

CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 522045

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

INDEX

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
Legal and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' Report	2 - 3
Independent Examiner's Report	4
Statement of Financial Activities	5
Balance Sheet	6
Notes to the accounts	7 - 9

## 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 (Died 15/7/2017) A Hogg (Appointed 1 May 2016)
Secretary	- S N Rice
Treasurer	- S J Armstrong
Bankers	- Barclays Bank plc Northumbria House Cramlington Northumberland NE23 6QP
Independent Examiner	- J Wallage 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 2017**

The trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2017. 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 £8,866 (2016 £16,198) from the day to day running of the centre. Income from room hire has decreased by £4,145 to £32,345 (2016 £36,490) whilst income from catering increased by £9,820. 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 £7,823 (2016 £7,353). Resources expended decreased by £742.

#### **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 North East Area Miners Welfare Trust Fund of £2,880, which will be spent in the next financial year.

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 2017

**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

Print Name

Print Name

Date

**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 2017 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.



13/9/2017

**J Wallage FCA**

Date

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

**CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017**

		<b><u>General</u></b>	<b><u>Restricted</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
		<b><u>Funds</u></b>	<b><u>Funds</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>	<b><u>2016</u></b>
<b><u>Income and Endowments</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>	<b><u>£</u></b>	<b><u>£</u></b>	<b><u>£</u></b>	<b><u>£</u></b>
Income from leisure activities	2	18,723	-	18,723	17,881
Catering takings	3	54,353	-	54,353	44,533
Members' subscriptions		636	-	636	561
Room hire		32,345	-	32,345	36,490
Occupational licence		2,500	-	2,500	2,500
Gift aid donation		7,823	-	7,823	7,353
Investment income		51	-	51	69
Grant received		-	-	-	1,000
Solar Panel income		3,996	-	3,996	3,948
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>120,427</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>120,427</b>	<b>114,335</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>					
<b><u>Direct Charitable Expenditure</u></b>					
Catering purchases		10,095	-	10,095	11,175
Rates and water rates		2,235	-	2,235	1,975
Insurance		2,647	-	2,647	2,486
Light and heat		13,900	-	13,900	13,298
Repairs and maintenance		9,259	-	9,259	6,926
Cleaning and hygiene		1,983	-	1,983	2,118
Sundry expenses		863	-	863	2,338
		<b>40,982</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>40,982</b>	<b>40,316</b>
<b><u>Management and Administration</u></b>					
Salaries and wages		66,482	-	66,482	63,695
Telephone, postage, stationery and adverts		4,091	-	4,091	3,631
Accountancy		1,507	-	1,507	1,477
Entertainment and licences		1,199	-	1,199	981
Legal Fees		767	-	767	5,670
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>115,028</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>115,028</b>	<b>115,770</b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS BEFORE DEPRECIATION</b>		<b>5,399</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,399</b>	<b>(1,435)</b>
Depreciation	5	2,031	12,234	14,265	14,763
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>3,368</b>	<b>(12,234)</b>	<b>(8,866)</b>	<b>(16,198)</b>
Fund balances brought forward		372,144	558,066	930,210	946,408
<b>Fund balances carried forward</b>		<b>375,512</b>	<b>545,832</b>	<b>921,344</b>	<b>930,210</b>

**CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE**

**BALANCE SHEET**

**AS AT 31 MARCH 2017**

	Note	<u>2017</u>		<u>2016</u>	
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	5		658,443		672,708
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Stocks	6	4,122		3,704	
Debtors	7	27,418		20,804	
Cash at bank and in hand	8	243,106		241,011	
		<u>274,646</u>		<u>265,519</u>	
<b>LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
Creditors falling due within one year	9	(11,745)		(8,017)	
			262,901		257,502
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>			<u><u>921,344</u></u>		<u><u>930,210</u></u>

Represented by:

**FUNDS**

General funds	375,512	372,144
Restricted funds - Building Fund	545,832	558,066
	<u><u>921,344</u></u>	<u><u>930,210</u></u>

