

Styal Village Community Store, Cafe and Gallery

Chair's Report

During the past year Earlams has continued to be successful. Our two tenets of commercial viability and community engagement have continued to be achieved and developed.

Our financial position, which is good, is carefully monitored and scrutinised (from our accountant's monthly summaries and presentations) at management meetings. This ensures our fiscal responsibility is clear, understood and achieved. This enables us to maintain the building both externally and internally to a high standard, make necessary replacements to key, cafe machinery and provide significant, financial contributions to support the primary school and the exciting refurbishment of the village railway station.

Our commitment to provide a high quality and responsive, community, focused environment is becoming embedded. This year we concentrated on opportunities for social interaction and fun in the field which we acquired for the children's play/discovery area. Following successful bids to the Cooperative Community Fund and the Airport Community Fund, two tables pitches were built and all the necessary equipment needed, was purchased. This provides customers with low level exercise and fun interactions. We were also able, with the work of two very experienced volunteers, to convert an area into a magnificent flower bed. This greatly enhances our outside space in the spring and summer, which is used extensively. This expansion of activities and space required us to purchase a shed in order to store all of our outside equipment.

We continue to provide volunteer placements for the Duke of Edinburgh Award, work experience for students from the local secondary school and work opportunities for youngsters and adults with additional needs. At the weekend we provide paid weekend work for local youngsters.

Due to Covid our workshop programme was cancelled, however, it is now being reintroduced and workshop on Felting Christmas Wreath

making, flower arranging and CPR have all proved very successful and popular

Clearly my thanks go out to everyone that works at Earlams in what-ever capacity, without our army of volunteers we would not be in the strong position we are now in. However, I need to mention at this point, those volunteers that have committed to Earlams since it first started over 10 years ago, many of whom have taken on responsibilities alongside their volunteering. Liz Jones our treasurer who also takes on a multitude of tasks behind the scenes, resolving technical glitches and our compliance to legislation. Helen White and Linda who set up and run the Gallery alongside managing our workshop programme, Lynne Horan who ensures that the organisation for the Christmas dinner goes without fault, Jackie Haslam and Jan Fox who contribute significantly to an wonderfully noisy environment in the Knit and Natter group, Jean Burke who is by far our most prolific volunteer, Ron Dixon who having moved out of Styal continues to volunteer in the cafe and Carol Pagent and Michael Clarke who have over the years supported Earlams and all that wedo.