

ELREC NEWSLETTER



PROMOTING EQUALITY - FIGHTING DISCRIMINATION - FOSTERING GOOD RELATIONS

A warm welcome to ELREC's Autumn/Winter newsletter. Our current projects Communities Reduce Reuse & Recycle, Open Arms are doing well and moving to new strengths. Recently we have also started 2 new projects/services in ELREC – Energy advice service managed by Ewelina and the 'Life is Good in Scotland' led by Adrian. I welcome the new projects and I am confident they will be great for the community and ELREC. The Green



Leith Art project finished in September 2022 as it was for 6 months, we wish Diline all the best for her future endeavours. The project was a massive success in helping local Leith communities to engage in various activities to improve their mental health, isolation and connect with the environment.

We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate ELREC's honorary president Sir Professor Geoff Palmer OBE on receiving The Edinburgh Award 2022, in recognition of his ground-breaking contributions to academia, defence of human rights and much more. He has been an inspiration to many and continues to work towards betterment of communities.

I would like to wish everyone a very Happy and Safe Festive season.

Foyso Choudhury MBE MSP
Chair

Honorary Members

Honorary Patron:

The Rt. Hon. Robert Aldridge, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh

Honorary President:

Prof. Sir Geoff Palmer DSc OBE

Board Members

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Co- Chair Azra Sharif-Qayyum

Vice Chair and Convenor of Personnel

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Administrator: Andrea Gergely

Finance Officer: Adrian Barbascumpa

Open Arms and SOMRA Project Coordinator:
Mitra Rostami

Reduce, Reuse & Recycle Project Coordinator:
Fran Sobierai

Project Coordinator: Mizan Rahman

Green Leith Project Coordinator: Diline

Abushaban

Ethnic Minority Energy Advice: Ewelina Karolina
Lukaszek

South Asian Workshop Facilitator: Swastika
Mishra

Chinese Workshop Facilitator: David Tai

African Workshop Facilitator: Mohammad Al
Zaim

Polish Workshop Facilitator: Alekszandra
Szczygielska

About us

Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council (ELREC) founded in 1971, is a voluntary body and charitable company made up of individual members and representatives from wide range of organisations. ELREC has a remit to work across the areas of City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils.

Our Objectives

to work towards the elimination of unlawful discrimination
to reduce inequality and promote a culture of human rights
to promote good relations between persons of different groups without

We pursue our aims through

Engagement with communities of protected characteristics
Complaint aid for victims of discrimination and harassment
Support for communities in influencing change by facilitating interaction between communities and authorities
Consultancy on equality policies, procedures and delivery of customized training on equality matters.

Edinburgh & Lothians Regional
Equality Council (ELREC)
14 Forth Street
Edinburgh EH1 3LH
(T) 0131 556 0441
(E) admin@elrec.org.uk
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Charity Number: SC007896
Company Number: SC183419



Edinburgh Award 2022

Professor Emeritus and Chancellor of Heriot-Watt University Sir Geoff Palmer has been presented with the prestigious Edinburgh Award 2022 in a ceremony held at the City Chambers on the 14th of November 2022.

The coveted annual award honours an outstanding individual who has made a positive impact on the city and gained national and international recognition for Edinburgh.

Surrounded by family, friends and invited guests, Sir Geoff received an engraved Loving Cup from Lord Provost Robert Aldridge and was reunited with a set of his handprints preserved in stone in the City Chambers quadrangle.

The Edinburgh Award celebrates Sir Geoff's ground-breaking contributions to academia, and his indefatigable defence of human rights in Edinburgh and beyond.

