

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT 2016 - 2017**

The Sherwood Community Association CIO is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, (Reg. No.1158333), a voluntary organisation which was first registered with the Charity Commission on 22nd August 2014. From 1st April 2015, this charity took over the running of the Sherwood Community Centre, and all the monies, assets, contracts etc. of the former Sherwood Community Association which was then closed.

Full SCA CIO Membership is open to anyone living, working and volunteering in the area of benefit, which is Sherwood and the surrounding area.

The CIO is managed by The Trustees' Committee who meet at least 6 times a year. Sub-groups (each led by a Trustee) deal with different areas of expertise and report back to the Trustees' Committee. The Trustees are elected annually by the members at an AGM, and operate as per the adopted constitution of 2014.

They consult with and are advised by the Members Support Group, made up of representatives from Affiliated Groups and other interested members, who also meet regularly. They may also join the sub-groups and assist at events.

NG7 continue to be our Lead Organisation, although we have new contacts, Yesmean Khalil and Jawaid Khalil. This organisation works with the Council to forward to us and other community groups a block grant, which used to be given directly by the Council under a Service Level Agreement.

Apart from the block grant, the SCA CIO relies on rents to cover all the running costs of the Centre.

The current Trustees' Committee has endeavoured to be in contact and work with other organisations and charities to enhance provision for all who live in the area of benefit. A forum of community organisations and local stakeholders in the community is being planned for September, although it may be possible to hold it earlier. As there were only a few attendees at the last forum we are looking to find a more convenient time for all concerned.

We had two volunteers working with us earlier in the year, but unfortunately both have now left. We were particularly sorry to lose one, a young man with learning difficulties who attended the Open Wings organisation based at the Centre. He had been successfully working, under supervision, as a volunteer cleaner.

We hope to recruit more volunteers in the future.

## **FUNDRAISING/EVENTS 2016 - 17**

Fundraising is necessary to cover costs not covered by the block grant, etc., such as new furnishings and re-decoration.

Our main fundraising event this year was the Christmas Fayre which was held in November. It was a very popular family event with a craft fair, children's activities, a games room, carol singers and of course Santa's Grotto. Christine's Community Café was also open for refreshments, light meals and snacks throughout the event. After the deduction of expenses and staff costs the Fayre raised over £800.

Santa's Grotto



We again hosted The Remarkable Recycling Gala at the Centre in June. This event is part of and held by Sherwood Arts Week, but

most of the organisation is done by some of the Centre's Staff, Trustees and volunteers. To offset the cost of hosting this Community Event we held a raffle and tombola.

We also received a grant from the City Council to help with purchasing equipment for use in events and for covering some staff hours.

We would like to thank the many local businesses and members of the community who donated prizes for both events.

We received funding from Voluntary Arts Week to enable us to run an event during Voluntary Arts Week. The funding paid for advertising, materials and refreshments. Due to this funding, a staff

A Craft Bombing Session



member volunteered to hold seven separate free sessions on 'Craft Bombing' to the local community in the run up to Sherwood Arts Week, and to produce community yarn bombing to decorate the grounds of the Community Centre.

As none of these events could have been held without the help of staff, Trustees, members and willing volunteers, we would also like to give a big thank you to everyone who helped in any way.

Alison applied to World Book Night and received 16 copies of *Whispering Shadows* by Jan-Philipp Sendker which were handed out to Centre users to encourage non-readers to read.

## **TRAINING 2016 - 17**

Margaret, Alison and Jill each attended a separate course about fundraising on a training day held by the Foundation for Social

Improvement. These were *Fundraising from Trusts and Foundations*, *Managing Event Fundraising* and *Fundraising Strategy* consecutively. We hope to use any new knowledge to apply for funding for specific projects/events over the next year.

Margaret also attended a course held by Peninsular, a HR and Health and Safety company for small businesses. Following this the staff sub-group had meeting with Peninsular and entered a contract with them to deal with our HR needs. Their help and advice has already proved invaluable.

Following the introduction of the Workplace Pension in February, Margaret and Alison had a training session on wages with Kevin.

## **THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS 2016 - 17**

In February, the City Archaeologist visited the building, as the cave/cellars had not been recorded in the Nottingham Caves Survey. As a result of his visit, our cave/cellars have now been recorded in Nottingham's Historic Environment Record and the record for the house itself has also been amended as it was previously recorded as 1820's, but evidence now shows that parts may date back to the 1750's or earlier.

Plans to update the upstairs toilet and to refurbish the Phyllis Wells Room as a training or meeting/board room have been on hold because of other ongoing issues with repairs etc. to the building in general, but we hope to proceed with these over the coming year.

Major works by Nottingham City Council took place in the summer, to try to eliminate the problems we were experiencing with the drains. These had been blocking continually since the refurbishment of the main toilets in the reception area. However, the problem now seems to have been resolved.

After a break-in last year, the CCTV system was updated with new colour HD cameras and images are much clearer. We also have a more extensive and wider vision in certain areas now.

