

# Stoke Climsland Community Project Limited

## Annual Report 2019-20

Firstly, an explanation that there will be the opportunity for a delayed Annual General Meeting when the current restrictions have been ended to allow such a meeting to be held. The Accounts have been examined and have been submitted to Companies House and Charities Commission within the time allowed.

### Events

What a different year! And it started straight after the 2019 AGM with a regular Friday Lunch and then the Annual Apple Pressing Day, thanks to the Tamar Valley Orchards Volunteers Group. Followed by another bumper year in 2020, we have had two of these days this year – dozens of families enjoying labouring willingly to turn the apples they picked up from their own trees turn into honey-coloured juice.

Friday Lunches are a wonderful part of our programme, lovingly prepared by Edah for all her 'regulars' – now a group of good friends, and treated by Edah on any excuse to imaginative extras.

Other regulars have included our hirers – groups doing Scottish Dancing, painting, band practice, discussions about art or books or investments, talks on Local History, WI cookery sessions, Tai Chi and Messy Church! Annual events where we have catered for groups of Teachers, fungus collectors – and all those I've accidentally omitted.

Our own groups of Carers, Jazz or Classical Clubs, Film or Local History, Afternoon Teas run by Ann Craig, Invisible ME - the monthly Village Market with its Breakfasts, and another monthly – the Community Lunch. All thriving, and we have been glad to see you all ! Almost the last event in Feb '19 was a fabulous Classical Music event.

So – how sad to see these all have to draw in their horns, hold their breath, and wait for the end of the National Emergency and obligatory Lock-down !!

Being a sociable sort of place, there was little we could do with our hands tied behind our backs, but by degrees we began with The Market – yes, outside in our fine playground a good number of stallholders brought along their goods and we were delighted to space out and move carefully through their stalls - plus Take Away exotic meals in the evenings – the Friday Lunches – carefully spaced and, like the art groups, tables well apart and not allowed to get up and chat. All moving along by degrees until now sadly another hold-up while we regroup and get our heads around what we can do next !

We would love to hear from anyone who'd like to be involved in our Events Programme, and we so look forward to the talks, classes and music and theatre we have had on hold for 8 months !!

Please send us your email addresses so that we can keep you in the loop about the events we're planning for the future here!

### Buildings

The most important thing to say from the Buildings Committee this year, is that we have very sadly lost Kim Hawkey. Kim's interest in the historic building which is The Old School has been different

from most peoples' because as an Architect of long practise he had a real interest in and respect for the building, and understood the need for it to work as a whole. He was a kind and considerate person who was invaluable as a trustee of The Old School, involved in all parts of the community, and with an obvious interest in its History as a member of the Local history Group as well as his great interest – the local wildlife, particularly the rare butterflies which he helped to monitor throughout every summer. What more can be said, we are all going to miss him.

The buildings committee has needed only a light touch this year – couple of small areas are waiting for a good lime plasterer to be able to carry out surface repairs; similarly, we have one window frame needing attention. Otherwise Jonathan Cox our stalwart caretaker and Edah as manageress have caught up with anything needing attention, touching up paintwork and even carrying out a deep clean to all main areas during the lock-down. Thanks to both of you.

Outside, a grant and a donation have enabled us to put in work to refurbish the toilets block (now the ONLY representative in Cornwall of a key part of school life for 150 years). This is partway through, waiting on return of the original doors to be followed by interior work, guttering, and then reuse of some areas as part of SHARE's recycling project.

#### Catering report

As in any strong community, the kitchen remains the heart of the Old School. Edah and her incredible team of volunteers continue to produce wholesome, homemade delights to serve visitors both young and old. We have sadly lost some regular visitors, but have also gained some new ones as the reputation of the Old School spreads.

The Christmas Dinner was spread over a whole month as volunteers joined the regular lunch visitors to share the occasion. It was a really lovely way for everyone to get to know each other.

#### Library Report

Support for The Library is now in it's 5th year. Support had been growing and growing up until the Covid 19 pandemic necessitated a closure of such facilities.

