



ARRUAL REPORT 2017





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FCA

Fearon Community Association

Legal Status

Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee

Governing Document

Memorandum and Articles of Association

Charity Number

1130457

Company Number

6852232

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CHAIRS REPORT

The year 2016/17 was a period of consolidation for Fearon Community Association.

In previous years and in common with many small Charities, the organisation had struggled to maintain services to local people in a period of austerity and reduced funds. The Association had taken measures to ensure financial viability and increased resilience, including the recruitment of new Directors to the Charity Board. This gave the organisation a measure of stability for 2016/17 and allowed progress to be made in several areas. Most notable was the appointment of Meg Bezzano-Griffiths into a permanent management role with the Charity. This led to the development of new initiatives as well as increasing the income from lettings and events. Most importantly, the profile of the Association was raised within the local community. By March 2016 the Charity was in far better shape than 12 months previously and able to look to the future with a measure of confidence.

At last, we saw measurable progress on the creation of a long term lease of Fearon Hall in favour of the Charity. At the time of writing it looks likely that the essential repair works to the building will be completed and the Charity will be offered a lease on the building. This will be another step towards securing the long term stability of the organisation and enable a programme for growth and expansion to be developed.

The objectives for 2017/18 are to get the financial reserves back to the level recommended by the Charity Commission, whilst expanding and enhancing the attraction of Fearon Hall to local people and the wider Loughborough community.

Fearon Community Association exists on the efforts of its staff, supporters and volunteers and special thanks are due to everybody who helped the Charity over the last 12 months.

John Leney Chair, August 2017



TREASURERS REPORT

After the turbulence of previous financial periods, the outlook has improved and there is cause for optimism.

Overall there was a surplus of funds for the year of $\pounds 7,589$ compared to a reduction in funds of $\pounds 2,981$ in the previous year.

We have started generating funds from classes and activities of £3,463 and raised £13,813 of grants in addition to the Strategic Partnership Grant. Opportunities for further grant funding will be significantly improved with the pending lease agreement.

Most overheads stayed around the same. However the pension deficit was £1,775 and while this is still in the red it's an improvement on the £10,869 costs of the year before.

The balance sheet shows a negative value now that we have to include the pension deficit, but that negative value has decreased from £10,593 in March 2016 to only £3,004 in March 2017.

Michael Wellbourne

Treasurer, August 2017



BALANCE SHEET As at 31 March 2017

	2017	2016
FIXED ASSETS	4378	5150
CURRENT ASSETS Debtors Cash Bank	18245 265 22418	25071 317 5250
	40928	30638
CREDITORS Due within 1 month	18585 2234	3 14987 15651
TOTAL NET ASSETS	2672 ⁻	1 20801
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES & CHARGES	2972	5 31394
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	(3004) (10593)
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS Accumulated Fund	(3004) (10593)

Full accounts are available on request.

NEW BECINNINGS ARE-VISIONING OF FEARON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION & FEARON HALL

2016 has seen us make some necessary and significant changes in our outlook and approach to our role in the community.

The financial pressures brought about the steady decline in available funding over the previous few years, the costs of maintaining our beautiful building, the demands of negotiating a new lease on the Hall and the recruitment of suitable staff and volunteers called for us to undertake a major evaluation of our identity and purpose within the community and our relationship with our main stakeholders.

The year began with the appointment of five new directors. Their first task, working with the existing team, was to reflect on the aims and objectives of the Association ensuring they reflected the community need. Understanding the financial challenges and establishing robust governance procedures, along with redefining our relationships with the church and council, has allowed us to take positive steps in charting a route to sustainability in being a relevant, modern and friendly centre.

The support we have received from Charnwood Borough Council throughout this process has been invaluable. Both financially through ongoing repairs to the roof and a replacement boiler and the dedication of the community officers who have offered timely advice, guidance and support. We would like to offer our sincere thanks to those concerned.



