

CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 522045

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

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CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity Number - 522045

Address of Scheme - Fernlea Drive
Scotland Gate
Choppington
Northumberland
NE62 5SS

Trustees - D Ledger
B Storey
J E Young
J G Rice
A Dickson
S J Armstrong
J Foster
N A Little
J Coulter
M Rice
D R Hetherington

Secretary - S N Rice

Treasurer - S J Armstrong

Bankers - Barclays Bank plc
Northumbria House
Cramlington
Northumberland
NE23 6QP

Independent Examiner - S C Hudson FCA
CISWO (Trading) Ltd
The Old Rectory
Rectory Drive
Whiston
Rotherham
S60 4JG

CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

The trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2016. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts which can be found on page 7 and comply with the charities trust deed, applicable law and the Charities SORP FRS 102.

Constitution, Objectives and Activities for the Public Benefit

The charity is constituted by a scheme dated 8 February 2005 and is registered with the Charity Commission under the number 522045.

Its objectives are to provide a social welfare centre for the benefit of the inhabitants of the parish of Choppington and the surrounding area particularly (but not exclusively) those who are members of the mining community. The trustees have referred to the guidance given by the Charity Commission on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and details of the activities that have taken place during the year can be found later in this report.

Organisational Structure

The trustees who have served the charity during the year are shown on page 1.

The charity is responsible for maintaining the premises and grounds in a suitable state of repair for use by those who live in the surrounding area. It raises income through various charitable activities such as hiring out its facilities for use by the public. In addition to this, the charity receives an occupational licence from its connected trading company, Choppington Social Welfare Centre Social Club Ltd and an agreement is in place whereby all the profits of the company are donated to the charity under Gift Aid.

Trustee vacancies are advertised and interested parties are asked to apply in writing. Interviews will be held and suitable candidates are then notified to their nominating body either CISWO, NUM or members. The Trustee Board is made up of equal numbers of each nominating body.

Financial Review

The charity had net outgoing resources of £16,198 (2015 £2,097) from the day to day running of the centre. Income from room hire has decreased by £3,655 to £36,490 (2015 £40,145) and income from catering decreased by £10,412. The trading company Choppington Social Welfare Centre Social Club Ltd made a profit again this year and therefore was able to make a Gift Aid donation to the charity of £7,353 (2015 £7,787). Resources expended decreased by £2,119.

Review of Activities

The centre offers a variety of courses and activities, a licenced bar and community café offering a full range from simple snacks to cooked meals. Some activities have experienced a reduction in numbers attending. A full report from the secretary and Chair of Trustees which gives details of all the activities that have taken place over the year can be found in Appendix A, attached to the accounts.

Sources of Funding

The Charity supports its charitable activities from its fundraising activities. In addition the Charity received a grant from Northumberland County Council of £1,000.

The Trustees' thank all those who have supported the Centre, in particular those funding bodies mentioned above.

Expenditure to Support Key Objectives

All expenditure incurred by the Charity is in pursuance of its charitable objectives.

Continued...

CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

Investment Policy

There is no specific investment policy in place as such but the trustees have taken the sensible approach and placed most of the charity's liquid assets in interest bearing accounts. This will provide a small amount of income for the charity in the form of interest but means that the funds are readily available should they be required.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the trustees to maintain unrestricted funds which are the free reserves of the charity, at a level to provide sufficient funds to cover anticipated administration and support costs. Any additional reserves are held to provide a capital fund for repairs that will be required for the upkeep of the premises, including a future project to provide a MUGA for the community.

Risk Management

The trustees are aware of the operational and financial risks which the charity faces and regularly reviews those risks to mitigate against any impact they may have on the charity. The major risks facing the charity are the continued success of the Social Club from which it derives some of its funding, the support of individuals, groups and the community in using the facilities and the introduction of the younger generation to provide for the future. The trustees works closely with the directors and members to address these risks.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

.....
Trustee

.....
Trustee

21/3/16
.....
Date

.....
Print Name

B. STOREY
.....
Print Name

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE

I report on the accounts of Choppington Social Welfare Centre (Registered Charity Number 522045) for the year ended 31 March 2016 which are set out on pages 5 to 9.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b)) of the Charities Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiners Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements;
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


