

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 2018

Kingham Accountants Ltd
161 College Street
St Helens
Merseyside
WA10 1TY

St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association

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St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Ms E Quantrell Mr J Peers Mr A Moore Mr A Catterall
Secretary	Mr G Hale
Principal Office	The Old Police Station 80 Lark Lane Liverpool L17 8UU The charity is incorporated in England.
Company Registration Number	01692937
Charity Registration Number	513803
Independent Examiner	Kingham Accountants Ltd 161 College Street St Helens Merseyside WA10 1TY

St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 January 2018.

Objectives and activities

Public benefit

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.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 27 June 2018 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mr G Hale
Company Secretary

St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these 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 UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 27 June 2018 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mr G Hale
Company Secretary

St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association

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

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 January 2018 which are set out on pages 5 to 13 .

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The 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.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to 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 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 Charities

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.

.....
Paul Kingham FCA

161 College Street
St Helens
Merseyside
WA10 1TY

27 June 2018

St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 January 2018 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

		Unrestricted funds		
	Note	General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2018 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	5,009	81,760	86,769
Other trading activities	4	46,311	8,239	54,550
Investment income	5	49	-	49
Total Income		<u>51,369</u>	<u>89,999</u>	<u>141,368</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	6	(50,267)	(106,145)	(156,412)
Other expenditure	7	(1,541)	(13,218)	(14,759)
Total Expenditure		<u>(51,808)</u>	<u>(119,363)</u>	<u>(171,171)</u>
Net expenditure		<u>(439)</u>	<u>(29,364)</u>	<u>(29,803)</u>
Net movement in funds		(439)	(29,364)	(29,803)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>44,691</u>	<u>227,925</u>	<u>272,616</u>
Total funds carried forward	15	<u>44,252</u>	<u>198,561</u>	<u>242,813</u>
		Unrestricted funds		
		General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2017 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	11,332	74,714	86,046
Other trading activities	4	42,320	20,065	62,385
Investment income	5	66	-	66
Total Income		<u>53,718</u>	<u>94,779</u>	<u>148,497</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	6	(50,654)	(102,143)	(152,797)
Other expenditure	7	(1,595)	(14,344)	(15,939)
Total Expenditure		<u>(52,249)</u>	<u>(116,487)</u>	<u>(168,736)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>1,469</u>	<u>(21,708)</u>	<u>(20,239)</u>
Net movement in funds		1,469	(21,708)	(20,239)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>43,222</u>	<u>249,633</u>	<u>292,855</u>
Total funds carried forward	15	<u>44,691</u>	<u>227,925</u>	<u>272,616</u>

St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association

**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 January 2018
(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains
and Losses)**

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2017 is shown in note 15.

St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association

(Registration number: 01692937) Balance Sheet as at 31 January 2018

	Note	2018 £	2017 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	152,952	167,713
Current assets			
Debtors	13	3,700	3,562
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>96,235</u>	<u>107,696</u>
		99,935	111,258
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(10,074)</u>	<u>(6,355)</u>
Net current assets		<u>89,861</u>	<u>104,903</u>
Net assets		<u>242,813</u>	<u>272,616</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds		198,561	227,925
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>44,252</u>	<u>44,691</u>
Total funds	15	<u>242,813</u>	<u>272,616</u>

For the financial year ending 31 January 2018 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

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

The financial statements on pages 5 to 13 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 27 June 2018 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Mr J Peers
Trustee

St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 January 2018

1 Charity status

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

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Transition to FRS 102

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

Income and endowments

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

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 January 2018

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees's meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Government grants

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £0.00 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

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:

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 January 2018

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2018	Total 2017
	General £	£	£	£
Grants, including capital grants;				
Government grants	-	71,090	71,090	72,857
Grants from other charities	5,009	10,670	15,679	13,189
	<u>5,009</u>	<u>81,760</u>	<u>86,769</u>	<u>86,046</u>

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2018	Total 2017
	General £	£	£	£
Events income;				
Other events income	11,021	-	11,021	11,758
Property rental income	31,157	8,239	39,396	49,686
Other income from other trading activities	4,133	-	4,133	941
	<u>46,311</u>	<u>8,239</u>	<u>54,550</u>	<u>62,385</u>

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Total 2018	Total 2017
	General £	£	£
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Interest receivable on bank deposits	49	49	66
	<u>49</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>66</u>

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2018	Total 2017
	General £	£	£	£
Governance costs	50,267	106,145	156,412	152,797
Note	8			
	<u>50,267</u>	<u>106,145</u>	<u>156,412</u>	<u>152,797</u>

£Nil (2017 - £Nil) of the above expenditure was attributable to unrestricted funds and £Nil (2017 - £Nil) to restricted funds.

