

Company registration number: 01692937  
Charity registration number: 513803

# St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 January 2017

Kingham Accountants Limited  
Chartered Accountants  
161 College Street  
St Helens  
WA10 1TY

**St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association**  
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**St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association**  
**Reference and Administrative Details**

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Charity name</b>                | St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association   |
| <b>Charity registration number</b> | 513803   |
| <b>Company registration number</b> | 01692937   |
| <b>Principal office</b>            | The Old Police Station<br>80 Lark Lane<br>Liverpool<br>L17 8UU   |
| <b>Registered office</b>           | The Old Police Station<br>80 Lark Lane<br>Liverpool<br>L17 8UU   |
| <b>Trustees</b>                    | Mr P Mulhall (Resigned 31 March 2016)<br>Ms E Quantrell<br>Mr J Peers<br>Mr A Catterall<br>Mr A Moore (Appointed 4 April 2016) |
| <b>Secretary</b>                   | Mr G Hale  |
| <b>Bankers</b>                     | HSBC<br>99-101 Lord Street<br>Liverpool<br>L2 6PG  |
| <b>Accountant</b>                  | Kingham Accountants Limited<br>161 College Street<br>St Helens<br>WA10 1TY   |

# **St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association**

## **Trustees' Report**

The Trustees, who are also the Directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 January 2016. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

#### **Registered Charity Number**

513803

#### **Trustees**

J Peers

A Catterall

Ms E Quantrell

P Mulhall (resigned 31 March 2016)

A Moore (Appointed 4 April 2016)

#### **Independent Examiner**

P Kingham

Registered Auditor

Kingham Accountants Ltd

161 College Street

St Helens

WA10 1TY

### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

#### **Governing Document**

The Charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Risk Management**

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

#### **Objects of the Charity**

The objects of the Charity are to promote the benefits for the inhabitants of St Michaels ward and the neighbourhood without distinction of sex or political, religious or other opinions by associating the local authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for the recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.

### **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

# **St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association**

## **Trustees' Report**

### **Review of Activities and Future Performance**

The incoming resources of the Charity for the year amounted to £148,526 (2016: £137,539). After deducting expenditure, the Charity recorded a deficit of £20,240 (2016: deficit £27,472). This has been deducted from the Charity's Accumulated Fund. The balance on the Accumulated Fund at the year-end amounted to £272,616 (2016: £292,855).

A detailed review of the Charity's activities for the year and developments planned for the future is submitted as a separate document annually to the Charities Commission. Copies can be downloaded from the Charities Commission website or obtained from the Charity's office.

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

#### **Reserves Policy**

The Trustees consider that it is desirable for the Charity to hold 'free' reserves as a contingency against the insecurity of its core funding and also to cover potential liability for redundancy payments. 'Free' reserves are defined as money that may be applied for the general purposes of the Charity, unlike restricted funds, which may only be applied for a specific purpose.

It is current policy that these reserves should not be less than 6 months of existing core running costs. This policy is reviewed annually by the Trustees.

#### **Investment policy and objectives**

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Charity has the power to make any investment which the Trustees see fit.

#### **Small company provisions**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Board on 28 June 2017 and signed on its behalf by:

.....

Mr G Hale  
Secretary

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 January 2017, which are set out on pages 5 to 11.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a 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 the 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 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charitieshave 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.

.....  
Paul Kingham FCA  
Kingham Accountants Limited  
Chartered Accountants

161 College Street  
St Helens  
WA10 1TY

28 June 2017

**St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association**  
**Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) for the**  
**Year Ended 31 January 2017**