There was a break in the early hours in January. The fire exit from the car park into the foyer area was forced open and damaged. A member of staff was called out and the police attended and viewed the CCTV records. The Council were contacted and the door was secured against further attempted break-ins, but that has meant that the fire exit is temporarily unusable. Health and Safety assessments have been made regarding fire safety regulations, emergency exits for disabled persons, etc. The City Council will be repairing the door soon.

The building sub-group has been looking at repairs needed to the building and at the environmental surveys which have been carried out. We hope to use these so that we can make the building and grounds a more pleasant, economic and environmentally friendly place to use or work in.

The Council is in the process of removing the overgrown ivy from the rear of the building, but unfortunately telephone cables were damaged in the process. This caused some problems for the office and user groups, which have now been resolved.

We are still waiting for the Council to amend the old Recycling Centre sign at the Community Centre entrance with a new one designed by Richard Seals, a member of the Member's Support Group. We understand that it is in the hands of the department which prepares signs as, due to the Council design, the work cannot be contracted out. The new sign gives more information about the facilities and activities at the Centre, and we believe it will make us more noticeable to the Community

Trustees' Committee

## **CHAIR'S REPORT 2016 - 2017**

At the last AGM, we were pleased to have strengthened the Trustees' Committee with more members, to help with decision making for the CIO. We also have a large Members' Support Group with whom we consulted on various matters, and who have come together to help at events, as well as bringing in members of their own groups to help.

Our fundraising events are a good opportunity to meet with other Members and members of the wider Community. Helping at events is very enjoyable, as we have been told by many people who have helped in the past, and it is important that we have continued support at our events, so that we can raise funds to help with improvements to our beautiful, historic building. We hope that more will become involved in helping at events, as these are beneficial to all users of Sherwood Community Centre, and the more we can improve our building, the more people will be encouraged to use it.

In January, I ran an additional guided tour, which brought in a group of historians and archaeologists to see the exhibition and parts of the building which are usually unseen or unnoticed. This has led to further visits by archaeologists, including the City Council's cave specialist, who has now included our cellar, which is on two levels, deep below the building, in the Nottingham Caves Survey. He also arranged for the historical record to show that parts of the building may be mid/late 18th Century, rather than 1820's as previously recorded.

Last May, I very much enjoyed attending a couple of the Yarn Bombing workshops which were organised and led by Alison, one of our Administrators. These brought new people into the Centre and we had some enjoyable sessions, also assisting a group of young

people with learning disabilities to make woollen flowers. Alison and I also worked with Sherwood Art Week to organise the Remarkable Recycling Gala and with help from others, we decorated from the corner of Magnus Road to the door of the Community Centre with yarn bombing.

The Building Sub-Group is in close contact with the Council, to see what refurbishments we can start work on. However, we have to know for certain what work the Council is planning on carrying out before we can begin in some areas.

The Community Centre continues to be a hub for the local community, even though there are sometimes reports that people say they don't know where it is. However, we do draw people in from all around the area, and I frequently see people in the building or out in Sherwood who I remember seeing at events or attending groups as long ago as 30-40 years ago. With modern life, people have not had so much time for community activities, yet Sherwood does seem to have a much stronger community spirit than many smaller places, which is quite remarkable when you consider that Sherwood is a suburb of a large city. With this in mind, we hope to be able to develop this further, by bringing more community groups together when we hold our Forum, later in the year.

I'd like to thank our staff for their support throughout the year; Trustees for their work and involvement with the running of the centre and the Members Support Group for their support and advice. I'd particularly like to thank Valerie Hunter, who has worked on many additional matters, and whose practical approach helps us in so many ways.

Jill Gregory

Chair

## **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The Membership year runs from April 1st to March 31st. Membership fees remain unchanged from last year.

We welcomed one new User group to Affiliated status late in the year. Invitations to renew Affiliations and Individual Memberships were issued mid-March 2016, to be registered from 1st April 2016.

For the first time, User groups were sent individual letters detailing their required/recorded attendance at MSG meetings, in line with the Terms and Conditions of Affiliation, and whether or not they had been compliant with attendance and participation requirements. Upon receipt with the appropriate fee, the renewal requests were presented for approval by the Trustees towards the end of April 2016, and groups notified in writing of the outcome.

All User groups were granted re-Affiliation, though a few were conditional upon an improvement in the Named Representative's attendance at pre-planned MSG meetings. These groups were monitored more closely during the year. Late renewal requests (received after April 31<sup>st</sup>) or new requests received mid-year were dealt with at the next scheduled Trustees' meeting.

The majority of Individual Memberships are from Affiliated groups, with a small number having no linked User group. We do not expect this trend to change.

The figures at 31.03.17 are as follows:-

- 14 Affiliated groups
- 2 Affiliated charities
- 83 Full Individual Members belonging to an Affiliated group
- 8 Full Individual members
- 1 Life Individual member



This is a total of 16 Affiliated groups and 92 Full Individual Members for the full membership year 2016-17.

All newly registered members are Full members, if they fall into the category of living, working or volunteering in Sherwood and the surrounding area, in accordance with the Constitution. Currently there are no Associate members.

