



VOLUNTEER IT YOURSELF

YOUNG PEOPLE LEARNING CONSTRUCTION TRADE SKILLS WHILST HELPING THEIR COMMUNITY

DECEMBER 2021 UPDATE

OVERVIEW

As 2021 draws to a close, so too does our first decade as an organisation. We open this issue with our celebratory 10 year review, which you can get stuck into below, followed by a round-up of our final projects this year. Reflecting on our first project back in 2011 at [John Corfield Community Centre](#), Streatham, pictured below, we're now heading into our busiest ever year in 2022. From our work across Nottingham, Nottinghamshire and Norfolk through the UK Government's Community Renewal Fund, to this year's Rugby League World Cup, we're expanding rapidly, ready and raring to offer even more opportunity to young people at risk and breathing life back into communities nationwide. Bring.It.On.

VIY: OUR FIRST 10 YEARS

We're marking 10 years of Volunteer It Yourself with the release of a review celebrating our first decade as an organisation – VIY: [Our First Ten Years](#). This coincides with another milestone, awarding our 5,000th City & Guilds Entry Level 3 construction skills accreditation to the young people who volunteer with us. 10 years and over 600 projects later, our compelling 'win-win' idea is more pertinent than ever; helping save and sustain valued community spaces at risk of closure, whilst also enabling local young people, those disengaged from mainstream education, not in employment or training, to gain work experience and boost their employability.


Here's a headstart on our first 10 years in numbers (figures correct as of 30th November 2021) before you delve into the review via the link above. Enjoy taking a look, thank you to all who've supported us along the way - we hope you stick around for our second decade!





VIY'S TRACK
RECORD TO DATE -
10 YEARS ON

 682
PROJECTS

 12,783
YOUNG LEARNERS

 5,167 ENTRY
LEVEL CITY & GUILDS
QUALIFICATIONS

 1,136
TRADE MENTORS

 1,743
EMPLOYMENT,
EDUCATION OR TRAINING
PROGRESSIONS

Job Roles

With new funding, partnerships & projects in the pipeline, we're delighted to be expanding our team. Our latest vacancies can be viewed and applied for here on [CharityJobs](#), with roles including:

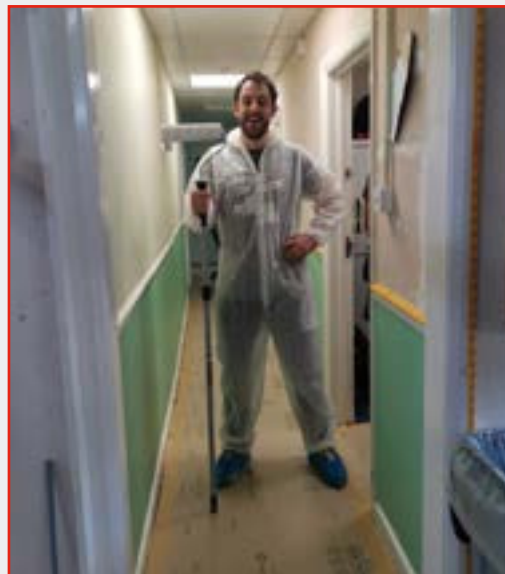
- Project Managers (Yorkshire, West Mids, London, Notts, Norfolk)
- Senior Youth Engagement Manager
- Youth Engagement Manager x2
- Data and Impact Officer

Bon Voyage, Tom!



We're sad to say goodbye (and not at all jealous) to Programme Director and long-serving VIY Team member, Tom Hague, who sets off with girlfriend Kate on an adventure around the world in 2022. Having joined as Project Manager back in 2017, Tom has been a huge part of VIY's growth and enabling our wide range of partnerships, particularly with Sport England, the upcoming Rugby League World Cup and Toolstation.

As a fitting tribute, our COO, Ed Sellwood, penned a poetic send-off which you can see [here](#) on LinkedIn. Heartfelt thanks for all of your extremely hard work and dedication, Tom - bon voyage!



Builders Merchants Awards



We're delighted to be nominated as 'Community Initiative of the Year' at this year's [Builders' Merchants News Awards](#), in partnership with one of our biggest national trade supporters, Travis Perkins.

Since the start of our partnership in early 2020, 48 TP branches have donated over £80,000 worth of materials towards 68 VIY projects, directly supporting over 900 young people. Doing what matters to build better communities and enrich lives, together, from donations and deliveries, to visits and volunteering. Bring on even more in 2022!



@travisperkinsco:

"Shout out for a very happy first ten years to our incredible partner, @VIYproject. We can't wait to continue our work in 2022 to support projects and help young people gain valuable DIY and trade skills. #TravisPerkins #Volunteer #MakeADifference"



@camydeacon:

"Absolutely brilliant to see @VIYproject celebrate its first 10yrs and their ambitions to support more young people and communities in the future. A deceptively simple approach, which should be how we support young people and develop social infrastructure in every community."