|   | Unrestricted<br>Fund | Restricted<br>Fund    | Total Funds<br>2017   | Total Funds<br>2016   |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Note                                    | £                    | £                     | £                     | £                     |
| <b>Incoming resources</b>               |                      |                       |                       |                       |
| Incoming Resources from Generated Funds | 53,747               | 94,779                | 148,526               | 137,539               |
| Total incoming resources                | <u>53,747</u>        | <u>94,779</u>         | <u>148,526</u>        | <u>137,539</u>        |
| <b>Resources expended</b>               |                      |                       |                       |                       |
| Charitable Activities                   | 3 52,278             | 116,488               | 168,766               | 165,011               |
| Total resources expended                | <u>52,278</u>        | <u>116,488</u>        | <u>168,766</u>        | <u>165,011</u>        |
| Net expenditure before transfers        | 1,469                | (21,709)              | (20,240)              | (27,472)              |
| <b>Transfers</b>                        |                      |                       |                       |                       |
| Gross transfers between funds           | <u>-</u>             | <u>-</u>              | <u>-</u>              | <u>-</u>              |
| Net movements in funds                  | 1,469                | (21,709)              | (20,240)              | (27,472)              |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds</b>          |                      |                       |                       |                       |
| Total funds brought forward             | <u>43,222</u>        | <u>249,634</u>        | <u>292,856</u>        | <u>320,327</u>        |
| Total funds carried forward             | <u><u>44,691</u></u> | <u><u>227,925</u></u> | <u><u>272,616</u></u> | <u><u>292,855</u></u> |

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 7 to 11 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association (Registration number: 01692937)**

**Balance Sheet as at 31 January 2017**

|   |      | 2017           |                       | 2016           |                       |
|---|------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
|   | Note | £              | £                     | £              | £                     |
| <b>Fixed assets</b>                                   |      |                |                       |                |                       |
| Tangible assets                                       | 8    |                | 167,713               |                | 170,308               |
| <b>Current assets</b>                                 |      |                |                       |                |                       |
| Debtors   | 9    | 3,562          |                       | 290            |                       |
| Cash at bank and in hand                              |      | <u>105,916</u> |                       | <u>127,032</u> |                       |
|   |      | 109,478        |                       | 127,322        |                       |
| <b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b> | 10   | <u>(4,575)</u> |                       | <u>(4,775)</u> |                       |
| <b>Net current assets</b>                             |      |                | <u>104,903</u>        |                | <u>122,547</u>        |
| <b>Net assets</b>                                     |      |                | <u><u>272,616</u></u> |                | <u><u>292,855</u></u> |
| <b>The funds of the charity:</b>                      |      |                |                       |                |                       |
| <b>Restricted fund</b>                                |      |                | 227,925               |                | 249,633               |
| <b>Unrestricted fund</b>                              |      |                |                       |                |                       |
| Unrestricted income funds                             |      |                | <u>44,691</u>         |                | <u>43,222</u>         |
| <b>Total charity funds</b>                            |      |                | <u><u>272,616</u></u> |                | <u><u>292,855</u></u> |

For the financial year ended 31 January 2017, the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the Board on 28 June 2017 and signed on its behalf by:

.....  
Mr J Peers  
Trustee

The notes on pages 7 to 11 form an integral part of these financial statements.



# St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 January 2017

### 1 Accounting policies

#### Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005)', issued in March 2005, applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act 2006.

#### Fund accounting policy

Further details of each fund are disclosed in note 13.

#### Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

#### Fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £0 or more are initially recorded at cost.

#### Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Freehold interest in land and buildings<br>(including heritage) | 4% straight line     |
| Plant and machinery including motor<br>vehicles                 | 25% reducing balance |
| Fixtures, fittings and equipment                                | 25% reducing balance |

#### Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged in the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

### 2 Grants receivable

|                         | Unrestricted<br>Fund<br>£ | Restricted<br>Fund<br>£ | Total Funds<br>2017<br>£ | Total Funds<br>2016<br>£ |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| City Council grants     | -                         | 72,857                  | 72,857                   | 73,935                   |
| Grants - other agencies | 11,332                    | 1,857                   | 13,189                   | 3,320                    |
|                         | <u>11,332</u>             | <u>74,714</u>           | <u>86,046</u>            | <u>77,255</u>            |