All User groups are actively encouraged to invite their own members to become SCA CIO members also, and to share their ideas for the advancement of the Association and the Community Centre. This is done via the Members' Support Group and its sub-groups, which support and work with the Trustees' Committee to ensure success and continual development of ideas and activities, for the good of the community.

Valerie Hunter  
Membership Secretary

## **Treasurer's Report**

Janya, our Treasurer has been unable to prepare a report because of time constraints due to personal circumstances.

With the support of other Trustees, the Vice Chair has been liaising with the Treasurer and Kevin, the staff member who mainly deals with the Accounts, to ensure the accounts were kept up to date.

Margaret Hilton

Vice Chair

## **MEMBERS OF STAFF AT 31.03.2016**

Caretaking

Pete Scott  
Kevin McDonnell  
Robert Soar

Administrators

Alison Manifold  
Kevin McDonnell

## **SHERWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE & THE ENVIRONMENT**

Help us to do our bit for the planet!

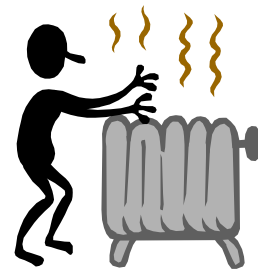
We would like to continue our work on reducing our energy consumption of:



Water



Light



Heat

Simple things like turning off the lights when you leave a room. Don't put them on if it is a bright day and you can manage without.

Check non-automatic taps are off after use.

Turn room thermostats down a degree or two, or to zero when you leave a room, as hot water in the pipes helps to maintain warmth in the rooms.

Take advantage of our bike bins to lock your bike in whilst using the centre.

The little things we do can make a big difference, so please continue with your efforts helping us to reduce our carbon foot print.

# **BOOKCROSSING**



The bookshelves in reception have been a 'BookCrossing Zone' since 2010. The books can be borrowed and returned or passed on to friends. If you don't return the book we ask that you replace it with another book that you have read to enable the shelves to stay stocked. Each book is given a unique ID number and registered on the BookCrossing website, this enables the book to be tracked by its readers; it is interesting to discover how far some books actually travel!

For more information, see: [www.bookcrossing.com](http://www.bookcrossing.com)

**Sherwood Community Association CIO**  
(Registered charity, number 1158333)  
**Financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2017**

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**Sherwood Community Association CIO  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2017**

**Full name** Sherwood Community Association CIO

**Other names by which the charity is known** Sherwood Community Centre

**Organisation type** Charitable incorporated organisation

**Registered charity number** 1158333

**Principal address** Woodthorpe House, Mansfield Road, NOTTINGHAM, NG5 3FN

**Trustees**

Jill Gregory, Chair	Helen Goodbarton
Margaret Hilton, Secretary	Ash Botes
Pete Sharpe, Vice Secretary	Louise Holland
Valerie Hunter, Membership Secretary	Phyllis Wells, until 14/1/16
Jayna Wallington, Treasurer from 11/7/16	Martin Cook, from 11/7/16
Sally Hilton, from 11/7/16	Hannah Fries, from 11/7/16

**Independent examiner**

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, 7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3FB

**Governance and management**

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 22/08/14.

Overall management of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected annually at an AGM, or co-opted under terms of the constitution. They are advised by the Members Support Group, made up of affiliated groups and other interested members who meet regularly. Day to day project activity is managed & carried out by volunteers & paid staff.

**Objectives and activities**

To promote the benefit of the inhabitants of the area of benefit without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions, by associating together the said inhabitants and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.

To establish or secure the establishment of a community centre and to maintain and manage the same.

To promote such other charitable purposes as may from time to time be determined.

## **Sherwood Community Association CIO**

### **Public benefit statement**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

### **Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit**

The Centre, together with various groups who hire our rooms and offices, run several sessions open to the public.

- There are a variety of Dance and Drama classes for children and adults including Ballet, Tap and Zumba. There are several Yoga sessions including Pregnancy Yoga and Post Natal Yoga classes and Nottingham Osteoporosis Group run a weekly Tea Dance. We have recently introduced a weekly chair-based exercise class combined with refreshments and an opportunity to socialise afterwards for people with disabilities or with limited mobility;
- A seniors' group for the over 60's meets once a week. There is a respite care day centre for the elderly which runs every weekday;
- A Playgroup is held each weekday for children aged 2 – 5;
- Several Self Help Groups meet in the Centre including: Aphasia, Alcoholics Anonymous, Coping with Anxiety, Nottingham Self Help Group for People who Stammer, Arthritis Care and Fibromyalgia action group;
- There are many classes meeting at the Centre catering for special leisure interests, including Nottinghamshire Bobbin Lace Society, The Sherwood Art class, Woodthorpe Model Railway, Singing tuition and Stained Glass;
- The garden to the rear of the Community Centre is a Community Garden run by Transition Sherwood Garden Group. Members of the public are able to rent a mini plot of garden for a minimal fee;
- We have a reduced rental rate for charities making the building more accessible for their use;
- All offices are now rented out to organisations who provide education and services in health, education, fitness etc. e.g;
- Real Education work at the Community Centre supporting the needs of children and young people;
- APT Care - who provide Home Care Services - rent an office at the centre. Their trained carers, a workforce able to speak a number of languages, provide a variety of personal services to a high standard of care to those that are in need;
- Open Wings Adult Learning, based at the Centre, work with adults with learning disabilities and other disadvantaged groups and offer workshops to colleges and day centres;
- Care2Quals who provide care and first aid training;
- Buena Vida Health and Fitness who provide dance based fitness classes in the community including for the more mature, people with physical limitations and also chair based classes in retirement homes;