.....
S.C HUDSON FCA

On behalf of: CISWO (Trading) Ltd
The Old Rectory
Rectory Drive
Whiston
Rotherham
South Yorkshire
S60 4JG


.....
Date

CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

		<u>General</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
		<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<u>Income and Endowments</u>	<u>Notes</u>	£	£	£	£
Income from leisure activities	2	17,881	-	17,881	18,777
Catering takings	9	44,533	-	44,533	54,945
Members' subscriptions		561	-	561	692
Room hire		36,490	-	36,490	40,145
Occupational licence		2,500	-	2,500	2,500
Gift aid donation		7,353	-	7,353	7,787
Investment income		69	-	69	68
Grant received - Northumberland County Council		1,000	-	1,000	2,582
Solar Panel income		3,948	-	3,948	3,914
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		114,335	-	114,335	131,410
Expenditure					
<u>Direct Charitable Expenditure</u>					
Catering purchases		11,175	-	11,175	13,697
Rates and water rates		1,975	-	1,975	2,214
Insurance		2,486	-	2,486	2,729
Light and heat		13,298	-	13,298	13,640
Repairs and maintenance		6,926	-	6,926	13,658
Cleaning and hygiene		2,118	-	2,118	2,309
Sundry expenses		2,338	-	2,338	1,664
		40,316	-	40,316	49,911
<u>Management and Administration</u>					
Salaries and wages		63,695	-	63,695	62,065
Telephone, postage, stationery and adverts		3,631	-	3,631	3,771
Accountancy		1,477	-	1,477	1,448
Entertainment and licences		981	-	981	992
Legal Fees		5,670	-	5,670	-
Total Expenditure		115,770	-	115,770	118,187
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS BEFORE DEPRECIATION		(1,435)	-	(1,435)	13,223
Depreciation	5	2,121	12,642	14,763	15,320
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(3,556)	(12,642)	(16,198)	(2,097)
Fund balances brought forward		375,700	570,708	946,408	948,505
Fund balances carried forward		372,144	558,066	930,210	946,408

CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2016

	Note	<u>2016</u>		<u>2015</u>	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	4		672,708		687,471
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	5	3,704		3,664	
Debtors	6	20,804		21,596	
Cash at bank and in hand	7	241,011		242,045	
		<u>265,519</u>		<u>267,305</u>	
LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors falling due within one year	8	<u>(8,017)</u>		<u>(8,368)</u>	
			257,502		258,937
TOTAL NET ASSETS			<u>930,210</u>		<u>946,408</u>

Represented by:

FUNDS

General funds	372,144	375,700
Restricted funds - Building Fund	558,066	570,708
	<u>930,210</u>	<u>946,408</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Trustee

8 July 2015

Date

Print name

CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS102), the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. The trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate reserves to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of the accounts.

b) Reconciliation with previous General Accepted Accounting Practice

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 a restatement of comparative items was needed. No restatements were required.

c) Income Recognition

Income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations are recognised when they are received.

d) Expenditure Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is possible that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Grants are recognised when they are approved and the intention has been communicated to the recipient

b) Depreciation

Depreciation is charged on all fixed assets with the intention of writing off the cost of each asset over its estimated useful life. The rates applied are as follows:

Buildings	-	2% reducing balance basis
Furniture, fittings and equipment	-	20% reducing balance basis

c) Stocks

Stocks have been valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making adjustments for obsolete and slow moving items.

CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
	£	£
2. <u>INCOME FROM LEISURE ACTIVITIES</u>		
Pilates Group	1,335	1,366
Monday Dance Club	-	279
Tuesday Dance Club	1,945	1,588
Youth Activities (net of related expenses)	9	74
Pool and Snooker	1,414	1,747
Sunday Dance Club	767	976
Carpet Bowls	426	501
Line Dancing	5,598	5,891
Computer Club (net of related expenses)	1,346	1,316
Card Craft	157	582
Choppington Community Choir	1,205	1,099
Centre Activities	4,156	3,583
Pantomime (net of expenses)	(477)	(225)
	<u>17,881</u>	<u>18,777</u>

3. BAR TRADING ACCOUNT

From 1 April 2007, the bar trading activity was hived off into a separate trading company, Choppington Social Welfare Centre Social Club Limited.