**St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 January 2017**

..... continued

**3 Total resources expended**

|                                       | General | Restricted Fund | Total   |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
|                                       | £       | £               | £       |
| <b>Direct costs</b>                   |         |                 |         |
| Employment costs                      | 12,936  | 84,227          | 97,163  |
| Establishment costs                   | 28,004  | 14,495          | 42,499  |
| Repairs and maintenance               | 775     | 955             | 1,730   |
| Office expenses                       | 1,597   | 979             | 2,576   |
| Subscriptions and donations           | -       | 212             | 212     |
| Equipment hire                        | 929     | -               | 929     |
| Sundry and other costs                | (43)    | 164             | 121     |
| Cleaning                              | 4,205   | 1,069           | 5,274   |
| Accountancy fees                      | 2,280   | -               | 2,280   |
| Bank charges                          | -       | 42              | 42      |
| Depreciation of tangible fixed assets | 1,595   | 14,345          | 15,940  |
|                                       | 52,278  | 116,488         | 168,766 |

**4 Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

No trustees received any remuneration during the year.

**5 Net expenditure**

Net expenditure is stated after charging:

|   | 2017   | 2016   |
|---|--------|--------|
|   | £      | £      |
| Hire of other assets - operating leases | 929    | 844    |
| Depreciation of owned assets            | 15,940 | 16,552 |
|   | 15,940 | 16,552 |

**6 Employees' remuneration**

The aggregate payroll costs of these persons were as follows:

|                    | 2017   | 2016   |
|--------------------|--------|--------|
|                    | £      | £      |
| Wages and salaries | 93,932 | 77,066 |
|                    | 93,932 | 77,066 |

**St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 January 2017**

..... continued

**7 Taxation**

The company is a registered charity and is, therefore, exempt from taxation.

**8 Tangible fixed assets**

|                       | <b>Freehold<br/>interest in land<br/>and buildings<br/>(including<br/>heritage assets)<br/>£</b> | <b>Plant and<br/>machinery<br/>including<br/>motor vehicles<br/>£</b> | <b>Fixtures,<br/>fittings and<br/>equipment<br/>£</b> | <b>Total<br/>£</b> |
|-----------------------|--|---|---|--------------------|
| <b>Cost</b>           |  |   |   |                    |
| As at 1 February 2016 | 335,928  | 6,563   | 55,777  | 398,268            |
| Additions             | -  | -   | 12,648  | 12,648             |
| As at 31 January 2017 | <u>335,928</u>   | <u>6,563</u>  | <u>68,425</u>   | <u>410,916</u>     |
| <b>Depreciation</b>   |  |   |   |                    |
| As at 1 February 2016 | 177,373  | 3,794   | 46,793  | 227,960            |
| Charge for the year   | 9,143  | 692   | 5,408   | 15,243             |
| As at 31 January 2017 | <u>186,516</u>   | <u>4,486</u>  | <u>52,201</u>   | <u>243,203</u>     |
| <b>Net book value</b> |  |   |   |                    |
| As at 31 January 2017 | <u>149,412</u>   | <u>2,077</u>  | <u>16,224</u>   | <u>167,713</u>     |
| As at 31 January 2016 | <u>158,555</u>   | <u>2,769</u>  | <u>8,984</u>  | <u>170,308</u>     |

**9 Debtors**

|               | <b>2017<br/>£</b> | <b>2016<br/>£</b> |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Other debtors | <u>3,562</u>      | <u>290</u>        |

**St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 January 2017**

..... *continued*

**10 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

|                              | <b>2017</b>  | <b>2016</b>  |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
|                              | <b>£</b>     | <b>£</b>     |
| Taxation and social security | 80           | 80           |
| Accruals and deferred income | 4,495        | 4,695        |
|                              | <u>4,575</u> | <u>4,775</u> |

**11 Members' liability**

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

**12 Related parties**

**Controlling entity**

The charity is controlled by the trustees who are all directors of the company.

