

# Indigo Arts Annual Report 2016

## Annual General Meeting – October 2016

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

**at :** Indigo Arts, The Arts Lab, Kingfisher Shopping Centre, Redditch.

**on:** Thursday 13 October 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



Please note that this meeting follows the postponement of the meeting scheduled for 20 September.

## Welcome

Welcome to the annual AGM of Indigo for 2016

Having been given the role last year it has been a tricky year for the Charity. The biggest challenge has been the relocation of the group from Tudor Grange to the town centre which has taken an immense amount of time, effort and challenging negotiations on the way for Cathy which we thank her for achieving. There are still outstanding issues with Tudor Grange and discussions to be had moving forward.

We finally moved into the new building at the beginning of August.

We have had several events throughout the last 12 months most of which were very successful, but sadly a few were cancelled due to lack of interest which was disappointing and we need to improve advertising of these by Indigo members to its maximum.

The trustees and hearts are working hard to lift things as we clearly have a settled future now in the new base.

Unfortunately I am unable to continue in this role - being self employed my work has taken off dramatically and I cant give the time and support this group need to take it forward however I am happy to support future events and would love to do some more quizzes !!

Thank you,

Jackie Poxon

**Chair of Trustees**

## Trustees Standing Down

Officers standing down this year due to family and work commitments are Jackie Poxon and Ellen Traves.

Jackie has been the Chair of Indigo for the past year and we are sorry to be losing her.

Ellen Traves is currently the Treasurer and has been involved with Indigo for many, many years and we will be sad to see her leave.

The Trustees would very much like to thank both Jackie and Ellen for their input and commitment to Indigo over the years .

## Trustees Standing for Election this Year

With the exception of Jackie Poxon & Ellen Traves, the current board of trustees are all standing for election again this year: Alex Collins, Lyn Wilmot, Lucy Prever, Sandra Birney.

## New Trustee

**Nicola Duggins** has also been proposed for election this year, by Cathy Moss and seconded by Molly Moss. See below for Nicola's statement:

I first got involved with Indigo as a parent many years ago, my daughter attended the classes and performed in many a show! I became involved in helping out at rehearsals and shows and very soon became a trustee. I was trustee for a number of years until life got a little hectic and I was unable to dedicate my time. After having recently bumped into Cathy and a tour round the new premises we got chatting and a vacant post for trustee was mentioned. Life is a little less hectic now, my daughter is now grown up and less demanding on time. I have always loved what Indigo stands for and after much thought, decided to help out and stand as trustee again.

I currently work as a Social worker for a large fostering and children's services group. I regularly assist with youth clubs and organise and participate in children's activities and events. With my experience both with Indigo and at work, I feel this would be a suitable role for me.

## Trustee Activities

It's been a busy and eventful year for Indigo Arts and its trustees. All trustees continue to be actively involved in one or more of the workshops on a weekly basis and regularly help front of house and behind the scenes at events.

Many shows have taken place throughout the last academic year, including Musicmaker performing at the Ruddock Studio Theatre, O25 performing at The Base and in the town centre, Take 2 taking on their first Pantomime, and TV show, and Indigo Co challenging themselves with staging the musical Songs for a New World.

Indigo Arts were also honoured to have been the chosen charity of the Pride of Redditch Awards in December 2016. The evening included performances from members of all workshops and a bar run by Indigo members, Hearts and Trustees. We thank everyone at Pride of Redditch for the opportunity.

Trustee meetings were held on the following dates 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016, and 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016. This last meeting was primarily for trustees to sign on the dotted line for the new tenancy.

We met with the Hearts on two occasions to discuss fundraising ideas and opportunities. We continue to work closely with the Hearts and thank them for their on-going commitment and support.

A quiz was held in March, which was a great success, bringing in funds for the charity. We have also been proud to support Autism Awareness by holding talks by Tom Bowes Autistic Genius and guest speakers on the subject of Autistic Spectrum Disorder. We look forward to supporting Tom in the future and welcoming more guest speakers to join him.

Indigo Sessions evenings have also been held, showcasing local talented performers in a variety of genres.

The charity is settling nicely into its new home, The Arts Lab, within the Kingfisher Shopping Centre. All trustees were involved in the procurement process and are happy to have finally signed the lease on the new building. Workshops at the Arts Lab have already been a great success with an influx of new members in the first few weeks of the new term. With the move to our new town centre location we anticipate more scope to promote Indigo Arts, therefore improving numbers in workshops and making the Arts accessible to a wider audience in Redditch and beyond. We would like to thank Ken Williams for his support in making the move to our new premises a reality.

Negotiations with Tudor Grange Academy over our tenancy agreement and poor treatment during our time at The Base, however, are on-going. Trustees are waiting to hear back from the school's governing body after a letter was sent out to each governor individually.

The trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members and their families for their continued support, as well as the many volunteers who lead and staff our activities, we look forward to a brighter future in our new home.

## **Proposed Officers for Election**

Alex Collins – Chair (nominated by Cathy Moss, seconded by Lyn Wilmot)  
Lucy Prever – Vice-Chair (nominated by Lyn Wilmott, seconded by Alex Collins)  
Lyn Wilmot – Treasurer (nominated by Alex Collins, seconded by Cathy Moss)  
Secretary remains up for nomination

## **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, are worked out on the basis of £1.80 per hour.

The Trustees and Project Manager have the option to deal with exceptional circumstances at their discretion, so that financial barriers do not prove a hindrance to anyone's access to the activities of the charity.

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.

Queries continue to be 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.

### **Financial Summary**

Our accounts to 2015 are available on our website should people wish to go over them in detail. We are currently working on the accounts to 2016, 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, and we don't have any reserves.

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. The total amount spent on average on staffing comes to about £8000 per year, excluding the one off project funding.

Where we obtain project funding via grants or organisations, money is allocated to support further freelance staffing, this was the case with the grant provided for Take 2 TV in the summer.

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

The rent on the building cost us £4,000 to January 2016, and storage costs us £109.20 per month. The rent increase to £5,000 per year was withdrawn by Tudor Grange Academy, due to the ongoing dispute over maintenance of the Base, and it remained at £4000. The Arts Lab costs us £5000 for the year, and we aim to bring all the storage in to the space within the next month which will cut the £1310 per month, reducing our overall lettings cost. The cost of services and utilities is yet to be ascertained, as we have been in the Arts Lab for too short a period of time.

We will need to spend a further £400 on the planning application to change the use of the building to a community space, as well as paying for a Community PRS Licence which works out at around £600 for the year. Our insurance costs amount to £737 per year inc of VAT.

There are obviously a number of works which need to be undertaken to the new space, for which we will need to secure funds, the most pressing being a platform lift for the stairs, increasing accessibility to the building. The quote we have had for this is around £15,000.

Redditch Arts Council, distributing funds made available by RBC have provided a £500 grant to us this year for the Take 2 TV performance.

The Elmley Foundation provided us with £700 for lighting.

We have benefitted from £7,800 of the Heritage Lottery Grant awarded to Forge Mill & Bordesley Abbey for the Son et Lumiere.

## The Indigo Hearts

The Hearts have continued to hold regular meetings and discussions to aid with fundraising for Indigo arts. Many ideas have been bounced back and forth, some of which have been implemented, such as the regular lotto, a book stall, and cake baking. No matter how small it all helps.

We have also helped out at the many functions we hold or attend, by helping sell tickets, and refreshments. We have also assisted at the Pop Up galleries and theatres, and other events that may arise, raising awareness of Indigo and of the shows for Indigo Co. There was also a tombola stall, jewellery on sale and clothing and props for people to take their own selfies.

The year has been a challenge, but hopefully lucrative.

Anyone who would like to join the Hearts, please speak to Lyn.

## Fundraising

We have held a number of fundraising initiatives this year:

The bonus ball lottery at workshops continues to raise funds, with £173 being raised this year.

Our Just Text Giving Campaigns have provided us with donations towards the Arts Lab move of £155.75 to date, 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 one quiz 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! Please continue to spread the word, as events such as these are vital to our income.

We raised £128 at Tesco's on 12 December, with O25, and a few of the musicmaker team.

Events undertaken at Forge Mill have earned us a number of donations in thanks for our support, and we are grateful to them for the continued partnership that we enjoy.

Christmas - £200      Forties Day £200      Heritage Day £100      Hire of Equipment for event £100

We also had a donation of £100 for performing at the Street Party for the Queen's Birthday, and have received private donations of over £200.

Being nominated Charity for Pride of Redditch 2015 raised us a wonderful £1024.10, as well as donations of refreshments from Tesco, that have kept our Bar's running and raised further funds for several events!

Generally audience numbers to productions and events have been low this year, in accordance with a seemingly national trend. Income from ticket sales has therefore been much lower than average.

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.

The Kingfisher Centre Team have provided us with huge support over this last year, in terms of spaces for performance, and free promotion in the Centre – we cannot thank them enough, and look forward to a long and successful partnership in our new home.

We are always looking out for additional sponsorship from companies or individuals who may want to support on a regular basis.

## Project Team Report

**Musicmaker & Minimusic** - Once again Musicmaker numbers have undertaken a complete change around from last year, with members of the younger group now increasing, and the older group somewhat depleted. Overall numbers have averaged at about 30 in the group as a whole. It is hoped that now we are in the new building, and in a position to recruit once more, we will see numbers rise again, with the oldest members of the group moving on to establish Indigo Co as a regular workshop session.

