

Annual Report

2020-2021

Why was the Cellardyke Trust set up - Our History

The Cellardyke Trust was born out of a group of people living in Cellardyke who wanted to revive the traditional Sea Queen Festival. In order to re-establish the Festival, people needed to work with an organisation and therefore the volunteers partnered with the Cellardyke Residents Association, which was founded in 2007 (<https://e-voice.org.uk/cellardyke/>). The Cellardyke Residents Association provided the organisational infrastructure and banking facilities necessary for the Sea Queen Festival to take place.

Two very successful Sea Queen Festivals were held in 2018 and 2019. The aim of the Sea Queen Festival was to involve as many people as possible in the day and to create an event that would acknowledge Cellardyke's history and heritage. Both Sea Queen Festivals involved many local people, churches, schools, clubs and local businesses and were attended by over a thousand people.



Further photos and details of the events can be found on our website : <https://www.cellardyketrust.org/cellardyke-sea-queen-festival/>

As time went on, it became clear that in order to raise funds and have access to grants, as well as to run the Sea Queen Festival, it would be necessary to set up a separate organisation that was focussed on arts and heritage activities and community involvement. The Cellardyke Residents Association agreed to set up a working group to enable this.

In addition, we became aware that British Telecom was about the decommission the telephone boxes in Cellardyke. One of these boxes - the one by the Town Hall - was well used and loved by children and well cared for by a member of the community living nearby. The box by the harbour had been unused for many years and a local artist had ideas for how it could be used in a more creative way - as other communities have done. BT will only transfer telephone boxes to charitable organisations.

The working group therefore decided in 2019 to apply set up a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) - to be called the Cellardyke Trust. A SCIO was particularly chosen as it gives people the opportunity to be members of the organisation and to elect the Trustees.

The charity was formally incorporated on 11th February 2020 and registered as SC049941 with OSCR, the Scottish Charity Regulator, as The Cellardyke Trust (SCIO).

What are the Objectives of the Cellardyke Trust?

The Cellardyke Trust is governed by a formal constitution and copies of it are available on our website. <https://www.cellardyketrust.org>

The charitable objectives of the Cellardyke Trust are:

‘The advancement of citizenship or community development’ and ‘The advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science’.

In practice, what we are aiming to do is:

To create an environment where innovation in community projects can be supported to be developed and delivered

We aim to work with individuals, families, groups, organisations and companies to help strengthen the Cellardyke community.

The Cellardyke Trust is not a grant giving body, but aims to support members of the community who do want to set up projects that meet the charitable objectives of the Cellardyke Trust. Cultural and heritage activities are not designed to raise money per se - rather they are for the enjoyment of the community and a vehicle for bringing people together.

Who benefits from the Cellardyke Trust?

The Cellardyke Trust aims to benefit those living in Cellardyke and also those people who have family connections to Cellardyke and maintain an interest in the town. Our website provides a wealth of historical information and photographs.

Visitors to Cellardyke can enjoy the arts and cultural activities and local businesses will benefit from the visitors who come to participate and spectate in community activities.

What did the Cellardyke Trust do in its first year?

Covid-19

When our working group applied for charitable status in late 2019, no-one had heard of Covid-19 and it was unforeseeable how life would change over 2020 and 2021. We obtained charitable status in February 2020 and the country went into lockdown a few weeks later at the end of March 2020. At the time of writing, the pandemic is still evolving, but lockdown had a significant effect on our plans to establish the Cellardyke Trust.

Our original 2020 plans were to have a high profile launch event and several coffee mornings. These were aimed to give us the opportunity to raise the profile of the Trust more widely, explain to supporters of the Sea Queen Festival the change from the Cellardyke Resident’s Association, launch the Phone Box project and the Manx Beauty Project. In addition, we also wanted to use these events and the opportunity to launch the Membership Scheme.

Unfortunately, none of this was to be. Within weeks of obtaining our charitable status, lockdown was upon us. At each stage of lockdown we assumed things would improve and there would be a light at the end of the tunnel so that we could start planning our drive to publicise the Cellardyke

Trust, involve people and raise funds for our arts and heritage activities. However, our main priority was ensuring compliance with Scottish Government guidelines and ensuring the safety of our activities.

Sea Queen

The plans for our 2020 Sea Queen Festival plans were significantly developed, with almost 50 boats committing to the event, exhibitions and other aspects in progress and the relevant permissions all applied for. We had no choice but to cancel the Sea Queen Festival as soon as lockdown was announced.