**St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 January 2017**

..... continued

**13 Analysis of funds**

|                                | At 1<br>February<br>2016 | Incoming<br>resources | Resources<br>expended | At 31<br>January<br>2017 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
|                                | £                        | £                     | £                     | £                        |
| <b>Unrestricted Fund</b>       |                          |                       |                       |                          |
| General Fund                   | 43,222                   | 53,747                | (52,278)              | 44,691                   |
| <b>Restricted Fund</b>         |                          |                       |                       |                          |
| Community Horticulture Project | 2,829                    | 1,210                 | (4,176)               | (137)                    |
| Building Fund                  | 159,251                  | -                     | (9,840)               | 149,411                  |
| Pre-School Club                | 77,856                   | 83,769                | (91,714)              | 69,911                   |
| Council Neighbourhood Fund     | 4,937                    | -                     | -                     | 4,937                    |
| LLAWRAC                        | 4,761                    | 9,800                 | (10,758)              | 3,803                    |
|                                | <u>249,634</u>           | <u>94,779</u>         | <u>(116,488)</u>      | <u>227,925</u>           |
|                                | <u>292,856</u>           | <u>148,526</u>        | <u>(168,766)</u>      | <u>272,616</u>           |

**14 Net assets by fund**

|   | Unrestricted<br>Fund | Restricted Fund | Total Funds<br>2017 | Total Funds<br>2016 |
|---|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|   | £                    | £               | £                   | £                   |
| Tangible assets                                   | 4,787                | 162,926         | 167,713             | 170,308             |
| Current assets                                    | 44,479               | 64,999          | 109,478             | 127,322             |
| Creditors: Amounts falling due<br>within one year | (4,575)              | -               | (4,575)             | (4,775)             |
| Net assets  | <u>44,691</u>        | <u>227,925</u>  | <u>272,616</u>      | <u>292,855</u>      |

**St. Michael's & Lark Lane Community  
Association (SMLLCA)**

**Centre: The Old Police Station  
80 Lark Lane  
Liverpool L17 8UU  
Tel: 0151 728 7884  
e-mail: grahamhale@btconnect.com**

**Website: [www.larklanecomcentre.org.uk](http://www.larklanecomcentre.org.uk)  
Facebook: Lark Lane Community Centre**

**A Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. Company No. 1692937  
A Registered Charity No. 513803.**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO THE  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 28TH 2017**

**STATEMENT OF AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

SMLLCA was founded in May 1976, when two recently formed community groups merged, to tackle a variety of local problems, especially the serious lack of community facilities and activities.

SMLLCA exists to provide a wide range of services, and to meet other needs for the residents of our catchment area, in a friendly and welcoming environment.

The Association's work covers the whole age range, with a strong emphasis on work with disadvantaged people, but always responsive to the changing needs of the Community.

A Policy of Equality of Opportunity is actively pursued throughout the operation and activities of the Association, relating both to staff and users.

**HOW THE CHARITY IS ORGANISED**

The Executive Committee is composed of volunteers from the local community with an interest in, and a commitment to, the running of SMLLCA. Anyone who is, or who has agreed to be, a member of the Association can apply to become a member of the Executive Committee, either by election at the Annual General Meeting, or by co-option at any other time.

During the year the role of the Executive Committee is to make plans, and oversee their implementation, for the running of the Community Centre and the Association's other interests, including events occurring elsewhere in the Community.

Responsibility for the detailed administration of the Association's business may be delegated to sub committees which include members of the Executive Committee, relevant members of staff and other interested persons. Sub committees may meet on a regular basis, or be convened as required. Although we receive a great deal of help and support from both our ward councillors and officers of the City Council, we do not receive any core funding from public sources. Instead we rely financially on rental income from the building including user groups, project funding and our own

fund raising activities undertaken throughout the year. Of these the most important are the monthly fleamarkets. Numerous other fund raising initiatives are regularly undertaken, and most of our activities and services rely on these fundraising activities. The balance of our core costs has been met by donations, without which our services would suffer significantly. Our activities and services rely heavily on the input of volunteers, without whom we would not have such a thriving and active Community Centre. We are always looking for new volunteers for a variety of roles.

**Membership** of the Association is open to all who live or work in the area of benefit, and is by application to the Executive Committee. All paid up members are eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting. Affiliated groups are entitled to 2 votes each. The membership fee is currently £2 a year, with no charge made to affiliated groups.