Sir Geoff has a long association with the city of Edinburgh, he first arrived in the Capital in 1964 to pursue a PhD in Grain Science and Technology jointly with the then Heriot-Watt College and the University of Edinburgh. Upon completion of his doctorate in 1967 he began working at the Brewing Research Foundation where he developed the industrial process of Barley Abrasion and pioneered the use of the Scanning Electron Microscope to study cereal grains. In 1977, he returned to Heriot-Watt University as a staff member and gained a DSc degree for his research work in 1985. In 1989 he became the first black professor in Scotland and remained in Edinburgh until his retirement in 2005. In 2021 he was appointed Chancellor of Heriot-Watt University.

Sir Geoff was knighted in the 2014 New Year's Honours for services to human rights, science, and charity. In 2018, he was appointed Jamaica's first Honorary Consul in Scotland and is the 2020 recipient of the Jamaican national honour, the Order of Distinction (Commander Class).

Between December 2020 and June 2022, Sir Geoff chaired the independent Edinburgh Slavery and Colonialism Legacy Review Group whose work has been vital in profiling the Capital's historic links with Slavery and Colonialism in the public realm. The findings and recommendations of the Group were endorsed unanimously by councillors on 30 August and the actions they suggest will form the basis of the Council's continued response to these key issues.

Sir Geoff is the 16th person to receive the award, succeeding last year's Fergus Linehan (2021) as well as fellow academics Professor Peter Higgs (2011) and Sir Timothy O'Shea (2017).



Edinburgh's Lord Provost Robert Aldridge said:

"It's an honour and a pleasure to present one of the Capital's most prestigious accolades, the Edinburgh Award, to Sir Geoff Palmer.

In a career spanning over fifty years, Sir Geoff has done much to promote Edinburgh to the world, celebrating the positive impact that higher education has on this city. His dedication and passion for the sciences, activism, and for our city as a whole – its people, its legacy and its future - is an inspiration to us all.

I am delighted that the people of Edinburgh have acknowledged his contributions and have chosen Sir Geoff to receive the Edinburgh Award 2022, an honour which he truly deserves.

Sir Geoff has contributed substantially to the betterment of this great city, and I am confident that his legacy both in academia and activism will live on for many years to come and his handprints immortalised in stone on our very own Edinburgh Award 'walk of fame'."



Prof Sir. Geoff Palmer OBE
Chancellor of Heriot-Watt
University
ELREC Honorary President

Sir Geoff Palmer said:

"This award is more than a great honour; it is a recognition of all the people whose goodness has contributed to my life and work. I arrived in Edinburgh as a research student in 1964 and I thank the City of Edinburgh Council for all it has done for the community."

As part of the Edinburgh Award ceremony, Hannah Lavery, the Edinburgh Makar, recited a poem in Sir Geoff's honour.



Everyone at ELREC would like to thank Sir Geoff Palmer for his relentless fight for human rights and justice.

“On behalf of the City of Edinburgh, I extend my heartfelt and warm wishes this festive season to everyone reading this.

As we near the end of 2022 and we all reflect on a remarkable year, I too am reflecting on my first six months as Lord Provost. It’s been my pleasure to meet and visiting many fantastic people and organisations who go above and beyond to support fellow citizens. It is a privilege and honour to represent our diverse and vibrant city and to be patron of your fantastic organisation. I want to take this



opportunity to thank all ELREC staff, its board members and volunteers for all their continued hard work over and wish you all the very best for 2023.”

Lord Provost Councillor Robert Aldridge

We are coming to the end of 2022. It is the year post Covid when we had no restriction at any point of time. But we are feeling the impact of it in our daily lives (with many other factors) especially the cost of living increase. We , in UK, are all getting ready for some real tough times in coming years On a personal front there were two key events in last one month. On 06 November we, Edinburgh Diwali, celebrated its annual flagship event of Diwali (festival of



of light) with parade , dance & music and fireworks - St Andrew Square, Castle Street, Ross Bandstand in West Princes Street Garden, Edinburgh. More than 300 performers showcased their craft and thousands attended. It is a truly multicultural event which is open to all with free entry - this year the underlying message was challenging all forms of discrimination & racism and promote love, respect and equality for all. The second event was Edinburgh Award 2022 ceremony on 14 November at City Chamber, which was awarded to our honorary President Sir Geoff Palmer. It was a privilege to witness this, accorded to the most deserving person. Would take this opportunity to extend my thanks to all at ELREC for their hard-work throughout the year and extend my best wishes for festive season