Thankfully the easing of restrictions made it possible to walk our 2018 Sea Queen - Katie, our 2019 Sea Queen - Ellie, and our 2020 Sea Queen elect - Jessie, through the town, led by piper, Sarah Isaac, on a route that covered every street. They carried the annual wreath and a reclaimed wooden bottle with a message in it.

Our community loved this bit of lockdown relief and came to their doors to clap as our socially distanced procession passed. We were then able to hand the wreath over to Jennie, the widow of one our Sea Queen volunteers, Trustee and staunch Dyker, Johnny Brown, and his family at the harbour - who then handed it over to the Fruitful to be taken out to sea. The wreath was laid in the sea behind the Cellardyke pool - with the bottle - in memory of all those who lost their lives at sea.



We look forward to returning to being able to organise our community festival and the crowning of Jessie Barnett as soon as Covid-19 guidance allows.

The Telephone Boxes

The John Street phone box and Cellardyke Harbour phone box came into the Cellardyke Trust ownership in March 2020 - after two years of work.



BT had scheduled the boxes to be removed and we are delighted to have been able to save them - particularly the John Street box - which has been looked after by Gill Fraser for many years. This box is known by local families and visitors who regularly swap books, clothes and games. We would like to thank Gill for her dedication and especially for her attention to safety during the

pandemic. We are glad we have been able save this box so she can continue to entertain and provide the much loved service to our community.

Concurrently, for two years a working group have been planning a “message in/on a bottle” experience operating from the harbour telephone box. Every school in the East Neuk was involved, along with many other community groups. A local artist, David Behrens, was commissioned by the Cellardyke Trust to develop an automata bottle dispenser and he produced a widely viewed and admired video of the development of this work.



<https://www.cellardyketrust.org/cellardyke-phone-boxes/message-on-a-bottle-update/>

With Covid-19, we were not able to install and launch the automata that was commissioned from David Behrens as originally planned. We look forward to developing this side of the project and working with people to make the harbour phone box just as loved as the John Street one.

We thank Sydney Clare Checkland for her work at the start of the project and are grateful to Fiona Mitchell for agreeing to take it on to the next stage.

The Manx Beauty

Like all the other aspects of the work of the Cellardyke Trust, lockdown has seriously held back what has been able to be done with this project, which involves the restoration of a Cellardyke fishing boat - one of the last to have been built in Cellardyke.



The Manx Beauty arrived in the East Neuk in February 2020, with the hope that we would be able to have public events to raise the profile of this project and support the aims and objectives of involving lots of people in its restoration. Once again, the pandemic put a halt to this and

to our funding application plans and we have virtually written the year off. Two volunteers need a particular mention - Mike Griffin and Nick Chalmers - who have worked on her when allowed, and stripped everything out of the inside so that we can begin the detailed survey work to cost the project accurately.

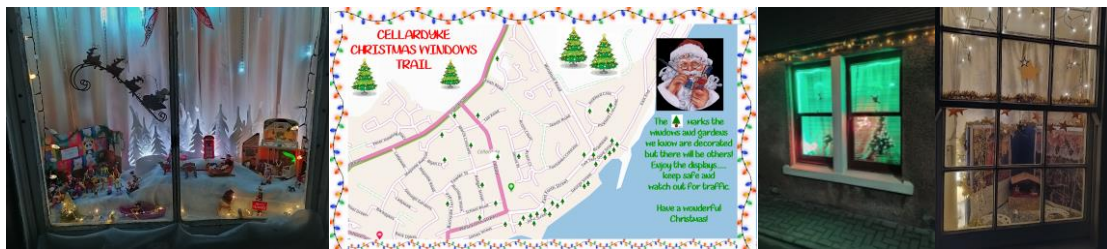
The musical side of the project was also postponed a year but discussions with all the bodies involved have begun again and we look forward to launching this when the project is fully formed.

Further details of the Manx Beauty project can be found on the Cellardyke Trust website.

Christmas Window dressing

One of the few things we could do in lockdown was a Christmas window trail, based on the successful Sea Queen window dressing competition.

Thanks to Catriona Macpherson and Susan Cathcart, over thirty people participated and the town looked really lovely. A little bit of magic was created by those taking part, so that children and others could see some exciting windows and illuminated gardens throughout the town. The Christmas windows provided some welcome relief during a winter coloured by Covid-19 and lockdown.



