

RED BRICK BUILDING

COMMUNITY • ARTS • EDUCATION • ENTERPRISE

PROJECT UPDATE JANUARY 2018

AN OVERVIEW

The accounts and report for the AGM cover the period to the end of March 2017, so we wanted to update you on what's been happening at the Red Brick since then.



Project – Alison Belshaw enterprise@redbrickglastonbury.co.uk

I've now been part of the project for almost two years. Every day here is different and brings new ideas, successes, challenges and frustrations! We've seen a number of changes since April 2017.

We have a small staff team all working part time and we were joined by two new members—Jemma Coles for Building C who started mid-March 2017 on a 1-year contract part-funded by the Architectural Heritage Fund, and Rob Poizer who started in June as Building and Facilities Coordinator taking over from Andrew Gowland.

Some of my highlights for the whole project include:

- **Improving access to the building** - it took a long time to install the disabled access lift and platform lift upstairs – for lots of reasons – not least working with an old building that wasn't built for the lift installed. Although we had a lift shaft it wasn't quite the right size so lots of preparatory work was required. The lifts have been in use since April 2017 and now provide access for all to the whole of the first floor of the building.

We have also installed hearing loops in all of the hire spaces. This work was funded by grants from Mendip Local Legacy Fund and Power to Change.

- **The Morland Room** – our new hire space, available for hire since April 2017. The grant from Power to Change and an additional grant from Awards for All helped us to complete this space.
- Redesign of the **website** with online ticketing system – in the last year it's received 30,000 hits and 110,000 page views with 61% of those being new visitors. Again, this was funded by Power to Change.
- Installation of **superfast broadband**
- Maintaining a building with all rooms occupied by tenants and having a high demand for these and the artisan spaces – we rarely have a vacancy for long!

Personally I have particularly enjoyed

- Building and developing relationships with RBB tenants to support them when needed
- Adding additional desk space to the hot-desking Hub – we have vacancies at the moment so if you know anyone who would like to work here put them in touch.
- Meeting lots of new people, sharing new ideas and developing plans
- Knowing that between April 2016 and March 2017 we increased our income from - 9,800 at the end of March 2016 to £10,000 surplus at the end of March 2017. This is not insignificant, but there is still a very long way to go to becoming financially sustainable
- Working with a really diverse range of people on the staff team, board, volunteers, users of the building and individuals in the local communities
- Hosting workshops by Stir and Cosmic supporting social enterprises and providing free training for them

This is just a snapshot of what I could say – so many stories, not enough time to recount them all!

The year ahead

We have a number of issues to face over the coming year, not least the fact that the grant from Power to Change has now ended so the financial support this gave us towards staffing costs is no longer there. Large grants are difficult to find and we do not want to be dependent on them in the future.

This means we have to make some changes and focus on specific things. These include:

- maintaining the staff posts we have with a number of staff on reduced hours from April 2018 and keeping this situation under constant review over the coming months
- broadening the range of experience on the Board, bringing new people on to it and strengthening decision making
- increasing our revenue from hire of the rooms we have available – especially for daytime bookings
- letting more people know who we are, what we do and how they can share our space with a targeted and focussed marketing strategy and action plan
- finding small grants to support our garden, well-being work, volunteering and community engagement
- ensuring our events bring in revenue whilst maintaining our community benefit
- increasing our community engagement and, in particular, our involvement with our shareholders
- taking part in the School for Social Entrepreneurs Community Business Trade Up Programme and taking advantage of all opportunities that come our way

It's been another busy and largely successful year for Arts and Events at the Red Brick Building, during which we have continued to develop our reputation as a unique and popular cultural and social hub for the local area, really bringing the communities of Glastonbury, Street and the wider surroundings together.

Working in close partnership with our anchor tenant - the Bocabar - we have put on a rich and diverse programme of **weekly live music and DJ nights**. Highlights have included the sell out New Year's Eve Mardi Gras with the 10 piece Cuban exotica of Baila La Cumbia, Glastonbury Calling (brilliantly put together by GFM and starring Bristol's Laid Blak alongside local talent), Retrolicious Halloween Party, regular Pixels DJ nights, gigs by Dr Meeker, Son Yambu and Mad Dog McCrae, the stylish monthly Bocajazz evenings, and the Bocabash starring Street's very own Bruce Springsteen - Mr Nick Parker.

We have also broadened out with some wonderful **themed events**, specifically our Mad Hatters G & T Party, and the Kids Halloween Spooky Disco.

We have hosted and supported a number of excellent **Charity events** including Wells Refugee Action Group benefit, Lime of Your Life Carnival After Party (which raised £1700 for Calais Refugee Kitchen), and the ever-popular Silent Disco which raised over £2000 for Musgrove Hospital Children's unit.