We are achieving this by:

- Embracing new ideas and revitalising leadership structures
- Updating all procedures in consultation with key stakeholders
- Increasing occupancy by improving our facilities, reviewing our pricing and promoting our space
- Developing partnerships with public and private organisations
- Improving communication and consultation processes
- Introducing monitoring and reporting procedures to evaluate impact



OUR 5 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

OVERALL AIM

1. TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A WELCOMING PLACE MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE TO ALL

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2. Increase opportunities for local people to acquire skills, build self-esteem and develop confidence
- To support groups to deliver activities which teach people new skills
- To provide meaningful volunteering opportunities

"Fearon Hall is a fantastic venue to run workshops from as it is a central hub of community activity providing a relaxed place where the local community can come together and engage in a wide variety of activities. I have run several workshops from Fearon Hall and share a similar ethical ethos to the organisation. Many of my participants have stayed on after the workshop for the Utilise Cafe and have said how much they have enjoyed the atmosphere and the food. Many participants have since returned to Fearon Hall for other activities.

Fearon Hall, to me, is so much more than just a venue to hire for workshops. It is a friendly, relaxed place where everyone feels like they are part of one big community family... there aren't enough places like this."

Jen Kashmir Arts

SOCIAL INCLUSION

- 3. Increase opportunities for members of the community to engage in activities that meet individual needs
- To promote social inclusion by delivering social recreational and leisure activities
- To increase access and participation in the arts

"Having worked with Fearon Hall for the last year, I have found this place to be extremely warm and welcoming. The work that Meg does, along with the volunteers at the Hall is amazing and it really does make a true impact on the local community. Our Action volunteers have thoroughly enjoyed going to Fearon Hall, because although they are there to help with a particular job, they are always looked after by being offered tea and biscuits. Thank you for a fantastic year so far, and I am really looking forward to seeing how LSU Action and Fearon Hall work in the future."

Anna Student Action Chair







HEALTH AND WELLBEING

4. Improve mental health and promote healthy lifestyles

- To develop skills through the sharing and preparation of food
- To maintain our outdoor space for the growing of food
- To run healthy eating activities and increase access to food

"Members of the Art and Craft group tell me that they feel relaxed and welcomed to the group, and they enjoy the relaxed atmosphere."

Julie Arts and Crafts sessions leader



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

5. Support neighbourhood community and voluntary sector groups to grow and develop

- To provide facilities and equipment for use by community groups
- To encourage and support the sharing of skills and experience between groups

"Working with the hall has allowed me, and my team to achieve so much. We have gone from an idea to a fully working business model in such a short space of time.

Central to that has been Fearon Hall, the people who work within it and the community in which it resides. Meg and everyone at the hall have been amazingly supportive, and without them Utilise wouldn't exist. I have had such a fantastic year (and a bit) working hard, through the good and the bad - but I wouldn't change any of it.

The Hall and Meg have not just been a space to rent but have been a family of people working alongside each other. So I just want to say thank you - and I hope the Enactus/Fearon Hall relationship continues long into the future."

Jake Utilise Social Café

COMMUNIT IMPACT

To check the progress we are making on our journey to a sustainable future we have begun to implement a monitoring programme.

We use information from our booking system, along with detailed feedback gathered directly from hall users, to quantify hall usage and shape our delivery plan to ensure we meet the needs of our community.

Already we have been able to evidence a solid growth in hall usage. The number of groups using the hall has tripled compared with the previous year, with the result that more sessions are offered to more users. Over the course of the year, we provided 27,800 "touchpoints" i.e. opportunities for individuals to benefit in terms of skills development, health and wellbeing or social inclusion. Examining the beneficiaries, we find that 42% of the touchpoints benefitted adults, 35% benefitted children / young people, 19% benefitted families and 3% benefitted the elderly.

As our monitoring activities develop, we anticipate being able to understand hall usage in greater detail and identify opportunities for further growth.

Help us grow by supporting and publicising our events.

> "Delightful group of people with a real willingness to share and openness to hear each other."

"Friendly, informative, and supportive."

HALL USAGE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

2015-2016

- Providing a place to feel safe and welcome
- Acknowledge financial challenges



900

200

groups

1900 sessions

community needs

Charting a route to

2016-2017

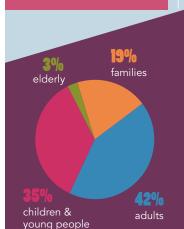
Responding to

sustainability

users

23_343

touchpoints



27.836 touchpoints

Touchpoints by Community Aim





ideas and revitalised



Updated all consultation with kev stakeholders.



