

Indigo Arts Annual Report 2015



Annual General Meeting – September 2015

Notice of the Annual General Meeting of Indigo arts for all members,

at : The Base, Tudor Grange Academy (formerly Kingsley College), Woodrow

on: Tuesday 29 September at 7.30pm - doors open at 7pm.

Agenda: Welcome; Apologies; Minutes of Last Meeting; Matters Arising; Introduction to the Organisation & the Current Board; Review of Last Year's Activities; Financial summary; Election of Trustees & Officers; AOB

We look forward to seeing you there!

Welcome

Hello, and welcome to the 2015 Annual General Meeting.

What's the point of having Indigo Arts?

Does it matter in these days of cuts and austerity whether a charity for a bunch of people who want to sing, act, dance or express themselves in other artistic ways disappears due to lack of funding?

Who cares?

Well, hopefully you do! But, for some it does seem hard to justify the benefits of an organisation such as Indigo when more obviously important services are been cut, shrunk, or "restructured".

I am no Politician and can only speak from personal experience. For a large chunk of their childhood (and the beginnings of Adulthood), my two children attended Indigo. There they made long lasting friendships. They learnt the value of teamwork. Each show taught them that dedication, commitment and a heck of a lot hard work would ultimately be rewarded with the knowledge they had helped contribute to another successful performance.

All important life skills, which in my opinion, are as every bit as important as an exam grade on a piece of paper.

I have experienced the sheer infectious joy the Take 2 team spread every time they take the stage, and I know the O25's have formed friendships and bonds that go far beyond their weekly rehearsal.

Any of these reasons alone would be enough to justify supporting Indigo, and on the following pages you will be able to read of the hard work by everyone involved in keeping Indigo available to the local Community for the foreseeable future.

Talking of the future, we are on the brink of exciting times! Indigo is in discussions about a move into the Town Centre at the start of a hopefully long and mutually beneficial arrangement with the Kingfisher Centre. The proposed new space will open up fantastic opportunities and Indigo's presence in such a central position can only raise its profile enormously.

Finally on a personal note, I regret to say that I will be standing down at this AGM. With increasing workloads I have found it more and more difficult to give Indigo the time it deserves and would like to take this opportunity to thank the other Trustees for their hard work and dedication over the last twelve months.

Will I wish Indigo luck for the future?

No, because I feel that Indigo has such an incredibly talented and hardworking team behind it, they will make their own luck and I am confident they will go from strength to strength!

Thank you,

Steve Tremaine

Chair of Trustees

Trustees Standing Down

This year we lose our Chair, Steve Tremaine who has been involved with Indigo for many, many years, and is the longest standing trustee on the board.

Steve was previously Vice Chair before moving up to his current role of Chair. He has finally decided that due to increasing workloads, it is time to stand down and he will be very much missed by a team where he has always been around! The Trustees would like to thank Steve very much for his valued contribution over the years.

New Trustee

Alex Collins was co-opted as a Trustee in January 2015, due to the experience that she could bring to the board, and her involvement with the musicmaker sessions. Alex is standing for election by the membership at this year's meeting, and below is her statement.

I have worked with children since finishing my BTEC National in Nursery Nursing at the age of 18. I have worked in a nursery setting and within private families as a Nanny.

My daughter, Florence, has attended Indigo for approximately 5 years. She is currently part of the younger musicmaker group. I started helping out with minimusic when Florence moved up to musicmaker, but as the groups have merged I now help with all of Musicmaker.

I currently work for Rhythm Time, teaching music sessions to babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers.

I was, until recently, a parent governor at my daughter's first School (Matchborough First School) but finished when she moved onto middle school.

I still go into the school on a weekly basis as a volunteer. I mainly listen to less able readers and keep the bookshelves tidy!

Proposed Trustees Standing for Election this Year

With the exception of Steve Tremaine, the current board of trustees are all standing for re-election this year.

Jackie Poxon has also been proposed for election this year. Jackie is an interior designer and experienced project manager who has long established connections with Indigo through her son Jamie, who has worked with us as part of the technical and stage management crew for many years.

Trustee Activities

As well as the regular involvement in Indigo workshops and events the trustees held formal meetings on 21st October 2014, 15th January 2015, 16th April 2015 and 21st May 2015 in order to maintain a regular review of the work of the charity.