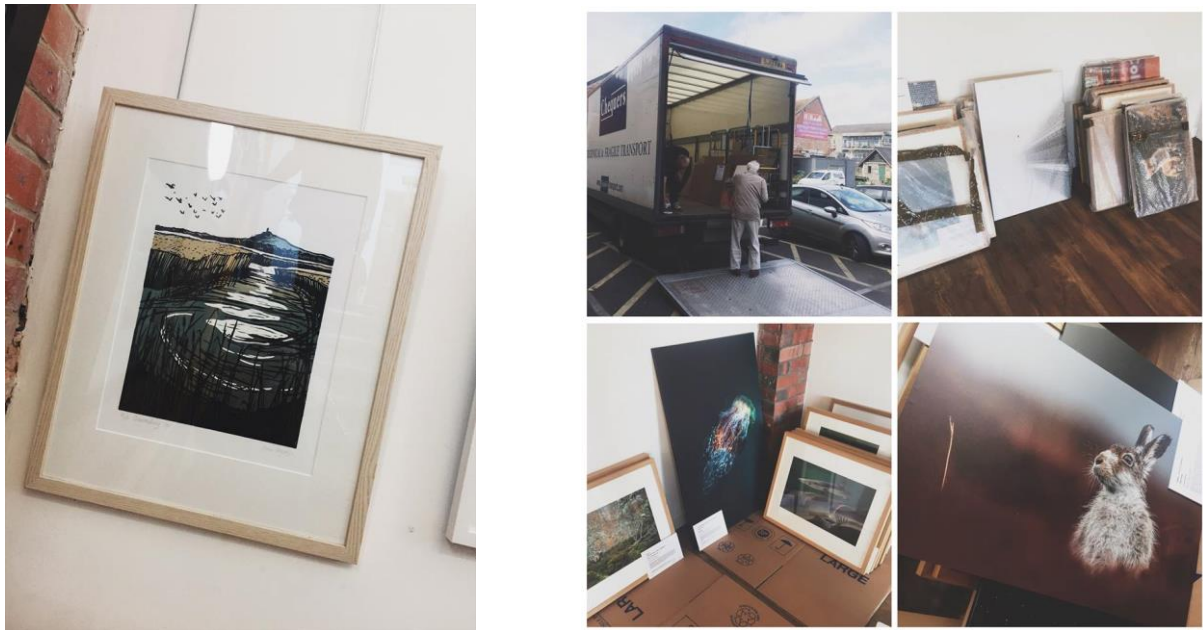


Over the last year we have developed our **theatre programme** - sometimes linking with Take Art - highlights have included Much Ado About Puffin, The 6 Wives of Henry VIII, and Plop! as well as regular Scratch events sharing works in progress. We have also hosted Tom Bailey as he has developed Zugunruhe.

Although we are without a dedicated gallery space, we have hosted some inspiring **Art Exhibitions** - highlight of the year was the wonderful British Wildlife Photography Awards exhibition. We saw over 1000 visitors over the course of the exhibition, some had never been in the building before. We also covered all our costs through the donations and gave 25% of the money raised to Somerset Wildlife Trust. Other notable contributions were from Bath Textile Artists, Dove Studios, and the annual Somerset Arts Weeks extravaganza.

Lectures and talks have included John Martineau's monthly Seven Liberal Arts lectures, Patrick Holford, and the ground-breaking Tree Conference in November!

We host a wide variety of **classes and workshops** focussed on wellbeing - Tai Chi, Yoga, Medicine Dance, monthly Sufi Zikr, plus Birthday Parties, Wedding celebrations and wakes.



All this is achieved thanks to our wonderful Event Volunteers, the Bocabar management and staff and the Red Brick staff team.

2018 is already looking very exciting with the British Life Photography Awards exhibition, a benefit gig for mental health charity Mind by Neville Staple from the Specials, and political comedian Mark Thomas.

Our ethos remains to provide the widest possible range of exciting and evocative arts and events, at affordable prices. Despite our successes, these remain difficult times, and we have ongoing concerns about sustainability and financial security. The arts and events programme averages about £2,500 a month income to the project so we really appreciate your continuing support in attending and supporting these events.

Volunteering at the Red Brick – Amy Watkins volunteers@redbrickglastonbury.co.uk

This last year has seen a lot of changes within the volunteer team with numbers fluctuating quite a bit. We currently have 28 regular volunteers on our database, however there are more that contribute heavily to the building that aren't registered on our system that should be acknowledged.

