

**CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE**

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 522045**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

**CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE**

**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

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## CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE

### LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity Number	- 522045
Address of Scheme	- Fernlea Drive Scotland Gate Choppington Northumberland NE62 5SS
Trustees	- B Storey J E Young J G Rice A Dickson S J Armstrong J Foster N A Little J Coulter M Rice
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 2019**

The trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2019. 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 £36,756 (2018 £35,914) from the day to day running of the centre. Income from room hire has increased by £1,228 to £27,491 (2018 £26,263) and income from catering decreased by £547. 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 £8,443 (2018 £6,237). Resources expended increased by £4,017 (2018 increased by £5,538).

#### **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.

#### **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.

Continued

## CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

#### **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.

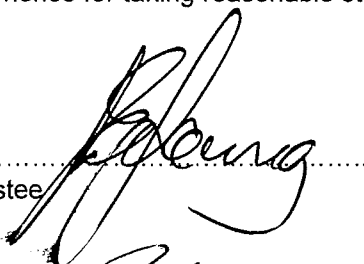
#### **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

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



JOHN EDWARD YOUNG  
Print Name

Trustee



STEPHEN JAMES ARMSTRONG  
Print Name

Date

10.7.19

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

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above named charity (registered number 522045) for the period ended 31 March 2019, set out pages 5 to 9.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

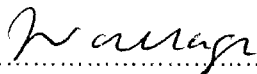
I report in respect of my examination of the Trustees' accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directons given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

**Independent Examiners Statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

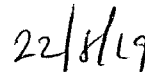
- (1) Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....  


**J Wallage FCA**

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

.....  


Date

# CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

		<u>General</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2019</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2018</u>
<u>Income and Endowments</u>	<u>Notes</u>	£	£	£	£
Income from leisure activities	2	15,530	-	15,530	16,547
Catering takings	3	42,055	-	42,055	42,602
Members' subscriptions		382	-	382	572
Room hire		27,491	-	27,491	26,263
Occupational licence		2,500	-	2,500	2,500
Gift aid donation		8,443	-	8,443	6,237
Investment income		352	-	352	92
Solar Panel income		4,366	-	4,366	3,657
Donations		120	-	120	-
<b>Total Income</b>		<u>101,239</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>101,239</u>	<u>98,470</u>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>					
<u>Direct Charitable Expenditure</u>					
Catering purchases		8,553	-	8,553	9,189
Rates and water rates		2,583	-	2,583	2,301
Insurance		2,797	-	2,797	2,705
Light and heat		12,584	-	12,584	12,762
Repairs and maintenance		19,043	-	19,043	15,010
Cleaning and hygiene		2,051	-	2,051	2,165
Sundry expenses		1,213	-	1,213	1,033
		<u>48,824</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,824</u>	<u>45,165</u>
<u>Management and Administration</u>					
Salaries and wages		69,547	-	69,547	68,187
Telephone, postage, stationery and adverts		3,106	-	3,106	3,789
Accountancy		1,583	-	1,583	1,537
Entertainment and licences		1,523	-	1,523	1,132
Legal Fees		-	-	-	500
Bad Debts		-	-	-	256
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<u>124,583</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>124,583</u>	<u>120,566</u>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS BEFORE DEPRECIATION</b>		<u>(23,344)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(23,344)</u>	<u>(22,096)</u>
Depreciation	5	1,884	11,528	13,412	13,818
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<u>(25,228)</u>	<u>(11,528)</u>	<u>(36,756)</u>	<u>(35,914)</u>
Fund balances brought forward		351,462	533,968	885,430	921,344
<b>Fund balances carried forward</b>		<u>326,234</u>	<u>522,440</u>	<u>848,674</u>	<u>885,430</u>

**CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE**

**BALANCE SHEET**

**AS AT 31 MARCH 2019**

	Note	<u>2019</u>		<u>2018</u>	
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	5		631,213		644,625
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Stocks	6	4,766		4,327	
Debtors	7	30,746		22,730	
Cash at bank and in hand	8	188,620		222,006	
		<u>224,132</u>		<u>249,063</u>	
<b>LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
Creditors falling due within one year	9	(6,671)		(8,258)	
			<u>217,461</u>		<u>240,805</u>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>			<u><u>848,674</u></u>		<u><u>885,430</u></u>

Represented by:

**FUNDS**

General funds	326,234	351,462
Restricted funds - Building Fund	522,440	533,968
	<u><u>848,674</u></u>	<u><u>885,430</u></u>

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

Trustee

Print name

Date



**CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

**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**

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
	£	£
Pilates Group	840	1,630
Tuesday Dance Club	1,628	1,610
Pool and Snooker	1,692	1,825
Sunday Dance Club	486	553
Carpet Bowls	648	464
Line Dancing	5,660	5,865
Computer Club (net of related expenses)	987	967
Choppington Community Choir	1,340	1,364
Centre Activities	2,566	2,706
Pantomime (net of expenses)	(317)	(437)
	<u>15,530</u>	<u>16,547</u>

**CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
	£	£
<b>3. <u>CATERING TAKINGS</u></b>		
Catering Income associated with room hire		
Food	20,030	21,857
Tea/Coffee	16,464	15,907
Catering Income from general café activities	5,561	4,838
	<u>42,055</u>	<u>42,602</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 £8,443 (2018 £6,237).

	<u>Buildings</u> <u>(Restricted)</u>	<u>Buildings</u> <u>(General)</u>	<u>Furniture &amp;</u> <u>Equipment</u> <u>(Restricted)</u>	<u>Furniture &amp;</u> <u>Equipment</u> <u>(General)</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>5. <u>FIXED ASSETS</u></b>					
<u>Cost</u>					
At 1 April 2018	735,329	109,609	50,404	7,890	903,232
Additions in year	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2019	<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 2018	181,155	22,037	48,187	7,228	258,607
Charge for the year	11,084	1,752	444	132	13,412
At 31 March 2019	<u>192,239</u>	<u>23,789</u>	<u>48,631</u>	<u>7,360</u>	<u>272,019</u>
<u>Net Book Value</u>					
At 31 March 2019	<u>543,090</u>	<u>85,820</u>	<u>1,773</u>	<u>530</u>	<u>631,213</u>
At 31 March 2018	<u>554,174</u>	<u>87,572</u>	<u>2,217</u>	<u>662</u>	<u>644,625</u>

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
	£	£
<b>6. <u>STOCKS</u></b>		
Catering stocks	2,894	2,611
Other stocks	1,872	1,716
	<u>4,766</u>	<u>4,327</u>

**7. DEBTORS**

Trade debtors	13,425	8,760
Balance due from Choppington Social Welfare Centre Social Club Limited	13,481	11,276
VAT Account	1,116	-
Other debtors and prepayments	2,724	2,694
	<u>30,746</u>	<u>22,730</u>

**CHOPPINGTON SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE**

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019 (CONTINUED)**

	<b><u>2019</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>
	<b><u>£</u></b>	<b><u>£</u></b>
<b>8. <u>CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND</u></b>		
Barclays Bank - Current account	51,625	84,837
- Deposit account	136,454	136,103
Cash in hand	541	1,066
	<b><u>188,620</u></b>	<b><u>222,006</u></b>
 <b>9. <u>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year</u></b>		
Trade creditors	1,225	2,471
Taxes and social security	1,879	1,433
Other creditors and accruals	3,567	4,354
	<b><u>6,671</u></b>	<b><u>8,258</u></b>

**Secretary & Chairs Report to the Trustee's & Management Committee**  
**For the financial Year 2018/19**

Our aim this year has been no different to any other year we still strive to offer a special service to our members & clients alike, it has to be a service that will keep them coming back time & time again. Although we have had some expensive maintenance problems to contend with in the past 12 months the ambience of the Centre is still top quality. We lost a member of staff who decided she wanted to move on to try something different, after finding the right replacement she quickly became part of the team in doing what they are good at meeting & greeting people as they arrive, they do it in a very friendly & helpful manner. The in house training we provide for them along with the person who they are makes them very good at what we deliver.

