

ANNUAL REPORT

Ecas promotes equality, choice and integration for physically disabled people. We promote opportunities for physically disabled people to be self-fulfilled and to participate in all aspects of society. We also work to promote disability equality throughout society.





Honorary President

The Countess of Rosebery

Vice-Presidents

Iain M.M. MacMillan, W Graham Monteith, Gavin Strang

Board of Directors

Caroline Loudon (Chair)
Alastair McIntosh (Vice Chair)
Elaine Boyd (Resigned November 2021)
Dale Davies, John Laurie, Jennifer Learmonth,

Robin McKendrick, Ashleigh De Verteuil

Permanent Staff

Ally Irvine, Chief Executive, Befriending Manager and Company Secretary

Janice Todd, Administrator

Sam Collins, Befriending Manager

Gary Smith, Befriending Assistant

Carly Bell, Social Media and Website Co-ordinator

Sue Barclay, Craft Group Leader

Kerry Cooper, Yoga Group Leader

Sheila Donnelly, Yoga Group Leader

Akin Fatunmbi, Music Group Leader

John Glynn, Computing Group Leader

Martin Hensey, Art and Craft Group Leader

John Mackay, Reading and Creative Writing Group Leader

Ann Richards, Seated Tai Chi Group Leader

Graham Young, Art Group Leader

Registered Office

Ecas, Norton Park, 57 Albion Road, Edinburgh, EH7 5QY

Telephone: 0131 475 2344 or 07500 221 618

Email: hello@ecas.scot Website: www.ecas.scot

A Company Limited by Guarantee Reg. No. SC102790 Scottish Charity Number: SC 014929

CHAIR'S REMARKS

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'My bit of paradise' by Elaine Boyd

We have had a very busy second half of 2022, supporting our service users' transition to in-person activities following the pandemic. We delayed this report until after activities had successfully transitioned back to inperson so we could provide an accurate overview of current service provision.

After consulting with the Board, staff and service users, in-person activities returned fully in August 2022. The majority of service users were excited to return, with blended sessions available for the small number who preferred to continue online. Feedback indicated that service users felt comfortable with the steps Ecas took to reduce Covid transmission risk. These included:

- Staff taking weekly lateral flow tests and wearing visors when close to service users.
- Purchasing airflow monitors to assure good ventilation.
- Activities capacity being reduced to allow for some social distancing to take place.
- The purchase of a video conferencing webcam to allow activities and meetings to run simultaneously in-person and on Zoom.

Over the last year we have updated our grants fund criteria; power packs retrofitted to manual wheelchairs are now funded following feedback from community Occupational Therapists. Please see page 13 for more information.

David Nicol, one of our service users from craft, kept his creativity flowing during lockdown by drawing a new piece of artwork every day. His efforts were rewarded by his own exhibition at Ocean Terminal! See page 15.

Elaine Boyd retired from the Board in November 2021 after serving two 5-year terms. I would like to thank Elaine for her support and commitment. Thankfully Elaine continues to attend Ecas' art activity.

The success of Ecas is entirely due to the hard work of many people: our volunteers (befrienders, Directors, committee members and those who support activities); our funders (individuals, companies and trusts); the staff; our many partners (public, private and voluntary sectors) and, of course, our service users.

We very much look forward to supporting more people across Ecas services in the coming year.

Caroline Loudon, Chair



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Since activities returned in person, attendance numbers in most activities have increased, with some staying the same. It has been lovely to see everyone, especially those who had not been involved in the Zoom sessions and had had very little social contact before Covid.

Sadly, we've had a number of service users who didn't attend online pass away during the pandemic along with others whose health has deteriorated during this time, now too ill to attend. With the drop in numbers, there is work to do regarding our service promotion, to ensure activities reach capacity and remain viable for the future.

A digital Ecas services relaunch flyer and email to promote all services has been created and disseminated across a range of potential referrers. Hard copy posters and leaflets are in progress. Activity fees remain static with the cost only £2.30 a session with the option of trying out an activity for 2 weeks free of charge. Please pass on our details to anyone who could benefit.



