



AWEN@theLibrary
A Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustees Annual Report

The Trustees present their report of the charity for the year ending 31st August 2019.

1.Objectives and activities of the Charity

These are as follows:

‘To further or benefit those persons residing, studying, working or undertaking voluntary activity within Whitchurch and Tongwynlais (or its successor) and the surrounding areas, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said persons and the local authority, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education, the arts, culture and heritage and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for those persons.

In furtherance of these objects but not otherwise, the trustees shall have power:

To provide support to Whitchurch library and to maintain, develop or manage or co-Operate with any statutory authority in the maintenance, development and management, of a cultural centre for activities promoted by the charity in furtherance of the above objects’.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission’s general guidance on public benefit when reviewing Awen@theLibrary’s aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

The objectives of the original business plan included:

- a. working for the continued public funding and management of the library
- b. raising funds for the library
- c. working for the greater community use of the library
- d. transforming the library into a cultural hub (by adding a new extension)

The charity has promoted community events comprising conversations, reminiscing, lectures, musical evenings, exhibitions, board games, children's arts and crafts groups. These have been open to the community, most of them without charge. Voluntary collections have been taken. In addition to their intrinsic value – advancing education, the arts and culture – they have raised funds for the above business plan objectives.

2. Achievements and Performance

The charity has achieved much this year with a wide range of events, described under activities for the public benefit above, and delivered by a committed group of members, some with very significant artistic skills. This is a real strength of Awen@thelibrary and one which we intend to develop further over the next year. The programme of events that we have arranged are as follows:

Regular Events

The Reminiscence Group meets on Tuesday afternoons every 6 weeks or so. This year we met 6 times this year with increasing attendance. We shared memories of Whitchurch Railway Station particularly in WW2 and memories of old farms and shops in the Village and brought in old photographs. We took part in the Remembrance event at the library following the Memorial Service. For more information speak to Chris or Nigel Lewis.

FAN Friends and Neighbours meets every Monday at 2pm – a group of between 3 and 8 people get together for an hour of interesting conversation about a topic. For more information speak to Sarah or Judith.

Craft Group (Knitter Natter) meets on Friday afternoons. People bring along their craft projects and enjoy a sociable time together. The group made and sold hundreds of poppies to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War and raised over £200 for the British Legion Poppy appeal. For more information speak to Jan.

September 2018

Launch of Exhibition on Whitchurch and the library at the Cardiff Story Museum in the City Centre

October 2018

Age Positive Sunday walk/ tea, coffee and cakes at Library

Launch of Painting and Planting project redeveloping the courtyard, enhancing the library space and bringing the natural world into the library. Project funded by Charities Aid Foundation.

Awen represented at local event tackling loneliness

Leaf-making masks with children

Half term event, board games for children

'Unicorns' an evening talk on the historical representation and changing symbolism of unicorns by Juliette Wood from Cardiff University.

November 2018

Silver surfers drop-in sessions – computer instruction for older residents in partnership with

sixth formers from Whitchurch High School.

Remembrance Day/ Library open for exhibition and refreshments, with stalls by Ceri Stennett and Whitchurch Hospital Historical Society. The library was decorated by knitted poppies from the craft group.

Radical Movement in Cardiff talk by June Hannon and Malcolm Wright, a day of lectures at the Cardiff Story museum, in tandem with our exhibition.

December 2018

Christmas wreath making/table decorations for adults

Children's Christmas lantern-making

January 2019

RSPB event supported by Awen/Painting and Planting project – preparing for the Big Garden Birdwatch

Visit by Coryton School- exploring the life of the family who lived above the library when it opened in 1904 including family life, reading, games and crafts.

February 2019

Half term, Painting and Planting project event

As part of Painting and Planting Nigel and Liz Brown led an intergenerational photography workshop using mobile phones

March 2019

St David's Day-activities in Library including out door games.

Painting and Planting project day in partnership with RSPB, Bumblebee Conservation. We planted up our planters for Spring.

AGM and talk by Ceri Stennett and Gwyn Prescott who have written about the names on the Whitchurch War Memorial, which stands outside of the library.

April

Easter Egg Hunt – more than 60 children and their families took part this year

Spring planting event for adults and children with Dave Jones from Cardiff Parks.

May 2019

Community history event with Cathays Heritage Centre

Awen reminiscence stall at above event

June 2019

Ukulele concert as part of Whitchurch Festival, back by popular demand!

July 2019

Festival stall with crafts and books on Whitchurch Common

Launch of Summer Reading scheme supported by Awen

August 2019

Weekly sessions of Summer Reading scheme supported by Awen

Through these events the local community has become increasingly aware of our work and activities. We are encouraging more people to join the charity and see this as one of our challenges for the forthcoming year.

Links continue with schools and other community organisations, in particular the Cardiff Story Museum, the local church and chapels and the Women's institute.

The Trustees would like to thank everyone who has contributed to any of the activities that we have been involved with this year. The group of volunteers who look after the website and Facebook, created posters, translated material into Welsh, designed craft activities, baked cakes, tirelessly helped at numerous events have been wonderful, committed, reliable and endlessly willing.

This year we have established regular meetings with the management team at the Library. This has proved very helpful in sharing ideas and information. Thanks go to all the staff at the Library for their continued work with the community.

3. Financial review

In addition to our membership subscriptions (currently £5 per person per annum) our regular source of income has been from voluntary donations from the public collected at our events. This will continue. For details of finances see Treasurers report 2018-19.

4. Plans for the future

Cardiff Council has ambitious plans for the Library including turning it into a wellbeing hub which will greatly benefit the local community. These plans include a refit, an extension and public toilets. Grant applications have been made to the Welsh Government for funding to carry out the infrastructure works – announcements on whether the bids have been successful are awaited.

5. Structure, Governance and Management

Awen@theLibrary is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) constituted on the association model. The organisation was formed following a public meeting which took place in 2015.

The CIO has a membership to which the board of no more than 12 trustees is accountable. The first Trustees are those who subscribed to the CIO constitution when charitable registration was sought plus four later co-options. All these trustees retired at the first annual general meeting and thereafter trustees retire in rotation as provided by the constitution. The Trustees meet every 6-8 weeks. The events sub group meets regularly and submits reports to each trustee meeting.

Special thanks to Dr Geoff Davis, Robert Jones and Josh Lewis who retired at 2017-18 AGM – all were Trustees from the start of the Charity and they worked tirelessly to ensure that Awen@theLibrary became an established organisation at the heart of the community.

6. Reference and administrative details

Registered Charity Name –Awen@theLibrary – Arts, Whitchurch, Eglwys Wen
Charity Registration Number – 1165980
Principal contact address – awen.cymru@gmail.com

The Trustees who served the charity during the period were:

Meryl James (Chair)
Judith Evans (Secretary)
Sarah Barnes (Treasurer)
Iain Claridge
Miles Davies
Sarah Duncan Jones
Anthony Evans
Christopher Griffin
Christine Lewis
Marc Palmer
Sue Stone

Bank: Lloyds Bank, 514 Cowbridge Road East, Victoria park, Cardiff CF5 1BL

7. Exemptions from disclosure

None

Meryl James
Chair of Trustees

March 2020