I have stated in several previous years reports how much I felt that for the foreseeable future things were going to be a struggle and we have to make savings & cut backs ourselves to survive. Well the past 12 months have lived up to that difficult expectation. It has been a struggle and I think its probably going to remain that way for the immediate future. Rather than make desperate cuts we looked in depth at what we offer, not just to the members but clients also and we looked at the way that we delivered it. We looked at where the changes were happening & we made changes so that we could remain in with a chance to pick up business where & when we can, as we now have plenty other competition around us.

The Centre is 19 yrs old on Sept 25<sup>th</sup> this year which means all the equipment is that little bit older, as reported in last years report how we struggled with the Central Heating Boiler keeping the Centre heated, experiencing several break downs and because parts were getting difficult & expensive to get hold of the Trustee's decided to replace the system. After seeking advice about what was available as a replacement from both our heating maintenance engineer & the engineer who maintains the computer side of the control panel. Both came with the advice of fitting twin boilers made by Broag so that if there was a problem with 1 boiler we would still be able to provide enough back ground heat with the other boiler until a repair was done & not having to work with electric heaters as we have had to do in the past.

As we were unsuccessful with an application for a grant from NEAMWSTF towards the cost of the replacement boilers, after going out to tender the Trustees said they had reserves to cover this very important upgrade.

The Solar panels that we installed and were commissioned at the end of March 2011, registering for the FIT (feed in tariff) this is a great help towards the annual income of the Centre this last year our finances benefited by an increase of £1k probably due to the long hot summer we had ast years.

We still have some chairs to purchase for the bar area to compliment the tub chairs as the Centre Reception area, probably a few more of the same sort of chair but in a different colour. This of course has only been possible through a grant made to us by the NEAMWTF once again we have to give a big thank you for their patience & support.

As always we continue to look for new activity's to interest the membership & try to encourage others to join. We are placing an advert in the ABC Magazine regarding wanting idea's & organisers of community groups to come forward to help with our thoughts on the old bowling green area. we don't want to just concentrate on football, if there is anyone interested in ladies netball, walking football, hockey etc now is the time to come forward. After going ahead with the advert to create interest we went made & made some improvements to the old bowling green, we removed a hedge that jutted out & an old footpath & grassed it, so we could host junior football coaching & playing of league matches until we decide to go ahead with the MUGA development.

Training sessions of late have included Safe Guarding both for vulnerable adults & children, Jack & Jill sessions, Modern Slavery, sexual exploitation, First Aid Training, First Aid at work, Lifting & Handling, Nappi Training all of these are working along with the Learning & Development Training Unit at County Hall.

The Training rooms – We are still run the computer room with the help of some very good volunteers, the group are still as keen as ever to learn what they can. Although the Computer Equipment is fairly new we keep looking to upgrade the memory in them to quicken them up, we have installed Digital hard drives which helps to improve the speed, these work in conjunction with the existing hard drives already installed.

Over the years we have run courses with such a wide variety of sessions to choose from. For example “Spanish Lessons” – Art & Drawing – Glass Painting – Sugar Craft – Family History – First Aid – Proggy Mat Making – 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 your computer.

All of these courses were 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.

Sequence Dancing – continues to be as popular as ever taking place in the centre on Sunday, Tuesday Evenings.

Keep Fit – Tai – Chi – Salsa Dancing – are activity’s we have run and can pick up when & where the interest arises again. Pilates is a fairly new activity group but they now run a session on 2 early evenings a week.

Line Dancing – Adult sessions are still very popular & taking place regularly but parents are encouraged to bring their children along with them, 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 again to join in.

