



# A welcome from the trustees

It's our privilege to welcome you to the Malvern Cube 2022/23 annual review. We are an independent community and arts centre which is community-led and run, and our role as trustees is to provide a place for the local community to use.

We have inclusive and affordable spaces which people can hire for meetings, clubs, support groups and activities, to put on theatre, music events and festivals or where they can just drop in to enjoy a warm welcome in our lovely gardens or café.



We have to find our own running costs so we rely on generous help, donations and support from local people and organisations to balance the books and to keep costs down for our users. Our small staff team is helped by our wonderful volunteers who support us with every part of Cube life.

Ten years ago Malvern Cube was saved from closure by the local community and today it is thriving. It's a space where everyone, regardless of age or ability, can find friendship, creative activities, fitness, entertainment and support: a much needed heart in the centre of the community.

## Our values and vision

Community benefit is at the heart of all we do. In our decision making and daily operations we're guided by core values that shape the way we do things. We aim to be:

- responsive to community need
- accessible
- inclusive
- affordable
- ethical
- diverse
- financially and economically sustainable

## We want Malvern Cube to be:

- a thriving, valued and welcoming centre at the heart of the community.
- a place for social, learning, entertainment, and wellbeing activities for everyone.
- a place to build connections and friendship.
- backed by vibrant volunteer support.

Our [3-year Strategic Plan](#) sets out what we hope to do and how we will do it. One of our key aims has been to develop and support the arts at the Cube so we also have a [Performing Arts Plan](#). These plans are our roadmap for realising our vision for Malvern Cube.



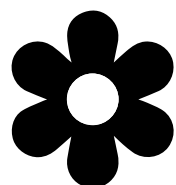
[www.malverncube.com](http://www.malverncube.com)

# A look back on 2022/23



We celebrated the Cube's tenth birthday with a giant cake and a free Ceilidh for staff, volunteers, supporters and users. A brilliant time was had by all and it was a great opportunity to reflect on just how far the Cube has come since local people saved it from closure.

Over 50 groups used the Cube for meetings and activities ranging from dog training, painting, church services and exercise classes. They ranged in age from tiny babies to 100-years-plus and came from right across the Malvern community.



Our volunteer gardeners helped to make our garden beautiful and we took part in Malvern in Bloom - helping to win a gold medal for the town. We also grew fruit and veg for the Garden Café, and promoted healthy food.

Our three resident theatre groups put on performances by and for people of all abilities and we hosted an amazing Festival of Equality. Strange Futures premiered **Slow-Cooked Stories**, a performance developed with local professionals and community groups - to great acclaim.



We launched our '**Give Us A Lift!**' crowdfunding campaign. Just six weeks later we had pledges for the £40,000 we needed to put in a lift to connect the top and bottom levels of the Cube. What an amazing result!



It was great to see the Cube being used for fundraising events. One of the highlights was a **ceilidh**, raising an amazing £3,000 for Ukraine. Charity card and craft sales in the café were also really popular.



We provided space each week for Cube Youth to run their amazing youth club and wide range of activities for young people, including during school holidays.



We welcomed a new café manager to the Garden Café. A new menu with affordable healthy meals and new volunteers made it a welcoming space for the local community to enjoy. We served **over 4,400** healthy lunches and **over 7,700** drinks.

Our volunteer team grew to 17. These wonderful people came in each week to help in the café and office and with events. We hosted comedy, dance, folk and rock, theatre and storytelling and they became expert in setting up, bar work and stewarding.



We took a long look back at the Cube, talking to local people about its early life as a youth centre and place for music and gigs. We gathered these together and used them and old photos to put together our '**Cube Memories**' exhibition and online archive.



