



Liskeard's Community Centre



Liskerrett Community Centre

Annual Report 2015-16

Company No 03784846

Registered Charity No 1078598

October 2016

Our vision and mission

Vision: **A space for everyone**

Mission: **Helpful, friendly support in a place that brings people and groups together to create a better community**

Our Trustees in 2015-16

Chair: John Lennon

Vice-Chair: Barry Helme

Company Secretary: John Lennon

Treasurer: Jenny Foster

Trustees:

Jenny Foster, John Lennon, Barry Helme, Andy Bilewycz (resigned January 2016), Alan Colclough, Mick Ruhland, Paul Wray, Sally Hawken, Susan Shand, Ray Meadows.

Our staff and volunteers:

Centre Co-ordinators (voluntary): Jenny Foster and John Lennon

Staff: Alan Barber (Cleaner/Caretaker), Nikki Rundle (Cleaner), Ian Britnell (Book keeper from 1st April 2016)

Volunteers: John Lennon, Barry Helme, Jenny Foster, Andy Bilewycz, Mick Ruhland, Paul Wray, Teresa Bishop, Dave Howard, Ken Taylor, Susan Shand, Anne Mallard, Richard Chamberlain, Jo Landrigan, Lee Hemming, Barry Hobbs, Robin Swiggs, Iain Oxenham, Roy Clarke, Michael Harding, Linda Losty, Thomas Remnant, Bunny and Alan Colclough, Graham Giles, Lois Taylor, Sandy Simmons, Jackie Taylor, Duncan Brown.

Highlights of the year 2015-16

The Liskerrett Community Centre continues to be a vibrant and vital resource for the local community, with an average of 800 people using the centre every week.

We continue to offer space for groups and organisations to meet and hold their own events and run their services at a competitive rate. We also continue to organise events ourselves which contribute to the cultural vitality of the town. This includes our monthly film screenings which now include a matinee sub-titled screening (we also celebrated the screening of our hundredth film), and our performances both through Carn to Cove and also arranged directly with artists.

This year has seen a good range of performance including more music. This has included welcoming folk duo, Ninebarrow, the Johanna Graham Jazz Quartet and the Geoff Clark Five. Theatre performances include Miracle Theatre's Zonc FM, National Minority (a new play by Alan M Kent) and Bec Applebee's The Ugly Sisters. We also saw the culmination of our involvement in the Shift and Share dance project which enabled us to work with Liskeard School and Community College to bring nationally acclaimed dance artists to Liskeard in the form of CScape's Taste, and Joli Vyann's Imbalance.

Community events: Liskerrett once again held a **Fun Day** with a storytelling theme in August 2015. With an animation workshop run by Lizzie Black, storytelling and activities using the characters from the Mazed stories, and musicians and storytellers giving their time for free to provide entertainment throughout the day. Unfortunately the heavy rain at the start of the day meant many activities planned for outside had to come indoors, but overall the day was a success and the short animation created can be seen on our Facebook page.

We also supported **Liskeard Lights Up** by running lantern-making workshops at the centre and at local schools and care homes, bringing people from different backgrounds together to participate in creative activities and be part of an important local event. The theme was dance under the title Tripping The Light Fantastic. Unfortunately on the evening of the procession we were beaten by the weather, so instead held an event in our garden creating a static display of the big lanterns and inviting the schools and groups to join in a small procession around our garden led by Carmen Hunt and involving the bands Scoots Kernow and Samba Kernow.

We continue to support **Vital Spark community arts festival** by hosting events as part of the festival and also supported the Sounds Vital element which involved another two community compositions working with the Patrick Bailey. These were performed at Liskeard School and Community College, at Liskeard Library and Liskeard Railway station (part of the Loop the Loop project) and at the amazing Man Engine event in town. We were also pleased to work with Liskeard's Bookshops to promote a book signing event by local author, Lisa Woollett and music provided by the quirky Bookshop Band. At **Liskeard Carnival**, we were proud to win best of class for our Dance characters, and some of our lanterns have been on display in the town in the empty shops.

Man Engine day also saw our rocks, made out of willow and paper forming an Earths Treasure Trail in shop displays around the town and the piece of 'Liskeardite' a local mineral discovered in this area which was Liskeard's gift to the Man Engine.