St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 January 2018

7 Other expenditure

Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2018	Total 2017
	General £			
Depreciation, amortisation and other similar costs	1,541	13,218	14,759	15,939
	<u>1,541</u>	<u>13,218</u>	<u>14,759</u>	<u>15,939</u>

8 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2018	Total 2017
	General £			
Staff costs				
Wages and salaries	10,095	87,776	97,871	93,933
Other staff costs	3,433	3,316	6,749	3,231
Audit fees				
Other fees paid to auditors	2,280	-	2,280	2,250
Other governance costs	<u>34,459</u>	<u>15,053</u>	<u>49,512</u>	<u>53,383</u>
	<u>50,267</u>	<u>106,145</u>	<u>156,412</u>	<u>152,797</u>

9 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

10 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2018 £	2017 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	97,871	93,933
Other staff costs	<u>6,749</u>	<u>3,231</u>
	<u>104,620</u>	<u>97,164</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 January 2018

11 Taxation

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

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Furniture and equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 February 2017	335,928	68,425	6,563	410,916
At 31 January 2018	335,928	68,425	6,563	410,916
Depreciation				
At 1 February 2017	186,516	52,201	4,486	243,203
Charge for the year	10,537	3,704	520	14,761
At 31 January 2018	197,053	55,905	5,006	257,964
Net book value				
At 31 January 2018	138,875	12,520	1,557	152,952
At 31 January 2017	149,412	16,224	2,077	167,713

13 Debtors

	2018 £	2017 £
Other debtors	3,700	3,562

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2018 £	2017 £
Bank overdrafts	1,780	1,780
Other taxation and social security	-	80
Other creditors	(1)	-
Accruals	8,295	4,495
	10,074	6,355

15 Funds

St Michael's & Lark Lane Community Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 January 2018

	Balance at 1 February 2017 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 January 2018 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	(44,691)	(51,369)	51,808	(44,252)
Restricted funds	<u>(227,925)</u>	<u>(89,999)</u>	<u>119,363</u>	<u>(198,561)</u>
Total funds	<u><u>(272,616)</u></u>	<u><u>(141,368)</u></u>	<u><u>171,171</u></u>	<u><u>(242,813)</u></u>
	Balance at 1 February 2016 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 January 2017 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	(43,222)	(53,718)	52,249	(44,691)
Restricted funds	<u>(249,633)</u>	<u>(94,779)</u>	<u>116,487</u>	<u>(227,925)</u>
Total funds	<u><u>(292,855)</u></u>	<u><u>(148,497)</u></u>	<u><u>168,736</u></u>	<u><u>(272,616)</u></u>

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	General £	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	3,245	149,707	152,952
Current assets	46,301	53,634	99,935
Current liabilities	<u>(5,294)</u>	<u>(4,780)</u>	<u>(10,074)</u>
Total net assets	<u><u>44,252</u></u>	<u><u>198,561</u></u>	<u><u>242,813</u></u>

17 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 February 2017 £	Cash flow £	At 31 January 2018 £
Cash at bank and in hand	107,696	(11,461)	96,235
Net debt	<u><u>107,696</u></u>	<u><u>(11,461)</u></u>	<u><u>96,235</u></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
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 27TH 2018**

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, and in particular 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, 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, Fire Dance Workshops, Art Classes and Exhibitions, Spanish Lessons, Yoga, Qi Jong, Meditation Group, 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 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, Healing Days, Dance Workshops, Vegan Food Fairs, Family Fun Days, Jumble Sales, Health Promotion Events, Jumble Sales, Post Card Fairs, Paranormal Investigation Nights, Tai Chi Courses, Musical Minis and Writers' Workshops. 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”, an “After Adoption” Get Together and Kiddies Clothes Swaps.