Company Secretary - Rajnish Singh



Police Scotland Message to Communities

Police in Edinburgh Division have been enhancing their relationship with Edinburgh Inter Faith Agency and were pleased to attend the recent AGM. This partnership is developing following this and officers from the Prevention, Intervention & Partnerships Department recently met with three board members and representatives of various faith groups to establish closer working practices. The outcome of this meeting should see our officers support EIFA in delivering inputs to primary schools and deliver third party reporting training to mosques and synagogues within Edinburgh. Discussions were also held on how we can refer victims of hate crime based on their faith into EIFA for specialist support.

In response to events in Leicester involving the Hindu and Muslim communities, officers from Edinburgh Division's Prevention, Intervention & Partnerships Department and community officers visited the Hindu Mandir, providing reassurance and seeking community feedback. This situation was also discussed with representatives from EIFA to gain further advice and guidance on messaging and appropriate engagement. All Divisional points of contact for Edinburgh's places of worship were also contacted in order to ensure awareness of national reassurance messaging and requested visits to mosques and temples (Muslim, Hindu and Sikh) offering reassurance and requesting feedback on any community tensions.

Equality & Diversity officers from Edinburgh Division's Prevention, Intervention & Partnerships Department attended at ELREC and delivered an input on Policing in Edinburgh, raising awareness of hate crime, frauds and scams and personal safety and other information on day to day living in Edinburgh.

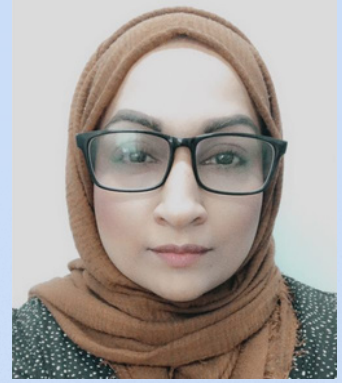
To commemorate Black History Month members of E Division E&D team attended at a launch event at Dalmarnock and heard from several guest speakers including Assistant Chief Constable Mairs and members of the BAME community.

Equality & Diversity officers from Edinburgh Division's Prevention, Intervention & Partnerships Department met representatives from East and Southeast Asian Scotland where they discussed issues surrounding the community. This also opened up a new avenue of specialist support for East and Southeast Asian victims of hate crime. Partnership work towards supporting the community and raising confidence in reporting incidents to the Police.



Manager's Update

Welcome to our latest newsletter, I want to start by thanking our wonderful staff and volunteers for their continued hard work and efforts in helping others. Our projects are doing well, I want to welcome two new ones, Life is Good in Scotland (LiGiS) and BME Energy Advice Service. LiGiS project works with refugee and migrants and provides practical advice on life in Scotland. The Energy Advice Service has been popular so far, Ewelina is very passionate about saving people money and heating their homes without worrying about the bills, she can also help apply for grants and financial help if required.



Administrator's Update

This quarter has been busy with lots of events and activities.

In October ELREC organised 'Windrush Scheme for Commonwealth Communities in Scotland' event in partnership with Citizens Rights Project. The special guest speaker was the Honorary President of ELREC, Sir Geoff Palmer.

Later in the month, students from University of Edinburgh decided to do a presentation about Scottish Civil Law at ELREC.

It is expected to be continued with more sessions in the future about different topics from the Scottish law system.

Furthermore, ELREC has been chosen by a couple of secondary school student groups to introduce our organisation as part of the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative Scotland.

YPI is the biggest independent initiative being delivered in Scottish education. Each school is responsible for directing a grant of £3000 to a local charity championed by its students through a unique programme of teamwork, research, and competition.