We have had some new members bringing fresh new ideas to the project. Not all of them have stayed for various reasons, but their contributions have. One such idea was that of **school holiday activities**. We have hosted some amazing workshops for children including the Detective Project, where children learn real life CSI techniques to solve a crime; drama workshops; art classes; sound production workshops; fashions studios, Build a Robot day and many more. Through this we are slowly building a reputation for offering some unique children's activities in the area and the feedback we have received has been very positive.

We have organised and run three more **children's themed fundraisers** this year that have all gone well although the Pirates and Mermaids one in the summer was not as popular as we had hoped. We are not sure whether this was because of the time of year (right at the

beginning of the school holidays) or the theme itself. This has been an evolving project for us and we believe that we are learning more and more with each one. Again the feedback we have had, and the support from local businesses, has been really positive.



We arranged a Volunteer Appreciation supper where staff of the RBB prepared and cooked a meal for all the volunteers on our database. This was a really enjoyable evening getting everyone together who may not see each other normally, and there was a real sense of community. We are now aiming to do this at least twice a year.

In October we had some **NCS (National Citizenship Service) Students** help us out for a week in the garden. These students were 15-17 and from both Strode and Avalon schools. They worked really hard and helped the garden take a huge leap forward. The students really enjoyed it too with many of them asking if they can come back. Avalon school has been in touch to see if we can arrange something for regular for their 6th form. I will be able to report more on this at the AGM. The NCS organisers are hoping to make the RBB a partnership organisation so that we will be part of their programme which is very exciting.

I have been attending volunteer coordinator meetings which have been organised by SPARK and include all the volunteer coordinators in the region. This has been an excellent way of meeting up with similar organisations in the area including: Glastonbury Abbey, Bishops Palace, Alfred Gillet Trust, and Zing.

Two of our volunteers were nominated for Somerset Star awards this year, as well as the volunteer reception team. A big thank you to all of the people who volunteer their time on a regular basis to the project.



Bon's time has been funded by **Somerset Community Foundation**. The garden hosts a regular group from **Orchard Vale** as well as volunteering sessions every week and the local Mind weekly drop in.

Bon organises Seedy Sunday – a fantastic celebration with a variety of stalls from local suppliers as well as groups promoting foods, healing products, natural plant based dying techniques, seeds and plants and our very own 'seed swap'. Look out for the event on 4th March 2018.



Another exciting development in the garden this year has been the introduction of a mushroom cultivation project. These will be used to absorb the toxins on the contaminated land in other parts of the Morlands site. This is a great project supported by the Grow Wild team at Kew Gardens.

We're now looking at expanding our therapeutic and well-being gardening opportunities teaming up with other organisations such as Heads Up in Wells.

Bookings, Promotions and Publicity – Niki Blackmore bookings@redbrickglastonbury.co.uk

Part of my role here at the RBB is to make people aware of what exactly it is that we do and who we are! To make people feel welcome and encourage everyone to get involved in some way or another – whether that's to join us for a cuppa in the hub, attend one of our events, try a new class or by helping us out by giving up some of your precious time.

During the last year I have tried to get the whole world to know who we are, yes the WHOLE world. I truly believe that anyone that steps through our doors or sees us online should remember who we are and what we do. My daily task list is long but I pride myself on the fact that making people smile is a top priority on that list.

So what have I been up to...

I have made a conscious effort to head up the marketing for the RBB – with a forever evolving marketing calendar & a creative brain that works overtime!

The **social media** for RBB is a key aspect of this work and over the past year it has steadily grown – we recently reached a milestone of 3000 likes on Facebook. The content on the

Facebook & a Twitter accounts is a mixture of everything that we do here, as well as community based events, interesting days of the year, supporting all things local and the most popular of all are the pictures that I post of the Team here at the RBB or the building itself. Some of the most interacted pictures of the year were the ones of Andrew hugging the fridge, the team giving the back garden some TLC & the extreme lengths that we take to makes sure our windows are clean!



This year also saw me start an Instagram account which has been one of the most powerful tools we have to connect with outside organisers – such as bands from events held here. This online community is growing daily and the most exciting part is that our visitors are now saying that they are here in the RBB and tagging us in the pictures, showing that they are here! This makes me smile.

I spend each month working on the **'Whats on' Newsletter** for the month ahead, this is always a hive of activity and sometimes a difficult task to truly show what it is we have done & what we intend to do! In the newsletter you will always find something of interest...that is guaranteed. And if it's not, then let me know and I will do my best to include it in the next month's issue.

The **website** (as hopefully) you will know was re-built and re-launched last year. It was a huge pleasure to be so involved in this process and one that was really enjoyable, as well as slightly stressful at times! The new website has been a great marketing tool giving us a big platform to showcase what we are all about, a chance to Blog, a way to sell tickets for events and most excitingly giving us a space to show why we are so wonderful.