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

Trustee

Date

Print name



**CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017**

**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) 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.

**c) 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.

**d) 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

**e) Stocks**

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

**2. INCOME FROM LEISURE ACTIVITIES**

	<b><u>2017</u></b>	<b><u>2016</u></b>
	£	£
Pilates Group	1,455	1,335
Tuesday Dance Club	1,878	1,945
Youth Activities (net of related expenses)	-	9
Pool and Snooker	1,935	1,414
Sunday Dance Club	945	767
Carpet Bowls	370	426
Line Dancing	5,980	5,598
Computer Club (net of related expenses)	1,203	1,346
Card Craft	-	157
Choppington Community Choir	1,260	1,205
Centre Activities	4,159	4,156
Pantomime (net of expenses)	(462)	(477)
	<u>18,723</u>	<u>17,881</u>

**CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017**

<b>3. <u>CATERING TAKINGS</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b> £	<b><u>2016</u></b> £
Catering Income associated with room hire		
Food	29,212	22,200
Tea/Coffee	20,112	16,269
Catering Income from general café activities	5,029	6,064
	<u>54,353</u>	<u>44,533</u>

**4. 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 £7,823 (2016 £7,353).

<b>5. <u>FIXED ASSETS</u></b>	<b><u>Buildings</u></b> <b><u>(Restricted)</u></b> £	<b><u>Buildings</u></b> <b><u>(General)</u></b> £	<b><u>Furniture &amp;</u></b> <b><u>Equipment</u></b> <b><u>(Restricted)</u></b> £	<b><u>Furniture &amp;</u></b> <b><u>Equipment</u></b> <b><u>(General)</u></b> £	<b><u>Total</u></b> £
<u>Cost</u>					
At 1 April 2016	735,329	109,609	50,404	7,890	903,232
Additions in year	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2017	<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 2016	158,304	18,425	46,940	6,855	230,524
Charge for the year	11,541	1,824	693	207	14,265
At 31 March 2017	<u>169,845</u>	<u>20,249</u>	<u>47,633</u>	<u>7,062</u>	<u>244,789</u>
<u>Net Book Value</u>					
At 31 March 2017	<u>565,484</u>	<u>89,360</u>	<u>2,771</u>	<u>828</u>	<u>658,443</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>

<b>6. <u>STOCKS</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b> £	<b><u>2016</u></b> £
Catering stocks	2,641	2,326
Other stocks	1,481	1,378
	<u>4,122</u>	<u>3,704</u>

**7. DEBTORS**

Trade debtors	11,490	5,855
Balance due from Choppington Social Welfare Centre Social Club Limited	12,861	12,391
Other debtors and prepayments	3,067	2,558
	<u>27,418</u>	<u>20,804</u>

**CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017 (CONTINUED)**

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
	£	£
<b>8. <u>CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND</u></b>		
Barclays Bank - Current account	106,247	104,197
- Deposit account	136,011	135,960
Cash in hand	848	854
	<u>243,106</u>	<u>241,011</u>
<b>9. <u>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year</u></b>		
Trade creditors	2,233	3,109
Taxes and social security	2,285	1,642
Other creditors and accruals	7,227	3,266
	<u>11,745</u>	<u>8,017</u>

**Secretary & Chairs Report to the Trustee's & Management Committee**  
**For the financial Year 2016/17**

Our main aim is still to try & offer a special service to our Centre members & our ever growing list of clients. We hope we do deliver a top quality service & this helps us to keep the clients coming back time after time to support us. The happy clients passing on our name to other potential clients helps to compliment & support all the other advertising we do.

The appearance both inside and outside the Centre is still top quality, we replaced the main area carpet with the help of a grant from the NEAMWTF & we keep the rest of the decoration in prime condition. We know our Staff meet & greet the people in the way everyone wants to be cared for, they always have a warm and very friendly manner about them, that clients have told us they find very welcoming & makes them feel at home as soon as they enter 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 previous reports I have said how I felt that the next couple of years ahead were going to be a struggle, this has been true however we haven't had to look at cut backs ourselves yet to help our chance of continued survival. "Yes" it's been a struggle at times looking at where possible savings could be made and not have a dramatic effect on the running of the Centre.

