



Liskeard's Community Centre



Liskerrett Community Centre

Annual Report 2017-18

Company No 03784846

Registered Charity No 1078598

October 2018

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 2017-18

Chair: John Lennon

Vice-Chair: Barry Helme

Company Secretary: John Lennon

Treasurer: Jenny Foster

Trustees:

Jenny Foster, John Lennon, Barry Helme, Alan Colclough, Mick Ruhland, Paul Wray, Sally Hawken, Susan Shand, Ray Meadows, Jackie Taylor.

Our staff and volunteers:

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

Staff: Alan Barber (Cleaner/Caretaker), Donna McGowan (Cleaner), Ian Britnell (Book keeper)

Volunteers: John Lennon, Barry Helme, Mick Ruhland, Paul Wray, Jenny Foster, Teresa Bishop, Dave Howard, Ken Taylor, Susan Shand, Anne Mallard, Jo Landrigan, Iain Oxenham, Linda Losty, Thomas Remnant, Bunny and Alan Colclough, Jean Lennon, Graham Giles, Lois Taylor, Sandy Simmons, Jackie Taylor, Richard Dorling, Ted Blakemore, Marion Bassett, Zac Leon, Sue Batkin, Cheryl Wiseman, Jenny Cole, Jan Hare, Pat Neill, Rosie Walker, Mike Hayward, George MacCallum

Highlights of the year 2017-18

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 including a matinee sub-titled screening 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 collaboration with Liskeard Public Hall.

Last October we welcomed Three Daft Monkeys who really got Liskeard jumping with their famously dynamic live show, and in May this year we saw Panta Rei Dance Theatre from Oslo amaze an audience of over 100 people with their physical dance show 'Promise of Departure'. The benefit of using the Public Hall as a venue allows us to promote our shows to larger audiences than we can manage at Liskerrett Centre and this is something we are continuing to do this year, specifically with nationally acclaimed Lila Dance, when they come to Liskeard at the end of November.

Events at Liskerrett included a performance and workshop by local writer and storyteller, Jane Pugh, a screening of the black and white film, A Cottage on Dartmoor with live music played throughout by the very talented Wurlitza, and a comedy night organised by Dobfools Comedy Club and featuring Mark Little.

Our community cinema continues to be popular and we were delighted to celebrate our tenth birthday in September with a celebratory Salon Du Cinema including an introduction and performance by Rebecca Morden and a screening of the Mae West classic comedy 'She Done Him Wrong'.

We were also pleased to host the Cinema For All South West Spring Viewing Sessions. This is where representatives from film societies and community cinemas throughout the SW region are invited to a day of film screenings and networking. We welcomed representatives from 12 different film groups and screened six films throughout the course of the day.

We have also seen three specific events organised and run by our volunteers, a rock and roll night, a fashion show and 'Bills Big Bash, an evening of music and dance organised by Liskeard Artworks group. We are very keen to continue to encourage these types of collaborative events and welcome not only the funds raised but also the goodwill and publicity generated by them.

Community events: Although our main income is generated by the hiring out of our rooms, we consider that an important element of our work is to help projects develop to ensure they happen locally, bring benefit to the town and can be enjoyed by local people. This year Liskerrett has supported a range of projects and organisations in this way:

We have supported **Louise School of Dance** to create a dance studio in part of K1 which opened in July 2017 and has enabled her to grow and develop dance teaching in the town.

We have supported **Mayes Creative and the Vital Spark** with the Dark Skies:Bright Stars project.

We have supported **Sounds Vital** and their collaborative work with Patrick Bailey to create their Music for the Night Sky.

We have worked with Sue Field on **Mazed North** a project devoted to collecting local tales and retelling them in a modern way.

We are partners in the **Lyskerrys community magazine** for Liskeard which is now on its fourth edition.

We are working with **Lyskerrys Youth** to maintain youth provision in the town.

We have supported **Liskeard Community Action** in their community events including their Party in the Park in August, and a Halloween party in October. They continue to use one of the art studios in K1 as a store for their clothes. This is part of their free second hand clothes for children project. This is so important when so many individuals and families are struggling financially.

We are proud to be the host venue for many of the Woolly Workshops that run in conjunction with the annual **3 Bags Full** wool market and are pleased to support the knitting group who have been substantially responsible for yarn bombing the town.

We have supported **Liskeard Lights Up** and **Nadelik Lyskerrys** by running lantern-making workshops at the centre and at local schools and with local organisations 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 Nadelik Lyskerrys, a Cornish Christmas. An amazing array of lanterns set off from the Cattle Market. These included a giant puppet of England and Cornwall rugby player Trevor Woodman, a giant white stag (an Carow Gwynn), a dancing Christmas Tree, Mrs Christmas, a scout pulled by two wolf cubs and lots of smaller lanterns depicting Cornish shields and flags.

Café: The Hub vegetarian café has continued to build its good reputation, with five star reviews on Trip Adviser. Cathy's commitment to the Liskerrett Centre is 100% and she continues to support our events, and provides teas, coffees and cakes and high quality vegetarian meals each weekday.

Fundraising: This continues to be an important element of our work, still aiming to raise £50,000 towards our Hall project as our demonstration of local commitment to a new facility. Our end of year fundraising total stands at £16,296.21 with £3,544.53 being raised this year, an increase on what we raised the previous year by more than £700.00
Fundraising has been raised from:

- the recycling of ink cartridges and mobile phones,
- the Bag2School scheme recycling old clothes,

- all profits from our films and events,
- our pop-up charity shop
- a fund-raising fashion show
- a rock and roll dance party
- A donation from the Liskeard U3A to thank us for using our equipment for their film screenings.