The Company traded at a profit this year and therefore is able to make a Gift Aid donation to the charity of £7,353 (2015 £7,787).

	<u>Buildings (Restricted)</u>	<u>Buildings (General)</u>	<u>Furniture & Equipment (Restricted)</u>	<u>Furniture & Equipment (General)</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
4 <u>FIXED ASSETS</u>					
<u>Cost</u>					
At 1 April 2015	735,329	109,609	50,404	7,890	903,232
Additions in year	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2016	<u>735,329</u>	<u>109,609</u>	<u>50,404</u>	<u>7,890</u>	<u>903,232</u>
<u>Depreciation</u>					
At 1 April 2015	146,528	16,564	46,074	6,595	215,761
Charge for the year	11,776	1,861	866	260	14,763
At 31 March 2016	<u>158,304</u>	<u>18,425</u>	<u>46,940</u>	<u>6,855</u>	<u>230,524</u>
<u>Net Book Value</u>					
At 31 March 2016	<u>577,025</u>	<u>91,184</u>	<u>3,464</u>	<u>1,035</u>	<u>672,708</u>
At 31 March 2015	<u>588,801</u>	<u>93,045</u>	<u>4,330</u>	<u>1,295</u>	<u>687,471</u>
		<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>		
		£	£		
5 <u>STOCKS</u>					
Catering stocks		2,326	2,320		
Other stocks		1,378	1,344		
		<u>3,704</u>	<u>3,664</u>		

CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016 (CONTINUED)

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
	£	£
6 <u>DEBTORS</u>		
Trade debtors	5,855	5,824
Balance due from Choppington Social Welfare Centre Social Club Limited	12,391	12,824
Other debtors and prepayments	2,558	2,948
	<u>20,804</u>	<u>21,596</u>
7 <u>CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND</u>		
Barclays Bank - Current account	104,197	105,136
- Deposit account	135,960	135,891
Cash in hand	854	1,018
	<u>241,011</u>	<u>242,045</u>
8 <u>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year</u>		
Trade creditors	3,109	1,786
Taxes and social security	1,642	1,782
Other creditors and accruals	3,266	4,800
	<u>8,017</u>	<u>8,368</u>
9 <u>CATERING TAKINGS</u>		
A breakdown of the catering takings is noted below.		
Catering Income associated with room hire		
Food	22,200	31,176
Tea/Coffee	16,269	18,189
Catering Income from general café activities	6,064	5,580
	<u>44,533</u>	<u>54,945</u>

Secretary & Chairs Report to the Trustee's & Management Committee
For the financial Year 2015/16

I wish I were making a more positive report than I am as cuts continue in the funding that is available within the Voluntary Sector, the uncertainty of it all still hangs around which makes it ever more difficult for smaller groups to plan ahead not knowing if they can survive. The number of Community Groups that contact us asking for free use of a room to hold a meeting is getting to be a regular thing however at the end of the day we are also a Charity and working desperately hard to pay the bills to survive ourselves, every penny counts as they say to get us to that break even point & into the black.

Our main aim as always is to keep offering a very special service to our Centre members & our ever growing list of clients. We know we do deliver a top quality service because of the client feed back which is of course what helps us keeping them coming back time & time again us their much needed support. That makes our clients happy to pass on our good name to other potential new clients. We know from past experience this is probably the best method of advertising we can get however it compliments all of the other advertising that we do.

The ambience of the Centre is still top quality, helped by the replacement of our original carpet in the Bar / Café area. We were able to replace this carpet with the help of a 60% grant from NEAMWTF towards the cost of it.

The way our Staff meet & greet the people as they arrive, they always have a warm and very friendly manner about them, that clients have told us they find very welcoming & makes them feel at ease as soon as they come in the building. The regular training that we provide for staff, along with the type of person that they are combines to make each & everyone of them good at what they deliver as well as being great ambassadors for the Centre.

In our report over last few years, I have said that I felt that the next few of years ahead were going to be a struggle which of course has been true, It's looking very much like this current financial year doesn't look any different. So far we haven't had to look at making any drastic cut backs yet ourselves, it has been a bit of a struggle at times we have made savings where we could without making a huge impact on service delivery, there were times when we could have done with an extra pair of hands.

