

SHERWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CIO

Registered Charity 1158333

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

2017-2018

**Sherwood Community Association CIO is
the Registered Charity which runs**



**Grant aided by Nottingham City Council
Grant administered by NG7 as Lead Organisation**

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TRUSTEES' REPORT 2017-18

ABOUT SHERWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CIO

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 or volunteering in the area of benefit, which is Sherwood and the surrounding area.

The Association is managed by The Trustees' Committee who meet monthly, assisted by two Administrators. The Trustees are elected annually by the members at an AGM and operate as per the adopted constitution of 2014. The Trustees consult with the Members' Support Group, which is made up of representatives from Affiliated Groups and other interested Members, who also meet regularly. It is a condition of Affiliation that representatives support the Association by attending meetings and providing assistance at events or helping in areas of their expertise.

Various sub-groups (comprising of Trustees and representatives of the Members' Support Group) carry out research, planning and other work and report back to the Trustees' Committee and Members' Support Group.

The building and grounds are owned by Nottingham City Council, who are responsible for repairs to the structure and services of the building. The Association receives an Area Based Grant from the Council, which is administered by NG7 as our Lead

Organisation. In order to receive the grant, the Association has to provide quarterly monitoring to NG7, as proof that the Association is providing the services expected by the Area Based Grant Agreement, which is, in effect a type of Service Level Agreement.

The Association has continued to liaise with Leigh (Neighbourhood Development Officer) and NG7 in relation to payments of the Area Based Grant (Block Grant) which is distributed by NG7, in an effort to ensure that payments are received regularly, within the appropriate quarters. This should come in at £2750 per quarter, totalling £11,000 per annum. This should continue until 31 March 2019. It is not yet known whether we will continue to receive an Area Based Grant after that date.

The current Trustees' Committee has endeavoured to be in contact with and work with other organisations and charities to enhance provision for all who live in the area of benefit.

Through the democratic process, a wide range of views and opinions have been expressed, debated and decisions made accordingly.

Present provision and services continue to be utilised and we have had some success in responding to identified needs.

TRUSTEES AT 31 MARCH 2018

Chair	Jill Gregory (<i>also known as Jill Mee</i>)
Treasurer	Margaret Hilton
Secretary	Helen Goodbarton
Membership Secretary	Valerie Hunter
Trustees	Louise Holland
	Hannah Fries (<i>also known as Hannah Malhotra</i>)
	Ameet Malhotra
	Christine Batchelor
	Martin Cook
	Sally Hilton
	Peter Sharpe

MEMBERS OF STAFF AT 31 MARCH 2018

Administrators	Alison Manifold
	Kevin McDonnell
Site/Maintenance Co-ordinator	Kevin McDonnell
Caretaker/Cleaners	Michael Carlisle
	Robert Soar
	Julie Fairholm

STATUTORY AUTHORITIES

Neighbourhood Development Officers (Nottingham City Council)	Leigh Plant
NG7 (Lead Organisation)	Angela Bolton
	Yesmean Khalil
	Jawaid Khalil

CHAIR'S REPORT

This year we were pleased to have had a larger Trustees' Committee, which means that we have a more diverse range of experience and opinions. We have tried to organise meetings according to everyone's availability, although availability does often change.

I would like to thank all those who have worked together on in subgroups or in other ways to contribute towards events or running of the Centre. My particular thanks go to Valerie who has liaised and worked with me on many matters throughout the year - in particular, recruitment; to Alison for her hard work and use of her creative talents and ideas, and to Kevin who worked so many extra hours to provide cover for Caretakers (sometimes at short notice), and train new Caretakers, as well as the work he is now doing as Site/Maintenance Co-ordinator. As each week goes by, I notice repairs or improvements which have happened around the building. It has been a pleasure to welcome new members of staff to our team. I hope they will be happy working with us.

I recall arriving at the Centre one evening, 21 years ago to find a new Caretaker on duty; Pete Scott. This was before the days of automatic doors and I remember being surprised when he offered to help by carrying things through the building for me, and opened doors. This had not happened previously! Pete retired in December, and I am sure that his sociable presence will be missed.

In March I attended Open Mosque Day at the Karimia Institute which was attended by various church groups and other community groups. It was a good opportunity for networking (and a delicious lunch). Apparently, they occasionally run interfaith days, and as a result of this I have suggested the possibility of holding an Intercultural Day at the Community Centre, as an opportunity to bring local communities together.

As we go forward into the next year, I hope that more will join the Members' Support Group and get involved with organising events and activities, and volunteering within the Centre, for example decorating, gardening etc. We would also welcome those who have expertise in various areas, particularly legal or financial.

