

Indigo Arts Annual Report 2014

Annual General Meeting - September 2014

Notice of the Annual General Meeting of Indigo arts for all members, at The Base, Tudor Grange Academy (formerly Kingsley College), Woodrow on Tuesday 30 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

Due to the resignation of our Chair Rebecca Hyder, it falls to me to welcome new members to our charity and of course our regular members back for another year! We look forward to seeing you all at the 2014 AGM.

It has been another challenging year for Indigo Arts. The continuing austerity cuts have affected all charities deeply, especially in the Arts. Indigo has found traditional sources of support, be they financial or otherwise, reluctant or unable to assist. A drop in numbers has meant a drop in subscriptions and has resulted in some groups being amalgamated. Tickets sales for some shows have been lower than expected . . . and Banks have been, well, Banks!

That, I think, covers all the Gloom and Doom!

On a far more positive note all the groups have put on fantastic shows throughout the year, from the Christmas shows at the Ruddock Centre, the Ecumenical Centre and Forge Mill to performances at Caffé Nero, Morton Stanley and Abbeyside fete and to such shows as Movies and Musicals and Indigo Sings! At Indigo's home, The Base.

Have I missed anything? Only the fact The Little Shop of Horrors achieved sell out performances at this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Given the vast number of shows, on any given night, a potential audience can choose from, this is a truly remarkable result!

On the fundraising side money has been raised but such diverse methods as a sell out quiz and curry night to young George Kings losing his locks!

None of these shows and performances would have happened without the continuous hard work and dedication of Cathy and all the projects team, the performers, parents, volunteers, trustees, sponsors, and anybody who has helped make Indigo such an artistic success, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all.

Sadly we will be losing three of our trustees this year due to work and family commitments so again, as acting Chair I would personally like to thank Rebecca Hyder, Fay Todd, and Gordon Nicholson for all their hard work over the years and wish them every success in any future endeavours.

As I said at the start, it has been a challenging year for Indigo and it would be wrong of me to say that this year will be any easier, but whilst we have such a dedicated team of people who are keen to prove that Indigo is a vital asset to the community then I feel confident that Indigo will find a way to cope with any adversity thrown in its way and continue to grow from strength to strength.

Steve Tremaine

Acting Chair of Trustees

Trustees Standing Down

This year we lose three of our trustees, who will be sadly missed following their valuable contribution to the charity over a number of years.

Fay Todd resigned as Chair last year following the birth of her son Jonty, but remained on the board for a further year. Pressures of an imminent return to work, adjusting to being a working mum, and the commute between her home in Worcester, work in Birmingham, & Indigo in Redditch are proving a juggling act too far, and she has sadly decided to leave us this year. She promises she will continue to be involved with Indigo whenever commitments allow - she'd better, as her creative thinking and community experience have proved an asset to us in partnership projects long before she became a trustee!

Gordon Nicholson is an Indigo institution, having returned to being a trustee after escaping the first time! We will be very sorry to lose him as a trustee, but he is well aware that in true Indigo form, no one

quite escapes entirely! We are looking forward to him remaining on Front of House duty and making some more of his fab currys for our quiz & curry nights. Other than these two activities for which he has earned Indigo notoriety, the list of things he has got involved with behind the scenes are simply too many to mention without turning this report into a novel. We wish him well in his new self employed venture, which seems to find him primarily in France . . . we have suggested an Indigo franchise over there!

Rebecca Hyder became a trustee in 2011, and Chair of Trustees last year. She resigned earlier this year due to pressure of family and work commitments which have left her unable to support Indigo in the way she would wish. Rebecca has been Chair of the charity during a particularly difficult phase, given the effects of the current economic and political climate in terms of small charities and the arts and we thank her for all that she did to support us through this period.

Proposed New Trustees

Sandra Cotterill, Lucy Prever

Trustees Standing for Re-Election

Steve Tremaine, Ellen Traves, Lyn Wilmott

Details in support of Trustee Application

Sandra Cotterill

I am retired and for the last twenty years of my working life I was employed by the Law Society. I had held various positions of responsibility and enjoyed being part of a team. That was then and this is now . . . I really don't know how I found time to go to work . . . I am a doting grandmother to three wonderful boys and a gorgeous little girl and they keep me centred on what life is all about.