Café: The Hub vegetarian café has continued to thrive, supporting our events by opening for meals, and providing teas, coffees and cakes and high quality vegetarian meals each weekday.

Fundraising: This continues to be an important element of our work, still aiming at raising £50,000 towards our Hall project as demonstration of local commitment to a new facility. Our current fundraising total stands at £10,400.00 with £2,500 being raised this year. Fundraising this year includes money obtained through the recycling of ink cartridges and mobile phones, the Rag Bag scheme recycling old clothes, all profits from our films and events, sales including car boots, Liskeard Community Fair and St Matthews Fair, and now Ebay selling good quality items that have been donated to us.

Grants: We have also been successful in gaining grants to support our work. This includes the funding from Sita Cornwall Trust Ltd and the Councillors Community Chest which funded the installatiojn of WiFi throughout the site, the improvements to the controls on the boiler and heating system and the new windows in the Café. Funding from Red Nose Day Cash and Caradon Area Community Fund enabled us to invest £1,800 in improved computer equipment. We also had a further Councillors Community Chest grant which helped improve the lighting in the café.

Funding from Cinema For All supported the set up of the matinee sub-titled screenings from July to December 2015.

The Future: One of the big items for consideration for the Centre will be the plans for the Cattle Market. Our immediate neighbour and potentially a site for the future development of improved community facilities for the town, we consider the future redevelopment of the Cattle Market could be vital to the Centre and welcome the opportunity to be part of discussions on its future.

Chair's report

What the centre achieves on an astonishingly small amount of funding is remarkable. Funds are extremely prudently managed and a lot of Liskerrett's work is carried out on good will. This is testament to the love and respect so many people have for the centre and the amount of hours put in by volunteers to keep the Centre running.

Huge thanks are due to our many volunteers, who do everything from business planning, to decorating, gardening and event stewarding.

Liskerrett continues to not only provide rooms for community groups to use, but also to help establish new groups by providing affordable accommodation, support, joint marketing, fundraising support, shared office facilities, and by providing a human face, a person they can ask.

New groups this year include Levow Kesson, a community choir, Lingotots, a language learning group for children and Tai Chi and Qi gong, including a seated group.

We have also provided space for a wide range of courses to be delivered at the centre including Understanding Autism, Bee keeping, and Exercise for people with health issues.

Each year we work hard looking at the future sustainability of the organisation, both in terms of maintaining our current activities, and of course fundraising for rebuilding the hall.

We have had some problems this year particularly from acts of vandalism from a small group of young people which has resulted in our working with the police to enforce a six month ban. This involved a decision to remove our polytunnel, however thanks to a generous donation from one of our volunteers we have now purchased a new skin and intend to re-erect the tunnel in time for Spring sowing in 2017.

This issue with young people continues to be a challenge but we are currently working with Young People Cornwall to look at ways of reintroducing services for young people in Liskeard and an application to Power to Change which could help us employ a Centre manager, but also have interns involved in the project developing the offer to young people while gaining skills themselves from us and our supporters.

Financial report

The Liskerrett Community Centre's financial year runs from 1st July to 30th June and as at 30th June 2016, the Centre's total monetary assets amounted to £29,978 compared to £15,449.00 at the same time last year. The main reason for the increase in funds is due to not replacing our Administrator who left in August 2015. The reason for this was to allow us to fully consider our staffing needs.

The majority of our unrestricted income is from the letting out of space which this year amounted to some £46,288. £1,008 came from donations, £7,848 from events, films and fundraising activities and £7 from bank interest. Total incoming resources therefore amounted to £56,533.

Our costs related to the centre amounted to £36,444 the costs connected with the events amounted to £5,445 and governance another £455, giving the total resources expended of £42,344.

This gives a net surplus of £14,189 over the year.

Restricted funds for the year include

- £1,000 from Red Nose Day cash for computer equipment
- £800 from the Caradon Area Community Fund for computer equipment
- £31,054 from Sita Cornwall Trust
- £650 from Councillors Community Chest Grants

At the end of the year we have £5,345 owed to us in unpaid invoices, an amount similar to what we have outstanding at any time and owe £2,298 for VAT, PAYE and accounts.

