

Helping
the local
community



Charity Chatter

“Our world was turned upside down by the imposition of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions but we are planning to emerge stronger and more focused on our educational and horticultural activities.

Although all events at Tuppenny Barn had to be cancelled, we were able to switch our attention to new fundraising efforts, a greater emphasis on helping our community during these troubled times and ensuring the charity is prepared for life after lockdown.

We are truly grateful for all the support and understanding received from our loyal supporters at this time and look forward to a return to our regular activities as well as three exciting new projects involving young carers, a City and Guilds Horticultural collaboration for adults with special needs and a plan to create a site shop/cafe with a social perspective outside the education centre.”

Maggie Haynes
Founder and CEO of Tuppenny Barn



Andy Poulton delivers one of our weekly food parcels

Our fundraising focus changed in March when lockdown measures were introduced as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic

Emphasis on community support

Our new team of Anna Webb and Kate McNicol working on reduced days, had been in place for just a few weeks before our business model had to be changed to meet the new challenges, including the need to sustain the charity during this period of lockdown with many of our usual funding streams no longer viable.

With all events at Tuppenny Barn cancelled, the charity directed its attention to helping the local community by setting up a **free food delivery service for those families worst hit by the lockdown and also a delivery scheme for the elderly and vulnerable**. Concurrently we increased our weekly organic veg scheme to maximum capacity of 86 bags and put in strict Covid measures for our Thursday produce shop.

We are grateful to all our donors who have made it possible for us to provide much needed support to our community at this time. These include: Sussex Community Foundation Crisis Fund, Charities Aid Foundation, Coop Neighbourly fund, Southbourne and Westbourne Parish Council, Chichester District Council and The National Lottery Community Fund supported with thanks to the government, alongside many private individual donors.

All our funders have been instrumental in helping us deliver weekly food parcels to our families in need. We could not have done it without them!

The **Tuppenny Barn Food Hardship Fund** enabled the delivery of a free weekly box of cooked meals, fresh produce, fish and other staple items to families in the community, referred to us by schools and the local church.

Every Friday we deliver 20 food parcels to ensure that families have enough food to sustain them through periods of self isolation or for those who are facing food poverty. Working with local businesses, the self employed, community referral partners and a network of volunteers, the parcels reach those in need.

“Tuppenny Barn has responded positively, adapting our work to help at this time of need,” Anna said. “We have felt humbled by the contribution and support of our many volunteers, supporters, funders and wider community.”

Anna also paid tribute to her predecessor, Ellie Duffet, who had made a “fantastic” contribution to Tuppenny Barn’s fundraising efforts.

Looking ahead, Tuppenny Barn is planning for the Autumn term when it is hoped to welcome schools back to the Barn. Fundraising will play a big part in this recovery and they are busy applying to partners and funders to support the charity so that, once again, it will be able to deliver education school visits when it is safe to do so.



Tuppenny volunteers

Since September last year, volunteers have collectively given us xxx hours of their time from a group of 66 people.

During lockdown we were able to give sheltered accommodation to one of the volunteers who was classed as homeless and he became part of the gardening team for 10 weeks.

Without the support of our wonderful volunteers, Tuppenny Barn would not be able to operate.

Image tagline to go along here



Educational links continue despite shutdown

From September 2019 until 18th March 2020 we had 456 students visit. Over half of these (251) were a result of the travel grant scheme we launched last year



Our ambitious target for 2020 was to have 2,000 young people through the doors of our education centre. We were on track to meet or even exceed that figure until the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions hit us.

Before the pandemic, we had 1,326 students booked to visit us from September 2019 to July 2020. That number would have increased during the Spring term due to extra last minute bookings, combined with holiday workshops and Tuppenny Tots.

As a result of these exceptional circumstances, 870 young people have missed out on a visit to us. The actual number would have been higher, once again due to the normal last minute bookings.

Last summer, Liz Pendry joined our team as a second education officer thanks to a grant from the Sussex Community Foundation. Her work has greatly helped to increase our pupil numbers as she has been leading on our **travel grant scheme**. This scheme is available to schools with over 10% of pupils on free school meals and allows them to claim up to £250 in transport or petrol costs. It was made possible due to generous local and national funders including: The Sussex Community Foundation, The Ninevah Trust, The Bassil Shippam and Alsford Trust, The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, The Southern Co-operative (Southbourne and Westbourne) and the Southleigh Road Co-op.