Both groups continue to be extremely successful, producing some excellent performance, which continues to impress all those who hear them. This year the younger members have particularly developed in leaps and bounds. They have been involved in a variety of community events in the Town Centre, and at Forge Mill, as well as their own productions across the year, and even performed at a wedding!

The group continue to perform in the main with live music and we are grateful for the musicians who regularly offer us their support, particularly Jo, Charlie, John, Reuben, Marcus, Dave, Matt, Carl and Adam, as well as Jamie and his crew, who performed for the November show, all these great musicians make up our House Band Indigo Noise, in one way or another throughout the year.

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

**Take 2** - Take 2 are thriving with numbers remaining at 17, despite some changes in membership. They continue to grow in reputation for high quality work compared to other provision for those with learning disabilities, and their abilities and achievements speak for themselves. This year saw them undertake their first pantomime, devised by the group, and their first video broadcast in Take 2 TV, working with video artist Paul Stringer.

The move to the Arts Lab has led to their workshops being run on the floor above in the Ecumenical Centre due to access issues. We look forward to developing the access to the Arts Lab, so that they can join us there.

The group continues to be run by Cathy, with assistance from Molly and Lucy, and workshop assistants Tasmin, Anna and Corrine.

Take 2 are often supported in performance by members of the other Indigo groups, ensuring a fully integrated approach to the work we do.

**O25** - O25 continue to thoroughly enjoy their singing, and grow in confidence as well as embracing the community and social element of Indigo, proving all the benefits that singing 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, ably assisted by Lucy, who has had the pleasure of taking over from Malcolm on the occasions where he has had to miss workshops due to health issues, as well as leading on responsibility for some of the more recent projects.

**IndigoCo** - IndigoCo continue to produce some exceptional singing and performance, at a number of events, with their highlight this year being the incredible 'Songs for a New World', which truly wowed audiences when it was performed in our Town Centre Pop Up Theatre this summer.

This year the company has involved members from both older musicmaker and O25 groups. We were also able to offer the opportunity once again to those outside our mainstream provision.

The group did not take a show to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe this year, due to the move of home.

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

This year IndigoCo are looking to meet more regularly to develop ongoing performance.

**The Violettes** - The Violettes are four of our long term older Musicmaker and IndigoCo members, who have formed a girl group to pursue a career singing professionally. Indigo has a commitment to support those who work with us and are looking to pursue a career in performance, and are currently working with the girls through this transitional process. In return the girls are supporting our fundraising and community events, so look out for some outstanding performance from them, and if you would like to book them, get in touch!

**Autistic Genius** - Another of our semi professionals who are benefitting from Indigo support is the wonderful Autistic Genius, better known to Indigo as Tom Bowes. Indigo has supported a number of great evenings led by Tom on the subject of autism, and he has introduced us to some inspiring guest speakers, who have shared their experiences and knowledge with enthusiastic audiences. We continue to develop this series of informal lectures with Tom, and look forward to welcoming more of his friends.

**Vocal Ink** - Vocal Ink unfortunately drew very few members when it was initially launched in 2015. It has therefore been put on hold until we settled in to the Arts Lab, and we are hoping we can attract more people to the wonders of poetry now that we are easier to reach!

**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, once we have settled in to the Arts Lab, and organised our change of use, 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.

**Indigo Media** - We are in the process of developing our links with video artist Paul Stringer, who hopes to set up a new media group within the Arts Lab, to encourage young people to comment and share their views of their town, and the wider environment.

## 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 additional practitioners such as Paul Stringer and Jess Davies to work with the team, and are grateful to Jo for taking on increasing responsibility for musical input. We are very keen to recruit more people with vocal teaching skills, now that we once again have the facility to work with small groups and individuals as well as the main workshop.

We have a healthy team of volunteers in Indigo Hearts, and those who support workshops.

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 continued support of the Kingfisher Centre, the AIR Partnership, the Redditch Standard, Pride of Redditch, and Tesco making a big difference to what we have achieved this year.

Thanks to everyone who has supported us, we are in a much better position to build on where we are now, and enjoy an exciting future. We could ask for nothing more for our fifteenth Birthday, and the fact that we have survived to this ripe old age is entirely down to our wonderful community of supporters.

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!

Thank you to everyone who has got us to our fifteenth year of providing quality arts activity, accessible to the whole town. Fifteen years is quite a milestone, especially considering the tough economic times in recent years, which have seen many a charity go to the wall. It is incredible that we have got this far, and wonderful to find ourselves, with the Arts Lab, considerable support where it matters, and a chance to build on what we have achieved. We hope that you will remain with the Indigo community for what promises to be an exciting future, and encourage others to get on board. A very special thank you to all those volunteers, workshop leaders and members, who have stayed with us through the journey, and those who help us to continue forward!

## Contact details:

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