Our main concern remains the fabric of the building. However the investment we have made over the last year has helped considerably in increasing our control of energy use and so making savings on our energy costs and we are in the process of applying to Sita for money to undertake further works some of which we shall be able to fund for our own income.

Our financial priorities are to consolidate our business income, look at ways to reduce running costs, and to seek funding and continue to fundraise to help maintain and improve the fabric of the Victorian building and to work on replacing the Hall.

We must therefore ensure we continue

- to raise our profile as a venue to attract new users,
- offer a good service to our users and tenants
- and work with other local organisations and be seen and recognised as a contributor to the wider regeneration and vibrancy of the town, so emphasising our importance in the provision of services for Liskeard.

As always there is hard work to be done, and we need to be always looking for opportunities that will help secure the long term future of this project.



What have we done in 2015-16?

We continue to manage our rooms, garden and IT suite and have art studios rented to local artists, and the following tenants and regular groups.

Liskerrett's Cornerstone Tenants

Liskerrett Pre-school - Providing care and education for two to five year olds. Open each weekday during term time. OFSTED registered. Early Years Funding available for all three and four year olds and for some 2 year olds.

Liskeard Young People's Centre –Targeted support for young people. For full details of the range of activities for young people contact 01579 343650

Liskeard Children's Centre -A Sure Start Children's Centre offering a range of free services and activities for families with children under 5 years old. Telephone: 01579 349157 for full programme.

WHAT CAN YOU DO IN 2015-16

The Hub Café serves delicious vegetarian, vegan, GF, and DF, meals and snacks.

The IT Suite is open to everyone free of charge.

The Garden is a peaceful space, thanks to our garden volunteers.

Liskerrett Community Cinema matinée and evening showings once a month.

Hire a room for your group from intimate groups to a packed Hall

Join one of our regular groups see the programme guide for details.

Connect Informal conversation group for people recovering from strokes

Next Step Informal social group for people recovering from strokes

Chatterbox (at the Children's Centre) For parents to come and chat. For children - messy play, crafts, dressing up.

Liskeard Alcoholics Anonymous (AA).

Louise School of Dance Classes for all ages. Ballet, Tap and Modern/Jazz.

Look Group Similar in format to a book group, Look Groups meet throughout Cornwall to talk about art, artists and ideas.

Liskerrett Woodworkers A woodworking project for adults with learning difficulties working in a supported environment.

Let's Dance Gentle exercises—easy to learn dances— fun to do.

Water Colour Painting with Jennie Boniface

South East Cornwall Breathers Group Cup of tea, chat and gentle exercise for all people living with COPD and other long term conditions.

Liskeard Macular Support Group The meetings are open to anyone affected by central vision loss.

Community Gardening Each Wednesday from 10-12 noon.

Skills In Action (Rethink Mental Illness) A socially interactive, friendly group aiming to develop personal skills.

U3A Film Group.

Outset Cornwall Free advice to help you start a new business.

Stitching For Shelterbox Come along and make anything and everything - a friendly and social group.

Meditation Pranic Healing A great way to remove stress and increase energy levels.

Scope Face2Face Oasis Group Oasis groups are for parents, carers or grandparents of a child or young person who has a disability or additional need of any kind.

Artworks Social Group Arts and Crafts for adults with mild learning difficulties.

Writers' and Illustrators' Support Group A support and discussion group for writers and illustrators who are serious about getting their work published.

Ki Aikido Fascinating, dynamic exercise, emphasis upon calmness in movement, complete relaxation, increased awareness and health and wellbeing.

Liskeard Storytelling Cafe Do you have a story to tell? Then come and share it at The Speak Easy. Share a story, poem, song or just as importantly listen.

Art For Well-Being with Carol Whibley.

Wham Bam Drama Group A brand new drama club with classes for all ages. The format of the classes is to have a different theme every term with a small performance at the end.

The Wine Circle.

Sparking Luggers Liskeard's very own Ukulele playing group.

Levow Kesson A mixed voice choir

Farah Dance – Egyptian Belly Dance

Shallal Dance Theatre

Phill Tyler – Life Drawing Class

Tai Chi and Qigong

Brain Tumour Support Group – A support group open to anyone affected by a brain tumour.