### **Sherwood Community Association CIO**

- Christine's Community Café is a Social Enterprise at the Centre. She provides a very warm welcome to all including those with disabilities, and serves a variety of home-made meals, snacks, cakes and biscuits at reasonable prices. She has hosted some events for children and adults, and is part of the Safe Places scheme;
- Sprouts, a children's drama group, has held drama sessions and some storytelling sessions for children in the school holidays;
- The Jill Gregory Dancing School took part in a Tapathon to raise money for Children In Need;
- In June we hosted The Remarkable Recycling Gala as part of Sherwood Art Week, an annual event, which aims to promote recycling and up cycling within the community;
- We plan to convene an annual forum of representatives from groups, organisations, and agencies which use the Centre or are active within the community to discuss ways of co-operating and working together in ways to benefit the community;
- We are part of a breast feeding friendly scheme in Nottingham.

The number and variety of sessions and activities taking place within the Centre support the health and general well-being of the public by providing support for physical and mental health and the opportunity for recreational facilities and meet our public benefit responsibilities.

#### **Summary of the main achievements during the period**

- We received £100 funding from Voluntary Arts Week, which enabled us to hold seven separate free sessions on 'Craft Bombing' to the local community in the run up to Sherwood Art Week, and to produce community yarn bombing to decorate the grounds of the Community Centre;
- We received a donation of £695 as a community award after being nominated by the local NISA store, which we will use to increase facilities at the Centre;
- £830 was raised at a Christmas Fayre;
- £788 from sales of books and bric-a-brac and donations using the fundraising collection toilet in reception.

#### **The charity's policy on reserves**

Sufficient reserves are held in a charity savings account to ensure the safe running of the Centre for a period of at least 3 months, and to cover any redundancies, including pension contributions, should the need arise.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed   
Ash Botes, Trustee

Date 1/6/17

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of  
Sherwood Community Association CIO  
for the year ended 31 March 2017**

I report on the accounts of the charity, which are set out on pages 6 to 8.

**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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**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 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

Signed  Date 2/6/17  
John O'Brien MSc, FCCA, FCIE  
Employee of Community Accounting Plus



**Sherwood Community Association CIO**  
**Receipts & payments account**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2017**

2016			Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
£		Note	Funds £	Funds £	2017 £
	<b>Receipts</b>				
6110	Grants & donations	2	943	13754	14697
64510	Room hire		67080	-	67080
338	Membership		469	-	469
5211	Fundraising		3599	-	3599
238	Bank interest		397	-	397
3799	Sales & fees		1514	-	1514
84541	Opening Transfer		-	-	-
<u>164747</u>	<b>Total receipts</b>		<u><b>74002</b></u>	<u><b>13754</b></u>	<u><b>87756</b></u>
	<b>Payments</b>				
45422	Wages, NI & pension		47116	2042	49158
420	Catering		20	-	20
3034	Cleaning		2302	-	2302
3496	Equipment, repairs & renewals		3652	-	3652
414	Fundraising & publicity		247	-	247
3699	Office costs		3853	-	3853
1067	Insurance		-	1297	1297
35	Legal & professional fees		1395	-	1395
116	Training & conference		117	-	117
150	Trustees & AGM expenses		246	-	246
10778	Utilities		-	10415	10415
3128	Premises maintenance		6541	-	6541
<u>71759</u>	<b>Total payments</b>		<u><b>65489</b></u>	<u><b>13754</b></u>	<u><b>79243</b></u>
92988	<b>Net receipts/(payments)</b>		<b>8513</b>	-	8513
1433	Cash funds at start of this period		94421	-	94421
<u>94421</u>	<b>Cash funds at end of this period</b>		<u><b>102934</b></u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>102934</b></u>

**Sherwood Community Association CIO**  
**Statement of assets and liabilities**  
**at 31 March 2017**

2016			2017
£	<b>Cash assets</b>	Note	£
94421	Bank & cash accounts		102934
<u>94421</u>			<u>102934</u>
	<b>Other monetary assets</b>		
2307	Debtors	3	1769
<u>2307</u>			<u>1769</u>
	<b>Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>		
	General equipment.		
	details, cost date etc		
	<b>Liabilities</b>		
(2738)	Creditors	4	(2753)
<u>(2738)</u>			<u>(2753)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed  Dated 1.6.17  
Margaret Hilton, Trustee

**Sherwood Community Association CIO**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2017**

**1. Receipts & payments accounts**

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

**2. Grants & donations**

	£
NG7	13754
Sundry grants & donations	943
	<u>14697</u>

**3. Debtors**

	£
Room hire	1769
	<u>1769</u>

**4. Creditors**

	£
HMRC tax & social security	1831
Independent examination	922
	<u>2753</u>

**5. Restricted funds**

The only restricted fund during the accounting period was from NG7 for running costs towards utilities and the caretaker's salary.