Increased occupancy by providing the right facilities at a fair price.



Developed public and private



Improved and consultation



Introduced monitoring and reporting procedures to evaluate impact.

The Hall usage goes from strength to strength and continues to meet the core needs of our community.

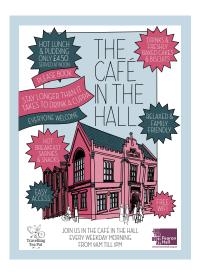
SELECTED GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES FEARON HALL

The Café in the Hall

The Café continues to be the heartbeat of the Hall and a central focus for visitors. Numbers are increasing, both for lunches and during the morning for hot drinks, breakfasts and homemade cakes and treats. This is a mixture of regular customers and those using the Hall for specific events, such as the recent Vista coffee morning for young families. We also provide lunches for various groups running from the Hall or attending events.

Lunches continue to be balanced and affordable at £4.50 for 2 courses with a hot drink. We cater for special diets and have regular customers with specific requirements. We aim to be a welcoming and friendly community cafe, accessible to all.

We have amazing volunteers helping us daily, particularly Jessica Jinks and Peter Scott. The café could not be run without their help.



Utilise Social Café

A joint project between Loughborough University Enactus, Transition Loughborough and Fearon Hall which aims to divert food that would otherwise have gone to landfill for use in creating nutritional, affordable and delicious meals. March '16 – April '17 has been a fantastic year for us. We found our feet after our first café in February 2016, and alongside the Hall we have had a year of success after success.

We served almost 1500 meals, diverting around 1500kg of food waste and raising nearly £2500 in revenue. We welcomed new volunteers throughout the year, from all walks of life and were able to provide a positive outlet for energy and time, as well as a means to develop skills and passions in catering and reducing food waste.

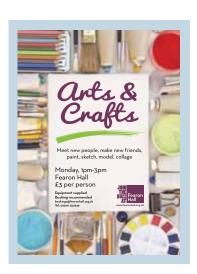
In October 2016 we went from a tri-weekly café, to a café every week and since then we have continued to spread our wings. Hosting various events and supporting other organisations and charities, all in partnership with Fearon Hall.



Arts and Crafts

The Monday Art and Craft group offers an opportunity for people to drop in either with their own activities or engage in one of our structured activities.

The group offers members a light hearted and jovial session, opportunities to exchange creative ideas, play around with a range of artistic resources and to enjoy a good old cuppa.



Garden Buddies

Garden Buddies is a mixed ability gardening group and members range from 17 to 82 years young. We have dedicated Master Gardeners who volunteer with the groups and give advice and help people plan their plots or how to go about planting their favourite vegetables. They also help to plan activities for group sessions. All proceeds help fund the group and help pay for group requirements such as seeds and compost.

We have had a really good year. The group has grown from strength to strength and has gone from just one meeting a week to three. Initially all three groups were run at Fearon Hall. We grew plants from seed and planted these in the garden at the back of the building and used the raised beds to start a vegetable garden which included runner beans, tomatoes, onions and shallots. The vegetables we have grown as a group have gone to the kitchen and are used in cooking for lunchtime meals with the lunch club.



Upcycle, Reuse, Recycle

We re-imagine unused and unwanted household items and books and turn them into something new. We also look at mending and fixing items that would normally have been thrown away by creating something completely different out of them.

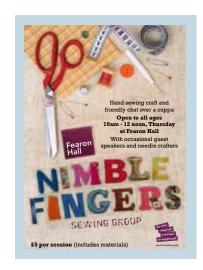
In 2016 we started off with just one group which proved to be very popular. During the course of the year two more small referral groups were added. These two new groups have greatly benefited those with additional needs.

The third group operates on a drop-in basis and is attended by people of mixed abilities and a wide age range. Groups are run on a person centred approach meaning that people work at their own pace and work on projects that have meaning to them. The group has worked on projects alongside All Saints Church with Holy Trinity Loughborough Parish Church creating installations for the Easter services, making signs out of recycled materials and wood for the Café in the Hall amongst other projects. The group has also been involved in Loughborough In Bloom meetings and the Fearon Hall summer fete. The group benefits from visiting Personal Assistants who have provided a listening ear for group members. Users have gained in confidence and have undertaken volunteering roles within Fearon Hall such as the summer activities programme and also with the Loughborough Leggo group.