Due to having been trained in counselling some years ago I have kept my hand in so to speak by being involved in many charity organisations in a small way over the years. I have worked with the Samaritans, Parentline, Mentorlink, to name a few. I am now a voluntary worker in the MacMillan Hub at the Alexander Hospital. I lost my husband to cancer ten years ago and have an empathy for anyone who has that dreaded word given to them or to someone they love. To say that I enjoy this may be a little strange, but what I do is get a sense of satisfaction that I have helped someone get through a very emotional time and through this I feel I am putting something back in to the community.

I love singing, I never stop, so my family say. Being part of Indigo O25 is a joy to me and I love being involved with what I think are an amazing group, full of really wonderful people. Therefore if I can help by being a Trustee, you know that it will be from the heart and with the best will for their future in mind.

Lucy Prever

Lucy is a founder member of the musicmaker singing workshops starting with us back at the very beginning in 2000, before it even became a part of Indigo arts! Having gone off to university, trained and working as a speech therapist, Lucy has since returned to Indigo to work with Take Two, and is on her second stint supporting these workshops. She was also one of the instigators in persuading Indigo to set up O25, to which she now belongs, and can claim therefore to be a founder member of a second Indigo workshop. Her influence has therefore already been very much felt by the charity, so becoming a Trustee seems like a natural progression to someone who has many years understanding and experience of the way in which Indigo works.

Trustee Activities

As well as the regular involvement in the activities of Indigo the trustees held formal meetings on 11 November 2013, 24 February 2014, 2 June 2014 and 25 July 2014, in a bid to establish a regular review of the work of the charity.

Their focus for meeting this year has been reviewing policies particularly those linked to safeguarding, and the new DBS checking structure and risk assessment; fundraising and the development of regular fundraising activities; building relationships between the trustees and service users including communication and trustees input in to Indigo's regular newsletter established this year - the Jibba Jabba.

This year they intend to continue with updating the Health & Safety and Safeguarding aspects of provision and policy in relation to the new Base, which is in the process of being made suitable for Indigo's project delivery; establish greater contact and communication initiatives between the board of trustees and the service users to further the work of the charity and encourage more volunteers.

The Trustees will be working with the Projects Team to update and develop new administrative systems which work for both and enable greater cross referencing for reporting and evaluation of the work undertaken by the charity.

Individual Trustees continue to work closely with the Projects team, and to participate at a practical level in the projects supported by the Charity.

This year has proved to be another difficult and challenging period, and Indigo has found itself having to negotiate harder and fundraise harder as support in all guises has been hard to come by.

Our Chair, Rebecca was involved with Projects Director Cathy, in talks with the local Council Arts Officer about the breakdown in support, or indeed any involvement whatsoever of Indigo in a large number of local events, as well as a failure to deliver on promises of support, as well as having to cope with the competition from activities they were delivering, an ongoing debate for some time. The review was requested by the Council, and the debate was forthright, with a number of misunderstandings hopefully cleared up.

Although Indigo are not entirely satisfied at the reasoning behind our treatment following a long partnership, where the Council had benefitted greatly from our work, we have since gone on to do further work at Forge Mill and project managed the Main Stage Events at Morton Stanley for a further year.

Negotiations are also ongoing with the school over use of the Base, with the school not having carried out works agreed to be budgeted for during the financial year following our signatures on the contract. Cathy carried out the negotiations on our behalf as Projects Director responsible for the activities to be undertaken, and due to her longstanding relationship with the school. We continue to support her in terms of getting the very best for us out of the building, and making sure that the school undertake their promises with respect to a deep clean and maintenance issues. The school has now changed hands and is managed by Tudor Grange rather than by Kingsley which may have some bearing on the way things have developed. The negotiations will be ongoing.

Financial Update

Annual Membership Subscriptions

The annual membership subscription remains at £10, with any subsequent members from the same family paying £5. We have maintained this amount for the coming year, but may have to look towards lower percentage reduction for the family rate next year. This will be reviewed in the coming months.

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. Once more it is likely that we may have to review the amount of discount that we are able to provide in the future, although we are 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.

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.