Ethnic Minority Energy Advice

Funded by The National Lottery Community Fund and The Robertson Trust. ELREC will be providing a new service for BAME communities, refugees and new communities in Edinburgh. To provide advice and help with energy related issues and is focusing mainly on billing, understanding the current energy use, help with energy debt, how to switch the supplier, issues with energy provider and making complaints. The aim is to raise awareness of energy use more so now than ever as energy prices are increasing and BAME families are very concerned as they don't understand the implications of this or have the confidence and knowledge on how to switch or how to get the best deals most suited to them.

We will also provide energy awareness sessions in English, Chinese, Polish, Arabic and Hindi, the sessions are free and open to everyone who requires information on energy and the above topics as well as an appointment system so they can discuss their individual concerns or problems with our dedicated energy advisors. We will also work with other organisations and provide training events on the basics such as billing, understanding the rates and help with making complaints or dealing with their energy provider. This is vital as many organisations who work with BAME groups don't know this so they could massively benefit and educate their users. The service coordinator as well as 3 Community Link Officers are very well established in their communities and have all the contacts and links to make the target groups aware of this project. The service will also provide leaflets in various languages and circulate it as well as email other organisations and inform them of this work and actively engage with them and provide training sessions to them.



To get in touch please contact:
 Email: energyadvice@elrec.org.uk
 Phone: 0131 556 0441

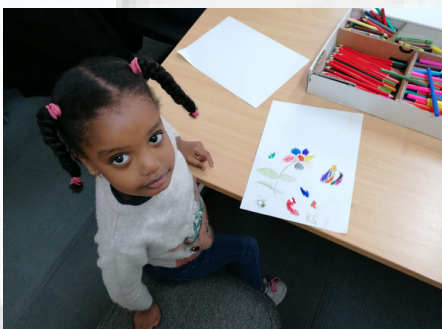
Thanks to the funders





OPEN ARMS Champions of Health

Warm greetings from Open Arms. Whether rain or shine, we have been busy with providing our services and activities to our lovely women. Our Open Arms family has been ever-growing and now we have over 60 ladies in our group. Over the last few months, we have offered our routine activities, as well as introduced new activities such as Bollywood dance classes on Mondays. Our creative classes including arts and crafts are going strong, and with changing the time of the sessions we are now happy to welcome our ladies together with children into the activities.



As usual, we update the timetable for the regular weekly activities at the beginning of each month. The image below shows the timetable for the month of December. The last day of the activities before Christmas and the new year will be the 18th of December. We will be back, refreshed, rested, and filled up with loads of chocolate and mince pies no doubt! 😊 , on the 9th of January 2023.



OPEN ARMS ACTIVITIES CALENDAR DECEMBER 2022



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 10:00 Dance class, ZOOM 12:00 Sewing club – ELREC 15:00 Art class - ELREC	29 10:00 Body Maintenance, ZOOM	30	01 15:15 Upcycle Craft, ELREC,	02 9:30 Face Yoga, ZOOM	03
05 10:00 Dance Class, ZOOM 12:00 Sewing club – ELREC 15:00 Art class - ELREC	06 10:00 Chat Café, ZOOM	07 10:00 Body Maintenance, ZOOM 12:00 Christmas Lunch Registration is necessary!	08 10:00 Face Yoga 15:15-16:45 Upcycle Craft, Xmas tree decoration ELREC,	09	10
12 10:00 Dance Class 12:00 Sewing club – ELREC 15:15 Art Workshop, ELREC	13 10:00 Body Maintenance, ZOOM	14 10:00 Face Yoga, ZOOM	15 15:15 Upcycle Craft, Xmas tree decorations ELREC,	16	17

*ELREC: 14 Forth Street, EH1 3LH

- New activities can be added throughout the month
- The timetable of the activities is subject to change, but there will be a prior notice
- For further information or signing up please email Mitra: mroostami@elrec.org.uk



On behalf of Open Arms; we are wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!