Our focus for the meetings this year has concentrated mostly on fundraising including regular fundraising developments for Indigo and building relationships between the trustees and service users. This has involved us in closer partnership with Indigo Hearts who continue to work on regular fundraising initiatives for the Charity. This year has again been a difficult year and numbers in workshops continue to be low. Indigo has found itself having to negotiate and fundraise much harder.

All the current Trustees attend, have children attending, or are involved in the delivery of workshops, so continue to be able to bring first hand experience of the charitable activities to bear on decisions and planning, as well as maintaining a close relationship with Indigo's Projects Director, to clarify and issues and maintain regular monitoring of project delivery and spending.

The trustees have also aimed to support the Projects Team in their practical delivery, and as part of our review of health and safety at The Base, Lyn and Sandra attended an emergency first aid course earlier this year, to extend the number of first aiders that we had on the team, and available to support activities out in the community.

The Trustees have continued to support the Projects team in their delivery of performances and productions, and have taken the lead in ensuring there is now a rota system in place for front of house staff to help with shows and events, alongside the Indigo Hearts Committee.

A major concern of the Trustees this year has been the relationship with the School and its new owners Tudor Grange Academy. Following previous negotiations over the terms under which we took on the building, the many scheduled improvements that had been promised have still not taken place, despite assurances that they would be written in to last year's budget. Since the Tudor Grange Academy take over of the site, we have had less contact with the School, and although our policy was to give the new owners time to settle before pushing for a review of the hire agreement and initial promises, the situation has actually worsened, rather than improved, with Vocalize being installed in the theatre area which we were forced to leave 4 years ago, and no consultation with us taking place whatsoever. This has obviously had an impact on our activities at the Base, and left us with a sense of continued insecurity in terms of how we develop our projects. The maintenance of the building is of continued concern. Our approach to Tudor Grange Academy regarding the developments this year is also currently being informed by the potential offer of an alternative space, and we are formulating an approach based on the outcome of our negotiations with the Kingfisher Shopping Centre. Hopefully we will be in a position to update the membership on these very shortly.

We hope the coming year will therefore provide us with greater opportunities to move forward, and develop the charity and its projects as we would hope, engaging a wider number of the local community in the work undertaken.

Financial Update

Annual Membership Subscriptions

The annual membership subscription remains at £10, with any subsequent members from the same family paying £5. We have decided to maintain subscriptions at this level for a further year.

Regular Workshop Activity Contributions

We intend to maintain our workshop contributions at the £2.50 per hour rate for the coming year. Subsidised rates for those on low income, or for additional members of the same family accessing provision, where the first is paying full price, continue at £1.50 per hour until the end of 2015.

It is however likely that we may have to review the amount of discount that we are able to provide for the start of 2016, although we remain keen to alleviate the financial burden on those with a number of family members attending, and ensure that we don't place financial barriers in front of those who can least afford to access the provision. The proposed amount of the discounted rate from 2016 would be increased to £1.80 per hour.

Payments continue to be divided into three equal payments per year, based on a 33 week year. Those unable to pay a term in advance are offered the opportunity of a payment card which enables payment of an amount they can afford each week, until the total amount due is met.

There have been some queries raised over cost to pensioners, and in line with many organisations now, we don't specify pensioner cost, but refer back to our general policy, that the subsidised rates are available to anyone on a low income. It is generally appreciated in current times that whereas we would not expect someone retiring on a state pension to be able to meet the full costs on a regular basis, there are also those who retire on very comfortable pensions, and therefore the 'pensioner' status no longer applies to the subsidies offered by charities such as ours.

Where people attending the provision find themselves in circumstances where they are unable to pay, we will always do our best to support them through such periods, ensuring that they are able to continue with the project.

Financial Summary

Our accounts to 2014 are available on our website should people wish to go over them in detail. We are currently working on the accounts to 2015, which will also be put up on the site for perusal as soon as they are in a completed state. If anyone hasn't got access to the internet, or is unable to see the accounts in this format and would like to access a hard copy, then please let us know and we will provide one for you.

Please note that the general charity income is made payable to the Trustees account who then allocate it to the projects team account for initiatives and activities over the year. This includes membership, donations, fundraising and grants. Income donated directly to projects, or generated by

projects will be paid directly into the projects account. It will be noted from the accounts that the vast majority of the income paid in to the trustees account is directed across to the projects account for use, so all our income is being used to directly fund Indigo's ongoing activities.