Grants:

This year has seen the completion of a number of grant funded projects including:

Cornwall Council's Hall for Cornwall Fund which has enabled us to invest £4,362.00 in performance equipment including a new projector, an area of staging, some stage lighting and a radio microphone and small sound system. This equipment is available for groups to use and provides us with a full range of equipment to meet the needs of any small rural touring show.

An Awards for All grant which funded the consultation carried out for us by Cornwall Rural Community Charity. This was to help us to understand the future needs of our users and to inform our response to the choice of being either a stakeholder in new facilities on the Cattle Market or staying where we are and redeveloping our own Hall and art studio buildings.

Throughout the year we have also benefited from the advice and support of Business Advisor, Rosy Jones, who has been helping us to look at ways to improve our sustainability by increasing revenue generating opportunities and by managing our budget. This support has come through the Big Lottery's Power to Change fund.

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 are pleased to be part of discussions on its future.

In March, our management board agreed that we were in support of community space being allocated on any redevelopment plans for the Cattle Market

- Provided that space meets the Centre's aspirations for the future needs of the local community, we further agreed that any value that might be realised by the sale of our existing site could contribute to realising those aspirations provided that there is continuity of provision; and that rents for community use remain affordable.
- We also agreed that Liskerrett would be willing in the first instance to either be/or be part of/ the local community organisation that works to deliver those aspirations.

Cornwall Council are now in the process of appointing consultants to undertake a full feasibility study for what has been called Liskerrett Nowydh (New Liskerrett in Cornish). It is vital that we take forward into that study our views and the views and aspirations of our users. This is why over the last month we have once again asked our regular users and cornerstone tenants their views.

The future looks exciting. We have here an opportunity to create a landmark development for the town, that has the local community at its heart and we don't want that opportunity to be lost.

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 and decorating, to 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 a somatics class, pilates sessions, a cocaine anonymous support group, a creative gym and a men's support group. Other groups continue to thrive.

The future of youth provision in Liskeard is moving into a new phase with Lyskerrys Youth, a voluntary group, running youth services and activities at the Centre with the help of the charity Young People Cornwall. We look forward to seeing how that provision develops over the coming year.

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 a hall whether it be on this site or on the Cattle Market.

Financial report

The Liskerrett Community Centre's financial year runs from 1st July to 30th June and as at 30th June 2018, the Centre's total monetary assets amounted to £24,883 compared to £34,806 at the same time last year. This drop reflects that at the end of the last financial year there was some £12,611 of unspent grant money in our accounts, which has now been spent in this financial year.

The majority of our unrestricted income is from the letting out of space, which this year amounted to some £40,518. £490 came from donations, £8,295 from events, films and fundraising activities and £9 from bank interest. Total unrestricted incoming resources therefore amounted to £49,312 slightly less than the previous year's total of £53,320.

Our costs relating to the centre amounted to £41,470, the costs connected with the events amounted to £4,458 and governance another £488, giving the total resources expended as £46,416.

Therefore based on our operational activities we therefore made a small loss. However over the year we have invested nearly £9,500 in repairs, equipment renewals and maintenance. This includes investment in the lighting around the site, repairs to the roof in the youth area and the re-covering of the roof of the art studios. We have replaced our wooden gate with a metal one and installed CCTV. We have also had to replace the fire panel in the hall/art block and have started the work to replace the pumps, which are part of the heating system, which failed in April. This work will cost £8,043, and includes the cost of asbestos removal from areas of the boiler room that was necessary before the new pumps could be installed.

Restricted funds for the year include:

- £2,182 from Cornwall Council's Hall for Cornwall Grant
- £507 from FEAST for the Mazed North project

At the end of the year we have £8,113 owed to us in unpaid invoices, and owe £1,976 for VAT, PAYE and accounts.

Our main concern remains the fabric of the building. Even though we have made significant investment over the last two years, which has helped considerably in increasing our control of energy use and improving the front of the site, we cannot escape the fact that we own an old building and we do not have large reserves to invest in it.

Our financial priorities remain 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 2017-18?

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 Nursery and 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.

Lyskerrys Youth –A range of services and activities for young people supported by Young People Cornwall.

Liskeard Family Hub (previously 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 2018

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

The IT Suite is open to everyone free of charge. Free WiFi available around the site

The Garden is a peaceful space, thanks to our garden volunteers. Regular group meets each Wednesday from 10am to 12 noon weather permitting coordinated by Richard Dorling. Visit www.facebook.com/Liskerrett-Community-Gardening

Liskerrett Pop-up Thrift Shop – Open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays – raising funds for Liskerrett Community Centre

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

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.

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.

U3A Film Group.

Stitching for Blood Bikes Come along and make anything and everything - a friendly and social group.

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.

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. A social group for those who appreciate wine

Sparking Luggers Liskeard's very own Ukulele playing group.

Farah Dance – Egyptian Belly Dance

Shallal Dance Theatre – All inclusive community dance group

Phill Tyler – Life Drawing Class

Tai Chi, Qigong and Somatics

Sing and Sign Baby Signing

Light and Life Church

Cocaine Anonymous – support group

Mate: a Men's Support Group

Pilates – with an experienced qualified instructor