Website

In lockdown we created a new website. www.cellardyketrust.org. This website covers our organisation, sections for each of our projects, past events, local history and the weekly Cellardyke Echo blog.

Regular updates on local history ensures regular traffic to the site, which is a valuable resource for those wishing to know more about the heritage of Cellardyke.

We also have our own Facebook page and post the Cellardyke Echo link on the local Cellardyke Facebook Group.

Finances

The Cellardyke Trust received income from several different sources in the year 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.

Membership Subscriptions amounted to a total of £110.

For the Sea Queen Festival, £2,128 was transferred from the Cellardyke Residents Association (CRA), which had previously hosted the Sea Queen. This included a grant of £1,500, the expenditure of which was restricted to the Sea Queen Festival.

We received funds totalling £4,155 for the Manx Beauty project - in the form of donations from individuals and a grant of £2,900 from St Andrews University. We are very grateful to those people who donated for the project.

The largest item of expenditure was the insurance for the phone boxes and for any events that we might have held in the year. This cost £448 per annum. We also needed to pay the artist we had commissioned to provide the installation for the Telephone Box and also support initial work on the Manx Beauty.

The accounts showed a total balance of £4,755 in the bank as at the end of the financial year. Our reserves are both restricted and unrestricted, depending on what the monies were donated or raised for. We aim for each project to be self financing, although that has not been possible in our first year of operation.

Our assets were mainly the two telephone boxes, which we have estimated are worth £2,000 each.

The accounts for 2020/21 are on our website.

Governance

The members of the original working party, together with some additional volunteers, agreed to be the Trustees for the first year of the Cellardyke Trust. These were :

Johnny Brown,
Richard Wemyss,
Catriona MacPherson,
Nette Carder,
Elizabeth Dickson,
Sydney Clare Checkland,
Jessie Barnett,
Peter Shepherd.

Sadly within a few months of the Trust being formed, Johnny Brown, one of the founding Trustees passed away. Johnny was staunchly Cellardyke and had been actively involved in the revived Sea Queen festival and had masterminded the new history noticeboard trail through the town, as well as being chair of the Cellardyke Residents' Association. He is sadly missed.

Sydney Clare Checkland resigned for personal reasons in the late summer of 2020. She was also a founding Trustee and had been the driving force behind the Telephone boxes being saved by the Trust. The Cellardyke Trust is grateful for her vision and commitment in developing a new role for the telephone boxes.

At our AGM in April 2021, Catriona Macpherson has also handed her resignation in due to her work commitments. Catriona was key in developing the community ethos and idea behind the Cellardyke Trust and has been key in its development. She assures us that she will continue to be involved with the Trust and help as work allows. We would like to thank her for her continued commitment and support.

The Trustees when this Annual Report was approved are: Richard Wemyss (Chairman); Peter Shepherd (Treasurer); Nette Carder (Secretary); Jessie Barnett and Elizabeth Dickson.

The Trust's registered office is at : 14 Shore St, Cellardyke, Fife, KY10 3BD.

The Trust currently have enough Trustees to legally operate but we will actively be looking to strengthen our board for the future. We are very conscious that lockdown has prevented us publicising the Cellardyke Trust and engaging with the community as we would have wished.

As lockdown is eased we will arrange public events that will enable us to reach out and broaden the interest in the Trust. We are actively looking to recruit Members and Trustees to the Trust and welcome everyone's interest.

Website

In lockdown we created a new website for the charity: www.cellardyketrust.org .

This website covers our organisation, sections for each of our projects, past events, local history and the weekly Cellardyke Echo blog. Regular updates on local history ensures regular traffic to the site. This is driven through our own Facebook page and through posting the Cellardyke Echo link on the local Cellardyke Facebook Group.

The website is a resource for those who want to learn more about Cellardyke and its history and heritage. It also provides a way for people to learn more about the Sea Queen Festival, Telephone Boxes, Manx Beauty project, etc. and to contact the charity.

Our governing documentation, minutes of our meetings and the Annual Report are available on the website.

Conclusion

It has been a year unlike any other and a difficult time to set up a Community Trust like ours. However we are optimistic things are already changing.

When setting up any project or event, the first question the Trust asks is "How can the community be involved?" We will continue to head forward in the same vein. As restrictions ease we will be able to market the trust and encourage membership.

We look forward to the challenges ahead with optimism.

Richard Wemyss, Chairman

26th August 2021