Any other unrestricted/general money raised or donated is for use to improve facilities or refurbishment of the Centre when needed.

**6. Trustees' remuneration**

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this period.

**7. Glossary of terms**

**Creditors:** These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

**Debtors:** These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.

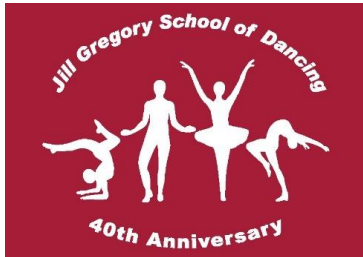
**Restricted funds:** These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.

# **AFFILIATED and OTHER GROUP REPORTS**

## **2016 - 2017**

### **Jill Gregory School of Dance**

This has been a very special year for the Dancing School. On 25<sup>th</sup> September, we celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jill starting to teach at Sherwood Community Centre. Pupils were given souvenir pens and dance shoe bags with a commemorative logo, and the dance teachers and assistants went for a celebration dinner.



Our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show was performed in March, over two weekends – 4 performances.

The school's first performance was at the Sherwood Community Centre Garden Party, 40 years ago in 1977.

The Finale of our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary



Dianna, Jill's niece, who teaches with Jill, was in the first performance, and her two daughters are now also student teachers in the dancing school and Jill's daughter who used to teach in the school, danced with her cousins. Another dancer who has also attended classes for 40 years, also performed in the show, as did her 6 year old son.

Our first performance in 1977



Many old pupils came to see the show, including one travelling from Yorkshire to see it, and one former adult tapper travelled from France to see her daughter perform. The dancing school is like an extended family, where dancers make lifelong friends.

Dancers pay into a Costume Club to save for their costumes, and teachers and parents put in a lot of unpaid work to make the show experience possible for all dancers. The show raised £3681 for charity. Some will be donated to children's charities, and some will be used to pay for refurbishment work at Sherwood Community Centre. It is due to being able to hold classes at Sherwood Community Centre, that we have been able to provide affordable dance lessons, and our donation is a way of showing our support for the Community Centre and we are pleased that the hobby of so many can also benefit others.

One of our former pupils who completed her exams with us nearly 3 years ago, and did further training at the Musical Theatre Academy in London, has recently completed several months touring Italy at Rizzo in the musical "Grease".

## **Nottinghamshire Bobbin Lace Society (NBLS)**

### **Membership/attendance**

Our county-wide membership numbers continue to fall slightly year on year. This is due to the advancing age of our members, and the difficulty in attracting and retaining younger members. At the end of our membership year (December 2016) we had 169 members, including 12 life members.

There is a recently updated website as well as a quarterly Newsletter. We hold five Lace Days annually, with Suppliers, at four regular venues across the county, Suppliers. and there is a Speaker at two of these events. Attendance varies according to the time of year and what is on offer, but is usually in the region of 60-90 members for Lace Days. Non-members are also welcome. Due to ever-increasing hire costs, we have had to increase our entrance fee at these events, but the cost of annual membership remains unchanged.

SCA CIO remains the Society's main venue for smaller regular events, with three separate weekday classes during term-time, and nine or ten Saturday Pop-ins, 10.00am - 4.00pm, spaced out through the year. Class sizes vary between 6-12 regular students, and Pop-in attendance averages out at about 30 over the year.

New students are always welcome at these events. The classes are run by experienced and accomplished teachers, who have also published books, and their students travel to Sherwood from across the city and county. Elsewhere across the county there are other privately-run classes and workshop days run by our highly-skilled Teacher members, or self-help/social groups in smaller venues.

The Committee meet regularly at Sherwood also, generally incorporating these meetings into a Pop-in event. As with similar craft groups, Committee members (and teachers) who are willing and able are hard to find. We strive continually to encourage a younger generation to join us.

### **Activities**

Another enjoyable and productive year for our members - though the Committee would surely add 'challenging' to that list. The Society continues to be an excellent support network as well as an educational and leisure group.

In addition to the regular weekly meetings and Lace Days, we hold two courses during the year. The Spring Lace Course in March this year offered a full day's tuition from three local Teachers from Notts and Derbyshire who are also Society members, and twenty three ladies and one gentleman attended this year. The gentleman and his wife come to the majority of our events, all the way from Portsmouth! (They stay in their caravan in the Peak District for the weekend.) They first came to our 2015 exhibition, joined the Society, and tell us our teaching and Society is far superior to anything they have come across at home.