Unsurprisingly, the demand for befriending support has reached a level where we have suspended accepting referrals, for the moment. We do however have funding for accessible transport. If your need for accessible transport has been a barrier to volunteering within your community, please contact the befriending team to discuss what is involved in becoming a volunteer befriender.

As services remain under constant review please visit our website at **www.ecas.scot** for up to date information.

Many thanks to all those involved with Ecas for their support.

Ally Irvine, Chief Executive



e have five touch screen desktop computers offering Office and graphic software capabilities. Returning after a couple of years from Covid did have an impact on service users and one preferred to remain online through Zoom. Though it has been slow in terms of service users coming in, numbers are slowly climbing and people have requested support on their laptops and tablets, which we are more than

happy to provide.

Sessions are very relaxed and informal, allowing service users to determine their own learning plans and work at their own pace. They have found our support and open learning options, like offering on-line sessions or being able to use their own equipment, extremely useful and convenient.

John Glynn, Computing Group Leader

COMPUTING: Monday 9.30am - 12.30pm. 1.00 - 3.00pm, Norton Park. Online attendance via Zoom also available.

YOGA



We welcomed two new members to the group and it was lovely to meet them in person.

Our activities always begin with a general catch-up of everybody's news, from holidays to the arrival of grandchildren!

We begin our yoga practice with breathing exercises to focus our concentration and enter a relaxed state before progression into movement in time with the breath. The group prioritises awareness of how we move and how it feels. We work with sound and explore different types of breathing to move in to stillness of body and mind and conclude with a final meditation to complete our practice.

Sheila Donnelly and Kerry Cooper, Yoga Group Leaders

"I love coming to yoga, it's the highlight of my week. We all have a good rapport and it helps me to feel relaxed."

YOGA: Tuesday 1.15pm – 3.00pm, Pentland Community Centre.





After running two classes as one on Zoom due to reduced numbers for two years, it was with a sense of relief and familiarity that we returned in-person. It has been great being back to hands-on tuition and seeing class members in person.

We still have two members joining in by Zoom, one morning and one afternoon, and they can keep in touch using laptop technology. All our materials, from acrylics to oils, have survived the lockdown and are being well used on old and new works.

Graham Young, Art Group Leader

ART: Wednesday 10.30am – 12.30pm. 1.00pm – 3.00pm, Norton Park. Online attendance via Zoom also available.



"It's great to be back at Ecas to see people's legs and bottom halves!"

DAVID

Our members' writing continues to engage dynamically with global and domestic concerns, tackling subjects such as the defence of democracy, funeral services, and garrulous vegetables. Authors under scrutiny have included Hilary Mantel, Lemn Sissay, Val McDermid, Anita Sethi, and Roald Dahl. We have also drawn inspiration from the paintings of Paula Rego, and photographs by Eric Watt, while taking

delight in skewering throttlebottoms (thanks, Susie Dent) from both sides of the Atlantic. Plans for the near future include another visiting author or two, and the introduction of blended learning sessions with members joining in-person sessions via Zoom.

John Mackay, Reading and creative writing group leader

READING AND CREATIVE WRITING: Thursday 1.00pm – 3.00pm, Norton Park. Online attendance via Zoom also available.

Since returning to in-person sessions, the Music For Fun group has focussed on spontaneous music making and improvisation. Members have enjoyed the opportunity to play together, sharing musical ideas as they occur. Several potential songs have been generated by the group's creativity and enthusiasm. During Halloween, inspired by spooky chords and harmonies, a member recited "Early One Morning,"

In The Middle Of The Night" (a famous example of an "impossible ballad") from memory. The interaction between members has also revealed some surprising "guilty pleasures" from more recent film musicals such as Pitch Perfect and High School Musical, alongside the evergreens such as Mary Poppins and Chitty Bang Bang!