Nimble Fingers

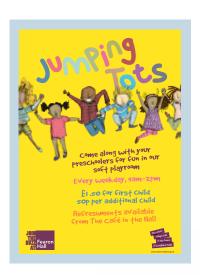
Nimble fingers group is a small drop in group for individuals who come together to share their love of handicrafts and sewing. There are about six members in this group. The group has looked at very basic sewing skills such as sewing on buttons then moving onto basic pattern making to create small items. More advanced members have produced small samplers and have looked at embroidery stitches and different sewing techniques. Group members use the group to skill share and share ideas as each member and has enjoyed a different facets of sewing and Needlecraft. The group has worked alongside different groups who attend Fearon Hall especially ethnic groups who were keen to look at and find out about a needle techniques used here in England and also share their's. This group has an age range of 21 to approximately 60 and it is attended by individuals of mixed abilities. This group has worked on installations created for Loughborough Trinity and All Saints Church and has taken part in fundraising events for Fearon Hall such as the Christmas Tree Festival where members made Christmas decorations.



Jumping Tots

Our soft play 'zone' underwent a refurbishment in 2016 and was made available for childrens party hire. To maximise use the 'zone' is also available on weekdays for families to enjoy with their preschoolers. Refreshments are made available from the Café in the Hall to take upstairs and the aim is for families to meet and make new friends whilts the little ones enjoy safe play.

Since the closure of Mini Monsters in The Rushes there is very limited soft play space available in the town centre and plans are afoot to more actively promote the space for childrens parties. Offering exciting catering options through the Café in the Hall at competitive rates.



Games for All

Games for All is a volunteer led initiative funded by Fearon Community Association.

This friendly, social group aims to 'unhook' people from their digital devices and come together to play a variety of traditional and new games. To meet new people and enjoy game challenges in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.

Initially run as a weekly event, Games for All will be moving to a daily slot as part of the hub that is the Café in the Hall.





Half Term

2016 saw us pilot a series of school holiday activities. A diverse range of events run by our resident staff and volunteers was supplemented by visiting groups.

Amongst an exciting programme we enjoyed sword displays, chapati workshops, family disco's, loom knitting, weird drawing (as part of the Loogabarooga Festival), Konga workouts, Arabic writing, Beat Feet African drum and dance, book cutting workshops and a Macmillan Coffee Morning. Phew!

We are looking to develop and increase our school holiday offering over the coming year and make it a permanent fixture at the Hall.



Fairs and Festivals

Working alongside a whole host of partners, the Hall was home to a number of special fairs and festivals throughout the year.

Our own regular seasonal events included autumn, spring and Christmas Fairs which included stalls of all kinds from local groups and refreshments from the Café in the Hall. In addition we held the first of our summer Fete on the Green events in collaboration with All Saints with Holy Trinity Loughborough Parish Church. In future this will be part of our annual calendar.

Other events and activities included International Women's Day, Navrati celebrations, community organised mela's, jobs fairs and a beer festival!



SELECTED GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES HALL USERS

Junked Up Project

Kashmir Arts working for Leicestershire County Council

The Junked Up furniture Upcycling workshops have continued to run at Fearon Hall every few months throughout 16/17. The venue is ideal for the workshops, as we tend to use the downstairs room, which has easy access and good facilities.

Meg and Andrew always make sure we have everything we need and we often have people popping their heads round the door to have a look at what we are doing.

These courses are advertised by Leicestershire County Councils Waste Management teams and are always full, often with a waiting list. They have become so popular that the Council will continue to fund for another year and have extended the venues that the course will be delivered at.

One of the added bonuses of delivering this course at Fearon Hall is the fantastic community spirit that the Hall has and the fact that, on Saturdays, the participants can stay for the Utilise Café.

Jen Johnson



Lino Love Workshops

Kashmir Arts

These were the first art workshops run solely by Kashmir Arts at Fearon Hall. The posters were designed by Fearon hall and were fantastic! The first workshop was oversubscribed at 10 with a waiting list of 4 and the second workshop was full at 8.

They were held in the upstairs room, which was another lovely light and airy room. Facilities were great and all the participants commented on how beautiful the building was.