**Reserves Policy.** SMLLCA believes it is desirable to hold “free reserves” as a contingency against the insecurity of its funding, and potential redundancy commitments. These should be not less than six months of core running costs, although in the current climate we realise that the optimum level may not always be achievable. This is in line with the recommendations of the Charity Commission.

## **DEVELOPMENTS, ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE PAST YEAR**

**Regular Activities** held in the Community Centre currently include:

the Pre School Centre (nursery sessions and lunchtime care), Parent/Carer and Toddlers Group, the Senior Citizens Group (comprising a twice weekly lunch club, weekly bingo sessions and occasional events and outings), the Larkettes Majorette troupes, Junior Football Teams, Pilates Classes, Boot Camp and other Keep Fit Classes, Over 50's Exercise Classes and Social Afternoons, Pottery Workshops, Junior Drama Classes, Middle Eastern Dance Classes, West African Style Drumming Workshops, Music Lessons, Writers' Workshops, Art Classes and Exhibitions, Spanish Lessons, Yoga, Qi Jong, Meditation Groups, Stained Glass Workshops, Massage, Reiki, Alexander Technique and various other therapies.

Many local voluntary groups regularly hold meetings in our Centre, including Lark Lane Neighbourhood Association and other Residents Groups, Housing Association Tenants Groups, local campaign groups including “Save the Library Campaign“, Lark Lane Housing Co-op, Hesketh Street Housing Co-op and University of the Third Age Dante Discussion Group. The St. Michael's Ward councillors hold weekly surgeries in our front reception area.

Fleamarkets and Craft Fairs are held monthly, and various other events at regular intervals have included Record/CD/Video Fairs, Belly Dance and Yoga Conventions, Dance Workshops, Lantern Making Workshops, Coeliac Food Fairs, Healing Days, Family Fun Days, Jumble Sales, Health Promotion Events, Jumble Sales, Post Card Fairs, Paranormal Investigation Nights and NCT Nearly New Sales.

We host the local Polling Station.

The Centre is also used regularly for meetings by a large number of other local groups, including Narcotics Anonymous, Cocaine Anonymous and Womens Groups.

Other bookings have included numerous children's parties, a sports day, banner making workshops, public meetings, music recitals and fund raising concerts, Halloween and several Christmas Parties, get togethers for the local French Community, filming, drama group and music group rehearsals.

One off events have included a medium event with the “Psychic Academy”, a baby shower and baby naming ceremony (both new to us!)

Several local charitable groups have used our centre for fundraising events including the “Yes to Life

Group”.

Training Courses are regularly hosted and more are planned for the coming year. We held a “Food Safety Course” which has helped both our Nursery and Senior Citizens Lunch Clubs achieve the maximum 5 star Food Hygiene Ratings from the Food Standards Agency. The local Co-Op store has also used our premises for training new staff.

**Tenants** of the Association, housed in the Community Centre, are currently Sefton Park Day Centre, The Photographic Workshops, South Liverpool Epilepsy Self Help Group, Liverpool Lantern Company, The Calm Collective, “Safehands“, Sunday Furniture Shop, Several Therapists, Phil’s Picture Palace, and offices and workshops occupied by local Community Enterprises.

The following **Representative Members** are groups affiliated to the Community Association, with whom we generally have close links: Friends of Tramway Road Playing Fields, Lark Lane Housing Co-Op, Lark Lane Pottery Group, Sefton Park Palm House Preservation Trust, Senior Citizens Group, South Liverpool Epilepsy Self Help Group, Waverley Nursing Home, Eco-Therapy Group, Hesketh Street Housing Co-Op, Pelham Grove Nursing Home, Mersey Bowmen Tennis Club, the Calm Centre Collective, Liverpool Lantern Company, Sunflowers Cancer Support, Fulwood Walkway Committee, Calidad Events, Windbourne Residents Community and the Friends of the Festival Gardens.