It is evident that like last year this has been another lean year in terms of charity income, helped greatly by those who have undertaken fundraising activities for us, on which Indigo has survived. Over the last two years our turnover has dropped to around £20,000 per year, and last year down to £15,000 which is considerably down on previous years. If you look at our income levels since we began on the Charity Commission website you will see that this represents about a quarter of where we started out. Our aim is to halt this falling trend in turnover, and begin to rebuild the charity performance. This year is looking more healthy, but we still have a considerable way to go.

Income has been spent directly on activities and payments to freelance staff who deliver project activities for Indigo - this year being the Workshop leaders for O25, musicmaker and Take Two and musicians. Indigo's Projects Director is paid a small Project Management fee on a monthly retainer basis, generated by income from the projects. The Projects Director was also paid for the Project Management undertaken for Morton Stanley Festival via funding from Redditch Borough Council for the event.

Where we obtain project funding via grants or organisations, money is allocated to support further freelance staffing this has been achieved this year through a grant from the Jane Crawford Memorial Trust, and from Redditch Arts Council (distributing for RBC).

Once again however we have relied heavily on the substantial voluntary hours that people have dedicated to the organisation.

The rent on the building will cost us £4,000 to January 2016, and storage costs us £109.20 per month. From January our rent increases to £5,000 per year. Should the proposed move go ahead, the rental will remain at £5000 for the year, but we will be able to move all storage in to the space, saving us the additional £1300 per year.

We have also had to continue investing money in the Base to support our use of the space, although less of this has been undertaken this year due to the lack of maintenance as promised by the school.

Fundraising

We have held a number of fundraising initiatives this year:

Singing and packing at Tesco with all groups for a day raised £704.78. We are very grateful to Tesco for their support with this initiative and hope Tesco will become a regular event for Indigo.

The bonus ball lottery at the Base raised almost £250.

Our Just Text Giving Campaigns have provided us with donations towards work at the Base and projects such as the Edinburgh Festival Fringe of around £200 and we are very grateful to all those who support these campaigns.

Regular fundraisers at the Base, such as the Indigo Sessions and Quiz Nights have brought in a steady income, although numbers have been lower than we'd hoped, they continue to grow little by little. The only real blip in the series of events being the cancellation of the Karaoke evening due to lack of numbers. Thanks to all those who continue to support us both by performing and organising the events, and by attending them!

Our Raffle of the signed Script Poster raised us about £100, and we thank all those who bought and sold tickets, and Luke for persuading the Script to provide us with the poster which was won by Sue Turner.

The Arts in Redditch Partnership supported our fundraising both by selling our raffle tickets in their pop up shop, and by donating 10% of their artists takings to us, when they sold at our PopUp Theatre and Shop in the Town Centre. These amounted to £400 towards our Edinburgh Festival Fringe Project, for which we are very grateful.

We were also successful with a grant application to Redditch Arts Council, who distribute funds for the arts from RBC. We were awarded £500 towards the Pop Up Theatre project in the Town Centre and the production of Ashes & Blood.

The trustees would like to thank Indigo Hearts for all their hard work with fundraising and their commitment to Indigo.

Sponsorship

Continued thanks to Citroen Redditch and particularly Matt, who is always there with a van when we need one to move equipment from place to place for performances and storage/delivery requirements. Their ongoing support is very much appreciated.

Once again this year Citroen also furnished us with a van to take our show up to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Project Team Report

Musicmaker & Minimusic

Running both musicmaker workshops on a Monday evening has continued to prove a successful move, with some great stuff coming out of the shared hour between the two musicmaker groups.

Minimusic has unfortunately proved unsuccessful in recruiting and sustaining membership, and we have found ourselves currently with no under 6's in the group. Due to the fact that we ran the workshop alongside the first hour of musicmaker, given the falling numbers, the impact of this has been negligible on the group, although given the previous success of the early years group, the loss is a regrettable one.

Musicmaker numbers have undertaken a complete change around from last year, with members of the younger group moving up in to the older group, and low recruitment amongst the younger members, the older group has doubled in size, with a number of new members, and the younger group has depleted. Overall numbers remain about the same with roughly 25 in the group as a whole.

Both groups continue to be extremely successful, producing some excellent performance, which continues to impress all those who hear them. They have been involved in a variety of community events, as well as their own productions across the year.

The group continue to perform with live music and we are grateful for the musicians who regularly offer us their support, particularly Jo, Charlie, Reuben, Marcus, Dave, Matt and Carl.

The groups are led by Molly, assisted by Aimee, and Claire and Alex with the younger groups.