I can only repeat the words of the last few years we can only hope in the positive sense that the next Budget may relax things slightly but in the Negative way it looks very much likely things will remain the same. As already stated we didn't need to make any drastic cuts but we continue to take an in depth at look at how we did things & make adjustments accordingly. Any possible savings we identify we always try them out before deciding adopting them.

As members are now well aware the Trustees decision to fit Solar panels has been paying dividends (these were commissioned at the end of March 2011), we were fortunate to be among the last customers to be registered for the old FIT payment (feed in tariff) The actual registering was a bit of a challenge, through no fault of our own. However registration was finally confirmed as completed at the end of March 2012 year. The Trustees have also looked at other energy saving methods & have had fitted to the toilet blocks energy saving devices to enable the lights to switch off when not in use until someone walks in the detectors zone to switch the lights on again. They are now engaged in the next phase of energy saving by replacing any light fittings as they become ready to be replaced with LED fittings & lamps.

The Trustee's began looking at developing an extension of the Centre Building but because of the Austerity Measures beginning in approx 2010/11 they decided in their minds the time just wasn't right to proceed with these plans, quite rightly. After making recent enquiries with organisations I asked the Trustee's in September 2014 if we could begin looking at the plans again. They agreed & decided as it was almost 5 years the first thing they needed to look at was to see if the stage the plans were at when they shelved them were still the plans they wanted to continue with. After moving things around & making several changes to the plans they felt they were now at the stage to ask the architects to meet with QS to bring some costing's back to the discussion table. Those Costs were now ready for discussion at the next meeting. The Trustee's are now looking at an alternative method of building the extension, trying to reduce the Carbon foot print as much as possible. They are now hoping to start

with the MUGA area first as this is separate from the main building & wouldn't hamper or interfere at a later stage.

The Horticultural Show was held again last year 1915 with the continued Financial Support of the **NEAMWTF** it has normally taken place as part of the Leek Show whose members raised funds during the year to include the Horticultural Show as part of the week end. As the Leek Show folded it looked very likely there would be no Horticultural Show until this grant was kindly offered. So another very big thank you has to be said for their continued financial support.

We continue as always to look out for new activity's to interest the membership & hopefully our efforts encourage others to come & join us. The **card craft class** we started last year is still in its early stages of increasing numbers, the **Pilate's group** has created a lot of interest in such a short space of time, that has now extended to a second session. We started the **Community Choir** in the middle of April 2013 & it now has over 50 members in the group. They have made such an impact in that short time by giving performance's in public last Christmas they were invited to perform at the switching on of the Christmas lights in Ashington, they have performed along with Backworth Male Voice Choir & Heaton Voices. Many of them made the Choir up that sang at the Miners Picnic along with the Unthank Sisters. Sequence or Old time Dance groups are going through a bad time just now mainly because of their lack of interest in welcoming New members who want to learn to dance. Like a lot of people who have become good at what activity takes their interest they forget about the people who want to learn as they themselves had to do years ago. 2 of our Dance groups ignored the advice given to them during our discussions & paid the penalty of not now having enough members to continue. We are of course looking to build up the group with new members but with us at the Centre in control of the activity & not the user group. Other groups we are still trying to create some interest in are, **Zumba, Yoga & Tai – Chi**. Of course all the other activity's that we've built up & supported over recent years continue to create great interest which are listed as follows

The Training rooms – The computer room continues to be as popular as ever with the help of some very good volunteers namely Rob & the 2 Alans the group are still as keen as ever & growing in numbers. We still bring in tutors when we can to deliver courses, as & when we need them however like everything these days costs are sometimes prohibitive. We have to make sure enough people are enrolled to ensure we can at least cover the costs of the course tutor.

The local College at Ashington has provided tutors in the past but their financial situation is still no different to anyone else, we retain the contact with our Professional Photographers and the standard of work turned out by our group of very keen photographers is amazing. We have had several exhibitions of their work over the last year showing off the excellent standard of work they manage to achieve. The most recent display in the Centre because of popular demand was more "Panoramic Pictures" along with photographs that were altered to resemble "water colours" both these exhibitions created great interest among members & visitors alike.

The New Computer Equipment we replaced is working a treat & is proving popular judging by the work that is being turned out.

