



LIMESTONE HOUSE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

14TH NOVEMBER 2023

50-54 Elmton Road, Creswell, S80 4JE

6.30pm

Charity No: 1128286 Company No: 04180608



The Limestone House Daily Team



Limestone House

AGM AGENDA

Welcome & Apologies

Election of Officers

Minutes of Previous SGM

Chair of Trustees Report

Finance Presentation

Appointment of Examiners

Other stated business



Annual Report

What we do:

- The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty
- Education & Training (Volunteering)
- Economic/community Development/employment



Annual Report

Who the charity helps:

- Residents of Creswell & Elmton Villages & surrounding areas
- Elderly/old People
- People With Disabilities
- The General Public/mankind



Limestone House

How the charity helps:

- Provides invaluable community services
- Provides Buildings/facilities/open accessible Space
- Provides Advocacy/advice/information



Annual Report

Summary of our main activities for the purpose of Public Benefit:

- Food Bank, Recycling - Charity Shop, Café
- A Social arena to relieve the impact of isolation and loneliness.
- Community Lunches
- Facilitating local groups encouraging social engagement promoting health and wellbeing.
- A Heritage Centre, which is open to the public.
- Computer suite



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Summary of our main activities for the purpose of Public Benefit – cont'd

Provide access to Computers for Community use, WI-FI access, Advisory services including benefits and debt including partnerships with Derbyshire Unemployed Workers; Opportunities for Education and Training (subject to funding) as well as training through Volunteering/Work experience. We also offer Luncheon Clubs, Genealogy Club, Room Hire and the local History Group continue to meet informally and provide timely displays enjoyed by the community.



Annual Report

However these activities through 22/23 have been subject to 'recovery' having seriously been impacted due to the residual challenges of the COVID Pandemic.

In this context we acknowledge, recognise and thank all those staff and volunteers who have continued to be committed and active through the residual challenges/impact of the pandemic enabling us to continue to meet the needs of those most vulnerable in our communities. Without our dedicated staff and volunteers we would not have been able to implement a Pandemic Recovery response to ensure that we could deliver essential services. They have been crucial to the Charities ability to deliver its core relief of poverty namely a Food Bank and delivering food and lunches to those most in need, provide affordable breakfasts and lunches alongside running our 'Recycle' Charity Shop.



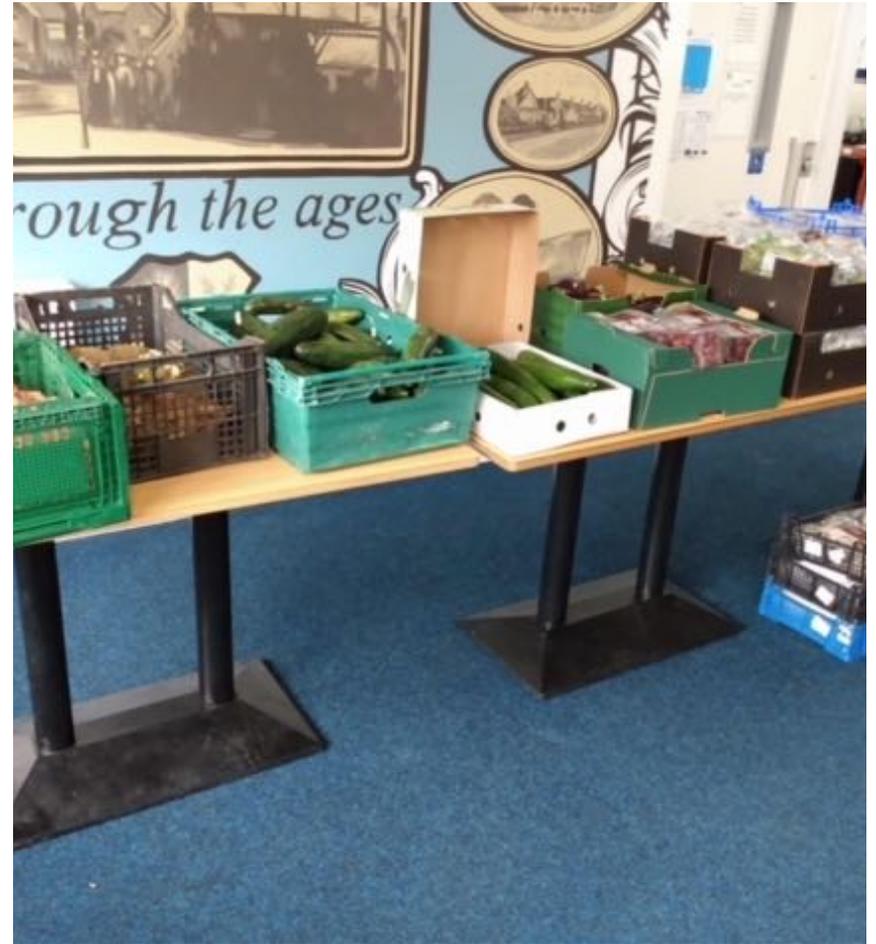
Annual Report

Some of our achievements 2022/23

Our greatest achievement must be that Limestone House, Staff, Volunteers and Trustees have ensured the continuance of delivering relief in Creswell throughout 22/23 with our services having returned to full capacity by the end of 2021 despite the on-going challenges. Throughout 22/23 we saw the footfall and numbers of service users slowly increase however by March 2023 we were still not seeing the footfall or numbers of service users experienced pre-Covid. Despite the challenges we continued to provide a Food Bank supporting on average 50 families each week.



Annual Report





Annual Report

Some interesting figures!

In a 6 month period of the food bank
we:

Supported 700 people

Delivered 1120 food parcels

Equating to 2310 meals

What an achievement!!



Annual Report

Some of our achievements 2022/23.

