at each

WORKSHOPS

AUGUST 19: MEASURING & MARKING - Learn how to accurately mark up timber

AUGUST 26: CUTTING - Using different types of saws for various applications. Handsaws and electric saws will be used.

SEPTEMBER 2: DRILLING - How to use power drills.

SEPTEMBER 9: JOINTS - Making various types of woodwork joints.

SEPTEMBER 16: SANDING - Sanding by hand and using power sanders.

SEPTEMBER 23: FINISHING - Using varnish, wax, oil, etc.

COMMUNITY FUND CIRCULAR ECONOMY



3. Awareness Raising

We have raised awareness of the library, its purpose, how it relates to the circular economy and environmental protection and the importance of the community in contributing. During

this year, we have established our logo and website, which directs potential and current library users to our library inventory and opening times. We have also developed various resources, such as posters, fliers and stand-up banners and increased our social media presence, especially on Facebook.

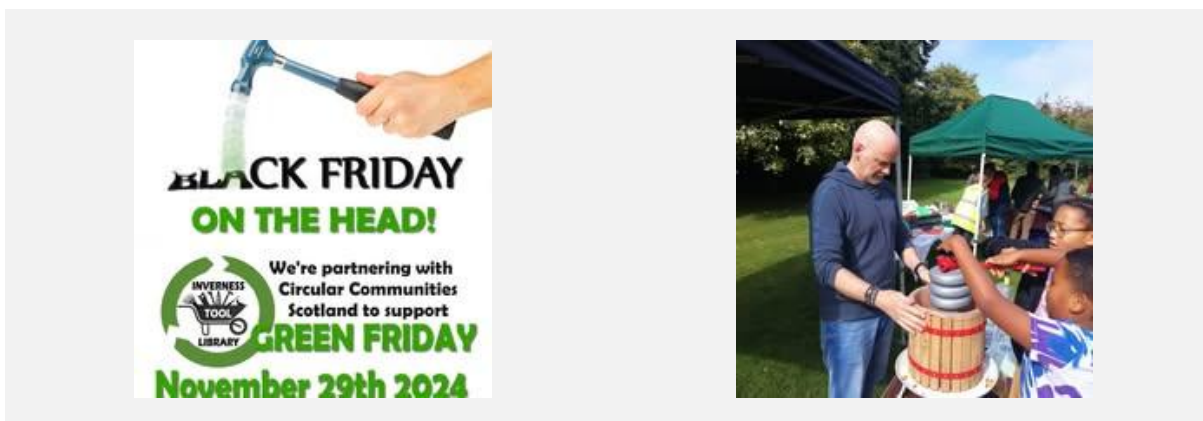
We have held three community events at the tool library that were well attended and supported by our local councilors and MSP. We have attended five community events and engaged with national campaign days to raise awareness of climate change and the circular economy.

We give talks, training and skill-sharing to other tool libraries and repair networks, have presented at a national conference and regularly attend network meetings. We have collaborated with other local organisations supporting the share and reuse economy and assisted Transition Black Isle to establish a Library of Thing.

Achievement: Facebook followers increased from 107 to 1200 in one year



Achievement: We have organized three events and participated in five community events to promote the library and raise awareness of the circular economy and climate change



IT'S GLOBAL RECYCLING DAY...



Join Inverness Tool Library and start borrowing tools - DIY & gardening. REUSE - REPAIR - RECYCLE

www.invernesstoollibrary.org.uk



VOLUNTEER ACADEMY
HIGHLAND THIRD SECTOR INTERFACE

VOLUNTEER FAIR

Saturday 7th June, 11am - 2pm
Inverness Botanic Gardens
Bught Lane, Inverness, IV3 5SS

Visit the Inverness Tool Library stall, and other organisations from across the Highlands, who will be showcasing their work and volunteering opportunities.

VOLUNTEERS' WEEK
2nd - 8th June
2025
#VolunteersWeek

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DOORS OPEN!



VISIT INVERNESS TOOL LIBRARY AT...

EASTGATE CENTRE
GARDEN FESTIVAL
12th April - 9am - 3pm



www.invernesstoollibrary.org.uk

Highland Islands CLIMATE FESTIVAL

Climate Awareness Open Morning

Saturday September 13th
10am - 1pm, Inverness Tool Library
Unit 8, Telford Retail Park,
Carsegate Road, Inverness IV3 8EX

- FREE TRAY BAKES & SOFT DRINKS
- TOOL LUMMAGE TABLE
- HOW UP AS A MEMBER
- BECOME A TOOL LIBRARIAN
- PUPPET MAKING
- APPLE PRESSING BRING YOUR APPLES!

Impacts (October 2024-September 2025)

Community

ITL is becoming known within the community, building a reputation for loaning items that are in good condition. Hilton, Milton & Castle Heather Community Council borrowed tools to clean up a public space.



“Wow! Thank you to everyone who was part of the big clean up today. Thank you to [The Highland Council](#) for providing bins and litter pickers. Thank you to [Simpsons](#) for lending the flasks for teas and coffees. Thank you [Inverness Tool Library](#) for lending us tools for the gardening. And thank you to everyone who turned up despite the weather forecast! You have done an amazing job!”

Individual

The impact is felt by individuals borrowing tools which would otherwise have been purchased for household repairs, as shown by these before and after pictures.