The list below will verify the success we have had with courses over the years with such a wide variety of sessions to choose from. The latest course to add to the list is

Pilates – This activity started off on Wednesday evening but huge demand meant we had to find a second session on a different evening both continue to be well attended.

Card Craft Class – This group started off slowly but is now building up in numbers as there are so many different styles to card craft they are as they raise funds purchasing various bits of tools.

"Spanish Lessons – beginners & intermediate" – Art & Drawing – Glass Painting – Sugar Craft – Family History –

First Aid – Progy Mat Making –

Computer Sessions - Introduction to Computers –Introduction to Internet Word Processing Level 2 – ECDL – Spreadsheets – Digital Photography Level one –.

Digital Photography Level Two –Digital Photography Level Three - Microsoft Digital Imaging – Movie Maker 2 –98 File Management –XP File Management- Vista File Management – Windows 7 File Management - ive Image –Nero 6 Reloaded –Picture Publisher –DVD IT –Advanced Camera

Course –Web Page Design –Media Studio Pro –Picture to Exe –. Microsoft Windows Vista –.Build & Maintain –

All of these courses are there to help people become more computer literate to maybe enhance their job potential or to help create a change in job direction. However the majority of clients are taking up computers as a leisure or social time interest through either redundancy or early retirement.

Hopefully we can & will continue to offer the wide range of courses listed above as & when people request them and to constantly be looking for others that will stimulate the interests of the many clients we already have had & the many potential new clients of the future.

In the past 12 months we have once again worked with Northumberland Care Trust delivering training sessions in the Computer Suite, the training sessions available to NCT- NHS staff have normally been listed in an annual booklet distributed to department heads. This year they have gone Digital with a web site dedicated to staff training sessions available, they have to log in & book on line courses that they want. We have hosted several drop in sessions for the LDU and showing them (potential clients) how to navigate the site.

EOTAS – Education other than at school these are retired teachers funded through Education to work with kids that are excluded from school for whatever reason, they work on a one to one basis with them to give some of education support up to exam standard. They hire the small room & the Computer Suite splitting the time between both rooms.

Gateshead Authority – we are still working with them as we have done for the past few years to develop training sessions in Maths & English, Every Child Counts, they have been offering these courses to people in this area of Northumberland. They have sessions booked with us till at least this coming Christmas 2016 & are still advertising others beyond that date.

Sequence Dancing –

Sunday, Tuesday Sequence Dance Groups - both groups have enjoyed an increase in members since the Thursday group finished we have had to intervene & assist them on a couple of occasions by advertising & raising their profile to learning people to new to dancing this has helped increase their membership. We still retain the Thursday slot in the hope we can restart at some point in the near future. We met with both groups to get some advertising put together to recruit new members, over a few months this was fairly successful with about 40 new members coming along between them. Because so many of these new people wanted to learn how to dance, rather than were dancers they were being put off with the style of Sequence dancing plus the groups weren't dedicating enough time to a teaching session as they had been asked to do during our discussions.

Keep Fit – Tai – Chi – Salsa Dancing – are activity's we have run and can pick up when & where the interest arises again.

Line Dancing – Adult sessions still very popular & taking place regularly but parents are encouraged to bring their children along on dance nights & Country Nights alike.

Monday Evenings are well attended by all age groups Parents & Grandparents with kids coming along to join in the fun of the night.

Friday Evenings again are well attended by all age groups Parents & Grandparents with kids coming along to join in the fun of the night.

Saturday Evenings when we don't have a function taking place they organise a dance night with a social evening taking place at least once a month & Bank Holidays as well.

Tuition is given by our own qualified tutor, again this continues to be a very popular activity Michelle renewed her Teachers certificate which she passed with honours Congratulations from everyone.

Junior Sessions these take place on Tuesdays from 4.00pm after school and Saturday afternoons from 3.00pm. The more advanced from the group go out to care homes, day centres, hospitals, school fairs to give displays of their dancing skills. There are a number of champions among them, some of the original members of the group have now left school to either work or moved onto College. Michelle has a new batch of beginners she has started with some as young as 4

Carpet Bowls – this group meet every Wednesday evening, it is a game of skill that has in recent years seen an upsurge in popularity with many of the major tournaments shown on TV. However this group could do with improving its membership.