## **KEY SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **The Pre School Centre**

Providing Nursery Education for 2 - 4 year olds, our Nursery, currently rated as “Good” by OFSTED has enjoyed another busy and successful year, thanks largely to the skills, hard work and dedication of its staff. An extremely wide and varied curriculum is followed with specialist topics changing each month. Despite the end of funding for our “Horticultural Project” we have been able to continue funding the gardening club, which along with the forest school is very popular with the children. The premises are constantly being improved and updated and our centre is now held up by the local authority as a model of excellence. The popularity of our nursery means that we often have long waiting lists and as the number of hours nursery education is funded by the Government is about to increase, there will be even more demand for our services.

The Toddlers Group is also an extremely important part of our pre school services. Not only does it provide an opportunity for the very young to mix together in a stimulating and learning environment, it also provides a great deal of support to new, and very often socially isolated, parents. Run entirely by tireless volunteers, the group also needs to do a lot of fundraising to replace play equipment and craft materials. Not only do they manage to achieve this every year, they also manage to donate very generously to the running costs of our Senior Citizens Group.

### **Activities for Young People**

Although the City Council’s Youth Service, which used to fund us substantially, has had it’s budget decimated by public spending cuts, our centre is still well used by young people.

The “Theatre on Foot” drama company runs a very successful and popular young person’s theatre here. Up to 30 teenagers, and many younger people, come here for rehearsals twice a week. They have been working hard since last November, and in July this year will be presenting a public performance in Woolton Woods. As well as improving their acting skills they are also involved in the technical side of the production.

We are also providing premises for a local “Home Education” group. The children and young people come here for drama workshops each week, and Spanish classes are also held here. They have



also been using the centre for art classes.

The Larkettes majorette troupe continues to attract a large number of children and young people of all ages. From Easter until the end of September they take part in competitions each weekend thanks to the tireless efforts of a band of volunteers. In order to keep costs for the children and their families to an absolute minimum, the group is constantly undertaking fundraising activities to make it all possible.

On a sadder note, the “Bright Kids After School” group, which has been providing a homework club and varied activities here for several years, has had their OFSTED registration suspended because our premises are considered to be unsuitable. The issue is that for the first hour of their sessions they have to share the same main entrance as our nursery, and unlike the nursery they do not have their own locked room. This is frustrating because for almost 20 years the arrangement has been acceptable to OFSTED and now suddenly it’s not. We have suggested several ways of ensuring that all the children are safe and secure but so far all suggestions and improvements we can make have failed to persuade them.

### **The Advice Centre**

Our Advice Centre, LLAWRACC, has again had a very busy and productive year. The advice offered ranges from welfare rights, to debt, housing and tribunal advice. The service helps to maximise the incomes of some of our most vulnerable residents by guiding them through the complex welfare benefits system to ensure they receive their full entitlement. Our statistics show that the cases we deal with most often concern Income Support/Job Seekers Allowance, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit and Disability Benefits. Although we do not always hear about the outcomes of individual cases, we estimate from experience, that we have been instrumental in helping our clients recover a total of around £928,000 over the course of the year.

We are able to offer this service in wards where the City Councillors have been able to provide us with financial aid through their “Neighbourhood Funds”. We have been fortunate this year in also receiving financial assistance from LCVS and the Liverpool Housing trust.

### **Senior Citizens Group**

One of the key services we provide continues to be this twice weekly lunch club. We welcome all comers but we are particularly keen to cater for people who, due to poor health, have difficulty getting out without help including the transport provided by our minibus. We are pleased that two local care homes bring along some of their residents who also welcome the chance to get out and meet different people. We held our annual trip to Llandudno, had a very successful Christmas Party and welcomed several visitors to our sessions.

### **Community Horticulture Project - “Growing Together”**

With funding from the NHS this project ran very successfully until the end of February this year. 60 people took part, either in our own horticultural training area or elsewhere in the community.

Unfortunately due to a funding crisis in the Liverpool NHS CCG, it has not been possible to apply for further funding from this source. The project continues to run, however, run mainly by volunteers. Work includes get togethers once a month at our site by St Michael’s Station and enough people have been turning up to keep the area well maintained.