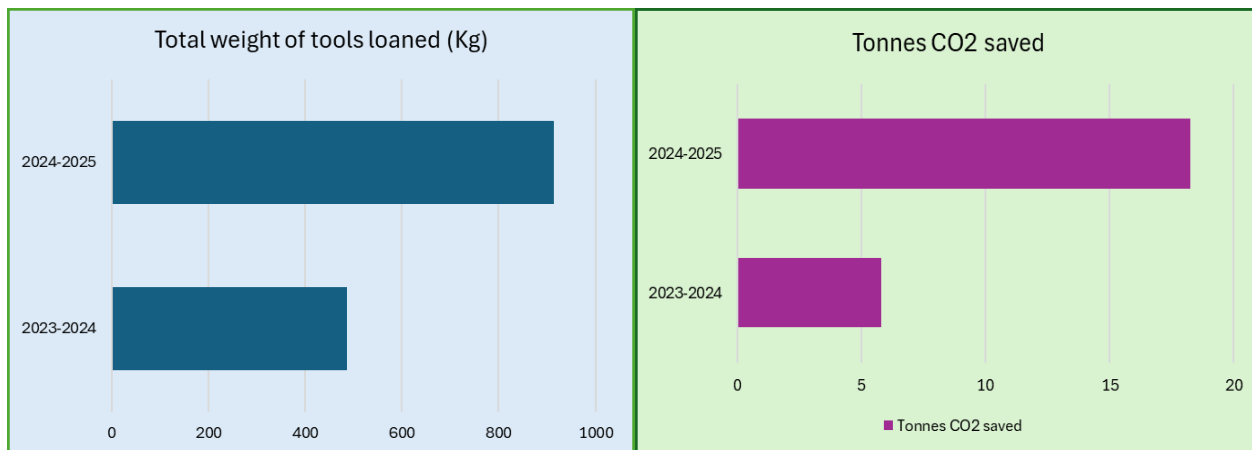


"Another wonderful loan from the Inverness Tool Library. Our electric drill wasn't up to the task of getting through our concrete step, thankfully, the tool library had just the ticket!"

Planet

The loan of tools has resulted in carbon savings, more than double the previous year.

Carbon saved has more than doubled¹



Volunteers

We each have our own story for volunteering; the best part is being a team of volunteers that encourage people in the safe use of tools to promote the making and crafting of items for leisure and practical use.



Chris' Volunteering Story

I saw the sign in the window asking for volunteers. Being new to the Inverness area I thought it would be a good way to integrate more into the community.

It's very easy to be a volunteer and I find it a rewarding experience in many ways. Meeting fellow volunteers and library members is the best part, and I'm starting to understand how important it is for our well-being to make these connections. I enjoy imparting my own knowledge of Joinery and DIY if someone asks, but it's very much a two-way thing and I've also learnt a lot. Google lens is very useful when you are putting an obscure tool onto the inventory!

My most satisfying moment so far was when a member popped in asking if we had a very specific size of drill chuck for a job he was doing at home. After much searching, we came upon exactly what he needed - result!

My favourite tool: coping saw

¹ Carbon saved calculation is based on the number of tools loaned * weight of each tool * the tool emission factor. We are currently recording the emission factor for each individual tool. In the interim we have estimated our carbon saving using the minimum emission factor for all our tools. Our actual carbon saved will be higher than this estimate.

Financial review

Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2025 are given in the Statement of Financial Activities that shows a surplus of funds for the year of £19,023. Unrestricted funds total £8,325, with restricted funds amounting to £10,698.

Assets

Our assets include our donated tools, the value of which is uncalculated. Our liabilities are detailed on the Statement of Financial Position on page X.

Reserves

ITL works towards retaining a surplus, The charity operates a reserves policy of holding three months running costs and of building the reserves for growth.

Donated facilities and services

Outer Spaces (charity SC051153 who lease vacant properties from commercial landlords) hosted the library free of charge within the premises they lease/manage on Carsegate Road. This has been invaluable to establishing ITL.

Challenges

Relocation of our library

One of the key challenges this year has been the precarity of our location in a pop-up space within an ex-furniture retail unit on Carsegate Road. The lease is temporary with a 30-day notice period. During this year, we have agreed a collaboration with New Start Highland, a local charity working to lift people out of poverty, to use a unit within their busy, upcycled goods 'Retail Village'. In the last quarter of this year we prepared our library members and local community for the move to the New Start location at the beginning of October 2025.

Increasing opening hours of our library

Customer feedback indicates they want the library to increase its opening hours. To achieve this we have secured a *Wee Grant* from The Robertson Trust to run a volunteer recruitment drive following our move to the new premises.

Plans for the future

Over the coming year, we plan to extend our opening hours and build our customer base, as well as to build a sustainable workshop programme beyond the current funding, which ends September 2026.

In order to achieve these aims, staffing will be a priority over the next year – both voluntary and paid. We plan to simplify our volunteer recruitment process and work with organisations such as Highland Third Sector Interface who recently launched its *Volunteer Academy*. We will fundraise for paid staff role/s to manage the day-to-day running of the library. We plan to review members and trustee current skills and development needs with a view to developing a learning strategy. Consolidating our back-office administration as well as monitoring and evaluation of our activities will also be a priority in the coming year.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>Clare Matusova</i>	<i>Patricia Salt</i>
Full name(s)	Clare Matysova	Patricia Salt
Position (e.g. Chair)	Chair	Treasurer
Date	14/01/2026	14/01/2026