

Thanks to a donation from a kind philanthropist in 2020, Spokes was able to offer grants to several Spokes members to assist purchase of a family cargobike. One of these members found it so valuable that they decided to sell their car – and they then kindly returned our grant with some of the proceeds!! As a result, we re-offered the grant, and were able to help Charlotte – her report is below.

This is not the only time we've received similar kind donations, so if you may want a cargobike in future, make sure you're a spokes member in case another philanthropist comes along!

Note that these grants are quite separate from the grants which we offer to community organisations, which are continuing. www.spokes.org.uk/documents/advice/cargo-bikes

I collected my cargo bike a few weeks ago. I've already used it to cart supplies around for kids' parties, festival stalls and other events, as well as hauling the kids around on smaller errands. When I move house I'll be using it every day for the nursery run. I'm very grateful to Spokes for helping me get it!

I wanted something as close as possible to a regular bike. If I hadn't been living in a flat, I might have gone for a cargo trike like a Nihola, but it wouldn't have fit round the side of the building. The Veloe is ideal for Edinburgh's narrow cycle lanes and awkward barriers on paths. It's also easy to lock up to most bike stands.

I'm still getting the bike set up perfectly for me - it takes a while to figure out what's best. Fully loaded up with me, two children and our stuff, the electric assist makes hills feel easy (although you do have to put in a bit of effort!).

People often say cargo bikes are a car replacement. I don't drive, so it's really a me replacement. I was getting very tired pushing two kids up Edinburgh's hills, and with a longer nursery run on the horizon I wanted to spend less time getting them there and back. Edinburgh has great buses but they're usually stuck in queues of cars, don't come often enough or don't have space for the buggy. It's also nice to go places we wouldn't normally go because they're only accessible by car.

The only drawback is Edinburgh's almost total lack of useful cycling infrastructure. Fingers crossed that by the time my kids are old enough to cycle themselves, that will have changed.

Charlotte, August 2022

Picture credit:
the picture numbered '3' is..

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