Due to the continuing challenges of the financial climate we have continued to facilitate weekly Derbyshire Unemployed Workers (Your Voice Your Rights) sessions enabling 222 face to face enquiries during 2022 and already 138 face to face enquiries during the first half of this year 2023 which demonstrates a growing need and that this is an invaluable service provision. With funding for the Food Bank coming to an end we researched alternatives so that we could continue into 22/23 to provide this essential service and looked to other sources of grant funding so that we could continue to employ a Manager to oversee our recovery and ensure we continue to deliver much needed services. We were successful with both these initiatives. (See financial report)



Annual Report

Some of our achievements 2022/23

We have during this financial year seen our volunteer numbers grow with some young people wanting to be part of 'what happens' at Limestone House. Our team of 24 volunteers are essential to our ability to continue to provide services as well as offering opportunities to up-skill, build confidence and self esteem. These opportunities include roles within our Café, Charity Shop, Food Bank and more recently with the re-opening of our E-bay Shop.



Annual Report

Some of our achievements 2022/23.

During this financial year we have undertaken much needed maintenance work on our building and reorganisation of our rooms and storage. The greatest outlay was the replacement of our fire escape to ensure that it met the required 'Fire' standards.

During the build up to Christmas we had a day of celebration, singing carols alongside Mulled Wine (non alcoholic) and mince pies. We also held a 'Christmas Market', which was very successful.



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Join us at Limestone House for

Carols & Mince Pies

On

Friday 16th December 2022

At

1.30pm



We would love you to join us for a festive sing-a-long



Making Time to Talk 2nd February 2022



Annual Report

Some of our achievements 2022/23.

In February with the support of a 'Mini' Mental Health grant through Erewash Voluntary we held a 'Time To Talk' Day providing an opportunity for the community to come and explore their understanding of 'mental health' talk freely on the subject giving us also the opportunity to identify the kind of support local people would benefit from. The footfall to the centre on this day was 90 with 29 people as actively engaging with our facilitators and the resources provided. Through this initiative and additional funding we have now initiated regular weekly 'Making Time to Talk' Sessions.



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Challenges

The principal risks facing Limestone going forward continues as stated last year to be that despite 'trading' improving, is our ability to generate sufficient income to sustain our charitable works. This year grants have bridged the gap and we will again in 23/24 seek more grant funding to support our charitable works. We recognise the current challenges relating to the Economy and its impact on the most vulnerable and we are therefore committed to delivering services, which will focus on the prevention and relief of poverty. Having done considerable research into how we can make our Food Bank sustainable due to dwindling grant funding we have adopted a Food Hub model which generates sufficient income to 'buy in food' to support food donations. Our 'Making Time to Talk' project is also an important part of contributing to the Health and Wellbeing of those in our community. We continue to recognise that Limestone House represents income generation and by rationalising how we are using space we can create an opportunity to maximise our assets.



Annual Report

Looking to the Future

To be able to continue current service provision and develop and see other opportunities to our community

Continue to provide a safe space for 'Time to Talk'

Implement a sustainable model for food relief – less dependent on grants

Developing our E-bay service

Continue you with maintenance improvements enhancing the fabric of the building

We have already secured Lottery Funding - £10,000 2023/24

&

Foundation Derbyshire Funding - £7,396 to develop our Food Hub



Annual Report Financial

The residual challenges of the pandemic continued throughout this financial year and continued to compromise our ability to generate income from our 'trading activities' with 'footfall' still below that of pre-COVID numbers.

There continued to be additional 'fall out' from Trustees being unable to access both Bank Accounts until January 2022 with the administration documents including bank cards, with electronic banking taking significantly longer. It took to September 2022 for all aspects of our banking processes to be in place and thereby supporting our charitable works. During this period we also signed up for Quick Books and withdrew from VAT as our trading income was below the threshold.



Annual Report Financial

We have in this financial year had some successful funding bids:

Foundation Derbyshire April - Support of Food Bank -
£4,000

Coldfields Regeneration Trust May - Contribution towards
the salary of Limestone House Manager - £10,000

Erewash Voluntary Action, EVA Mini Grant December -
Supporting Good Mental Health - £500

Erewash Voluntary Action, EVA Small Grant January-
Supporting Good Mental Health - £4820

Derbyshire County Council COVID Recovery Grant February
- Supporting Recovery - £1990

J H Rausing Trust February - Supporting Food Bank - £2963.



Annual Report Financial

These grants have enabled us to continue to support those most vulnerable in our community with the Coldfields Regeneration Trust funding ensuring that we could continue to employ a Manager to co-ordinate all of our activities.

Having recognised that by reviewing how we were using and allocating space within Limestone House we could create internal space to better meet our needs as well as being able to generate income from the hire of our rooms. We created a dedicated space for Food Bank storage and moved our Managers office downstairs. Storage was also created to facilitate the re-starting of an E-Bay 'Store' to maximise income for 'high-end' donations. However this re-organisation is a work in progress and has not enabled the increase in income we would have hoped for.



Annual Report Financial

In this financial year we have shown a deficit against income due mainly to us not generating the income to ensure independent sustainability making us dependent on grant funding. Increased establishment costs including utilities have also had an impact and will continue to do so going forwards. This deficit is expected to be borne by our cash reserves as we continue to plan the steps for recovery recognising that this is not an insignificant challenge.



Annual Report Financial

As a Board of Trustees we do not underestimate the financial challenges that lie ahead not least that our current levels of income will not sustain both our works and the maintenance/overheads of Limestone House

Working with our local BCVS we will explore various funding options available whilst also working at improving our income generation to ensure that those most vulnerable in our community receive the support and help that they need



Limestone House

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Annual Report October 2023

Prepared by Helen Dayson Chair of Trustees