Veterans Snooker – Match days are Tuesday afternoons but members of the teams (we have 2 an "A" & "B" team) some of the team members meet several times during the week to practice. Vera

Selby who plays for the "A" team is still the only lady snooker player in the Veterans league she has a very impressive web site on her snooker history "B" Team are looking for a couple of new players this season due to retirements.

Computer Group – meet mainly on a Monday evening with special events on Wednesday evenings that is growing in popularity help being given to the beginner by the more advanced of the group & the theme of the training set by the members. 1 of the sessions is set aside for hardware projects from fault finding & repairing to building a computer from a box of parts. A drop in session runs on a Wednesday Afternoon for anyone with a question or not sure what to do next?

NISA Stores – came to see us about hiring a room to hold interview days while they were recruiting staff in the run up to the opening of their New Shop at Guide Post.

Lifeways Care Homes – as they are restricted with room space in the Care Homes they also approached us to provide a room to hold interview days. We find that the Centre lends it's self to these sort of days great with the café area used for the interviewee's to wait, to complete forms prior to their interview and grab a hot or cold drink from the café.

Special one off Events –

- a) Fund Raising for designated Charity – Our members raised money that were split between these organisation's Mac Millan & Blood Red. "Crones & Colitus UK"
- b) Choir Performance – We started our choir in April 2012 they now have approx 50 members on average turning up each week & what a year it's been for them, invited to sing in Sanderson Arcade Morpeth leading up to Christmas, they were invited to Morpeth Gathering to perform, several of them appeared in the choir that sang in the film "A Song for Marion" now out on DVD, Hauling the Lines appeared on TV with Robson Green as he travelled round Northumberland. The choir master Richard Scott was asked to work with the film makers to help with songs the choirs were singing, he also had a cameo role in the film. Christmas 2015 they were asked to do a carol Service in the Centre for Centre members etc & what a success it was, very enjoyable they were asked to do the same again for Christmas 2016, we have asked them to retain the booking as an annual booking in their events diary.
- c) Exhibition of Old Colliery photographs, this display was put together with photo's from a lot of people who all got their property back, updated at intervals
- d) As this last 2 year has seen some special dates in the National Calender of World War history we have had displays of local people who either served in the forces during both World Wars & the Home Guard & Territorials along with how people had to live with ration books etc,etc.
- e) Christmas Pantomime - as popular as ever with the adults as well as the children! This year it was "Jack & the Beanstalk" Comments from people attending are very pleasing and convinced us they are Getting Better every year
- f) Christmas Lunch for Members again took place this year because of the volunteers available to help so we can provide it at a very reasonable cost.
- g) Ciswo – we have hosted several luncheon days on behalf of CISWO bringing invited ex & retired workers together for a lunch a raffle & game of bingo. Numbers attending here have been 60 to 90 we have another 3 booked for later in the year.
- h) Exhibition of old Photographs – Photographs continue to come in all from the local area, people & pits exhibitions, we find that photo's of this sort stir not just memories of time gone by but stimulate discussions of everyone's memories of them. We now have a constant request to show displays of photographs. One of the collection of Photo's we are busy with is "Old British Made Motor Bikes" we have about 20 pics at the moment we would like a few more.
- i) An Exhibition of story boards of Northumbrian poetry, songs etc with Northumbrian music performed in the back ground by Johnny Handel of High Level Ranters fame. **Sadly for the last time as these have now been reclaimed by the secretary of the group who says he had them made.**
- j) DVD & Video Playing of "Times Gone By" made here in the North East, by Northern Heritage who are based at Blagdon Hall. A lot of interest is always shown when these DVD's

are shown. Some people have brought along some of their own film footage of the local area, one interesting one was of footage of the Choppington School.

- k) DVD – we now have several of these discs made about the local coal mining areas of the villages that have disappeared along with the pits. Again always a lot of interest in these DVD's because we now have quite a number of different villages
- l) DVD's of local scenes "Restoring of Newbiggin Beach" "The story of Ellington Colliery" "History of Cambois" & "Sea Coal" all made by local people which no doubt will in time will become part of the local history of our era, all these continue to be popular when shown.
- m) Exhibition of Panoramic Photographs taken by our Computer Group mainly of local scenes, holiday scenes etc.
- n) Line Dance Workshops – in the form of Social Evenings with those attending requesting the music to dance too.
- o) Backworth Male Voice Choir & our own Wansbeck Voices shared an evening of Music with a break mid way so people could mix & chat.
- p) Community Consultation – Housing developer showing plans of the fields they are planning to build houses on.