SOMRA

Led by Mitra Rostami

Project overview

SOMRA – Supporting meaningful Occupations for low-qualified Migrants, Refugees, and Asylum seekers using the Green Entrepreneurship Model is an Erasmus+ project that offers an innovative approach to tackle two major challenges of the 21st century: namely climate change and refugee crises. It does so by engaging refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in meaningful occupations that transform them into environmental role models that enact sustainable change in both their new and previous homes.

The main idea of the SOMRA approach is to enable these main target groups to become true factors of change that influence positive environmental habits that are first established on a local and regional level, and eventually beyond the borders of the EU.

National Multiplier Events

In the last phase of the project, the project multiplier events were held in all SOMRA partner countries with the aim to present the SOMRA intellectual outputs to a relevant audience and thereby accelerate their impact and sustainable use. The events served to introduce the intellectual outputs to key actors in contact with migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers and furthermore, to provide them with the opportunity to exchange experiences and successful approaches. The Target Group-Engaging Events included activities such as:

- Presentation of the SOMRA project
- Presentation of the SOMRA intellectual outputs in their final version
- Keynote speeches on specific and locally relevant topics
- Implementation of environmentally friendly grassroots activities e.g., cleaning up a public area, etc.
- Interactive ‘green’ workshops

The main target groups addressed were adult educators, migrant support workers, low-qualified migrants, refugees, asylum seekers as well as the local community.

Multiplier Event in Cyprus



Multiplier Event
in Edinburgh



Multiplier Event
in Finland



Multiplier Event
in Ireland



Main resources of the project

SOMRA Holistic Report

The SOMRA Holistic Study Report outlines the fundamentals of the SOMRA project. The report includes in-depth data related to labour market access, legal obligations, and restrictions, as well as supporting structures that migrants, refugees and asylum seekers face in each partner country. In addition, it provides an insight into the necessary steps and frameworks for founding an NGO or applying and receiving funding for addressing and taking actions on environmental issues. The SOMRA Holistic Study Report is a reliable reference document for migrant support workers, adult educators, policy makers and for any persons interested in engaging in environmentally friendly NGO work. This report includes a new approach and outlines comprehensive information that can be useful to take action. The SOMRA Holistic Study Report is available here: <https://somra.eu/en/outputs/o1/>

SOMRA Green Entrepreneurship Model

The SOMRA Green Entrepreneurship Model (GEM) is a visual handbook, comprised of successful strategies and step-by-step guidelines to become a green entrepreneur and NGO founder or member. The Green Entrepreneurship Model is addressed primarily to migrants, asylum seekers and refugees; although it is also a valuable resource for anyone who wishes to be engaged in green NGO entrepreneurship or to support cooperation within migrant communities. It is available in English, Greek, Finnish, German, Portuguese and Arabic.

The SOMRA Green Entrepreneurship Model Handbook is available here: <https://somra.eu/en/outputs/o2/>

SOMRA Green Entrepreneurship training

The SOMRA Green Entrepreneurship Training aims to foster environmental competences as well as green entrepreneurship and civic competences of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

The training focuses on how current and local/regional environmental issues can be identified and solved in an innovative and cost-effective way. It also promotes the necessary skills for successful green entrepreneurship within NGOs. The training aspires to foster relevant competences of the target group with the aim to enhance their employability potential as they gain localised experiences that can be transferred and validated in a broad manner. The SOMRA Training is a blended-learning training, combining face-to-face lessons and online self-directed learning activities. The training includes:

- a) Guidelines for trainers on how to deliver the training and steer the self-directed learning phases (e.g., adult educators, migrant support workers)
- b) A curriculum of a blended-learning course, including ECVET learning outcomes, lesson plans for F2F parts and activity instructions and descriptions for self-directed online learning.

Online Media Library

The SOMRA website features an online media library with green hack videos, testimonials, and a short film documentary about the SOMRA project. The videos are also available on the YouTube page of the project.