Akin Fatunmbi, Music Group Leader



SEATED TAI CHI



As service users eased back into the Ecas Tai Chi activity there was an immediacy of re-connection with the group and a sense of the 'Covid era' and feelings of isolation being in the past.

We have responded to the challenges of the last few years by working with re-empowering ourselves with renewed confidence and by working with body-balance, aches and pains and a sense of coordination with Tai Chi and Chi Kung postures.

"There is a sense of re-balancing by end of class."

DANNY

The session ends with some relaxation and winding down at the end of each class. The tea break offers (some quite lively) social interaction!

The newly blended Zoom sessions with in-person activity offers a vital resource to service users who can feel very much isolated.

Ann Richards, Seated Tai Chi Group Leader





A bsolutely great to be back in person with the group! It had been something of a challenge to manage a craft group on zoom, so we are really enjoying being together, and for me being able to properly help and support our craft projects.

We have had a new member, join us this term. He brings a very cheerful energy to our group, and a unique style, so I'd like to officially welcome Ricco!

"Great to be back at Ecas meeting friends, doing artwork with help."

BRUCE

Although we started back gently, with drawing and painting, we are now in full swing with various felting projects.

It really has been a great few months, and who knows what wonders we will come up with next year... watch this space!

Sue Barclay, Craft Group Leader

CRAFT 1: Thursday 10.30am – 12.30pm, Norton Park.

CRAFT 2: Friday 10.30am - 12.30pm, Norton Park.

Online attendance via Zoom also available.



All our activities are fully accessible and are led by fully trained staff. No previous experience is necessary and all materials are provided. Some activities are also available online via Zoom.

You can try our activities for FREE for two weeks, and then it's only £2.30 per session!

For those who meet our set criteria, participants of our activities can apply for a grant to assist with transport costs to and from their activity. The activities timetable can be found on the back page of this report.

For further information, please contact the office on **0131 475 2344/07500 221 618**, email hello@ecas.scot or visit our website: **www.ecas.scot**

ECAS GRANTS FUND

We were able to reintroduce grants from August 2021, relaunching as the Ecas Covid Relief Grants Fund, in response to the pandemic. The Fund is open to people of all ages to help assist individuals with increased costs associated with a physical disability across Edinburgh and Lothian.

Between 9th August 2021 and 31st March 2022:

22 applications were approved and a total of £43,689 was awarded

Awards examples have included purchase of specialist equipment, white goods, electronic goods, holidays, help with student fees and much more.

Following feedback from occupational therapists, we now consider awards for power-packs retrofitted to

manual wheelchairs. Power-packs are operated by attendants and help family or carers safely go further distances and reach uphill places which expands options for the wheelchair user.

Subject to certain exclusions, grants can be for anything not covered by statutory sources. Exclusions and eligibility criteria are detailed on the grant application form along with further information available on our website:

www.ecas.scot/grants

Grants Fund details:

- Progrants up to £750, successful applicants can re-apply after 2 years. For grants more than £750 and up to £1,000, successful applicants re-apply after 3 years; grants over £1,000 successful applicants can re-apply after 4 years.
- ▶ We also consider grants above £1,500, please contact our grants administrator for more information.
- We will make a decision within 8
 weeks of receiving the application.
 There are no deadlines; we accept
 grant applications throughout the year.



"The trike has been great in helping to maintain my strength, get some exercise and be part of the community."

If you, or someone you know, would benefit from a grant then please contact the Ecas office for more information on **0131 475 2344** or **07500 221 618**.

Dr Alastair McIntosh, Ecas Grants Fund Chair ANN MCDONALD RETIREMENT

fter 40 years of being involved with Ecas, Anne resigned from the F&PC in December 2021. Anne started out driving transport buses when **Ecas was at Simon Square before** volunteering as an assistant at the art class. During that time Anne joined the Board before moving onto the F&PC. Anne wishes to remain a Member of Ecas and continue volunteering at the Wednesday art class. To convey Ecas' thanks, Anne was presented with a gift voucher from a local garden centre.



