

Chair's statement year ending 31/07/2024

This year is the 10-year landmark since the initial work and engagement with the National Trust and the village, culminating in the existence of Styal Village Community Store Café and Gallery trading as Earlams. From those initial thoughts and ideas, we have regularly evaluated our viability and assessed our potential to be the most effective and responsive community focused venture that we can be.

Clearly at the onset of the project we sought advice from those who had undertaken similar work, however we have continuously adjusted our initial offer to ensure we provide a better fit for the changing needs and aspirations of our customers and volunteers.

At its basic level there has always been two essential strands in ensuring the existence and successfulness of Earlams.

- Our ability to be commercially viable.

The management group's awareness of our ongoing financial awareness has been greatly enhanced due to the work of our accountants who are not only consummate professionals, but they are also very committed to Earlams, as a community venture. Their regular presentations at management meetings facilitates an awareness and understanding of our up-to-date financial position. Our positive financial situation is assured through the diligence of our Treasurer and Accountants.

- Provide a welcoming, inclusive and accessible environment for all.

Although we started with very limited knowledge but best intentions, our continually developing understanding and knowledge have been used effectively to provide a very viable, focused and caring institution. We continue to consolidate our status as a destination of choice for many in the wider community. Our volunteers and regular customers are drawn from a wide geographical area, underlining the social and supportive element that Earlams achieves. We are regularly praised by customers regarding the quality of the environment and the welcomeness of everyone at Earlams.

The supportive and caring atmosphere constantly achieved throughout Earlams is outstanding. It is a friendly place. It's contribution to people's wellbeing is effective and fully supports the myriad of individual and

personal reasons why our customers and volunteers continually come to Earlams.

The success Earlams is having within our community is exemplified by the lyrics of the theme tune to the American series 'Cheers'

*Making your way in the world today takes everything you've got.
Taking a break from all your worries, sure would help a lot.
Wouldn't you like to get away?
Sometimes you want to go
Where everybody knows your name,
and they're always glad you came.
You wanna be where you can see,
our troubles are all the same
You wanna be where everybody knows
Your name.*