These resources are available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcWl3rjks08&t=1s>

Sustainability of the project

- The project platform will be maintained and remain fully operational for two years after the funding period.
- SOMRA's three intellectual outputs will be uploaded to the Erasmus+ Project Results Platform where they can be downloaded for free
- The results and products developed are fully available on the SOMRA website (<https://somra.eu/en/resources/>) to allow potential users to access them during and after the end of the project.
- The videos produced by the SOMRA project will be available on the project's YouTube channel, which will also be maintained for at least 2 two years after the end of the project and can thus be accessed by the general public, target group members and other relevant stakeholders.
- SOMRA Alliances will guarantee the sustainability of the approach developed in the long run.
- The strong network of partners and associated partners, including a number of different institutions with complementary competences that have been included in the project, will represent a pivotal instrument to support both the dissemination and sustainability of the SOMRA project results. This will act as multipliers of the achievements of the project among the educational community; becoming first-hand testimonies of the value of the approach promoted by the project and of the possibility to scale it up and transfer it to new contexts.

The last transnational meeting

The last transnational partners meeting of the project happened in October 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal. The partners discussed the final progresses of the project and the way forward for the publication of the project results. We had a great sense of pride watching the fantastic documentary video that our partner, Play Solutions – Audiovisuais, has created for our project.

How to find us

Our website: <https://somra.eu/>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SOMRAEU/>

Instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/somraeu/>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTHUrrmOLiNt8ndwHNIFtVw>



Life is Good in Scotland (LiGiS)

Life is Good in Scotland (LiGiS) Project is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and supported by the Scottish Refugee Council. The Project aims to support immigrant integration, assist migrants in adapting to the new society and provide education and training for everyday life. We want to use innovative and practical approaches to learning English as a second language and develop skills and knowledge for life in Scotland. The objectives include integration and social inclusion of migrants and refugees as marginalized groups, including English language competencies, Cultural competencies, and increased access to public services. The Project is delivered through events, learning groups, workshops and trips to heritage sites.

The sessions started on the 1st of November, 2022. Edinburgh University law students presented a great topic on Stop Search Procedure recently introduced in the UK. Participants had the chance to ask questions and received genuine answers and explanations about this new procedure.

It was an interactive and engaging session which made everyone feel more informed about Police powers and procedures when applying Stop and search and arrests.

The second session was on the 9th of November, 2022. Two policemen, David Clark and Samantha Campbell, kindly presented the general information about Policing in Scotland and Policing by consent. This topic attracted several questions from the participants, proving that we are in the right direction to provide genuine and veridic information to all community members.



The third session was on the 15th of November and provided helpful information regarding Energy Advice. It was presented by Ewelina Lukaszek, providing valuable and practical tips and advice on saving energy and money during these problematic times.



To reinforce the knowledge, the guest speaker proposed some energy-based games. This provided a clearer view of how to implement the advice in real life and benefit mostly out.

Thank you to the guest speakers for providing the information, and thank you to the participants for their engagement and attendance.

Future sessions:

- 29-11-2022 Volunteering in NHS
- 06-12-2022 Mentoring and Oral Health
- 13-12-2022 CV and Application Session

If you are interested in joining, please register at

<https://forms.gle/2rN5chyFKEc1UAt77>

or send an email to lifeisgood@elrec.org.uk

Thanks to the funders





REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE

"The climate is changing, so should we!"

In the last quarter the team has been working hard to serve our communities and encourage climate action. Community Link Officers have delivered many workshops such as upcycling, crafts and talks on environmental related subjects.

On the 3rd of September our stall was buzzing at the Edinburgh Climate Festival! The event was a huge success, and it was brilliant to see many initiatives and local communities coming together to celebrate and inspire climate action.

A big thank you to our funders The National Lottery Community Fund Scotland and The Climate Fringe, the stallholders, the organisers, and to our wonderful team of volunteers.

