

**A NOTE ON THE PROPOSED CONVERSION
TO A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION**

At the AGM the trustees will be proposing that the Landmark Arts Centre become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This note is intended to explain what this means, and why we are proposing it.

The most important thing to understand about the proposed conversion to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) is that the Landmark will remain a charity dedicated to the arts and crafts and to the preservation of our fabulous building and the adjoining woodland.

Concerts, art classes, exhibitions, fairs, the Landmark Choirs, and all the other activities enjoyed by so many of our friends and supporters will continue. We hope there will be more of them!

Likewise, we will retain our commitment to the preservation of the building.

At present, the Landmark is a company limited by guarantee. This was the only sensible legal structure for the organisation when it was established. That means that its regulator is Companies House where we are required to file regular reports on our finances, who the directors are and, in very general terms, what sort of business we are engaged in. The annual report and accounts are sent to Companies House. A company is a “legal person”, so, for example, the company pays for the insurance, the company owns the piano, and the company has the bank account.

The Landmark is also a registered charity. That means that it is also regulated by the Charity Commission. In this case, the directors are the trustees of the charity and we have to file regular reports on our finances and who the trustees are. In this case, our “business” is our charitable activity, namely running the concerts, classes, exhibitions, fair, choirs and all the other activities, as well as maintaining our historic building. The Charity Commission’s emphasis is on public benefit and good management.

The first two words in CIO are very important. The first one says we are charitable. The second one says we are incorporated. That means that all the advantages of being a “legal person” are retained. BUT we only have one regulator, the Charity Commission. We have all the benefits of being a company and none of the disadvantages. We retain all the benefits of being a charity. In effect, we will have only one boss and life will be much easier administratively.

The new Friends scheme will offer comparable benefits to those received by current company members. We hope it will also make it easier for people who want to support the Landmark without becoming members of a company. Above all, we think it will help us all to derive more enjoyment from a wide range of arts activities in our glorious building.

August 2021

Landmark Arts Centre Ltd
Charity No: 1047080
Registered in England No. 3061090
VAT Registration No: 292910880