In July we held our Summer Residential Weekend course at the Sutton Bonington campus of Nottingham University, our current regular venue. Each year we go, the facilities seem to improve. Expert tuition comes from four nationally known Tutors from various parts of the country. The students, mostly residential but also a few who attend daily, enjoyed an excellent weekend of Lacemaking and social activities. As an alternative entertainment we held a social evening on the Saturday, a raffle and a quiz. Funds raised are donated to a charity nominated by those attending.

The Summer Lace Day hosts the Award Exhibitions for Bobbin Lace work finished during the past year, and always produces a wide range of inspiring and inventive pieces at all levels of experience and ability. Trophies and commemorative bobbins are presented to the winners in two categories, chosen by secret ballot by the attending members. Winning pieces are on display again at the following Lace Day, for closer scrutiny.

NBLS continues to support a local charity each year. This year we chose to support Whizzkids, who were our Speakers at the Summer Lace Day. They held a bucket collection after their talk, to which members contributed generously, and later in the year we were able to send a cheque from the society for over £250, as proceeds from

our Summer raffle and small cake sales held at Lace Days during the year. Members who offer unwanted lace equipment for sale may donate the takings to a charity of their choice, so frequently there are smaller donations made throughout the year, to charities selected by the seller.

As usual, many members joined the coach trip to the National Lacemakers' Fair at Cranmore Park (Solihull) in early December. Any excuse to buy another bobbin or two ...

In January 2017, we were invited to have regular demonstrations at Wollaton Hall, when the Industrial Museum is open at weekends. Again, anyone can try the "Have-a go" experience with patient tuition from the demonstrators.

Valerie Hunter. (NBLS Rep to SCA)

April 2017

## **Sherwood Playgroup**

### **Staffing and Sessions**

We now have 8 members of staff who work various sessions. We continue to take students, work experience and also have some regular volunteers. We are still open every morning and three afternoons and lunch club operates on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays and has proved popular with parents wanting to take advantage of all day provision. We have also been able to let the children visit the cafe on a number of occasions to buy things that Christine has made linked with our letter of the week. We are delighted that at our recent Ofsted inspection we were given a strong Good across all areas, staff have worked very hard to achieve this grading and we strive to be Outstanding next time around.



## Children on Roll

At present we have 30 children on roll, they attend a variety of sessions during the week. We have some children who benefit from free places due to the 2 year early learning programme, children who stay with us at 3 years old who qualify for Nursery Education Funding and children that pay the normal playgroup fees. We continue to be a fully inclusive setting and take children from a range of ethnic backgrounds and children who have additional needs. We continue to have a waiting list and continue to receive telephone enquiries and also enquiries from our web site.

## Fund Raising

We continue to try and raise funds as much as we can from cake sales, sales of cards and sponsored events. We also collect Sainsbury's vouchers to buy new things for playgroup. We are hoping to get more parents to join our parent forum group so that they can organise fund raising events for us. We are hoping to hold a fun day in the Summer as we do need to raise extra money.

## Finances

At the moment the bank account is satisfactory we rely heavily on funds from Nottingham City for the 2 year early learning programme and the Nursery Education Funding. Playgroup fees will have to increase from September 2017 along with lunch club fees, we still have to finalise costs of what we need to increase them by. We still provide very good value for money compared to some other childcare settings. Our costs have increased due to the implementation of the Living Wage and from the introduction of the work place pension both of these factors have seen an added strain on the Playgroup finances.

To try and cut some costs we have been asking for donations of every day essentials we use from Parents eg: baby wipes, anti bacterial spray, tissues etc. This has been successful and Parents have been very generous.

Jayne Lowe - Morning Session Manager

### **The Sherwood Tea Dance run by Osteoporosis Society Nottingham Support Group**

The Nottingham Support Group of the National Osteoporosis Society continues to hold weekly Tea Dances at the Sherwood Community Centre on Thursday afternoons between 1.30pm and 4.00pm. All profits go to the Support Group.

Numbers fluctuate but we have an average of about 30 ladies and gentlemen regularly attending what is a very enjoyable experience for all concerned. We have sequence dancing, ballroom dancing and line dancing.

We are particularly anxious to keep everybody active, which has a beneficial effect on our bones.

All ages are made welcome but our members are mostly Senior Citizens, the oldest (and liveliest) of which is a sprightly 98 years old.

Moira and Mick Holmes

## **Seniors Group Report**

The Seniors Group meet for 2 hours, 1pm – 3pm, every Thursday.

We play four games of bingo and then we play card games for the rest of the session, with a break for coffee, tea etc. in between.

We are a happy group with three to four members, although we have had two new ladies and one gentleman join us recently.

Pauline Braker

## **Yoga on Wednesday Evenings**

I have continued to have a very stable group with good attendance and students who work well together, with only one new member who was already known to several others. This means, however, the class is currently full, and although I have got a waiting list, there is limited prospect of taking anyone else on. I'm only able to take students with at least a year's experience, so am unable to cater for beginners anymore. My current students are nearly all over 60, have mostly been practising yoga for many years, and are able to cope with more complex breathing practices (pranayama), as well as a longer relaxation period, which often incorporates meditative practices.