## **SOME OTHER ACTIVITIES AND NEWS FROM THE CENTRE**

### **Co-op**

This year we have been very generously supported by the Co-op, one of whose stores is located directly across the road from our centre. They have donated a total of £6,000 towards various projects in the centre, with money coming from both their membership scheme and the sale of plastic bags. This has increased activity greatly. The local staff have agreed to support us further and we hope to receive more donations later in the year.

### **“Fairshare”**

This charity organises distribution of food from supermarkets, which would otherwise end up in skips, to local charitable centres. We have been accepted on the scheme to receive food from 2 local Tesco stores, and have been told that this should start in about a month’s time.

We have also applied to our local Tesco store for money from their community fund (again funded from the sale of plastic bags). If successful the money will be for redecoration of our main halls.

### **Paranormal Investigation Nights**

These are being held here by local group “Deadlive” on an increasingly frequent basis. They tell us that the “Old Police Station” is the most interesting and eventful of all the various venues they use. So far we are happy to report that these strange happenings have not scared off any of our regular service users.

We continue to receive regular visitors to our “Maybrick Information Centre” in the cell once occupied by Florence Maybrick, convicted of murdering her husband James, who many believe to have been Jack the Ripper. We welcome visitors whenever our office at the front of the building is open.

### **Lark Lane Pottery**

Running 7 sessions a week to satisfy demand, our pottery continues to be very busy and productive. When BBC2 shows it pottery throw down competition, we get inundated with budding potters and have to open a waiting list.

This year our potters again staged an exhibition in the local arts centre (Arts Hub 47), where a large number of people were able to view a very impressive and varied selection of the work produced here.

### **Pension Scheme**

To comply with recent changes in legislation, we are now operating an occupational pension scheme for our employees. All 4 of our full time members of staff have enrolled.

### **Health Promotion**

The centre continues to host a wide range of fitness and health improvement sessions. Healthiness Ltd runs several classes a week including for the elderly and people with severe health problems. We also host the ever popular “Healing Days”, Boot Camp keep fit and a large variety of therapists.

### **Representation**

SMLLCA continues to be involved with numerous other organisations both within the local neighbourhood and city wide, and is represented on the committees of several other groups. These include Citizens Advocacy, Liverpool Mental Health Consortium, Carers Association, Sefton Park Advisory Forum and Mersey Regional Epilepsy Association. Our affiliations include LCVS, Advice UK, Community Transport UK, Early Years Partnership and the South Central Community Transport.

### **Financial Policy**

The Independently Examined and Prepared Accounts detail the income and expenditure of all financial transactions under the direct control of the Executive Committee.

We are extremely grateful to the following, who have provided either financial assistance or donations in kind during the past year:

NHS, Liverpool Clinical Commissioning Group  
L.C.V.S

St Michael's Ward Councillors' Neighbourhood Fund: towards Advice Centre Costs  
Kensington Ward Councillors' Neighbourhood Fund (Advice Centre)  
Co-op Food  
Department for Transport (Bus Service Operators' Grant)  
Lark Lane Housing Co-Op  
Sefton Park Allotments  
Hesketh Street Housing Co-Op  
Lark Lane Scribblers  
Sefton Park Day Centre  
Liverpool Housing Trust  
Liverpool City Council  
Toddlers Group  
Overseas Restaurant  
Members of our Senior Citizens Group  
Lodge Lane Superstore  
Several Anonymous Donors  
Plus many other members of our local community whose donations in cash and kind help greatly to  
keep our services going.

**The Executive Committee** is always eager to welcome new members, who are prepared to commit time and energy to furthering the aims of the Association. Our meetings are friendly and relaxed. It is important for us to be as representative of the local community as possible and new ideas are always needed to keep us moving forward. Please let us know if you are interested.

The Committee Members are currently: Mr. A. Catterall, Mr. J. Cullen, Mr. D. Fraser  
Rev. K. Hitchman, Ms. N. Hennessey, Ms. K. Milner, Mr. A. Moore,  
Mr. P. Mulhall, Mr. J. Peers, Ms. E. Quantrell and Ms. J. Swanson