Slindon Church of England Primary School in West Sussex made Tuppenny history when they became the **first whole school** to take advantage of the scheme.



Throughout the year we have continued our monthly collaboration with Park Community School in Havant, an area with high numbers of disadvantaged families. Each month a group of students with special educational needs visit and are able to see what changes have taken place, month on month. We often cook and carry out seasonal tasks.

This year we continued our **Farmer Time sessions over FaceTime** with our partnership school Washingborough Academy, Lincoln. This initiative has been set up by Linking Environment And Farming (LEAF). We are paired with their Reception class and have monthly sessions focusing on healthy eating, organic gardening and sustainability, with comparisons of our produce and that of the class. We also led a whole school assembly via this means of communication. Our senior education officer Abi Young was able to chat with the Year 1 class during lockdown and we look forward to more sessions in the autumn term.

During the period without school visits, Abi has kept in contact with all our schools and their teachers, updating them about what is happening on site. **A new YouTube channel: 'Tuppenny Times with Abi' was created enabling weekly updates for the students to see what is going on.** We are also planning to make subject appropriate filmed sessions to distribute to teachers ready for the new term.



"Thank you very much for the challenges you have sent and for the link to your YouTube video! We have sent it to our children to access from home and they are really enjoying using it."



Nurture in Nature, our social and therapeutic horticultural therapy project, continues to grow thanks to the support of the Finnis Scott Foundation and the Postcode Lottery

Preparing for a gradual restart

On **International Mental Health Day 2019** we laid on an afternoon tea to share our success to date, in addition to recruiting new clients. We welcomed NHS staff, social prescribers and also local councillors in the horticultural therapy polytunnel and showed them the herbs and vegetables that the group had sown and nurtured. We were also able to tell our guests about the benefits of socialising with others while gardening.

Councillor Tracie Bangert, a local and district councillor, attended the open day and has visited on many subsequent occasions, together with Lyn Hicks of Southbourne Parish Council.

"I applaud the work Tuppenny Barn has been doing with this therapy, which has been a lifeline for many during the period of lockdown," Tracie said. "Given the enthusiasm of the volunteers, I am sure that this service will be expanded in the future to further benefit the community."

To keep in touch during the pandemic we moved some of the group online and started a weekly catch up via Zoom as well as a WhatsApp group for ad hoc contact. There are challenges as not everyone is able to access or use technology but for those able to join, these sessions have been an important part of their week.

Between September 2019 and March 2020 we delivered 26 sessions. Our peak was 10 participants. As a result, we have two new volunteers to help manage the sessions.

Towards the end of July we carried out a risk assessment based on government guidelines and the decision was taken to restart the Nurture in Nature sessions on 7th August.

Sonia Rasbery, who manages the project, said measures had been put in place to ensure the safety of all participants.

"We have produced detailed instructions for all attendees and are also limiting the number of attendees to six for the foreseeable future," she added.

"This will enable us to ensure the safety measures are adhered to and we will continue to review the situation and any other procedures, based on new guidance."

Case study: Joanna

Joanna has been coming regularly to Tuppenny Barn since the project started in 2018. She saw the details on Facebook and realised that the gardening aspect together with meeting other people would really appeal to her.

"I'm always given a choice of what I'd like to do or I can just sit and watch the others," she said. Nothing is expected of me and that means I can be myself. Everyone is so friendly and it's very welcoming and relaxed."

When she was 28, Joanna started having epileptic seizures and absences. The onset of her condition meant she was no longer able to continue her work as a neonatal intensive care nurse. There followed a dark period in her life and she struggled with depression and bipolar disorder.

Although Joanna still experiences seizures twice a month, 15 years later she is now married and has built a new life with two miniature dachshunds in tow.





"Thanks so much for thinking of us here. Your YouTube channel is amazing, lovely to hear your happy voice. This is great for our Ks 3 engagement programme."

"The school mentioned in their feedback that the travel grant had made it possible for them to come on the trip and added: "Thank you SO much for such a wonderful day with you – our first whole school visit – it was fantastic!"

"One of the students commented: "The best thing was tasting, smelling and feeling the herbs." Another simply said: "It was amazing."

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Education Centre, Organic Smallholding,
Events, Private Hire, Workshops

www.tuppennybarn.co.uk

Tuppenny Barn is a
registered charity
(charity number 1172846)

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