My terms vary according to my holidays, so I have no set number of weeks for each 'term'. Although I have 19 students enrolled in the group, several cannot attend every week, so each week between 10 and 17 people come to the class, which allows me to work closely with them, and, as many have been coming for a long time, the group is friendly, and fun to be part of. It has become a tradition to go out for a meal together after Christmas.

Rhoda Fox

## **Sprouts**

Sprouts have been running our drama classes for 4 – 8 year olds in Sherwood for 7 years now, and for 8 – 11s for 4 years. Using the fun of drama, dance and singing the sessions aim to build confidence and other social skills.

Class sizes have dipped a little in the past year or so, but still we still have new interest trickling in. Most new customers have found us through searching for drama in the area online, or by word of mouth from current members.

We have a provision for those over 11 to move on to in the centre of town, where they work alongside children who have come through our classes in other areas of Nottingham. Some of our old 'Sprouts' from Sherwood are also now part of the Nottingham Youth Theatre for 13 – 19s, and have taken lead roles in some of their productions.

We are still running our holiday courses at the centre in the Christmas, Easter and Summer breaks, and they have been going well, although over Christmas 2016 we had such small take up we unfortunately had to cancel the sessions.

Due to our presence at the Community Centre we are able to regularly offer free promotional sessions to local schools, although there has not been any take up in the last year. We still have a weekly session we provide for Seely Primary School, and also ran some activities for their school fair last year.

As a company it has been beneficial to be able to use Care2Quals, also situated at the Centre, for First Aid Training for our staff.

Helen Goodbarton

## **The Yoga Village**

This year The Yoga Village has been busy in our core area of pregnancy, postnatal and family yoga. We have been running three full evening pregnancy classes and three daytime sessions for mums with little ones, taught by Hannah. The classes are at the centre of a vibrant and supportive community where new families can get to know each other and offer friendship and support - which is so valuable at this time in a family's life. The yoga practice helps to support the physical and emotional well being of the groups.

Ameet has returned to teach the Monday evening yoga nidra class (as well as weekend workshops) and plans to continue to be more active as a teacher again in the coming year. Paul has been busy offering Thai Yoga Massage to a range of clients, and transforms the space into a calm treatment room several times a week! His dynamic yoga class is established and popular.

We have also diversified with kids' yoga and women's yoga classes. Sophie 's kids' yoga classes are fun and engaging and appeal to a broad local community and the women's yoga is a gentle class appealing to older women amongst others.

The Yoga Village is a coalition of styles of yoga for a wide range of local people from beginners to experienced to new families to retired people. We look forward to a positive 2017!

Hannah Fries

## **Chair Based Zumba Gold Social**

After discussing with an AGE UK representative about the issue of isolation amongst pensioners, and after reviewing the current exercise provision for this age range in Sherwood, I decided to start a class that specifically targeted this group of people.

The 45-minute class is a very gentle, low or non-impact version of Zumba Gold, which can be done seated or standing.

This fun class is suited for all ages, but is specifically tailored for those with physical limitations, who cannot access mainstream exercise classes, or who do not like gyms. The nature of this class makes it accessible to wheelchair users.

After the class, participants can socialise and enjoy tea/coffee and cake/biscuits at Christine's Community Café, included in the cost.

This class currently has an average weekly attendance of 12 participants and is enjoyed by all who attend. The class has a mix of ages, of both genders.

It is my aim to more widely promote this class and increase the number of participants attending regularly.

Margaret Hilton.

## **Zumba with Charm**

Zumba with Charm celebrated its 5th year in Feb!! Classes continue to be popular with frequent waiting lists for both classes. I think the community really appreciate this local class as per the distance, fitness benefits and the feel good factor.

Charmaine Daley

## **Acacia Martial Arts**

We have thirteen students on our books, with an average class attendance of eight. Ages vary from seven to mid-forties. Classes have a good mix of sexes, ages and ethnic backgrounds; most of the people who attend live locally. This year we have had a few parents joining, which is great.

Acacia is now training in two different rooms, Room 1 and in the Annexe, and it works really well. As the space is rather limited, we will probably not be able to take on that many new students, if any.

We have started doing a special class for our senior belts on a Tuesday evening. With smaller numbers and more space, we have been able to do more sparring and weapon training.

Apart from our regular classes, we have had the head instructor at our sister school doing a few workshops during half-terms.

We very much enjoy using Sherwood Community Centre and look forward to another good year.

Camelia Geary

## **Jay Rossi Yoga Group**

Group activities 1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017

We have been holding a once a week yoga session for people within the surrounding area.

I feel we have been giving a lot of emotional support to our students through very trying and stressful times, through our yoga and meditative practices.

We usually have good attendance and the feedback I receive is that the classes I present give students a feeling of support and wellbeing within themselves.

The oldest student at our classes is 91 with the youngest being around 16. We have a cross cultural base and a fairly equal split of male/female.

I am very proud that my students enjoy coming to the centre, and I know they value all that the Centre offers and stand for.