ANNE WITH ALLY, ECAS' CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Ecas is seeking to recruit new Members for its Finance and Personnel Committee. We are looking for individuals to fill skills gaps in the areas of legal practice and human resources. Please contact us to find out more. Email: hello@ecas.scot or call 0131 475 2344/07500 221 618.

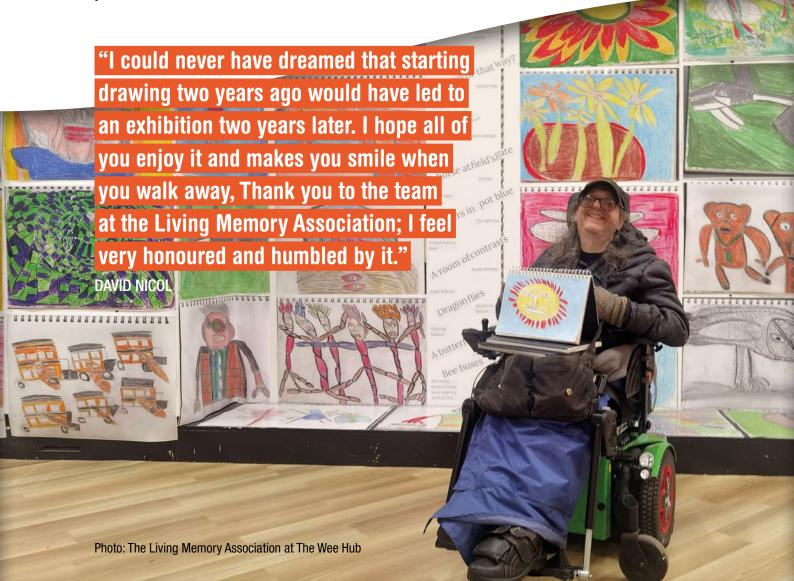


ECAS CRAFT SERVICE USER HAD HIS OWN EXHIBITION!

The early stages of the pandemic were difficult for everyone. However, David Nicol, who attends our craft activity, took this as an opportunity to express his creativity.

In March 2020, David decided to start drawing on the first day of his isolation and aimed for one drawing every day to pass time. He left his flat in June of that year, but continued drawing, passing the two-year mark on the 18th of March 2022.

Through putting his drawings on Facebook, one of David's Facebook friends, who works for the Living Memory Association, asked if he could exhibit David's work in the vacated Debenhams space at Ocean Terminal.





BEFRIENDING



Overview

With Covid-19 risk having lowered significantly, we implemented a transition back towards in-person befriending. Respecting the wishes of all involved and taking time to assess and communicate risk, this has been a considered process, which will continue into the next year. We have begun new distance and in-person matches, and introduced people who had only previously met over video or phone, which was a pleasure.

We were successful in securing 'Covid recovery' funding from the Scottish Government's 'Befriending Fund', administered through Befriending Networks, to support female service users from September '21 to March '22. It has also been a time of organisational change, as I took on the Befriending Manager role and we welcomed Gary Smith as the new Befriending Assistant.

Looking to the future, we have updated our volunteer training and are excited to welcome new volunteers to our service. We look forward to supporting people with in-person befriending in the coming year!

Sam Collins, Befriending Manager

A HUGE thank you from all at Ecas to all our volunteer befrienders for their time, commitment and support – you really do make a difference.

Become a befriender and support your community! If you have 2 hours of free time per week you can help. We welcome volunteers from all walks of life – please contact Sam on 07825 305 376 or visit www.ecas.scot

BEFRIENDING SNAPSHOT

Moira and Matilda have been speaking over Zoom since February '22. Matilda was looking to benefit from the routine of having someone to chat to each week, and to reduce her social isolation. Moira was starting her second stint as a befriender, wanting to do what she could to help others. They have been getting on really well and Ecas supported them to meet in Matilda's home, which they can now do more often.