Take 2

Take 2 continue to thrive and numbers remain at 17, despite some changes in membership as some have moved away from the area. Those we lost to the Palace Theatre group have also returned, and we continue to have a reputation for high quality work compared to other provision for those with learning disabilities. This also means we continue to have a waiting list for provision, due to the size of the Base, which now has to accommodate 3 wheelchair users. This is one of the issues to be considered when looking at alternative accommodation for the groups. The group continues to be run by Cathy, with assistance from Molly and Lucy, and workshop assistants Anna and Corrine. They have produced some fantastic work this year which has extended their range of performance skills, involving physical theatre, spoken word, music and drama, in both productions. Much of the work has been devised, using ideas from the group. Take 2 are often supported in performance by members of the other Indigo groups, ensuring a fully integrated approach to the work we do.

We have had some interest from practitioners looking to do some work with the group, and it is hoped that Cathy may be able to hand over some of the leadership at the end of this term.

O25

O25 continue to thoroughly enjoy their singing, and have embraced the community element of Indigo, proving that singing has a serious social element, as well as all the other benefits it brings to physical and emotional health and wellbeing! The group have performed regularly at community events, as well as undertaking their own productions. They continue to be led by Malcolm, who is now ably assisted by Lucy, who has had the pleasure of taking over from Malcolm on rare occasions where he has had to miss workshops!

IndigoCo

IndigoCo continue to produce some exceptional singing and performance, this year not only heading to Edinburgh Festival Fringe with an original show based on the folklore behind the Cinderella story, but also producing the show initially at a pop up theatre in the Kingfisher Shopping Centre, where they also wowed audiences, and received rave reviews.

This year the company has involved members from both older musicmaker and O25 groups, as well as guest appearances from the younger musicmaker group, live in Redditch and in the opening video in Edinburgh. We were also able to offer the opportunity once again to those outside our mainstream provision, although a number of them have joined that provision as a result.

Edinburgh Festival Fringe saw us once again playing to sell out performances where we had to add in extra seats on the final evening.

Thanks to our regular IndigoCo band – Reuben, Jaimie, Matt, and MD and keys player – Jo.

Vocal Ink

Vocal Ink is our new creative writing and spoken word workshop launching this September, and run by Jess Davies. Jess is a former Indigo member who has returned to spread her passion for poetry. We are very excited about the development of this new workshop and are looking forward to it going from strength to strength.

Indigo Sessions

The Indigo sessions have grown out of our very successful fundraising evenings where we were joined by a number of very talented local performers, for regular intimate performances at the Base. It is our intention to keep these going regularly throughout the year, offering the opportunity for local performers to share their talent with the community, as well as raising money for our work. We are grateful to all those who have supported these sessions so far, and encourage everyone to spread the word and join us for some excellent entertainment.

General Staffing

Staffing capacity remains an issue, with a lot of responsibility remaining upon the shoulders of the few. We have however been lucky to have been supported by a greater number of regular musicians, and to welcome Jess and Aimee to the team.

We have also increased the number of volunteers working with the group once again, with Indigo Hearts providing regular support to the project teams, alongside the trustees.

Our regular tech and stage management crew of Jamie and Twitch have welcomed the regular support of Chris Blackburn and James Hollamby, without whom we would not have achieved many of the projects we have undertaken.

External support for Indigo has also begun to broaden once more, with the backing of Tesco, the Kingfisher Centre and the AIR partnership making a big difference to what we have achieved this year. We hope we will be able to build on this now and things are looking more hopeful for the future.

We are always looking out for people to add to the team, and help us put together new and exciting arts projects for the people of Redditch. All our provision takes a considerable amount of work to maintain, and anyone who would like to get on board as a volunteer or has an idea for an activity they would like to run, please get in touch – we always want to hear from you.

Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who has been a part of Indigo this last year. There is no doubt that these last few years have been tough on charities, and that the arts have suffered considerably from a lack of understanding of their importance to society, particularly in times of trouble. Although we doubtless still have hard times ahead of us, it is looking like we can afford to indulge in some cautious optimism for the coming year, with some exciting projects and real progress ahead of us. Your part in getting us here and keeping this charity going is very much appreciated. 2016 will find us in our 15th year of bringing the arts to this town, a milestone we have every right to be very proud of achieving.

Contact details:

www.indigoarts.org.uk

enquiries@indigoarts.org.uk

1094794 טקסט "מסמך" 7 1 7