We had an inspiring day full of activities and conversations on sustainable topics such as food growing, active travel, energy, waste, conservation, and climate activism.

More than 3,000 people from diverse local communities came together to celebrate climate action and many activities and workshops on food growing, active travel, energy, waste, conservation, and climate activism.



If you would like to volunteer with us help deliver activities on sustainable consumption, send your volunteer application to cfc@elrec.org.uk.

Also in September, the Project Coordinator attended the Global Citizenship Conference organised by Scotland's International Development Alliance to awareness of our great work around climate and sustainability at ELREC with the C3R's and SOMRA Projects.



Forest Bound

In October, we had an amazing trip to the Black Wood of Rannoch and to Roslin Glen as part of the Forest Bound project.

We took members of the Syrian, Polish, South Asian, Persian and Chinese communities for the walk. We discussed the values placed on forests, the participant's experiences of nature, and how people connect to the outdoors. Activities consist of in-nature outings to sites reachable from Edinburgh and art workshops.

We explored people's relationship to the landscape (specifically forests), how their experiences of nature are determined by different factors and the extent of their knowledge about local forests.

'Forest Bound' is a public engagement project funded by Natural Environment Research Council and working in collaboration between UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology and ELREC aiming to engage BAME groups in Edinburgh and the Lothians with the changes happening in forests landscapes.



Bird Watch

We had a brilliant bird walk with RSPB Scotland at Lochend Park. We learned fascinating facts about different species of birds found locally such as Robin, Long-Tailed Tit, House Sparrow, Mute Swan, Pink-footed goose, and Swifts, and how climate change is impacting their habitat.

Did you know

Migration: Climate change is affecting bird migration patterns and timing.

Food: Global warming is negatively impacting the plants and animals that they feed on and ultimately affecting their breeding time.

Breeding: Some birds are now adapting their breeding times in response to earlier warming in the spring.

This is another wake-up call for climate action and for the conservation of our precious wildlife!



Planting event

Even the rain did not stop our volunteers from planting wildflowers at Lauriston Farm. We planted a range of wildflowers, including Shrubby St. John's Wort, Wild carrot, Red clover, Wild marjoram, Teasel, Sea mayweed, Yellow meadow vetchling, Wild fennel, and much more.

A big thank you to all the hardworking and brave volunteers who helped in such extreme weather, to our funders Volunteering Matters Action Earth and NatureScot for their support, and to Lauriston Farm for helping in organising and delivering this amazing and important event.



Swap Shop

We delivered another successful event 198 people attended the event and 465.6kg of clothes, books, shoes, kitchen utensils, plastic and more were saved from ending up in landfill and donated to the local community which now will be reusing them.

A heartfelt thank you to our volunteers, you all have a big heart and your participation and contribution prove this. Thanks to our partners Granton Goes Greener, NKS – Networking Key Services for all the efforts invested in delivering the event, it's always a pleasure to work with you. Finally, thanks to our funders The National Lottery Community Fund for supporting our work. Well done team!



Food growing

Sam, Louis, Kerry put a lot of effort to cover our first vegetable bed at Lauriston Farm! We can't wait to start planting next spring



Food support

We have been supplying food for approximately 25 - 35 families and diverting 300kg of food from going to the landfill on weekly basis. Thanks to our partner Fare Share, to the National Lottery Fund Climate Action to our hardworking team of volunteers.



