



Ionad Achadh na Creige  
The Rockfield Centre

the heart of a creative community

## Social Impact Report | September 2017 to August 2018

This report aims to give an overview of the impact of the Rockfield Centre programme of activities on our community across our four themes: Arts & Culture; History & Heritage; Education & Enterprise; Community Wellbeing.

### Arts & Culture

Our regular events continued to thrive this year. New performers took to the stage to share new writing and music at our Let's Make a Scene and Wurdplay open mic nights, new faces joined the ranks of Scratch Choir and Under The Skin Camera Club, and our evening classes and workshops continued to sell out.

This year saw several new activities established, such as a monthly Slow Session, giving traditional music players an entry point to the session scene. We also grew our family events, all of which proved very popular and helped us reach new audiences.

We hosted events featuring both globally renowned and home-grown talent, such as award-winning duo Chris Stout and Catriona McKay, and local poet Bob Toynton who developed his voice through our open mic nights.

New partnerships were also formed; when they came to Oban on tour we were delighted to work with Scottish Ballet to hold talks on costume and design, as well as a life drawing class during rehearsals.

Other visual arts developments this year include our third Open Art Exhibition taking place in June as well as our first exhibition as part of Artmap Argyll. We were part of a fascinating partnership with Locating Lorne featuring artist Alexander Maris and his piece, The Well at the World's End. We also hosted a talk by local artist Alex MacRae as part of his retrospective exhibition, *45 Years of Art*.

### Social Impact

124 events and activities

2790 people participating in activity

646 volunteer hours



*"It's been such a great experience to see our idea take shape and see other people getting involved and getting something from it. We've built a great wee team here and I love being part of such creativity."*

# History & Heritage

This theme received dedicated attention this year after a successful bid to Heritage Lottery Fund. The *Journeys to the Little Bay* project ran from July until February and succeeded in involving lots of new people in activities that explored and celebrated our local history.

Further oral history recordings were made and the Blether was established as a popular monthly event bringing together older members of our community to reminisce and recapture some community spirit. There were also collaborative projects between heritage and the arts, with our regular Let's Make a Scene open mic night running a "Journeys Special", featuring music and spoken word with a heritage theme.

January saw the Community Hut bursting at the seams with a volunteer-led Railway Exhibition, attracting lots of local faces as well as those from further afield to see artefacts, photographs and memorabilia.

- 21 engagement events
- 3 training sessions



*"This is just fabulous. Seeing these photos and seeing the effort you've all gone to to bring the old station and the people that worked there back to life. I've met folk here I haven't seen for years. Just magical."*

812 volunteer hours

1712 people participating in activities

## Case Study | Luminate

In October 2017 we took part in Luminate, Scotland's festival of creative ageing, for the first time.

Older volunteers took the lead in devising our events, which were included in Luminate's national print programme and online listings. The events included a self-portraiture project run by our Under The Skin Camera Club, based at the Community Hut and involving a diverse range of participants attending the various activities held at the Hut. This culminated in a photography exhibition weekend, featuring the self-portraiture and further photography submissions on the theme of time. We also held a senior artists' takeover of our monthly open mic night, renamed Let's Make a Scone. These events were bold, dynamic and surprising, turning expectations of "older people" on their heads and attracting a diverse, intergenerational audience.

## Education & Enterprise

As well as showcasing our programme of engaging, high-quality events, Luminare gave our older volunteers, some of whom are just finding their creative feet, the chance to experiment and build confidence.



With so many arts initiatives aimed at young people, this was a much-needed opportunity for The Rockfield Centre to show that creativity has no age limit.

This year, with the help of dedicated volunteers and led by our Creative Support Worker, we were able to focus on family events aimed at younger children for the first time. Our Mini Music Club and Baby Disco events were very well attended and attracted young families to The Rockfield Centre, many of whom had never been before.

We also formed new local partnerships adding Lego Club and Art Explorers summer camp to our programme. Art Explorers intends to continue with an after school art club, and along with the continued portfolio-building support sessions for senior high school pupils run by our established partners, talc. (Templar Arts & Leisure Centre), this greatly enhances arts education provision for children and young people in Oban.

*“I’ve learned so much at these sessions. I never would have got in to art school without them.”*

*“It’s great to see the kids concentrating so well and achieving so much with their art at such a young age.”*

Three sessions on enterprise were also delivered to high school pupils by our Project Facilitator, encouraging young people to take the lead in setting up

Social Impact projects.



- 3 new regular events for young families
- 40 hours of art education for primary pupils
- 48 hours of art support for secondary pupils

## Our Reach

587 Trust members

+ 147

538 receiving our mail outs

+ 90

2,246 likes on our main Facebook page

+ 147

4,502 people attending our activities this year

+ 282

4,561 people attending events run by others held at TRC

## Community Wellbeing

*"I like volunteering because it is another form of socialising."*

*"It's given me the chance to share and develop ideas in a supportive place. I'm finally getting my confidence back."*

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, loneliness and isolation.

Community Wellbeing continues to underpin all our other activities. Whatever we do, it is our aim that the wellbeing of those participating will be improved by their experience – by learning new skills, meeting new people and taking part in meaningful creative expression.

Volunteering is key in this. A recent study by Volunteering Scotland found that volunteering helps alleviate depression, reduces anxiety and stress, reduces loneliness and isolation and helps improve physical health. The benefits are felt more keenly by those who are the most excluded in our community, making our commitment to inclusivity even more important.

April this year also saw the opening of our Community Charity Shop, which offers further 24 regular volunteering opportunities, averaging 300 volunteer hours per month.

## Social Impact

281 volunteer opportunities

8426 total volunteer hours





## Our Volunteers



Over **8426** volunteer hours have been clocked up over the past year.