Financial Summary

Our accounts to 2013 are on our website should people wish to go over them in detail. We are currently working on the accounts to 2014, 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 who then allocate it to the projects team 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 we are looking at turnovers of around £20,000 per year which is considerably down on previous years, and we are struggling to maintain things at this level.

Income has been spent directly on activities and payment to freelance staff who deliver project activities for Indigo - this year being the Workshop leaders for O25 and Take Two. 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, but this has not been the case over the past year, as we have had no such grants. Once again therefore 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, and storage costs us £109.20 per month. We are hoping to move our storage up to the Base, so that we can clear the additional storage costs and this is something that will be up for review this year. Money has also been spent on bringing the Base up to a point where we can use it for events and performance, although there is still some way to go with this once issues with the school are resolved.

Our other spending is promotion which we have reduced to a minimum this year, other than that which has been costed in to performance projects and paid for via ticket sales. Our newsletter and mailshots have been developed using Mailchimp, which is a free service enabling us to send by email, and communicate across a wide target group, whilst avoiding print costs. A small amount has also been spent on travel costs and expenses related to projects.

Ticket sales, fundraising and donations continue to be our main source of income, and we are grateful to all who have supported us.

Unfortunately the review and audit of our last set of accounts to 2013 were delayed due to the tragic personal circumstances experienced by our accountant, and this has left us somewhat behind in terms of publishing financial material for this year. We are quickly bringing things back in to line, and will have everything up and ready for people to scrutinise on line as soon as possible. We will let you know as soon as this is available, and apologise for the delay.

With the Base now in a better position to move forward with new projects, and finance back on track following the years difficulties, we hope that we can now forge ahead in terms of once more attracting grants and donations from external sources.

Project Team Report

Musicmaker & Minimusic

Monday music maker and minimusic were brought together at the beginning of the year due to falling numbers in minimusic. The collaboration has worked well, with the younger children achieving great things through work with those who are slightly older and more advanced. Although minimusic is scheduled to work with the main group for the first hour, the majority remain for the whole two hour session and largely participate in the majority of group activity undertaken, as well as doing some of their own repertoire.

New members have joined the group, but we also lost participants, alarmingly there were a number of drop outs close to the last performance, which caused some major headaches. Numbers therefore remain low, with 18 on the register at the end of the year, and only 2 in minimusic.

The group do however continue to develop their singing skills at an amazing rate and have stunned audiences over the last year with some stunning performance at the Ruddock Hall last Christmas and during their own Young Indigo production in May where they achieved an outstanding level of performance, taking on some very difficult material from the movies and musicals, and delivering with passion, enthusiasm, commitment and phenomenal skill from a group so young. They have also performed at a number of community events through the year.

Thursday musicmaker numbers also fell drastically, with few additions to what has become Indigo's core group. Beginning the year with about 17 on the register, numbers fell to about 13 irregular attendees by the end of the year. Drops in attendance were due to a range of circumstances, including one member who left to have a baby, and a large majority affected by 'A' Levels.

The advantage of a small group working together for some time as a close team has been demonstrated in the outstanding singing, and particularly harmony skills that have earned these performers quite a reputation at their various shows this year. Due to major problems finding musicians to support them, they have worked on developing acoustic repertoire accompanied by guitar and piano, which can easily be taken in to smaller venues, and has proved successful for the fundraising gigs at Caffé Nero. Since their excellent performance last Christmas at the Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, the majority of their performance has been of amore acoustic nature, the best of which stunned audiences at their joint production with O25 in July.

Due to the issues with falling numbers and erratic attendance however, and building on the success of the collaboration between minimusic and Monday musicmaker, the projects team took the decision in July, to also amalgamate both musicmaker groups from September 2014. All of these groups will therefore now meet on a Monday with an hours overlap for every group, so that they spend some time singing together at every workshop, as well as an hour with their peers. This should be excellent for the young singers who are ready for new challenges following last years achievements.

Malcolm stepped down from working with the older musicmaker workshop this year, after nearly 14 years he felt he was due a rest! He has continued to support them in performance, but is unable to take on as much as he has done in the past. We are therefore looking to recruit new musicians to work with the group, and have seen a number of new faces get involved this year, who we hope will become a more regular part of the team. Brett also stepped down in the latter part of the year due to a number of other commitments which left him with little time to spare.