At recent meetings with volunteers from other Community Centres and members of the Nottingham City Council Communities Team, we were asked why people don't volunteer. Everyone present agreed that there is a great deal of enjoyment and satisfaction gained from volunteering, particularly at events. Apparently, there are various sizes of Community Centres within the City boundary, and Sherwood Community Centre is considered to be a "Super Large" Community Centre, so please spread the word and get more people to join us.

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 another new User group to Affiliated status in December 2017, though 1 business group had ceased trading earlier in the year. One User group had not given approval at the Trustees' meeting of April 2017, being non-compliant with the T&C of Affiliation. At the end of the Membership year, 31.03.18, the register showed:-

- 13 Affiliated groups
- 2 Affiliated charities
- 84 Full Individual Members belonging to an Affiliated group
- 6 Full Individual members
- 1 Life Individual member

This is a total of **15 Affiliated** groups and **91 Full Individual Members** for the full membership year 2017-18.

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 significantly.

All newly registered members are classed as 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.

Status	User Group	Full Associate Life TOTAL			
Affiliated	Senior Group	8	0	0	8
Affiliated	NBLS	37	0	0	37
Affiliated	Jill Gregory School of Dancing	1	0	0	1
Affiliated	Care2Quals	2	0	0	2
Affiliated	Sprouts	1	0	0	1
Affiliated	Zumba with Charm	1	0	0	1
Affiliated	Buena Vida	1	0	0	1
Affiliated	Yoga R. Fox	1	0	0	1
Affiliated	The Yoga Village	2	0	0	2
Affiliated	Paul Cupit Yoga	1	0	0	1
Affiliated	Self-help Group for People who Stammer	0	0	0	0
Affiliated	Woodthorpe Model Railway Club	0	0	0	0
Affiliated	Railway Interest Group	0	0	0	0
Aff. Charity	Playgroup	1	0	0	1
Aff. Charity	NOS (Tea Dance)	28	0	0	28
Individual		6	0	0	6
Life		0	0	1	1
	Totals	90	0	1	91

Preparation of paperwork for the new Membership year begins in February, and invitations to renew Affiliations and Individual Memberships were issued mid-March 2018, to be registered from 1st April 2018. Affiliated 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. In addition, in March 2018 individual members were informed separately of the imminent implementation of the new GDPR laws, affecting the collection, storage and availability of the personal data we hold, with a request for written consent to do so. Upon receipt of the completed and signed application form with the appropriate fee, the Affiliation renewal requests are presented for approval by the Trustees at the first meeting of the Membership year; subsequently groups are notified in writing of the outcome. Late renewal requests (received after April 31st) or new requests received mid-year, are dealt with at the next scheduled Trustees' meeting.

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 benefit of the community.

Valerie Hunter
Membership Secretary

April 2018

2017-18 UPDATE

A community forum was held on Wednesday 18th October 2017. Invitations were sent to other community organisations and local stakeholders. Unfortunately, attendance was very low, with only 4 Trustees, 2 User Group representatives and 1 other person attending.

There have been changes in use of the offices during the year. Care2Quals vacated their offices, but we are pleased that Martin has been able to stay on as a Trustee.

Support4Survivors are now using one of our offices, running counselling and group sessions for adults who have suffered childhood abuse. Maxi was the winner of Nottingham Post's Women in Business Award and is also an advisor to the Vatican.



There were a number of Anti-Social Behaviour incidents during November. The Police were called out on several occasions, but unfortunately no one was caught. The Police, PCSOs and CPOs call in from time to time to check things are OK.

There was a break-in during December. The intruders smashed the toilet which was being used as an honesty box and donations collection point. They stole a small amount of cash. This break in has resulted in windows which had previously been replaced with Perspex, being replaced with safety glass. No arrests have been made.

FUNDRAISING/EVENTS

In order to carry out redecoration, purchase new furniture etc, fundraising is necessary to cover costs.

We were unable to hold a large summer event this year as we were anticipating some building/repair work being carried out. This also affected our ability to plan some smaller events.

Our main event of the year was the Christmas Fayre on Sunday 3rd December. There were craft stalls in the Hall, rooms 1 and 2. Our Small Hall was a games room. The Annex had children's activities organised by Sherwood Playgroup, Open Wings and Sprouts. The Railway Interest Group set up a model railway display in room 3. The Stable Dance Studio was turned into Santa's Grotto, children could visit Santa for a small charge (£1.00) and received a small gift. This location gave the setting a cosy rustic charm, as the former stable dates back to the first half of the 18th century and has a ceiling of rushes and rustic beams. Christine's Community Café was open for refreshments. The profit from the event including raffle ticket sales and specific donations prior to the event, was £1427.66 which will be used towards the refurbishment of the building.