When Gyda met Rheanan - The Mutual Benefit of Befriending

Rheanan was referred to our service because she was looking to make a connection and improve her mental health self-management.

In March '21 we introduced Rheanan to Gyda via WhatsApp video, getting on fantastically from the start.
Rheanan says that Gyda has helped her to have regular contact and casual chat, which is important to her as it's a struggle to stay in touch with her older friends. They discuss their craft projects and music, amongst other things. Gyda's voluntary experience has helped her to get started with a career in the third sector.



"Speaking with my befriender makes me more emotionally content, happier and grounded. It encourages me to do more with my time and share my little achievements with someone."

RHEANAN



FINANCE REPORT



n the financial year, the total value of the portfolio has increased by £113,549 to £4,913,293. Headline investment income has increased from £151,113 in 2021 to £203,099 in the current year. Income was boosted by a one off dividend payment of £42,600.

Donations and legacies increased from £3,028 in 2021 to £10,075 in the current year. There was also income of £20,042 from the Government's Job Retention Scheme. Funding of £9,263 was secured to cover a portion of befriending salary costs for the second half of the financial year.

Ecas could not achieve what it does without the support of the trusts, companies and individuals that make donations, provide gifts or services in kind and help us in so many ways. Ecas is most grateful for your support and hope it can continue.

As I approach the end of my 3rd five-year term on the Board, this will be my last financial report as I step down as Chair of the F&PC. I would like to thank our investment managers, Adam and Co, our accountants, French Duncan and my fellow committee members and all Ecas staff for their continuous support.

John Laurie, Chair

Finance & Personnel Committee

John Laurie – Chair Catherine Dowell, Andrew Herberts, Caroline Loudon, Anne McDonald (resigned November 2021), Alastair McIntosh.

ACCOUNTS

Summary Financial Statement

The financial information set out in this Summarised Financial Statement is only a summary of information derived from the charity's annual accounts. It does not contain additional information derived from the trustees' annual report. It does not contain sufficient information to allow as full an understanding of the results and state of affairs of the charity as would be provided by the full annual accounts and report.

Anyone requiring more detailed information can obtain a full copy of the charity's annual accounts and trustees' annual report should contact the Ecas office or email **hello@ecas.scot**

The company's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and constitute the annual financial statements required by the Companies Act 2006 and for circulation to the members.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 31st May 2022 and signed on their behalf, by **Caroline Loudon**.

Statement of Trustees

The auditor has issued unqualified reports on the full annual accounts and on the consistency of the trustees' annual report with those annual accounts. Their report on the full annual accounts contained no statement under sections 498(2) or 498(3) of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed on behalf of the trustees by

Caroline Loudon

Independent Auditors' Statement to the members of Ecas Limited

We have examined the summary financial statement for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and the auditor

The trustees (who also act as directors of the charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the summary financial statement in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law. Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summary financial statement with the full annual financial statements, and its compliance with the relevant requirements of section 427 of the Companies Act 2006 and the regulations made thereunder.

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 2008/3 issued by the Auditing Practices Board. Our report on the company's full annual financial statements describes the basis of our opinion on those financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the summary financial statement is consistent with the full annual accounts of Ecas Limited for the year ended 31 March 2022.

French Duncan LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors, 56 Palmerston Place, Edinburgh EH12 5AY.

Statement of Financial Activities incorporating the income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 2022

INCOME FROM:	Restricted funds 2022	Unrestricted funds 2022	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Donations and legacies	9,263	812	10,075	3,028
Charitable activities	-	3,927	3,927	1,716
Other trading activities	_	17	17	342
Investments	_	203,099	203,099	151,113
Other income	_	20,042	20,042	31,048
TOTAL INCOME	9,263	227,897	237,160	187,247
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Raising funds	_	27,360	27,360	25,949
Charitable activities	9,263	272,655	281,918	280,633
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	9,263	300,015	309,278	306,582
NET EXPENDITURE BEFORE NET GAINS ON INVESTMENTS	-	(72,118)	(72,118)	(119,335)
Net gains on investments	_	202,989	202,989	778,185
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	-	130,871	130,871	658,850
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	_	4,816,394	4,816,394	4,157,544
Net movement in funds	_	130,871	130,871	658,850
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	_	4,947,265	4,947,265	4,816,394