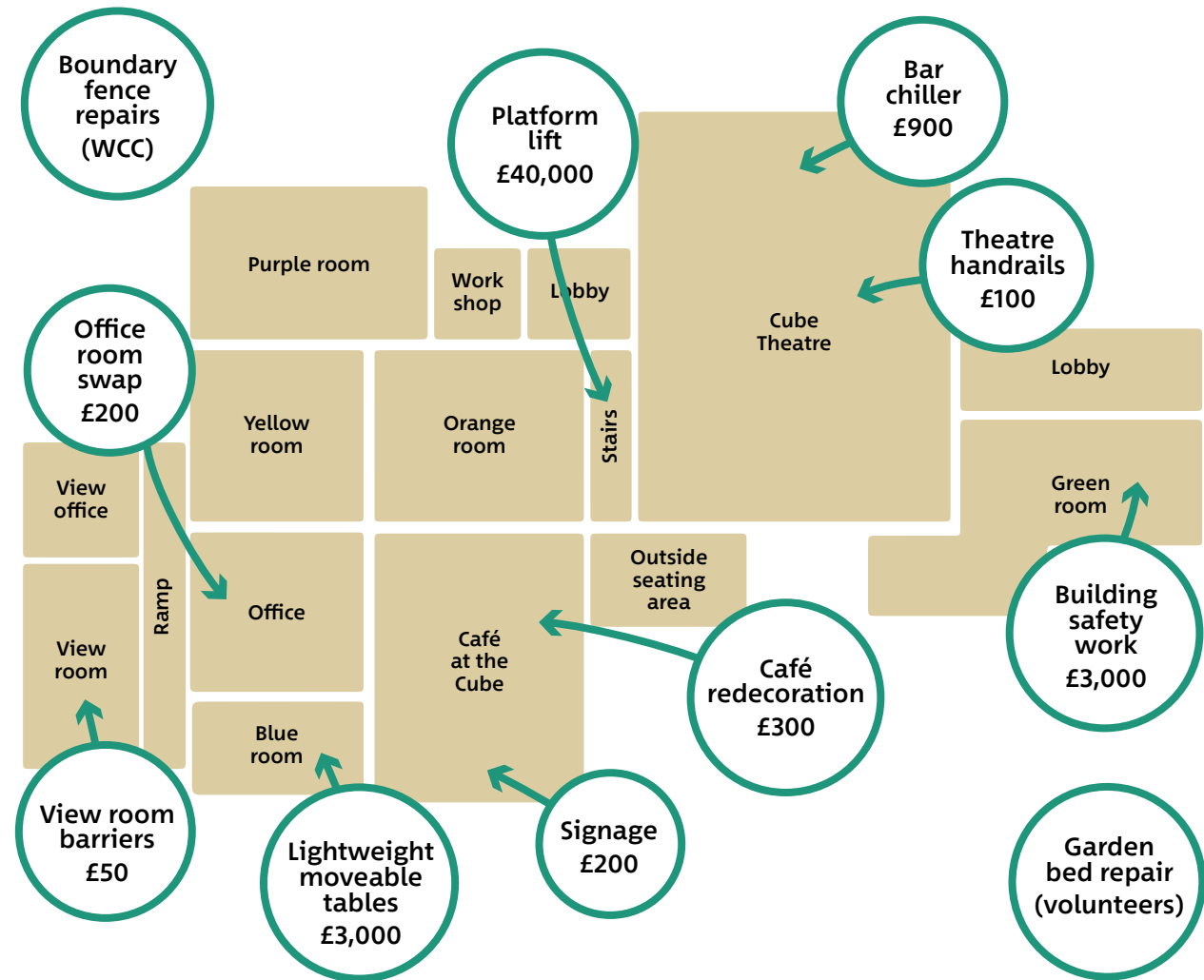
# Cube improvements

We're always making sure that the Cube is in good repair and has everything the community needs to use and enjoy it.

Our big project for 22/23 was our stairlift which has made a huge difference to less mobile users.

In 2022/23 we made the following improvements:

- Handrails in theatre
- View room barriers
- New office
- Jubilee mural
- Signage
- Boundary fence repair
- Redecorate the café, new themes and colourways
- Chiller for the bar
- Lighter tables in rooms
- Platform lift



# Who uses the Cube?

Counselling and support groups  
Summerhill speech and language  
Reaction Theatre Makers  
U3A Poetry and Estimations  
Garage Art  
Connect group (floristry)  
Extend Exercise  
NCT Baby Latte (breastfeeding support)  
U3A Shakespeare  
The Shaw Trust (supporting clients into work)  
Rhythm Time (baby classes)  
U3A Literature  
Table tennis  
Breathe Easy (chronic lung conditions)  
Strange Futures (theatre group)



Positive Thoughts (wellbeing support)  
Language for Fun  
My Baby Can Dance  
Church  
Jazz Club  
Cube Sings  
Family Learning (Ukrainian families)  
Community artist board (in Garden Café)  
Garden group  
U3A Geology  
Perfect Circle (teen theatre)  
Tai Kwon Do  
Dog training  
Malvern Youth  
(young people's groups and youth club)

U3A languages  
U3A Driving skills  
Malvern Hills Repair Café  
Smallwood Trust Basement Project  
Malvern Hills Car Club  
Book Clubs  
Street Dance  
Basketball



**'Great venue, very versatile space. Seen loads of different types of music here. Super-friendly staff team.'** Michael



# Cube happenings

The Cube offers flexible spaces for one-off or regular hire for community use. We aim to make hiring affordable, and support a year-round programme of events, gigs and festivals, mostly organised by the local community.

## Festivals

**Cube Shuffle and Ceilidh** (August); **FEAST 22** (September); **Festival of Innovation Comedy Night** (October); **Great Malvern Festival of Stories for Children** (October); **Festival of Ideas: Michael Rosen** (March).

## Events

Christening parties, celebrations and a funeral. Partnerships and networking. Jazz, choral, folk, classical and punk rock gigs.

## Arts

Strange Futures Theatre Company: *Slow Cooked Stories*; Perfect Circle: *Much Ado*; Live and Local; Arts Uplift - *Navigating Margaret*; ReAction Theatre Makers.



# Cube people

Our fantastic Cube team included Nicola, our manager; Sarah, our finance and admin officer; Kaz, our café manager and our caretaker, Neil.