Probably the best decision Trustees have made was to invest in fitting Solar panels at the end of March 2011, registering for the FIT (feed in tariff) proved a bit of a challenge mind, jumping through the ever changing hoops set by the Government. Registration was finally confirmed & completed at the end of March 2012 year. The Audit reports since then show income from the FIT at £3k to £3.5k a year

The Horticultural Show was held once again last year with the continued Financial Support of the **NEAMWTF** sadly we lost a couple of the people who were ever present during show time & excellent growers of flowers as well as the veg to support the exhibits.

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 since we started it & now takes place 2 sessions a week. We started the **Community Choir** is going from strength to strength & it now has 50 members in the group. They have made such an impact in that short time of being together they show their thanks by giving a performance just before Christmas every year in the Centre. They have recorded a CD in recent months so everyone is eagerly waiting for a copy. 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 no different to anyone else, we still 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 have been 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.

We still work with NCT 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.

Gateshead Authority – we have been working with them over the past 3 years to develop training sessions mainly in Maths & English offering training to young teaching staff in this area replacing training sessions lost with NCC.

**Sequence Dancing** – continues to be as popular as ever taking place in the centre on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Most of the groups have enjoyed an increase in members since we moved into the new centre but we have had to intervene & assist one or two of them by advertising & raising their profile to increase their membership

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,

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

**Computer Group** – meet mainly on a Monday evening with special events on Tuesdays 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?

#### **Special one off Events that continue to interest people –**

- a) Fund Raising for designated Charities – Our members raised money that were split between the following organisation’s Mac Millan, Diabete’s, Chrones & Colitus.
- b) Choir Performance – We started our choir in April 2012 they now have approx 50 members on average turning up each week & again what another year it’s been for them “excellent”, they were invited to sing at the Tall Ships event ,
- 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. These photo’s continue to interest many, many people.
- d) Christmas Pantomime - as popular as ever with the adults as well as the children! Last year it was “Jack & the Beanstalk” this coming Christmas it is “Alladin” Comments still come from people attending (parents as much as the kids) convince us they are Getting Better every year
- e) Christmas Lunch for Members again took place this year because of the volunteers available we can provide it at a very reasonable cost.
- f) NEAMWTF – started a Lunch Group up about 18mth ago for retired members & widows of ex miners as a bit oddf a get together & we have hosted several in that time and boy have they become popular in that time. We started off with 40 to 50 coming along the last couple have seen that number go up to 70+ it’s a grand little social get together for them.
- g) Through popular demand another exhibition of the water colour paintings of Mr A. Dickson, his work is from the treasured memories of his memories of his child hood & fond thoughts of pit village life through the eyes of a young boy. Ever popular to look at and generate discussions of olden times
- h) We now have the paintings of another of our members Mr Peter Hardy on display these are done in acrylics in contrast to the others in water colour, Peter’s subjects are his favourite places in the British Isles, some more excellent excerpts of art work.
- i) 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 our recent collection of Photo’s we had on display were of “Old British Made Motor Bikes” we had about 20 pics but this stimulated members to bring in photo’s of the bikes they have had over the years.

- 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 still shown with films like these. Again members have had old cine films of times gone by that we have been able convert some to DVD to show.
- 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
- 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 become part of the local history of our era, all these continue to be popular when shown. All of these have been updated to tell the tale of what has happened since then
- m) Line Dance Workshops – in the form of Social Evenings with those attending requesting the music to dance too. Another line dance group just forming asked our group to show them how to start up & run the group.

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 mentioning anyone or anything.

People may get tired of me including the next couple of paragraphs but I’m sorry as long as I am secretary & part of CSWC I will never ever get tired of making sure they are included nor will I ever 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 back then 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 us to secure all the remaining funding before the project could actually 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 personally have now been connected with the Centre for 37 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 have now lost count of how many good members & friends lost in that time.

*As always there is only one thing left for me to do and that is to thank each and every one of you as “Centre Members” who come along week after week to take part in what ever activity you 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 you & us 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 some one to propose them & don't forget to get someone to second them 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 of helpers too many to mention 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 others would find it very difficult to operate in the successful way that we do, especially during these difficult Financial Times that has been called the "Credit Crunch or 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

Chair.....J. E. Young