Younger Musicmaker and minimusic continue to be led by Cathy & Molly, with excellent support from Claire and Alex, and administrative support from Sue & Lyn. Older musicmaker are now largely self running, with leadership from Molly, and support from Emily in developing the repertoire undertaken, Cathy continues to direct the project.

Take 2

Take 2 continue to thrive and numbers remain at 17, despite competition from Redditch Borough Council who decided to target the same group on the same night, and this year offered the provision for free! We have since been informed that this is no longer the case and it is back to being a charged provision once more. Despite the concern, we only actually lost one member of Take 2 to the Palace Theatre group, and as this report goes to press I am pleased to report that he has returned to us for this year!

Indigo still has no idea of the logic of setting up competitive provision with a charity that has established an excellent reputation for delivering for this client group, particularly as the original request for Indigo to take on this provision, and support a Learning Disabled group wanting to start a performing arts group came through the RBC arts officer.

The decision to provide it for free this year could only be viewed as an attempt to draw in Indigo's clients, or at the very least a failure to consider the possible impact on our provision. We are happy that we survived the affront, and this says a good deal about what we deliver!

We are still considering the development of a second group, although staffing capacity is an issue at the moment, particularly with the departure of Emma at the beginning of September due to new work commitments which prevent her from regular attendance. She hopes to keep in touch with the group who she has led to great things over her many years with Indigo. Take 2 are very much going to miss her and we are all very grateful for the excellent work she has done, and the amazing rapport she developed with all those involved with Take 2. Indigo is now looking for a replacement to lead the group, which Cathy is currently undertaking, ably assisted by Lucy, who has worked with Take 2 this year, and Anna and Corrine, our long term workshop assistants.

Take 2 undertook two performances at the Ecumenical Centre this year, one before they finished for Christmas, and one in May, based on a holiday adventure. I both they were supported by O25. Their shows continue to draw large appreciative audiences, and the high praise for their continuing achievements is well deserved. Their shows are an absolute pleasure for all involved!

O25

O25 have come on an incredible journey this year, and we have seen some amazing skill develop within this wonderful group of people. The numbers remain at around 30 for the workshop which has seen a constant influx of new members, and seems to be fulfilling its initial promise as a social and fun filled activity that would enable people to share in the enjoyment which a love of singing could bring. It has been great to see them going from strength to strength.

The group is led by Malcolm, who spends endless hours also working on original arrangements of songs selected primarily by members of the group, to use in performance. They are developing quite a repertoire.

Workshop support comes from Dorothy, and Cathy when she can get there!

O25 have supported Take 2 in a number of their shows across the year, as well as undertaking some small performance of their own at the Base and in the community, being part of the Christmas show at Ruddock Performing Arts Centre and performing with the older musicmaker singers at the summer show in July.

IndigoCo

IndigoCo proved to be a very different set of people this year to those originally involved, with fewer than half of the members drawn from our regular provision. Instead we picked up some ex members and a number of new members, to form a small but very capable cast for our trip to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe with Little Shop of Horrors.

Many of the new members had such a great time that they have returned to join musicmaker & O25 workshops this September.

Those originally intending to come were deterred by A Level results and other issues, so we found ourselves recruiting elsewhere. This meant a late start for rehearsal and the adoption of a method which meant late and intensive rehearsal up to the point where we left. It worked and produced a very successful return to the Fringe after last years absence.

Ongoing problems with band members saw us take an all new band drawn from Cathy's musical contacts at King Edward's Schools, who were keen to enjoy their first experience of the Fringe.

Once more we achieved sell out shows, turning people away on the final night.

General Staffing

Staffing capacity has become a major issue this year, with a lot of ill health affecting our regular projects team, making us realise how stretched we are in terms of capacity and cover for those who give so many hours to the organisation.

We have become very aware how important it is for us to recruit more volunteers to the organisation, as well as getting ourselves back in a position where we can achieve grants and funding towards core costs such as staffing to attract more support for our projects.

This recruitment is vital to our survival as a provider of high quality arts experiences and resources which are accessible to all. We cannot continue to struggle in the way we have this year to deliver our basic services and keep administrative procedures in place. Too much of the weight of running the organisation is falling on too few people, and none of those involved will be able to sustain this kind of workload for very long, particularly given that a number of them are also in full time work.