Once again Meg and Andrew made sure we had everything we needed from the start and helped with the initial room set up.

Feedback from the participants was really positive with several people saying it was the first time they had attended the hall and they would be back! Most of the participants stayed for the Utilise Café afterwards and said that it really made the event worthwhile having somewhere to eat straight after the course.

Jen Johnson



Mosaic Group

Mosaic has had a fantastic year in which we have developed and achieved many things. Moving into Fearon Hall in September 2016 was pivotal to us building a firm foundation and allowed us a strong platform to work with other groups and organisations. The support from Meg and her team has been invaluable.

One of our key and regular activities is our Thursday coffee morning which takes place every two weeks. We attract people from all backgrounds and it's a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Often some of the best ideas come over a cup of tea and a chat and our coffee mornings provide exactly that environment for us to meet and discuss issues that are important to us all. The coffee mornings are also a chance to celebrate, network and build bridges.

In addition this year we have started English classes for beginners, with the key aim to making learning fun and interactive, with the option of childcare the classes were popular and convenient. We will be continuing with these next year. Arabic conversational classes have also began and are proving to be very fun!

This year we also organised vigils to remember the ongoing suffering in Syria and the victims of the Manchester attacks. These were held in the town centre and attended by religious leaders, MPs, key members of the community as well as people from all backgrounds and ages within the wider community.

Towards the end of this year we organised a community Iftar. The aim was to hold an event where we could bring people together from all parts of the community to celebrate our many similarities, differences and unite in the realisation that it is this diversity that makes our community and country so special. This is one of the main objectives of Mosaic.

Our events are open to all and we would love to see new faces so please do pop along! :)

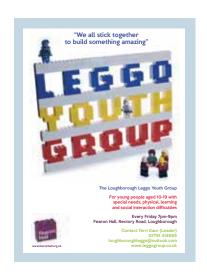
Leggo Youth Group

It has been a busy and exciting past year at the Loughborough Leggo Youth Group. We have seen the group grow in capacity since moving into Fearon Hall. We now have 25 members aged 10 to 19 years with physical, mild learning and social interaction difficulties on role. These members come from the local community and as far out as Leicestershire and Rutland. We are now operating a waiting list of young people wanting to join us.

The group is run on a Friday night and we provide a programme of structured physical and social activities in which gross and fine motor skills, coordination and strengths are developed. Having the space within Fearon Hall allows us to run team activities to develop these areas.

Our bank of volunteers who are from the local community have increased to 12. Some of our volunteers now enjoy other activities at the hall. We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you for all their patience, support and time that they have given to the group, as it would not be able to run without them. This year we have offered our volunteers and staff at Fearon Hall free training in first aid, safeguarding for disabilities training and a Level 2 Autism course. We will continue to offer volunteers professional development and free courses.

Caroline Darrall



1st Loughborough (Parish Church) Scout Group

Once again the group has had yet another good year. We have maintained our numbers over the past year and continue to offer our young members a varied programme of activities.

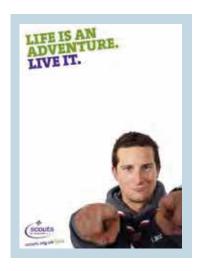
We provide weekly activities for around 80 young people between the ages of 6 and 18. We are active in the community joining in with such activities as the Fearon Hall/Church Fete, the Christmas Tree Festival and many other events. The young people take part in many varied activities from canoeing and sailing to rock climbing, camping, cooking, cultural visits etc etc. We cater for all ages and abilities. We have members from all parts of the community.

We have a strong group of leaders who are dedicated to the aims of Scouting. They put in a large amount of time each week ensuring that a good active programme tailored to the needs of the young people is followed. We also have a small but active parent support group who help to raise funds to keep the running.

We congratulate our young members and leaders who have gained many varied awards over the past year.