Several local charitable groups have used our centre for fundraising events including medical charities.

Training Courses are regularly hosted and more are planned for the coming year.

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, Saturday Vintage Clothes, Sunday Furniture Shop, Numerous Therapists, Phil's Picture Palace, and several 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, Windbourne Residents Community and the Friends of the Festival Gardens.

KEY SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

The Pre School Centre

Our Nursery provides all day education and care for 2 – 4 year olds. An extremely wide and varied curriculum is followed with specialist topics changing each month and core topics including the gardening club and forest school. We have an extremely hard working and dedicated staff team who are highly trained and skilled.

This year has been an outstandingly successful year in which all the hard work has been widely recognised. Most significantly, OFSTED undertook an extremely thorough and gruelling inspection of the Nursery back in April and rated the facility as outstanding. It was rated as outstanding in all the key areas assessed: Effectiveness of leadership and management, Quality of teaching, learning and assessment, Personal development, behaviour and welfare and Outcomes for children. All the staff and volunteers are to be congratulated on this tremendous achievement.

Other awards to the nursery this year include a gold green tree award from the Woodland Trust, in recognition of the work of the forest school, and "Portage Approval" for high quality work with children with special needs.

As a result of all these achievements nursery places fill up quickly and it is now essential to register well in advance.

Another important part of our work with Pre School children is the Parent/Carer and Toddlers Group which runs sessions on two mornings a week. This highly popular activity provides an opportunity for the very young to mix together in a stimulating and learning environment. Perhaps as importantly it provides an opportunity for young, and often socially isolated parents, to get together in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. Many people who attend are referred by GP's and support workers.

Despite being run entirely by volunteers the workers still found the time and energy to once again raise money to help towards the running of our Senior Citizens Lunch Club, while they were busy raising money to replace worn out equipment and rapidly consumed materials.

Activities for Young People

Unfortunately, due to local authority funding cuts, the City Council Youth Service is no longer able to run activities in our centre, and so a lot of the services previously run for teenagers can no longer take place. The centre is however, still able to host a number of activities for young people.

We are happy to accommodate the "Theatre on Foot" drama group which is continuing to grow in size and scope. They now run sessions in our Youth Centre three evenings a week culminating in theatrical performances in a variety of venues. Initially the classes were aimed at teenage thespians, but now they also have a Junior Section for younger children.

A local “Home Education” Group continue to use our premises for their drama group and also for Spanish lessons.

Our own Majorettes Troupe – the Larkettes - continues to provide twice weekly training sessions, and competitions every weekend from Easter to the end of September for a large number of local children and teenagers. It is now close to 40 years since the troupe was founded and it continues to thrive thanks to the tireless efforts of numerous volunteers. As well as giving up several hours a week of their time, they manage to raise several thousand pounds a year to help fund competition costs, uniforms and other expenses. Without this constant fundraising the activity would be unaffordable for many of the children.

The Advice Centre

Our Advice Centre, LLAWRACC, continues to be an extremely important local service, providing a wide ranging advice and information point. We cover a very wide range of issues but specialise in Welfare Benefits and Debt. The service helps to maximise the income of many of our most vulnerable residents by guiding them through the complex welfare benefits system to ensure that they are not missing out on their entitlements.

This year we have been particularly busy helping people whose disability benefits have been reviewed and in nearly all cases reduced. A large proportion of these reviews lead to random decisions and consequent appeals to the independent tribunal.

Thanks to the initiative of our ward councillors in accessing funding from the Lord Mayor’s Hardship Fund, we can now help clients make online applications both for a range of benefits and also to the Property Pool for rehousing.

The service we provide is entirely free and we guarantee complete confidentiality.

Senior Citizens Group

Our work with local senior citizens continues to be one of our key services. The core activity is the twice weekly lunch club consisting of a three course meal prepared in our own kitchen. Due to constantly rising food costs we have had to increase the cost of meals by 25%. We now charge £2.50 for the three courses!