The website is functioning really well for us, like anything new it has had its teething problems but working with an in-house technician these are quickly fixed. It is a continuous work in process that will adapt in phase two of the process – this will include feeding in the lessons learnt on use ability, style and function.

The website is fast becoming one of my daily jobs that takes up a lot of my time, I try my hardest to get it working as well as I can for everyone but if there is something that you would like to see more of or a suggestion on how it could work better then please don't hesitate to email me those thoughts. It really is a place that needs to work for us all.

Lastly after 3 years here at the RBB, this place is still my safe haven, my place to be free and my place to be me. I truly hope that in my daily work here in the next year I continue to bring a little bit of sparkle & happiness to all that I meet.

Building C – Jemma Coles buildingc@redbrickglastonbury.co.uk

The last few months have been quite up and down, obviously the funding situation not being what it was thought, caused a bit of a set back and the Heritage Lottery grant having been already applied for and rejected, this coupled with the fact that most of the large grants had been applied for by A and B, meant that the project was never going to be as 'easy' as I had first envisaged.

I have spent a lot of time networking and trying to re-establish lost relationships and generally just trying to promote the project and get the word out. I've met with a number of different organisations who might have been potential investors / tenants for Building C and gone over various options for the site, sadly ruling out quite a few.

I've gained some good supporters for the project on the way, from fashion designers to craft councils and I've had plenty of interest from people who would be happy to be a part of the project as tenants, once the building is refurbished. I feel that I have given people a new confidence in the project and I have worked very hard to network and make 'friends'.

This may have paid off... We have now received an expression of interest letter from Strobe College, which states that they are interested in investing in Building C and over the next few weeks we will start the discussions to see if we can turn this into something real. We have some exciting ideas for the development of the site and it feels as though we may be a step closer to turning them in to reality.



Building and Facilities past and future – Rob Poizer facilities@redbrickglastonbury.co.uk

Robert Poizer took over from Andrew Gowland in June 2017 in the facilities role. Great thanks to Andrew for all the excellent work he has done at the building during his fourteen-month tenure.

The following is a list of work done to develop the building over the last year or so, a lot of this was funded by a share of the Power to Change grant of approximately £130,000, plus an ongoing Building work budget:

- Tarmacing the car park

- Car Park fencing
- Putting extra steel columns in to support the ground floor
- Walling in the Basement to create a basement lobby
- Moving the bike rack
- Fitting Air Conditioning in the Events Space
- Refurbishment of the Morland Room
- Installation lift, including preparatory structural work
- Installation of a new internet connection
- Fire Boarding the stairs
- Starting to convert the lighting to LED for reduced power consumption
- Installation of Hearing Loops
- New Lighting in the Events Space and Second Bar Area
- Power to the first floor kitchenette
- Fencing by the river
- Paving of the patio terrace
- External ramp extended
- Installation of Purple Portal wifi for Bocabar Customers
- Installation of Stair Lift
- Installation of Dual Tariff Electricity Metering
- Installation of Remote Pellet Monitoring System for the boiler
- Installation of Heat Venting in Communications Cupboard
- Clearing of Building C internally to create a sterile (ie non fire load) area
- New Email Server/ Back-up disks and reduced cost Microsoft Licenses

We have lots of other plans for the coming year – so watch this space for more information!
If you want to see the full list this will be available on our website soon – it includes:

- New Signage throughout Project – Car Park/ Main Entrance/ Reception
- Various decoration and redecoration throughout the building

The project often pays commercial rates for work done, the inclusion of volunteers and youth apprenticeships and interns working with staff may be a valuable way to include the community more and reduce costs.

If you have any suggestion for development at the building we want to hear them, it is your building, drop us an email.



WITH THANKS TO:

The RBB Board

The RBB Staff

The RBB Volunteers

Bocabar

All of the tenants – past and present

Hot desk and Hub users – past and present

Artisans – past and present

Anyone who has booked and used our hire spaces over the last 5 years

All the tradespeople who have been contracted to carry out work in the building

All the artists who have displayed work here

Too many to mention individually – but you all know who you are and your contribution to the project is appreciated by everyone!

Our funders over the last 18 months:

Awards for All

Courtenay Investments

Glastonbury Trust

Heather Brooks legacy

Higos Insurance

JA Clark Charitable Trust

Mendip District Council

Power to Change

Somerset Community Foundation

Everyone who's had a second hand book and left us a donation for this, or just left us a donation

Everyone who came to the British Wildlife Photography Awards (BWPA) exhibition and made a donation

Somerset Wildlife Trust for their promotional support for the BWPA exhibition.

And most importantly, thanks to the young people who saved the building from demolition 10 years ago and to all of our shareholders who committed money to help restore the building and breathe new life in to it.



thank
YOU