Richard Thorpe

Group Scout Leader

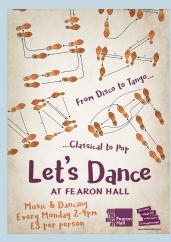


OTHER USERS & GROUPS

- All Saints with Holy Trinity Loughborough Parish Church
- Anand Mangal
- Asian Clothes Sale
- Baca Drama workshop
- Bangrasize
- Boys Youth Club (Al Hera)
- Case
- Chances for All cookery lessons
- Charnwood Arts
- Chera Voce sing along
- Chorus Theatre (play in a day)
- Circus skills
- Creative writing
- Crowded House
- Dear Albert
- Death Café
- Divine Youth
 Association (DYA)
- ESOL
- Friendship Group
- Generator Gallery
- International Womens Day
- Junction Church
- Knit and Knatter

- Leicestershire Life Links
- Loughborough University Stage Society
- Macmillan Coffee Morning
- Martial Arts
- Mhendi night
- NarcoticsAnonymous
- Navrati
- On the Town Project
- Over 60s
- Pedestrian
- Play Café
- Rafters are Ringing
- Shreeram Krishna
- SMART
- Spark Something Good
- Swanswell
- Tai Chi
- Tea Dance
- TransitionLoughborough
- Turning Point
- Twenty Twenty
- Wheelchair Rugby (NCS)
- 38 degrees

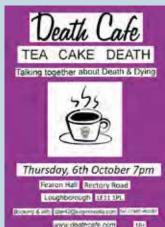






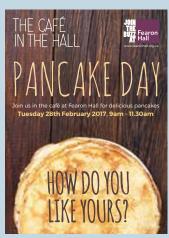








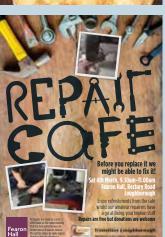








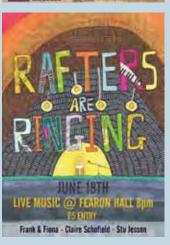














The coming year is one of great opportunity and challenge.

The completion of essential repair works to the building and the offer of a lease brings both opportunities and challenges in equal measure.

The opportunity to apply for significant funding to improve the building further; the opportunity to further redefine our purpose and explore what a modern day community centre looks and feels like; the opportunity to develop existing projects and initiate new ones to meet the changing need of our community.

The challenge of maintaining such a beautiful old building; the challenge of delivering maximum impact to the greatest number of people in our area whilst maintaining our integrity being both outward facing and inwardly secure; the challenge of being financially robust for now and in the future.

Building on our recent successes we will continue to work towards strengthening our links with community groups, organisiations and services to provide a responsive provision that is relevant and sustainable.

We have a responsibility to our community to continue to provide the exciting, vibrant and essential place that Fearon Hall is - the urban village hall in the heart of Loughborough - for future generations to enjoy.

Fearon Hall Community Association Stakeholder Forum

Following a period of evaluation and organisational restructuring, Fearon Hall Community Association's Board of Directors is delighted to announce the launch of the new Fearon Hall Community Association Stakeholder Forum.

The forum will meet quarterly from January 2018 to provide members of local communities with a direct channel of communication with Fearon Hall Community Association's Board of Directors (the Board of Directors), and acts as an ongoing consultative body for the Board of Directors.

The forum will:

- Identify local concerns
- Provide advice and information on operational matters relating to Fearon Hall
- Enable the Board of Directors to keep the public updated with their work and decisions.

Applications for membership of the stakeholder forum are invited from anyone who lives in, is employed or training in the Hastings and Lemyngton areas of Loughborough, or anyone who represents a community group or organisation in the area. Please send an email with the subject "stakeholder forum membership" to office@fearonhall.org.uk and include in the in the message body your name, organisation, role and contact details. When we have reviewed your application, we will contact you with full details of the terms of reference for the forum and details of the first meeting.

OUR TEAM



John Leney Director



Michael Wellbourne Director



Rick **Richard Thorpe** Director



Carolina Carolina Escobar Tello Director



Nichole Browne Director



Andy **Andy Rhodes**

Director



Rachel Marlow Director



meg Meg Bezzano-Griffiths

Centre Manager



Café in the Hall





Julie Booker Arts & Crafts



Amanda Bolton Upcycle &

Garden Buddies



Lorraine Dickinson Cleaner



Andrew Cresswell Office Admin Volunteer



Jess Jessica Jinks Café in the Hall Volunteer



Peter Scott Café in the Hall Volunteer

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of funding and support:





























PLUS A WHOLE HOST OF AMAZING PEOPLE!