



The Gate Annual Report 2016 SC042809

PRACTICAL HELP FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

A Busy Year at The Gate

2016 was another good year for The Gate as we saw our existing services expand, targeting vulnerable groups in our Community, as well as developing some new projects in response to demand. These new projects included a 'Books and Blether' group, an 'Old Record Club' and 'Craft' group providing social interaction opportunities for isolated people. We also worked with Forth Valley Recovery Community to provide a safe space for a 'Recovery Café', which runs weekly.

Although our projects and services continue to grow in demand, we are fortunate to have this demand supported by increased donations and volunteering efforts from our local Community. The support we receive from the general public, Churches, local schools, businesses, and supermarkets is overwhelming. This support includes donations of food and cash for the Foodbank, household items for our Starter Packs, and clothing donations for our School Uniform Bank and other projects.

Referrals to the Foodbank have increased again by over 30% in 2016, with The Gate providing approximately 71,000 meals to over 3500 people in

our community, 40% were for families. This activity is supported by approximately 35 local referral agencies or statutory departments.

Numbers at the Soup Pot have also increased by 20% this year, supporting more woman and children than ever before whilst Starter Packs numbers have declined slightly in 2016.

Our School Uniform bank provided over 200 local children with appropriate clothing that will help build confidence and self-esteem in our young people. Our Café continued to be popular, providing good quality and affordable food in a welcoming environment and is now self-sustaining. Other projects have received small grant funding to help with their running costs. Future projects are also being developed in response to the need.

Some 80 Volunteers continue to play a vital role in the operation of the Charity, from the Trustees through to project co-ordinators and project workers. In addition to our volunteers, we operate with three key members of staff, a Centre Manager, Foodbank Coordinator, and a part time Cleaning Assistant.

A number of training opportunities were provided for staff and volunteers.

Grant funding was obtained to cover overheads, particularly salaries, and some project costs for 2016 and beyond.

Other fund generating activities are planned for the 2017.

We very much look forward to 2017.

Lumpkin Chair of The Gate



Project News



Community Café continues to welcome our regulars and visiting customers on Wednesday afternoon and Friday lunch times.



School uniform project 2016 exceeded expectations and provided over 200 local children with uniforms. Donations were received from parents throughout the county and this enabled us to supply new or almost new uniforms, representing all local schools. Our aim is to ensure that every child in Clackmannanshire will attend school suitably clothed and equipped, to learn with dignity and confidence. The project will be run annually.



The Recovery Café team meet every Monday evening at The Gate offering Food, company and one to one sessions for those in recovery.



The Old Record Club was run as a pilot project where locals danced and sang to their favourite music. A good time was had by all. The project will be rolled out in 2017.

Fundraising Activities



We welcomed the news that our youngest volunteer Lily Christie (age 10) cycled 50 miles during the Pedal for Scotland event to raise funds for our Charity. Lily wanted to help others who "may not have as much as her" in their lives, and raised a fantastic £2,500.00!



Thanks to David Sangster and Forth Valley Chorus for putting on such a wonderful concert to raise funds for us.

The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended!

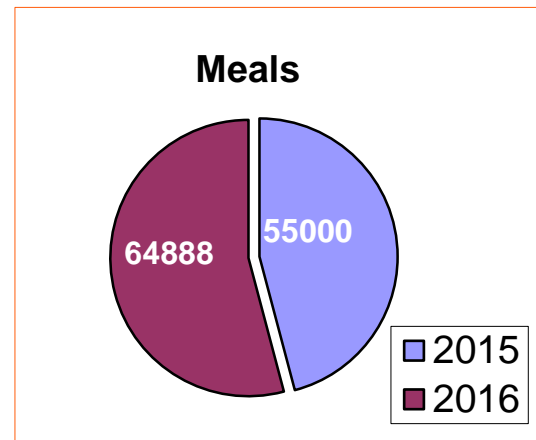
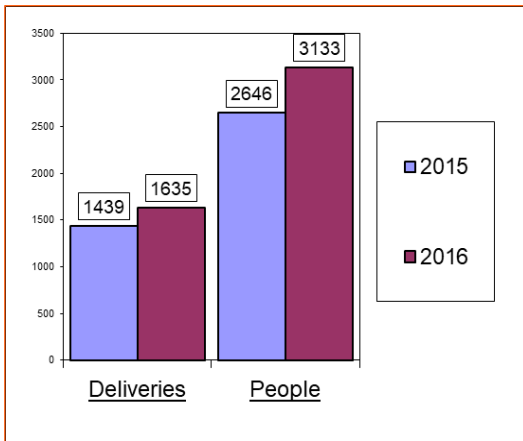
Thanks also go to our dedicated volunteers who worked really hard to ensure the Concert was a great success and raised over £2000.

Special Visitors

12 children and their teacher from Chernobyl visited our café for a free Gate Lunch during a health recuperation holiday. These children were all affected by the nuclear disaster which occurred near their home town almost 30 years ago. By spending 3 weeks in Scotland, where the air is clean and free from radiation, the children's immune system increases by 2 years!



Dr Russell Barr, Moderator of The Church of Scotland, visited our Centre as part of a short tour of projects who received funding from the Church of Scotland's "Go For It" fund. As a founding Trustee of "Fresh Start" in Edinburgh, a charity which supports people affected by homelessness, Dr Barr and his wife Margaret were both really interested to hear about our projects. As a thank you for their support, Dr Barr and his wife were presented with a Gate apron to remind them of their visit.



Foodbank and Soup Pot statistics

All our food parcels are given out after referral by others. The 2 most common reasons given are benefit delays and poverty – just running out of money. Approximately 30% of the food given out is for children.

Behind all these statistics are real stories of real people struggling with a crisis in their lives. We try and give dignity to our receivers and generosity with the food that we can share. 89 Christmas food parcels were distributed to families before Christmas Day to ensure that vulnerable children had food and treats over the festive season.

Our Community continue to support us by donating 21 tonnes of food through 2016.

The Soup Pot continued to increase in numbers in 2016, approximately 1800 meals were served through the year. Around 50 Soup pot Service Users attended a Christmas Lunch at the Gate and were given a small gift and a box of treats.



The foodbank team accept a donation of fresh Produce from The Tullibody Healthy Living initiative.



Sandy Mc Neil packs a starter pack for someone moving into a new tenancy.



The Soup Pot team get ready to welcome our service users.

Statement of Financial Accounts for year ending December 2016

REVENUE	2015	2016
Restricted Grants	£ 57,685	£54,533
Restricted Donations	£ 6,288	£ 1,931
Unrestricted Donations	£ 14,129	£16,052
Fundraising	£ 1,708	£ 6,165
Trading income	£ 5,119	£ 7,363
Bank Interest	£ 45	£ 21
TOTAL REVENUE	£ 84,974	£86,065
EXPENDITURE		
Project Costs restricted	£ 68,662	£30,753
Trading Expenses	£ 1,562	£ 1,645
Fundraising	£ 124	£ 36
Project Costs Unrestricted	£23,596	£43,016
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 93,944	£75,450

Highlights

- With the help of grant funding we were able to meet current costs of running the Centre and the projects.
- The increase in trading income reflects the increasing success of the Community Café and rent received from external organisations using our facilities.
- The surplus between income and expenditure reflects that new funding started from Robertson's Trust and the 'Go for it' fund in support of wages.
- The significant drop in expenditure represented a reduction in capital works, equipment and reduced utility bills.
- The funding awarded in 2016 ensured that overheads were covered for 2017, although refurbishment grant applications are ongoing.