Thanks to the funders



ELECTRIC BIKE LIBRARY



Try an electric bike
for up to 3 weeks
£20 hiring charge

Electric bikes help you:
Save money
Get to places faster
Be sustainable
Improve your fitness

If interested:
Email cfc@elrec.org.uk
Tel 0131 556 0441



Saturday Cycling classes

Beginners: 10 to 11am
Intermediate: 11:30 to 1pm

All welcome

Fun family time

Health and well being

Get new skills

Relaxed learning environment

Socialising

NKS, 7 Gillespie st, Edinburgh, EH3 9NH

Book your space now:

E-mail: cfc@elrec.org.uk

Phone: 0131 556 0441

Or register your interest with Al-Furqan

Bikes and helmet provided

Al-Furqan in partnership with ELREC



MONDAY SEWING CLUB

JOIN OUR FREE SEWING CLUB



Come to repair and adjust your own clothes



Learn simple sewing techniques



Socialise

**MASK
REQUIRED**



*Relaxed
environment*



All welcome!

Equipment & refreshments provided

Every Monday 12am - 2pm

ELREC, 14 Forth Street, EH1 3LH

Spaces are limited

Booking **REQUIRED** by emailing cfc@elrec.org.uk

More info: 0131 556 0441





Have any clothes needing repaired?

We can fix it. Better than new!



Drop in **Monday, Tuesday 12-5.30pm**
at ELREC, 14 Forth St, EH1 3LH



Clothing repair & alterations Custom tailoring



Personal remaking and tailoring clothes
to your individual requirements.

Special orders (dress making, pillows and cushions, chair cover).

Suggested Donation

Phone: 0131 556 0441

Email: cfc@elrec.org.uk



Quality service. Quality Finish.



COMMUNITIES'
REDUCE REUSE & RECYCLE

FOOD RELIEF

If you would like a food box please book
your parcel by contacting
cfc@elrec.org.uk or 0131 556 0441.

Collection: Every Friday - 2pm to 4pm

14 Forth Street EH1 3LH

Donations are welcome.

Bring your own bag.

Food surplus donated by FareShare
and local supermarkets.



Volunteering at ELREC



"I love volunteering at Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equality Council (ELREC).

"I come along once a week to help with their food support service, and love meeting so many wonderful people from all walks of life.

"It actually takes me an hour and a half to get here, but being able to put a smile on someone's face and knowing I've been able to help them makes the travel worthwhile.

"ELREC has so many great projects on the go, like workshops that bring people together to celebrate different cultures, cookery sessions and swap shops.

"It's great to see something like this in our community. I'm proud I can do my bit to help them."

- Mahboob Ditta

Everyone at ELREC would to thank our volunteers their hard work and dedication!

**"If you would like to volunteer too, please contact us on
0131 556 0441 or email admin@elrec.org.uk**



ELREC Job Opportunities

Life is Good in Scotland Project Assistant

Life is Good in Scotland (Refugee/migrant Project)

Post: Project Assistant

17.5 hours per week

Salary: £10,010.00 per annum

18-month contract – from September 2022

3 months probationary period

For more details and to apply, visit <https://www.elrec.org.uk/life-is-good-in-scotland-project-assistant/>

African Community Link officer

14 hours (Part-time)

Contract fixed till 31 March 2023 – continuation beyond 2023 depending on funding.

3 months probationary period.

For more details and to apply, visit <https://www.elrec.org.uk/african-community-link-officer/>

Fundraising Officer

Hours: 16 hours per week

Salary: £20 per hour

Place of work: Office

Responsible to: Manager

For more details and to apply, visit <https://www.elrec.org.uk/fundraising-officer/>

Join Our Board

The ELREC Board is made up of 11 board members, and a chair.

As a member of the ELREC Board you will:

- be responsible for presenting new ideas about the strategic direction of ELREC
- uphold ELREC's values
- promote the role of the voluntary sector wherever appropriate

Typical commitment is four Board meetings and one Annual General Meeting a year.

This is an unpaid position.

We warmly welcome applications from people from all protected characteristics.

For more details and to apply, visit our website <https://www.elrec.org.uk/board-member/>

Support and Advice



Our support and advice centre helps individuals who have been discriminated against, need assistance, are looking for housing and benefit advice. We offer free and impartial advice for individuals who have suffered discrimination, need to report hate crimes or need assistance in working with public bodies.



Scan here to visit
our website

