

History & Heritage

With grant funding support, Oban Play map was created over the winter months and was launched in May. This new resource has since been used with school groups by some of our volunteers as outreach activity, as well as being an additional map to add to our collection. This year we were also able to host an intern student from Scotland's Sounds who delivered training and established an archive cataloguing process for the growing collection of oral recordings at The Rockfield Centre.

A second grant award from Heritage Lottery fund has enabled us to start a new project, entitled "Journeys to the Little Bay - An t-Òban", which will run until February 2018. Volunteers have had the opportunity to train in oral interviewing and voice recording, and this has resulted in a new wave of oral history recordings happening around town, particularly among the older members of the community.

The new monthly Blether event has proved very popular, again particularly with older people who often can't attend our evening events. Links have been made with a local seniors' lunch club and frail walking group. Outreach work is also underway in the schools to bring family and social history to the younger generations.

Activity:

- 1 new monthly group created
- 4 new outreach opportunities
- 25 volunteers (and counting)



"What a fantastic afternoon at the Blether - a great bunch of folk. What a fantastic job Jamie, John and the rest are doing. I haven't seen my dad this animated for a long time. Looking forward to the next one."

Education & Enterprise

During the last academic year we worked with Glasgow School of Art's Widening Participation project to offer a block of workshops aimed at young people intending to go on to study art, design or architecture. Oban High School has been identified as having low numbers of students who successfully pursue these careers, and so these sessions gave young people extra support to develop their portfolios and applications.

We developed a partnership with talc. in Tarbert, who delivered a series of digital arts workshops for young people, again filling a gap which currently exists in the town and at school. We were also able to link young people up with training and development opportunities at talc., in graphic design and other publishing skills, as well as shadow placements with established artists or makers.

Further workshops were run in partnership with Argyll Youth Arts and Argyll & Bute Council youth services.

Activity:

- 4 new partnerships with education organisations
- 6 new creative workshops for young people
- 14 young people accessing new opportunities



"The sessions with Nicole have been amazing. She's so knowledgeable and has an international perspective, which you don't get much round here. I feel like I'm in a much better place now to take my art forward."

Case Study | Let's Make a Scene

A community of musicians, writers and performers from all sorts of age brackets and backgrounds has developed around our monthly new music and spoken word open mic night. While there are regulars both on and off stage, there are new performers attending and sharing their work every month, often for the first time.

This has been supported by a new twice-monthly songwriting group, initially led by an established songwriter but now led by group members. The opportunity to share works in progress, ask for feedback and, crucially, to have a deadline to work to has encouraged people to take the next step with their songwriting, whether that's completing a song, performing it live or collaborating with another musician.

We've also made strong links with the Wurdplay project, which has grown out of a writing group at Hope Kitchen food bank, as well as another local creative writing group, which has given a boost to the number of spoken word performers attending.

What people say:

"I'd never have thought I could do this. Performing here has helped me reconnect with the person I was before".

"I'm proud of myself. I'm way more confident now."



Growth Over the Past Year

440 Trust members **+60**

448 receiving our mail outs **+65**

1740 Facebook likes on our main page **+315**

4220 attending activities that we've run **+1520**

8750 attending other activities at the Centre **+4750**

Community Wellbeing

At The Rockfield Centre we take wellbeing to mean our physical and mental health, and we also take into account things like happiness and confidence, and also stress, anxiety, loneliness and isolation.

Meaningful cultural and creative experiences can play a huge part in increasing the former, and alleviating the latter. A recent study showed that 82% of people enjoyed greater wellbeing after engaging with the arts.

We make sure that the vast majority of our events are free, and that where there is a cost we operate a Free Places scheme which sets aside a number of tickets for those who can't pay, no questions asked.

Organisations like SiMBA, North Argyll Carers' Centre and Carr Gomm continue to use the Community Hut as a venue for support groups and activity. This year has also seen the establishment of several other groups aimed at improving wellbeing through yoga, mindfulness, tai chi and drumming.

Activity:

Over 30 new volunteers registered

1520 attending events we've run

4750 attending events run by others



"Getting involved in The Rockfield Centre, attending events and eventually volunteering and contributing ideas of my own has been really fun and has given my confidence a boost. It's also helped me make more social connections beyond the usual parent & child groups."

Our Volunteers | May 2015 - Now



114 people have registered as volunteers at The Rockfield Centre.



Ionad Achadh na Creige
The Rockfield Centre

Social Impact Report | Sep 2016 - Aug 2017

Over the past year, while fundraising for the main building redevelopment, The Rockfield Centre team has tried to cram as many events and activities as possible into the Community Hut.

We have developed a varied monthly programme of mainly free activities enjoyed by a wide range of people.

By talking to our users and listening to what they say about the programme of activities at The Rockfield Centre we've been able to evaluate the impact the project is having across our four main themes:

- Arts & Culture
- History & Heritage
- Education & Enterprise
- Community Wellbeing

Arts & Culture

This year we have established Let's Make a Scene as a monthly open mic for new original music and spoken word being created in Oban. Scratch Choir has also been established as a monthly event and has proved very popular, with people really getting a good feeling from singing together and socialising.

Our second Open Art Exhibition ran in May, and we've also established a new creative camera club called Under The Skin which is developing all the time.

These activities, and others, all provide opportunities for people to engage in creative activities free of charge in a relaxed environment, providing enjoyment, stress relief, increased confidence and social contact.

We also marked International Women's Day with a volunteer-run event featuring contributions from various local musicians and writers, in aid of Argyll Rape Crisis.

Activity:

4 new monthly groups

11 new creative workshops and classes

17 performance events

"I started coming to the songwriting group and that really gave me the confidence to get going. I never thought I'd be getting up and performing my writing every month but here I am. It's good to get creative and express yourself."