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022

FIXED ASSETS	2022 £	2021 £
	1,288	5,142
Tangible assets Fixed asset investments		
	4,913,293	4,779,744
TOTAL	4,914,581	4,784,886
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	8,967	11,194
Cash at bank and in hand	64,891	42,825
TOTAL	73,858	54,019
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(41,174)	(22,511)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	32,684	31,508
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	4,947,265	4,816,394
CHARITY FUNDS		
Unrestricted funds	4,947,265	4,816,394
TOTAL FUNDS	4,947,265	4,816,394

DONATIONS

We are most grateful to Bank of Scotland, Befriending Networks, Marion Blake, David Edward, Ruth Ford, John Hunter, Barbara Stewart and Colin Stewart for their generous support of Ecas services. Thanks are also extended to many Ecas service users for their generosity in making general donations.

If Ecas has helped you, or someone close to you, please consider supporting Ecas by leaving something in your Will or by making a donation. Your support really will make a difference. Thank you.

FUNDRAISE FOR ECAS

Whatever you do for us, and whatever you raise, whether it's £5 or £50, we are thankful for every last penny. Do get in touch if you'd like to discuss your fundraising ideas. Or simply link your fundraising to our JustGiving page www.justgiving.com/ecaslimited

JustGiving



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ECAS CRITERIA FOR SERVICE USERS

cas follows the EHRC guideline that: "You are disabled under the Equality Act 2010 if you have a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities.

- 'substantial' is more than minor or trivial, e.g. it takes much longer than it usually would to complete a daily task like getting dressed
- 'long-term' means 12 months or more, e.g. a breathing condition that develops as a result of a lung infection."

However, please remember that Ecas only provides support to people who have a physical disability. We regret that the following conditions, on their own, do not meet our criteria: psychiatric disorders, learning difficulties, behavioural disorders, developmental delay, Down's syndrome, autism, visual or hearing impairment, cancer, diabetes, epilepsy, HIV and back pain.

Potential service users will be asked to complete an application appropriate to the service they require. Please visit our website for more information.

www.ecas.scot or contact our office on 0131 475 2344 or 07500 221 618

Anyone participating in an Ecas Activity is precluded from being matched up with a befriender as part of our Befriending Service. Likewise, anyone currently matched up with an Ecas befriender is precluded from attending Ecas Activities. We are happy to discuss this with potential service users prior to referrals and applications being made, or when there are changes in circumstances.



ACTIVITIES TIMETABLE

For information, please contact 0131 475 2344/07500 221 618 or hello@ecas.scot

The programme does change occasionally, so check with the office for the latest details.

Day	What	When	Where
Monday	Computer 1	9.30 - 12.30	Norton Park/Zoom
	Computer 2	1.00 - 3.00	Norton Park/Zoom
Tuesday	Yoga	1.15 – 3.00	Pentland Community Centre
	Seated Tai Chi and Relaxation	1.15 - 3.15	Norton Park/Zoom
Wednesday	Art 1	10.30 - 12.30	Norton Park/Zoom
	Art 2	1.00 - 3.00	Norton Park/Zoom
Thursday	Craft 1	10.30 - 12.30	Norton Park/Zoom
	Reading group	1.00 - 3.00	Norton Park/Zoom
Friday	Craft 2	10.30 – 12.30	Norton Park/Zoom
	Music For Fun	2.00 - 3.30	Out of the Blue Drill Hall, 36 Dalmeny Street

Internet Café and Ecas Classrooms. When not being used for activities, our computers and classrooms can usually be used by service users provided they do not need assistance. Call us first to check availability.