



A Message from Matt. POP's Chief Exec.

"The week of our Community of Us was amazing. It felt like a true expression of what POP is all about. We brought people and grassroots together around some of the most important issues for which we urgently need solutions. Indy Johar's contribution was incredible and a reminder of how much change we will need to navigate to survive the future. Challenging yes: but being part of, and alongside, grassroots organisations fills me with hope. If we could bottle the spirit of how people come together to do great things for their community the answers would be easy. Instead, we must organise ourselves in ways that allow this energy to flow between and within us."

Quotes From The AGM

Indy Johar

"The new politics; the new future is going to be born in places like this not in Westminster."

Tess Wilmott

"A lot of the things that are happening are not visible. We need to be working together, sharing what we know and showing that money isn't the only form of wealth, that there is an abundance of community and spiritual wealth on which we can draw as well."

Leona Novakova

"We are like beautiful mushrooms! We can't think ourselves out of the problems but when we come together with our dreams, our hopes and our creativity then the magic can happen.."

POP went the AGM! "What we need is an economy of care."



Indy Johar holding the room at the POP AGM

It was an extraordinary week filled with extraordinary people talking about the extraordinary things that they do. Nearly 100 POP members took part in the many different events as part of POP's tenth birthday event The Community of Us. There was a great turnout for our AGM attracted in part, perhaps, by a great lunch and our keynote speaker, Indy Johar, who travelled from London to be with us. His talk was inspiring and illuminating and was based around this: "What if the economy was driven by 'care'?"

Indy described our current economic model as being fuelled by extraction and wondered how might society look if our economy was powered by 'the caring love of all of you'? Addressing an audience of POP members - most of whom are involved with 'grassroots' community projects - Indy made visible the love and care with which our members carry out their work. It was this 'power', not units of labour but units of care, on which, he believed, the economy should be transformed. He predicted a decade of deep transition, yet reassuring us that a brave new

world would emerge powered by "the love and care of our real lives".

It was vital, said Indy, that we were part of the 'big' conversations that are going to affect all our lives. Conversations regarding, for example, the millions of acres of land that will become uninhabitable; the movement of millions of people; the loss of vast swathes of farmland and the escalation of food prices. And then, he said,

"Global heating will create a massive chasm of inequality among citizens across the world." And so, he said, "It is vital for us to understand how the consequences of the climate crisis are going to affect our lives and that of every person on the planet. Anything else is a delusion."

Part of the solution, Indy believes, is to rebuild some of the industries that we have lost and to create bioregional economies, primarily, energy, timber and food. But, in order to succeed, he believes we must move away from traditional business models and embrace

'social enterprise' as the foundation of our next economy. Furthermore, we must recognise the true cost of production, one that includes the environmental and social cost.

"I think our economy of everyday things is going to change. I think we are about to hit a different material economy, one based on the principles of 'love' and 'care'. One that we need to embrace with its new forms of abundance and material consideration."

And it is this which gives Indy hope: the need for some 'pretty extraordinary work' that he believes comes along once in a generation. Indy identified that for ten years POP has been creating and nurturing networks of people and that our members are already armed with the skills of care and empathy that we will need to build a new economy. This will help us to be ready:

"It is our role to build the politics of this, the everyday politics that builds a beautiful life for us and allows everyone to fulfil their potential."

POP At Ten Years Old



POP Team celebrating our 10th Birthday

We now have more than 300 members and we are attracting between five and ten new members a month. The vast majority of these can accurately be described as 'grassroots community projects' each with a turnover of less than £10,000 a year. We have put a great deal of our time and effort over the years into strengthening the ties that hold each of these projects and people to us; to each other and to Plymouth's voluntary and

community sector. We have created and supported networks which have then created other networks, criss-crossing each other like the roots of trees in a forest. After ten years there is a strength in the sector across the city with a healthy ecosystem of people; projects; networks and communities holding, nurturing and supporting each other, particularly those who are small yet significant. We have put our faith in two fundamental things: 'trust' and

'collaboration'. This is how we believe we will succeed to create the change that we know is needed.

Plymouth is an amazing city energised by people and projects that care and by those who are willing to help each other. People like you. Together we can make Plymouth a better city for us all.

Free online events from POP ideas Register at bit.ly/popideasevents

The Challenge of Collaboration

Monday 4 December at 10:30am

A workshop exploring our experience of collaboration in Plymouth.

Good Governance

Tuesday 5 December at 6pm

An online session using real-life examples to improve your governance & trusteeship.

POP Drop-in: Mutley

Tuesday 12 December from 10:30am

Join us at Quaker House to meet the team and find out how we can support your work.