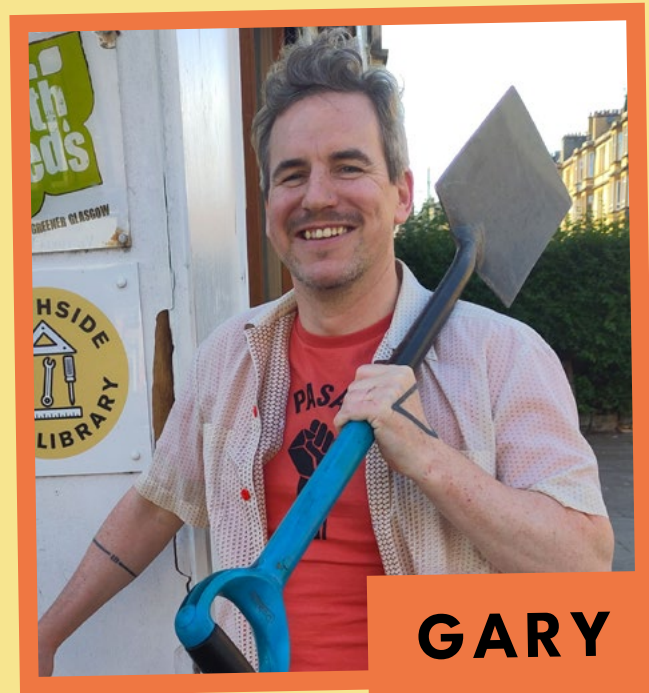


# BORROW! DON'T BUY



**CARLY**



**GARY**



**IZZIE**

**Four stories  
from over 1,000  
borrowers.**



**BEN**



# Find out about Southside Tool Library borrowers inside



**T**he Southside Tool Library was created in 2018 to bring the circular economy to life on our local high street. By enabling residents to borrow from a huge range of tools, it offers a way for people across Glasgow's Southside to make improvements to their homes and outdoor spaces affordably and conveniently, whilst reducing their ecological impact.



Since we opened, more than **1,100 residents** have borrowed items **over 7,000 times**, from our library, which holds around **600 items**. If our borrowers had purchased these items brand new, they would have collectively spent more than **£300,000!**

We aim to overcome barriers to people engaging with the 'sharing economy' (borrowing rather than buying) with convenient opening hours; an accessible

high street shop; free membership and borrowing for those on limited incomes; and a wide variety of really useful items to choose from. We also safety check all our items each time they are borrowed to ensure that people are just as safe borrowing as they would be using new items.

The success of the Southside Tool Library demonstrates what the circular economy could look like on any popular high street. In leading the way, the library is making a real contribution to Glasgow's vision of becoming 'Net-Zero Carbon by 2030'.

The benefits of the library are beyond carbon savings, we know through talking to our members as they come into the shop that they have personally benefitted from using our service, with many feeling empowered to make life-changing transformations to their living situations as a direct result of the service we provide.

**Read on to hear some of these stories and visit [www.southsidetoollibrary.org](http://www.southsidetoollibrary.org) to experience the tool library yourself.**







# Family's wellbeing benefits from borrowing tools

Joining the tool library has improved family wellbeing for Carly, a full-time carer of a disabled daughter.



Since joining the tool library Carly has borrowed 24 different tools, such as this SDS hammer drill.

**CARLY**

**A** long list of jobs around the flat requiring more than 20 different, and often expensive specialist tools, had left the mum and full-time carer stuck for what to do, until they walked past the tool library's Victoria Road store front and realised they could just borrow tools instead.

Having the ability to borrow tools meant that Carly could complete all the jobs needing done in their 100-year-old Govanhill Housing Association flat. Being able to put up shelves, install a doorbell, remove old wallpaper, build a space-saving folding bed and make a hamster cage has made a real difference to Carly's family's day-to-day life.

Experience had taught Carly that trying to do things without the right tools would end up taking much more time and would lead to

having to fix things much more often down the line. As a busy parent, this was time that just wasn't available. Added to which, the cost of quality tools was prohibitive and there was no space to store tools in the flat. In the two years since joining, Carly has borrowed 24 different tools including a cordless jigsaw, drills and a wallpaper steamer.

**"No way could I have done all of these things without the tool library!"**

Borrowing tools from the Southside Tool Library has meant that Carly's flat is now a more pleasant and safer space to live in, bringing immeasurable positive effects for the whole family's wellbeing.

**"It opens up access to tools and equipment to everyone, not just those who can afford it and have who friends or family with useful tools."**

VISIT

[WWW.SOUTHSIDETOOLIBRARY.ORG](http://WWW.SOUTHSIDETOOLIBRARY.ORG)

TO FIND OUT MORE





# Mental health benefits enabled by access to free tools

Access to free tools has boosted Gary's wellbeing and enabled him to achieve goals that matter to him.

**A** Southside resident of 8 years, Gary credits the tool library with helping him transform his ground floor flat's eyesore of a garden into a sanctuary for bees and butterflies, as part of his long-term goal to live more sustainably in Glasgow. Being able to borrow tools easily and for free, was integral to making these changes that have had a positive impact on his day-to-day life.

