

Unstone Grange Trust

Annual Report

Feb 1 2013 to Jan 31 2014

I report back with pleasure on the last year at Unstone Grange and gratitude for all the energy and enthusiasm that the many and varied groups and organizations coming to use our facilities bring to the Grange. Thank you all for coming and choosing to use Unstone Grange for your workshops.

We regularly revisit our aims, not really because we might forget, but to keep the Unstone Grange Trust vision fresh in our minds, so that we can be sure that we are truly here in service to the collective. It helps to keep us on our toes! What we offer to everyone who comes, is opportunity - the opportunity to learn and grow from participating in an activity, workshop or event, the fruits of which can be taken back to feed their lives and communities, whether of interest or place; and also the opportunity to bring your gifts here to share as you volunteer in one way or another.

We hope that whenever people visit the Grange they will leave feel enabled and empowered by the love and care that we show for this place, and inspired by our guiding principles; celebrating diversity, taking responsibility. The world is changing, in ways we often find challenging. We hope that those who visit Unstone Grange leave us having re-charged their batteries, awoken their vision, and hope for what the future offers, for the world we pass on to our children and our children's children.

Thanks

I need to say a big thank you to the many people who have contributed to the Trust over this time. I would like to give special mention to the resident volunteers who have been walking their own personal and spiritual paths as they continue to serve all who come here. My thanks to Bobby, Peter, Carol, and Martin who have become the stalwarts of our team here.

Particular thanks to Leela who was with us for about 5 years but has unfortunately had to leave us due to her serious illness

This ever changing posse of volunteers are constantly vigilant to people's needs. Our guests leave a constant feedback of appreciation for their care and consideration and I am please to echo those thanks.

I also give my thanks to our dedicated band of Trustees. They have the important duty of paying attention to the bigger picture, keeping the Unstone Grange Trust true to its vision and purpose, as well as on track financially and practically. A very big thank you to Alec, Sue, Gill and Pete. My very special thanks to Alec, for all the extra support he has given to me and to the staff over this time.

My very special thanks to James our office manager, whose care for all our guests both before and after they come adds to their experience and also allows me to focus more on moving Unstone Grange forwards. Its no coincidence that our bookings level is so high and our calendar stretches further and further into the future.

Improvements

Staff kitchen improvements

Built new beds

Upgraded fire alarm with extra sounder and replaced detectors

New fire safety / H&S procedures for monitoring

Outside kitchen improvements

Vegi-ventures 'Eco work camp' work party weekend in August 2013

Gardens

Our wonderful organic gardens are still looking good. Resident staff share their skills and help to feed in many ways all those who join them every Wednesday. A sizeable team of people show up regularly to, quite literally, learn and grow. The resident staff team takes care of the whole estate - no small feat. There is never any shortage of work to be done, and new participants are always made welcome!

Looking Forward

And so we press on, looking forward to the future and the many new projects we have on our list. We want to continue to improve and extend our staff accommodation and add to our resident staff so that we can do all that we do already but even better. In addition to our regular programme of repairs and renewals and responding to feedback from groups we also aim to focus on more energy saving measures like insulation and double glazing.

Paying off the mortgage is now a possibility

We hope this year to acquire the piece of land adjacent to the barn for use as a car park and as a useful extra space. This opportunity has been making slow progress over the last couple of years and I hope that it will not be too long in coming to fruition.

We are looking good for the year ahead and plan to reach out to new groups. Most importantly we look to pursue our mission to create opportunity for people to come here and somehow take the healing and growth back into their own lives and communities. In this small way we contribute to living in some kind of balance with our ever changing world.

Steve Baker

Chair