Several members stay behind on Tuesdays to play bingo.

Over half our members have severe mobility problems and so it is vital for us to provide transport for as many as we can with our own minibus. This is a costly but vital element of the service.

We enjoyed a day out in Llandudno last summer and with the help of one of our local councillors, we are shortly hoping to offer members free tickets to the “Terracotta Warriors” exhibition.

We are happy to welcome residents along from two of our local nursing homes. It provides them with a very welcome break.

Without a loyal band of volunteers none of this would be possible and we wish to record our gratitude to them all. Thanks are also due to Terry Canning who organised musical entertainment at our Christmas Party, at no charge.

Community Horticulture Project - “Growing Together”

Although we no longer receive any funding to run this project, as a result of financial problems in the NHS locally (Liverpool CCG), volunteers have ensured that the project continues.

Our Polytunnel and adjacent garden provide a resource for several local people, without their own gardens, to grow their own flowers and food whatever the weather.

We continue to rent land adjacent to St Michael’s Station from Network Rail. We have continued to do this in order to keep a well used footpath open. We run the site as a community garden and people have often donated their time and plants to make the site interesting and attractive. A small number of volunteers maintains the site, clearing rubbish and keeping the path clear but they are very keen to recruit more helpers to lighten their load and further improve the area.

SOME OTHER ACTIVITIES AND NEWS FROM THE CENTRE

Paranormal Investigations

“Deadlive” now holds these events every month and usually sells out several weeks in advance. Of all the places where they do their ghost hunting, they say that our community centre has the greatest number of unexplained happenings. The Psychic Academy has also held events here and claims the building has a very special atmosphere. We would like to reassure everyone who uses the centre that so far none of the ghosts have been unfriendly!

“Fairshare”

Our partnership with Fairshare has resulted in a very good relationship having been built up with two of our local Tesco stores. Two of our volunteers have been picking up large quantities of food, which would otherwise end up in skips, for free distribution to users of the centre and other people in need in the local community. We never know in advance how much, or what, we will be getting and so cannot advertise the service. Because of the fairly short shelf life of the produce, we need to give it away to be consumed the same day we receive it. This means it is not suitable for distribution by the local foodbanks.

Redecoration

Thanks to a £1,000 grant from the Tesco “Bags of Help” scheme, we have been able recently to redecorate about a half of the communal areas in the centre. Supermarkets are not allowed to profit from the sale of plastic bags and so must put the money back into the community. While we are also concerned about problems of plastic waste and overuse of plastic generally, this is becoming one of a dwindling number of funding sources for many small community groups.

We are also grateful for continued financial assistance from our local Co-Op store through their membership scheme.

Rent Increases

After many years of freezing charges for activity organisers, we have reluctantly had to increase charges this year by about 20%. Electricity and Water Charges in particular have risen steeply in recent years, but we still believe that nobody is put off using the centre because of the charges.

Filming

We have again been used as a filming location. Most recently the “Maybrick Cell” has been used to film a news item for the BBC Victoria Derbyshire programme.

Lark Lane Pottery

Pottery classes remain extremely popular, and to avoid overcrowding, it has recently been necessary to introduce an online booking system which has so far been very successful.

Health Promotion

Healthiness Ltd has increased the number of classes they hold here at the centre, having successfully acquired funding from a variety of sources. As well as general keep fit classes they cater for people with a variety of mental and physical health conditions.

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 South Central Community Transport.

Financial Policy and Donors

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:

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
Asda Foundation
Tesco "Bags of Help"
Liverpool City Council
Save the Libraries Campaign
Toddlers Group
Fairshare
Lord Mayor's Hardship Fund: St Michael's Ward
Lord Mayor's Hardship Fund: Kensington and Fairfield Ward
Sunflowers
D. Collett
D. Bradley
R. Mees
R Coulthard
T. Canning
Several Anonymous Donors

Plus many other members of our local community whose donations in cash and in 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
Ms. N. Hennessey, Rev K. Hitchman, Ms. K. Milner, Mr. A. Moore,
Mr. P. Mulhall, Mr. J. Peers, Ms. E. Quantrell and Ms. J. Swanson