We had a regular group of 10 – 15 mums, babies and toddlers visiting on a weekly basis to use the café and Library area. Brilliant children's author and composer Jane Newberry was facilitating superb, fun, educational sessions for children and parents, supported by enthusiastic and creative volunteers.

Sadly these sessions are currently on hold, but we have good contacts with Cornwall Libraries and are now gradually reopening.

#### The Old School News and the Stoke Climsland Newsletter

For many years the financial model for the Old School News has assumed a balance between income from advertising and the costs of printing and distribution. By the end of 2019 it was clear that this balance had, for yet another year, not been achieved. Attempts to get more advertising had not closed the gap and an initiative that would have linked the Old School News and the Callington News had come to nothing.

In January 2020 the editor, Mary Richards, was admitted to Derriford just as the February issue was being delivered. Shortly afterwards the compiler, Ren Jackaman, resigned. In order to keep the Old School News alive Deri Parsons and John Wilmut agreed to produce an emergency March issue whilst setting up an initial training session for some potential compilers. Mary was recovering (she is now well again) but it was clear that an emergency April issue was needed; this was being printed just as the coronavirus lockdown was announced. In the end, only 80% of the April issue print run was able to be delivered and the trustees agreed to suspend publication.

In discussion with the Parish Council it was agreed that Deri and John would produce a Newsletter, providing information and support during the emergency. Financial support for this was offered but has not, as yet, been taken up. The first issue was produced in March and it is still in publication having been produced at between 7 and 10-day intervals. It was soon clear that it would not be possible to distribute the Newsletter on paper so it has been issued online, principally via The Old School Facebook page, and by email. It is in full colour, has carried a few advertisements and has been well received though is difficult of access for those who do not use social media online.

As the Covid19 emergency has developed the Newsletter has continued but trustees have worked on a strategy for reintroducing the Old School News. A survey of local public opinion has helped a decision that will eventually move the publication from paper to online with special provision for those in the parish who do not use the internet. As the emergency continues it is not yet clear when this transition should happen.

### Administration

An admin update wasn't able to be carried out this year due to Covid19 happening so suddenly. Once things get back to normal an update will need to be held so everyone is aware of the new procedures. The office volunteers will be critical in helping to get people's confidence back, and communicating with people about what we have had to change and how we will adapt going forward.

All policy and procedure documents have been updated where required and some more added. These documents are required not only in the office but if a grant is applied for they are a mandatory part of the application form.

The computer in the office has had a software upgrade and this hopefully will protect us going forward.

The health and safety has had a big review and is now COVID19 secure. This is being constantly reviewed and adapted as things move and change, however being able to do this has allowed The Old School to open as soon as the government declared it safe to do so. Hopefully now we can instil confidence into people by doing things in small steps.

A big thank you to all of the office volunteers who give their time and input into making The Old school function.

These have been challenging times and I no doubt there will be some more challenges before next April, but hopefully The Old school will be able to gently go about providing a community hub in the village.

Whilst the restrictions of the Pandemic has more or less stopped "normal" trustee Meetings, we have maintained regular meetings by email, Zoom, Out doors open air, or as things were relaxed

very socially distanced indoor meets. Never ideal but necessary to hold things together to comply with various compliance issues.

### Accounts

The year had an improved Donations plus Turnover from the various activities and events of £4,000, but after deduction of related expenditure that had increased by £3,000 the Loss had been reduced by £1,200 to £5,570. We are again grateful to Dawe, Hawken & Dodd for completing the examination of accounts, but this time during the "Lock-down".

As you may gather, the current year has not been very active due to the Covid19 challenges but there has been some consolation with being able to obtain furlough contributions towards some the wage bill and there has been a near end to the Old School News Losses as only the April edition happened but only a few of the advertisers actually paid their invoices. We have also received several grants from different organisations to help plan for the future.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, thank you to Edah Joll, Administrator; Sheila Stipling, Accounts; Trustees, Volunteers, Advertisers, OS News Distributors, Compilers, Patrons and Accounts Examiners.

With any Community run organisation, it is the Friends that make it work and keep it going despite all the other calls on time and funds, so may I thank you all for showing an interest in our Annual Report without the Annual General Meeting, and look forward to seeing you at the other functions held here.

Clive Kidman

Chairman