Jay Rossi

## **Buena Vida Health & Fitness**

Buena Vida has continued to grow since its substantial growth the previous year. We now have 16 classes running each week with over 400 active members and 4 instructors. One of our instructors became a full-time employee of the business in August last year (having worked the previous 13 months part-time) and now teaches a bulk of our classes.

We now have 2 young workers earning a small wage, whilst gaining valuable work experience for when they leave school next year.

We also currently have an advert out for a full-time vacancy for a 12-month apprenticeship. The successful candidate will be training alongside our other instructors to learn to teach our classes as well as learning the admin side. They'll also be gaining a level 2 fitness qualification.



We introduced a new class called Pound just before Christmas and have added 5 new classes since the New Year, including an U18 Clubbercise class for 11-17 year olds.

The additional classes caused a huge spike in monthly membership in January which has provided us with a steadier income, allowing us to improve planning/forecasting/strategy to enable us to expand and grow further over the next 3-5 years.

All of our classes are now really busy, many of which have a waiting list most weeks. We're working on sourcing bigger venues to accommodate the increase in numbers and are hoping to add a wider variety of classes over the next 2-3 years.

We had a major revamp of our website over the last year, which went live in January this year. We also just launched our own app in April and had over 80 downloads within the first week of the launch. This will make it even easier for our customers to book/pay for their classes.

After over a year of planning, sourcing and marketing research, we're proud to announce that we have our own clothing line launching in May/June '17 and many of our members are already eagerly awaiting the launch so that they can get their orders in for the new Buena Vida clothing. It will be a mix of styles of casual and fitness clothing to suit all ages and preferences.

I'm looking forward to the next couple of years with Buena Vida and we have big plans for growth and expansion over the next 2-3 years.

Sally Hilton

Buena Vida

## **Annual Report: Care2Quals 2016 - 2017**

As we look back from the year end, 2016 – 17 has certainly been eventful! Despite a difficult trading environment, we are proud to have developed our links with Nottingham City Council Children's Services in providing training to both frontline staff and managers in the statutory residential sector.

Along with our other key partners, Nottingham City council was represented at our Annual Awards Evening in October, where learners across a range of the qualifications we offer at Care2Quals were able to celebrate in style in the surroundings of the Alt Gaming Lounge in the Hockley area of the city centre. Representatives of our key partners presented their certificates to their employees - photographs of the event can be viewed on our Facebook page.

Two people who are very well known to the users of Sherwood Community Centre received awards at the event:

Peter Sharpe (Manager of the Carers Trust East Midlands Day Centre and a Trustee of the Sherwood Community Association), who received his Level 3 Award in Training and Development, his Level 3 Unit Certificate in Understanding the Process and experience of Dementia and

Ash Botes (Director of Marketing and Development at Care2Quals) who received his Level 5 NVQ Diploma in Management.

Congratulations to Peter, Ash and everyone else who has graduated with us over the past year!

As well as validated Diploma programmes, we have continued to facilitate short courses – this past year has been especially busy as regards Paediatric First Aid. Care2quals has been involved in

developing a “blended learning” approach to delivery. The course normally involves learners attending two full day sessions (which can be difficult for people such as Child Minders). The blended approach uses online delivery and assessment of the knowledge component of the course, with just one day spent face to face for the demonstration and assessment of the practical skills component.

Care2Quals remains a committed affiliate of the Association and is proud to be a part of the Sherwood Community centre.

Martin Cook

(Managing Director: Care2Quals Ltd.)

## **Christine’s Community Café Ltd 2016 - 2017**

The year started off with a lovely nomination from Louise Holland for the café in the ‘Spirit of Sherwood’ Awards. It was good to be part of a warm, positive celebration of community spirit in Sherwood and it felt a real affirmation of all the café aims to offer.

The café is a versatile and spacious ‘room’ and we enjoyed hosting the Yarn Bombing workshops during May and a drumming workshop in May half term.

During the Summer holidays, we held three family picnics in the outdoor garden. The weather was lovely for each one and they proved very popular.

The café invited Rani to cook a three-course evening meal In December as a trial to see if there was interest in occasionally opening the café in the evening. The meal was a big success with over twenty places booked. We held two more meals in February and April.

The café provided refreshments once again for the Recycling Gala in June and the Christmas Fayre in November.

The café has consistently been open throughout the week, from 8.30am – 4.30pm, Monday – Friday, offering a warm welcome for people of all ages. The majority of our customers come in to the café whilst in the Community Centre for other activities or work. We closed for two weeks in August and one week in April for staff holidays, in addition to the normal Community Centre closures.

The café was awarded a Food Hygiene rating '5' from the Environmental Health Officer.

Thank you to the Trustees and the Community centre staff for all their hard work in keeping the Community Centre running smoothly. It is a wonderful location to work in.

Christine Batchelor

THE SHERWOOD COMMUNITY  
ASSOCIATION CIO WOULD LIKE TO  
THANK EVERYONE WHO HAS  
CONTRIBUTED TO THIS YEAR'S  
ANNUAL REPORT