They were joined by a small army of casual staff and volunteers, who worked in the café, served on the bar and as stewards at events, helped in the office and who kept our gardens looking lovely.

We're grateful to each and every one of them who help to make the Cube a warm and welcoming place and we know from talking to them that working and volunteering here makes them happy too.

**'I volunteer for gardening at the Cube because I like the ethics of the place and wanted to do something to help the local community. I get a real sense of achievement from my work, and I really enjoy the fact that people come and chat to me while I'm gardening.'** Julie





# What did our users say?

**'Simply the nicest gathering I have been to for years ... a winning formula of nice people, great content, live music, venue and food. Everything was just spot-on.'** Tina



**'Such a friendly welcoming place with interesting music concerts as well as a superb café. Activities and groups too. My daughter has the best memories ever of your lovely venue.'** Sarah

**'A truly magical place. This venue is accessible in every way, has a great garden, murals all over the place, basketball court, fire pit and a great café to boot ... I love it here. Long may their hard work continue and pay off. The effects are felt throughout the community.'** Gareth





# Finance

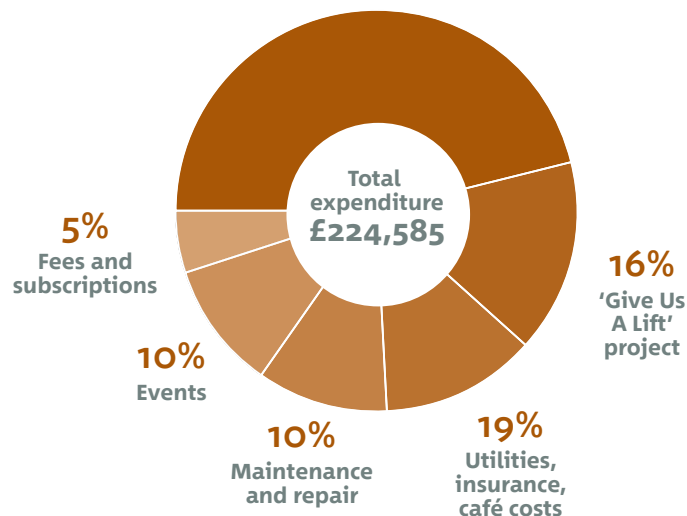
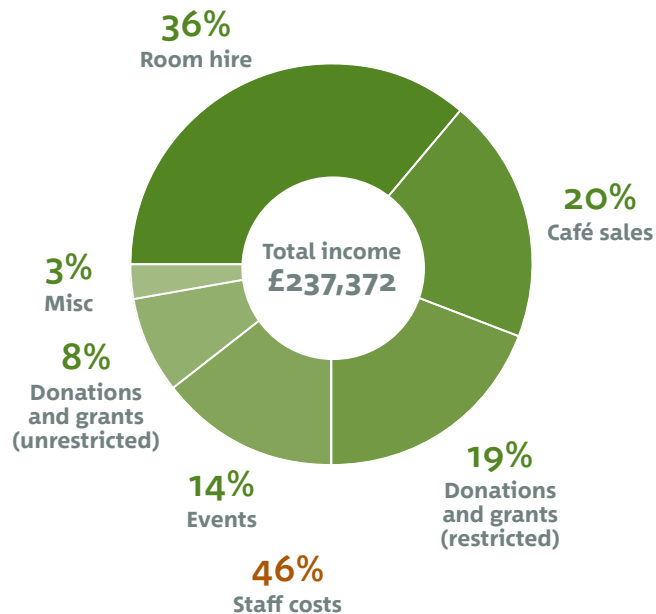
2022 saw us moving out of the turbulent times of the pandemic, but, as a self-funding organisation, it was a challenging year.

The Board has focussed on making sure that Malvern Cube is in a sound financial position, as we have faced increasing costs for the charity.

We review our finances and reserves position quarterly and with the help of staff and volunteers have managed to make our small income stretch a very long way.

We are grateful to grant givers and to the whole Cube community for their support.

**'I'm really pleased to be able to donate to the "Give Us A Lift" campaign. I'm always amazed at how much the Cube manages to do for the community and I'm confident you'll put it to good use.'** Simon



## Warm thanks to our funders and sponsors

**£10,000**

National Lottery Community Fund, for GUAL (Give Us A Lift)

**£5,000**

Bernard Sunley for GUAL

**£5,000**

The Theatre Trust accessibility grant

**£20,100**

MHDC SpaceHive for GUAL

**£5,000**

90 supporters from the local community, raised for GUAL

**£2,000**

Hawthorn Trust

**£5,600**

Elmley Foundation

**£15,000**

Worcestershire Community Foundation

**Priceless**

Malvern Town Council in-kind grant for grasscutting

# Get involved

**'If you're considering volunteering at the Cube, then do it! Everyone is so friendly and welcoming, and it's a good feeling to be able to give something back to your community.' Debbie**



Become a trustee  
Join us as a volunteer  
Hire a room  
Put on an event  
Use our café  
Enjoy a concert  
Join a club  
Spread the word  
Donate



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