@Travis Perkins:

"Wow, what a year! 2021 has been challenging in many ways, but it's also been a year we can't help but feel proud of too."

Our efforts to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support, our partnership with VIY to support young people in their trade careers, and our focus on mental health are just some of the things we want to celebrate."

Shining Lights Centre, St Helens



Our third project in partnership with the Rugby League World Cup's CreatedBy, the social impact programme for the delayed 2021 tournament to be hosted in England this year, has been at the Shining Lights Centre in St Helens.

We've been working with 39 young people from the Saints Community Foundation and local people to redecorate the sports hall and kitchen with volunteers referred via the council and local schools, 36 of those achieving City & Guilds painting and decorating accreditations.

The CreatedBy Small Scale Grants Programme is funded by Sport England, The National Lottery and the Department of Digital Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) and has given opportunities and essential funding to some of the hardest hit and most disadvantaged communities across England - predominantly in the Rugby League heartlands of the North of England.

A big thank you to Travis Perkins St Helens, Dulux Decorator Centre Huyton for the donation of materials and paint and GAP Group Limited for equipment on this project.



Saints Community Development Foundation @CommunitySaints:

"We've seen some great progress in such little time today by @VIYproject and @TheSuttonAC who today are painting our skills hub in The Shining Lights Centre, Sutton Manor as part of our @RLWC2021 grant."



Sutton Academy @TheSuttonAC:

"Last week 26 of our Year 10/11 Construction students supported @VIYproject to help renovate the @ShiningLightsSH @CommunitySaints gaining their GNVQ Decorating certificate as a result. Well done to you all, great work! #community #kind #teamwork"



@coventrycollege:

"As part of their industry placement to enhance their real world learning experiences our painting and decorating learners have worked with @VIYproject to renovate the @TheTin performance and rehearsal space in Coventry. #makeithappen #makeitcoventrycollege #community"

The Tin Music & Arts Venue, Coventry



Off to the Midlands now and a project supporting Coventry's efforts as City of Culture 2021. As a city with an iconic musical heritage, it was a real honour to help bring one of the city's unique music venues back to life. Closed throughout Covid, we and 10 young people from across the city have helped The Tin Music & Arts Venue to undergo fundamental works to help it reopen, to improve their performance space, toilet facilities and uplifting the interior with the help of Dulux paint.



Trade Mentor



Richard Cave, Carpenter & new VIY Mentor at The Tin, Coventry; started working with us through Indeed, helping with some challenging woodwork at height by creating a new ceiling framework at The Tin.

"I've been looking for this kind of work for a while. Having worked in carpentry for 15 years and a range of trade agency jobs here and there through the pandemic, I'd wanted to get into teaching and work with young people. I've really enjoyed combining the two and passing on my skills to young people on this project - I've been really impressed by the attitude of those on site and their willingness to learn. I hope to do more work with VIY next year!"

Wembdon Village Hall, Bridgwater



Wembdon Village Hall is a community centre and facility offering sports, event space and other community use. Our fourth project in partnership with Toolstation, this time right on the doorstep of their HQ, we've begun work creating a new youth and community space in the unfinished part of the building, to be managed in part by the young people; erecting walls, building storage, laying flooring, plastering and decorating. As well as volunteers from the Amber Foundation, students from the local construction college will gain work experience on site, supported by local Toolstation HQ colleagues lending a hand too. Both projects to be continued in 2022...



We're always looking for new trade mentors across the country, tradespeople willing to give their time and share their skills with our young people hungry for opportunity. Interested? Know a local handyman/decorator/carpenter who might be? Email info@teamviy.com to get in touch.

CONTACT US

If you're interested in finding out more about how you can support or get involved in VIY or one of our many projects, please get in touch:



HANNAH GREEN, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

hannah@teamviy.com

STUART RICHMOND, PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER

stu@teamviy.com

07761666020



Through our dedicated Progressions Manager, Sonya Kumar, a new role in our team in 2021, we have been making great progress to determine a solid and streamlined recruitment and referral process for young people nationally, both pre and post their VIY experience.

In a national partnership with JobCentre Plus, we'll be meeting with over 50 Employer Advisors and Work Coaches from JobCentre Plus across the UK in January to determine how we can offer more young people not in education or training (NEET) opportunities to not only volunteer and gain skills & accreditations with us at VIY, but also meaningful training, apprenticeships or employment thereafter.

THANKS TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

Our projects over the past month have been delivered with the brilliant backing of major national and regional partners; Dulux, Travis Perkins, Job Centre Plus, Toolstation, City & Guilds and Sport England.



Thanks also to our local project partners in December: RLWC, City of Culture, Positive Youth Foundation, Coventry College, Saints Foundation