Indigo has lost a large proportion of its staff, volunteers and trustees this year, and this inevitably will have a knock on effect upon what can be developed and provided. It was also unfortunate that decisions to leave all came at more or less the same time, placing incredible pressure upon those who were left. Others have reduced their commitment during the same period, which has contributed to the burden on others, all of whom have borne it with incredible fortitude and dedication, but there is only so much that can be achieved without others stepping in to share the load!

As well as administrative overload, our roadie capabilities are fast failing, and with the amount of equipment being dragged around following the loss of any viable performance venue in the town, we are always in need of muscle, and technical support; our desperate search for musicians continues, although we are in a better position now than we were, we have suffered let downs this year that have put whole performances in jeopardy, and have called upon rescue packages from Malcolm above and beyond the call of duty, we simply cannot afford for this to be the case for a further year; fundraising initiatives and people with ideas they are willing to put into practice, are going to be vital to this year's recruitment.

We also need to recruit a new leader for Take 2 as soon as possible, and identify leaders for new shorter term projects which we can run from the Base.

The search for Trustees continues - if you are interested then talk to us at the AGM or put yourselves forward, we need a strong team to take us in to the future.

Massive thanks to all our regulars who have kept us going through another unbelievably hard year, and are still with us driving us through the storm. Thanks to our ever present tech team Twitch and Jamie, and to Chris Blackburn who has been there for fallback both as tech and musician . . .nearly! (Chris damaged his wrist in a tech mishap at work just as he was due to play for us!), Pete and Kat who have just been tech heroes! To all those musicians who have supported us through the final performances of last year, Charlie, Reuben, Jo, Matt and Jamie - and who we hope will continue to work with us in the future. To all those who have lifted, carried, telephoned, run around, cleaned, mopped up floods, cooked, sold, raised funds and generally been there to do everything that we have thrown at you through the year - Thank you all - we made it!

Fundraising

Due to the many issues we have faced this year, we only made one grant application in August. This was to the Crawford Memorial Trust, for a grant of £5,000 to support young music leaders working with musicmaker, and provide us with a replacement keyboard for the ageing Triton. As this report goes to press I have learned that we were successful with this application.

We plan to make a number of applications in the coming year which will help to support much of our regular outgoings and cover new projects.

We have been supported by the Redditch Masonic Charity who donated £500 and Bordesley Masonic Lodge who donated £220 and Redditch Inner Wheel donated £30. Redditch Ladies Circle raised us £412.90 at their Christmas Fayre.

George Kings raised us a massive £700 by cutting his hair, and gaining an enormous amount of sponsorship.

Fundraising events: We raised £205 with thanks to Caffé Nero at our fundraising event there, and the wonderful Graham and Gordon raised us £700 at their Curry and Quiz night.

We have had a lot of smaller donations from individuals through Just text Giving and Paypal campaigns to raise money towards the refurb of the Base, and our trip to the Edinburgh festival fringe. Indigo is very grateful to all who continue to support us in this way.

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 sign written van to take our show up to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Clive designed the vinyls with the young Audrey II looking like she was about to take a bite out of the Citroen hostess on the side of the van. Citroen covers the costs of the signage for us as well as providing the transport.

We have also appeared in the Citroen newsletter which discussed the longstanding community relationship that we have had with Citroen Redditch and its importance to us as a charitable organisation.

Further Information

We are always pleased to answer queries or hear from you with feedback about our work. Please contact us via email on enquiries@indigoarts.org.uk

Indigo Arts Accounts 2013-2014

Income and Expenditure 31/3/14

Income

Grants	
Workshops/Shows/Membership	7730.72
Donations	30.00
Fundraising	5383.62
Interest	1.73
	13146.07

Expenses

Promotions	1397.31
Project management	5195.00
Equipment/Props	4711.9
Edinburgh	495.20
Licences	676.43
Insurance	613.48
Misc	151.71
Storage	1310.40
	14551.43
Depreciation	502.20
Deficit	-1907.56

Balance Sheet as at 31/3/14

Assets	2408.97
Bank	1754.37

Total	4163.34
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Opening Balance	3024.73
Profit & Loss	1138.61
	4163.34