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, she has several volunteers who give her a hand.

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.

Pilates Group – we have a new Pilates tutor who has built up a very strong following since she started, local doctors give her patient referrals, she only has the one session at the moment with us but hope a second session will follow shortly.

Computer Group – meet mainly on a Monday evening with special drop in sessions on a Wednesday afternoon for anyone who is wanting that little extra help with a problem, it is

growing in popularity because help is being given to the beginner by the more advanced of the computer group. 1 of the sessions is set aside for hardware projects from fault finding & repairing to building a computer from a box of parts.

Special one off Events –

- a) Exhibition of old photographs, featuring Ellington Colliery, Lynemouth, Barrington, Bedlington, Choppington we have photo's of almost every Colliery when on display the photographs bring a lot of interest & conversation to a lot of people
- b) Christmas Pantomime is still as popular as ever with the adults as well as the children! This year it was "Alladin" it's Getting Better every year.
- c) Christmas Lunch for Members took place again this year served at a very reasonable cost.
- d) Exhibition of old Photographs – all from the local area, people & pits exhibitions of this sort stimulate not just memories of time gone by but discussions of memories of them. We have a constant request to show photographs
- e) We now have a collection of photographs of old British Made Motorcycles that a lot of people showed great interest in, bringing back memories of the bike that they once proudly owned as a young lad.
- f) DVD & Video Playing of "Times Gone By" made here in the North East, by Northern Heritage who are based at Blagdon Hall.
- g) 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.
- h) The 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 will in time become part of the local history of our era, all continue to be popular, members ask for them when we haven't had them playing for a while.
- i) Exhibition of Panoramic Photographs taken by our Computer Group mainly of local scenes, holiday scenes etc.
- j) Line Dance Workshops – in the form of Social Evenings with those attending requesting the music to dance too.
- k) The Line Dance Group have held several fund raising events where proceeds were donated to named Charities, Diabetes UK, Chrones & Colitus, Pulmonary Fibrosis & Alzheimers Society all very worthy causes.
- l) Members of the Line Dance Group collected Easter Eggs to donate to the local childrens hospital wards & elderly care homes. Last year they collected 150 eggs so this year they set out to beat that target, they ended up with 200 in total.

The Bar continues as operate as normal, to compliment the rest of the activities that the Centre hosts but like everything else during the present financial climate. Income from the bar has been considerably affected but is currently holding steady.

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

People may get tired of me including this paragraph but I'm sorry as long as I am secretary I will never ever get tired of saying it or forget to mention the importance those grants were that we received from all of the funding agencies **N.E.A.M.W.T.F, Northern Rock, One North East Community Fund, Coalfields Regeneration Trust, G.O.N.E & The Charities Lottery Board.** Without their financial input we would not be enjoying the use of this new centre. There will always be a special thanks go to **The Charities Lottery Board now called The Big Lottery Fund**, they were the first to recognise how good a project we had by awarding us a grant of £265,000. This was approx 1/3 of the estimated cost of our project at that time, they also stuck with us for the 12 months that it took to secure all the remaining funding before the project could started. 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 since then.

The past 12 months as well as being a very busy time for us has also been a very difficult time too. Come this October I will have been connected with the Centre for 39 years & in that time I have met many many people, some becoming friends as well as active members of the Centre. However as we all get on in years I have now lost count of the members lost in that time. People some times laugh when I say this but it is never the less true that when a partner dies it usually means we also lose the surviving partner as an active Centre member as well. My thoughts go out to each & everyone of them & their families along with my apologies that I wasn't able to attend each & every funeral that took place.

*As always there is only one thing left for me to do and that is to thank each and everyone of you as "Members" who come along to the centre week after week to take part in whatever activity you enjoy taking part in. The continued survival of the centre rests with you the people who currently use the facility. 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 too many to mention who come along & give a 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.*

*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 to 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