The Bar continues as operate as normal, to compliment the rest of the activities that the Centre hosts but like everything else during the ongoing financial climate income from the bar has been considerably affected. In an effort to combat the spiralling costs from the brewery on bulk beers we are buying cans a lot cheaper from super markets so that we can offer members the chance to save a little & we can maintain the profit margin.

Hopefully I have covered all activities & training sessions in this report but I apologise if I have inadvertently omitted anyone or anything.

People may get tired of me including this paragraph but I'm sorry as long as I am the secretary I will never ever get tired of making sure its included nor will I forget to mention the importance those grants were that we received from all of the funding agencies **N.E.A.M.W.T.F, Northern Rock, One North East Community Fund, Coalfields Regeneration Trust, G.O.N.E & The Charities Lottery Board**. Without their financial input we would not be enjoying the use of this new centre. There will always be a special thanks go to **The Charities Lottery Board now called The Big Lottery Fund**, they were the first to recognise how good a project we had by awarding us a grant of £265,000. This was approx 1/3 of the estimated cost of the project at that time, they also stuck with us for the 12 months that it took to secure all the remaining funding before the project could start. I think I can safely add at this point that without this confidence by the funders to give the committed investment to build the new Centre, the old Centre would not have survived the test of time.

The past 12 months as well as being a very busy time for us, it has also been a very difficult time too. I have now been connected with the Centre for almost 36 years & in that time I have met many, many people, some becoming good friends as well as active members of the Centre. However as we all get on in years I now have to reflect on the many good members lost in that time. In my experience I find when a partner dies it usually means you lose the surviving partner as an active member as well. My thoughts go out to each & everyone of them & their families along with my sincere apologies that I wasn't able to attend every funeral of every member that has taken place.

During my time with the Centre I have met & worked with some great, amazing people however there is one person who since first meeting him 36yr ago we have become good friends, VBC North East Area Manager. I don't think a week goes by without either one of us contacting the other to pick the others brains & thoughts, sometimes of late I think it was just to make sure the other was at work, much of the time we just talked. When we were putting together the project for the new building as the funding applications was New to everyone VBC included. He insisted when either of us got to know of meetings or Information sessions being hosted by these funding Organisations we would go together me for our own project & he because he had so many other Centre's to motivate to get a project put together.

On 29th July VBC retired that was a very sad day for me (NR) personally, it was also a very sad day for all the Welfare Centre's in general. He was taking with him a lot of history & a wealth of knowledge about the former Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation with him. Have a long & happy retirement Vin you deserve it, I for one will miss our chats together but most of all for the help & confidence you gave to people with your support.

As always at this point there is now only one thing left for me to do and that is to thank each and everyone of you as "Centre Members" who come along week after week to take part in whatever activity you most enjoy. The continued survival of the centre rests with you the people who currently use the facility along with the people you are openly encouraged to bring along with you to promote the Centre, to help keep your Centre Going.

We would encourage everyone if possible to introduce a friend or family member to what we have on offer. But please don't forget to make them Members, its easy to do just fill the application card in, get someone to propose them & don't forget to get someone to second their application as well. Without these the application will be rejected as incomplete by the Trustee's.

I would also like to offer my personal thanks as well as the special thanks of the Trustee's to all those volunteers, the unnamed army, too many to mention personally who come along & give a helping hand, when ever they can, to do what ever they can. It doesn't matter if it's taking the tea order, playing the music, clearing the tables, collecting cups or glasses or helping out with the tuition. Without that voluntary help this centre like many other Centre's would find it very difficult to operate in the successful way that we do, especially during these difficult Financial Times that have been called the " Times of Austerity".

Please remember we are always interested in hearing about any new activities or courses, if there is something that you or a friend would like to become involved in, come along and talk to us about it, we'll do our very best try and make it happen.

If anyone is interested in being a volunteer, Please come and see us, talk it over with us, we can access various training courses to those interested.

Secretary.....S. N. Rice

Chairman.....J. E. Young

V/Chair.....B. Storey