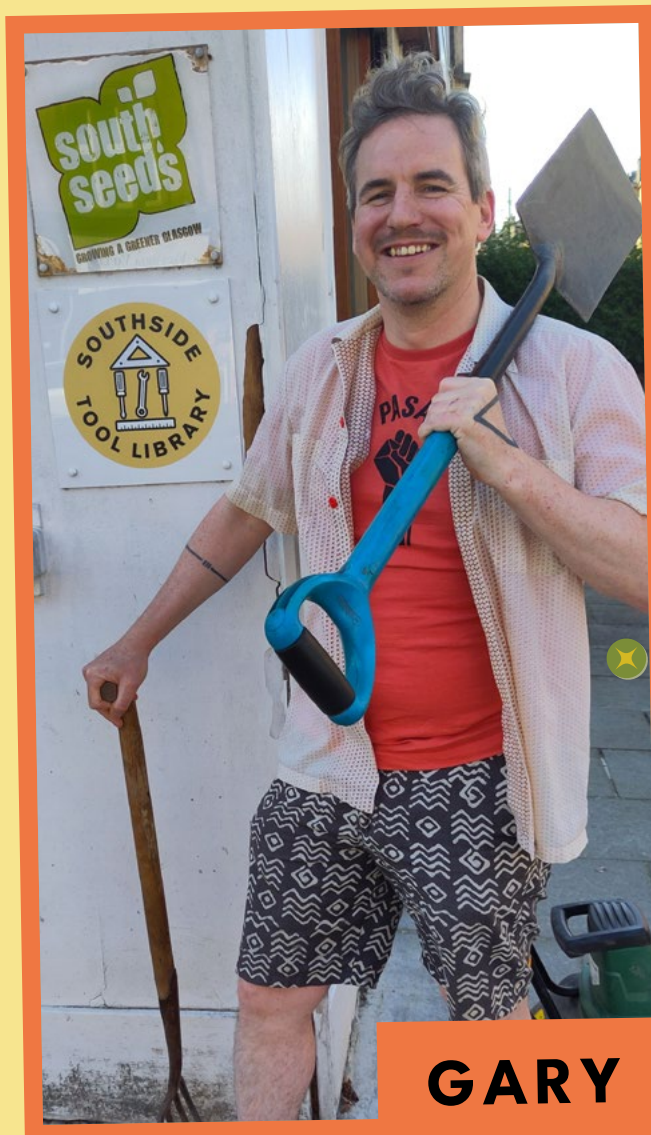
Gary had worked in television until a serious accident left him unable to work and suffering from a steep decline in his wellbeing. This was compounded when he found himself unable to return to work on recovery because of the impact of Covid on the media and entertainment sector.

Being able to drop by the Southside Tool Library on his local high street after hearing of it from a friend, was easy. Gary lives in a flat with a shared backcourt rented from Govanhill Housing Association. He searched the inventory of the tool library online and found the tools needed to clear up the back court, so he and other residents could enjoy the outdoor space. Gary felt so much better once the outside space was usable, he said:

***“Clearing up your living environment is like cleaning up your mind!”***

Without the free access to the spade, pickaxe, shears and a rotovator to turn the soil Gary wouldn't have been able to transform the space. These tools were only needed once by Gary, so he didn't want to have to buy them and he certainly had nowhere to store them at home in his flat.

Now, the messy space no-one cared about is a sanctuary for bees and butterflies that earns him spontaneous compliments from his neighbours. Which, as Gary puts it, ***“is always nice!”***



**GARY**

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# Tool library empowers Izzi to transform his family home

Affordable access to a wide range of tools allowed inexperienced DIYer Izzi to try things out without the financial risk of buying tools that may not have been right for the job.

**W**hen it came to tackling a much-needed update of his family home of almost 50 years, Izzi didn't really know what tools he needed, not having done much DIY before.

However, knowing every nook and cranny of the flat, it made sense for him to try and tackle most of the improvements himself.

After passing by the tool library on his local high street one day, Izzi realised it would be the answer to the dilemmas he was facing.

***"The tool library allowed me to borrow a range of different tools as many times as I needed, to find out which worked for each job, without having to buy them all."***

Izzi borrowed over twenty different tools to improve his flat. The most useful were a wallpaper stripper, work bench, circular saw and tile cutter.

Discovering the ease of borrowing instead of buying and being able to get pointers in person as to which tools might be right for him, ultimately made it possible for him to do a lot of the work on his flat himself.



**IZZI**







## Tool library provides vital tools to repair catastrophic damage to young couple's flat

Affordable access to tools made it possible for Ben and his partner to repair rotten floors and collapsed ceilings, which made their flat unliveable.



**BEN**

**N**ot long after moving in, their living room ceiling collapsed. This led to the discovery that all their ceilings were not safe and needed to be replaced.

And if that wasn't enough, they then discovered a long term leak under the bathroom floor had rotted the floors in their ground floor flat. Everything including the bathroom needed to be ripped out.

***"The problems were so immense that getting in builders was simply unaffordable."***

Having studied architecture, Ben had some building and construction knowledge. All that he needed to tackle the problems with their flat was the tools.

They had seen the tool library's A-board when cycling down the local high street. The relief that they could borrow as many tools as needed to completely rebuild the floor joists, re-floor the flat, repair all the ceilings and put in a new bathroom was massive, particularly as café worker Ben is on a limited income. They paid the membership fee and haven't looked back.

The couple have borrowed more than 30 different tools and have still got "loads to do."

***"The tool library's made a massive difference to us. We couldn't have afforded to fix things without it. We've gone from living in one room, to having a flat we can live and sleep in without fear of the ceilings falling in on us."***

And Ben says with most of the work done, he's now able to think about planning what to do with his future.

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**514 Victoria Road, Glasgow  
G41 2LA, 0141 636 3959  
[www.southseeds.org](http://www.southseeds.org)**

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