In conjunction with Sherwood Art Week, there were two guided tours of the historic 18th/19th Century part of the building (Woodthorpe House). Visitors found the Grade II listed building very interesting and made donations to the Centre. Workshops were also held in Christine's Community Café as part of Sherwood Art Week.

Rhoda held a Pot Luck Supper to mark the end of teaching her Wednesday night class in the Hall (she now teaches in the Annex on Wednesday mornings). The event raised £87.00 which was donated to the Centre.

The Bric-a-Brac and Book stall in Reception continues to bring in around £20 per week.

We have been awarded £1,000 from Tesco Bags of Help to install a Defibrillator in a box on the outside wall of the Community

Centre. The actual cost of the Defibrillator and the appropriate storage box is £1,200 and installation would be between £600 and £800. Originally, we had also requested sufficient funding to cover First Aid Training, but this would not now be covered. It has been proposed to ask the Rotary Club if they would be prepared to support the additional funding, as the Rotary Club have funded Defibrillators elsewhere. Other sources of funding are also being looked into. It has been agreed by Trustees that if other funding is not forthcoming, we temporarily change our future fundraising from being to "Improve Facilities and Refurbishment" to a fund to pay for the balance of the cost of the Defibrillator and for its installation, but use existing funds initially, so that installation can be arranged within the time limit. (Otherwise we must forfeit the funding award.) It is thought that higher donations may come in, if we were specifically raising money for that purpose, especially if advertised on Facebook.

STAFFING

The Staffing Sub-group carried out a Work Audit and following consultation with Administrators in respect of the needs of the Centre, made recommendations to Trustees for the restructuring of work patterns and staffing requirements. Trustees agreed the proposals and the Staffing Sub-group proceeded to deal with this.

- The Administrators' working day was moved forward by an hour, to provide adequate handover periods between Caretakers and Administrators at either end of the day, and to fit with the re-organised Caretakers' shift pattern. Office opening hours were adjusted accordingly.
- Kevin McDonnell was promoted from Caretaker (7 hours per week) to Site/Maintenance /Co-ordinator (7 hours per week), to enable him to:
 - liaise with the Council, Building Sub-group and Administrators on Site Maintenance/Repairs and Building Projects, and deal with the relevant administration work.
 - carry out minor works to repair/maintain facilities.

- take responsibility for Health and Safety, Risk Assessments, Fire Procedure.
 - ensure functionality of all equipment within the Centre and carry out PAT Testing.
 - co-ordinate the work of Caretakers (and any volunteers) to ensure that the building and grounds are clean, tidy and safe.
- A new Caretaker post was advertised, to take Kevin's place on Thursday evenings. An additional employee was desperately needed to more easily provide holiday and sickness cover. This was a key requirement within the job specification.
 - Pete Scott took the decision to retire as of 24 December, after 21 years employment (three of which were after his 65th birthday) and gave two months' official notice. Unfortunately, he injured his knee 4 weeks before this and was signed off sick. Thanks to the generosity of Users, Trustees and colleagues, we were able to present Pete with a voucher of his choice, and our good wishes for a happy retirement.
 - As we had been given early notice of Pete's retirement, we had already been able to advertise additional Caretaking hours, interview applicants and offer the posts, for officially commencing in January, but with training during December. This meant that a new Caretaker was available to start the morning shifts within a few days of Pete's injury, supported by Kevin who stepped in to train him.
 - The structure of the Caretaking hours was re-organised to best fit the needs of the Centre, and incorporated the hours already worked by Robert. Unfortunately, Shaun, who was appointed to the morning shift, was with us for only three months due to family commitments. After another round of recruitment, we appointed Michael, who joined us in March, working mornings. Julie is working three evenings, and Robert is working two evenings and takes most of the weekend responsibilities.
 - The Staff Handbook/Policies and Procedures have been updated in consultation with our Advisors, Peninsula UK, who also provided us with a new model Statement of Main Terms of Employment and worked with us to mould it to our needs.

TRAINING

In November, Kevin, Alison and Robert attended Fire Safety Training. Kevin and Alison also attended CA Plus's AGM which included short training sessions on GDPR (Data Processing), Gift Aid, Pensions and other financial matters.

In March, Jill and Alison attended a course at NCVS regarding the new GDPR Laws which come into force in May 2018.

Margaret has been receiving training on the use of Quick Books and has also attended a course on how to produce Budgets.

THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS

New signage, which had been under discussion for a number of years, was finally agreed upon and erected along our boundary by Nottingham City Council. This has included installation of two



additional sign boards – one by the pedestrian entrance and one by the old recycling area, where there are no trees. It is hoped that this will enable more people to realise that there is a Community Centre in this location, as the old signs were hidden by trees. Trustees do their best to increase the local knowledge of the Centre's existence through Facebook and

in other ways, but previously, one of the problems had been those who were actually looking for the premises, knowing approximately where they are, but not being able actually see the building or grounds.

The new Building Sub-group has been able to meet more regularly than previously which has enabled them to achieve more momentum.

Refurbishment of the upstairs toilet has been carried out, although it took considerably longer than the 5 days originally scheduled, and the contractors had to be recalled on numerous occasions to complete work to our satisfaction.

Plans for the refurbishment of the Phyllis Wells' Room are moving ahead and some items of work have been carried out by Kevin.

Kevin has installed wi-fi throughout the building, for use by those hiring the building for meetings and courses, and customers of the Café.

Trees continue to be a matter of concern. They hide the car park lighting and still hide some signage. Due to the height of most of these, we are unable to cut these ourselves, and as many are very old, with Tree Protection Orders, they can only be cut back by tree surgeons. It is hoped that these will be reviewed by the Council's tree surgeons very soon. One has already been made safe after a dead branch fell onto a vehicle in the car park.

The ivy and other vegetation which was due to be removed from the Small Hall, kitchen and annex roof continues to be rampant. Whatever season it is, there seems to be a reason why the work cannot be carried out. Work had begun, but was stopped after contractors cut through telephone cabling, and despite Council inspection, has not yet resumed a year later.

The Council have recently carried out further drainage work around the hall, with a retaining wall and an improved fire escape foot path from the side of the hall to the car park. They have also re-panelled the lower section of the hall on the car park side, which is quite an improvement, although it highlights the need for the rest of the façade to be repainted.

SHERWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE & THE ENVIRONMENT

Alison produced a report on ecology within the building, so that we may work towards more energy efficiency and environmental impact.

Since the Council removed the recycling facility based in the Centre car park the Centre had been unable to carry out recycling. We have taken on a contract for a 1100 litre lockable recycling bin which cost £6.40 per week to enable us to dispose of recycled materials appropriately.

The Building Sub-group have been looking at the possibility of replacing lights with LED, but are hoping that the Association would not have to fund this expense. The back office has LED lighting now, as a result of repair after a system failure, and it is a significant improvement.

Please help us to do our bit for the planet! We would like to continue our work on reducing our energy consumption of:



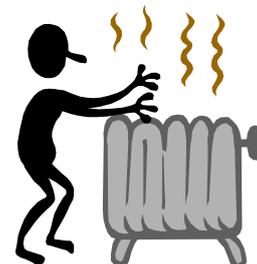
Water

Check that non-automatic taps are off after use.



Light

Please turn off lights if you leave a room. Don't put them on if it is a bright day and you can manage without.



Heat

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.

If you live too far away to walk, then perhaps you may be able to cycle to the Centre and take advantage of our bike bins to lock away your bike whilst using the Centre. Alternatively, you could make use of our bike planter to secure your bike. There are also buses running past the Centre regularly, with bus stops within 2 minutes' walk. If, however, you do have to use your car to visit the Centre, please respect the car park markings and blue badge parking spaces, and park considerately.



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

BOOKCROSSING



The bookshelves in reception have been a 'BookCrossing Zone' since 2010 and these are always popular. 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!

Donations of books are always appreciated, whether for the BookCrossing or the book stall.

For more information, see: www.bookcrossing.com

AFFILIATED GROUPS' REPORTS

Acacia Martial Arts

Another busy year at Acacia Martial Arts.

We have eighteen students attending the club, with an average class attendance of ten. Ages vary from five to mid-forties. Classes have a good mix of sexes, ages and ethnic backgrounds; most of the people who attend live locally. We have a couple of new students with special needs.

We are running two separate lower belt and senior belt classes on Thursdays, and are planning to add another class to our usual mixed belt one on Tuesdays.

Everybody enjoys training Sherwood Community Centre and we look forward to another good year.

Camelia Geary

Buena-Vida Health & Fitness

Buena Vida continues to grow each year. We currently have 18 classes running, with more being added to our class timetable over the next few months, including some daytime classes. We have about 350 customers attending on a weekly basis and we have a great retention rate of about 80% (including new & existing customers).

We took on our first apprentice instructor in October 2017 and she is doing very well so far. She did her Clubbercise training in January and has 2 more training courses coming up in the next couple of months. She recently passed her practical exams for her Level 2 'Exercise to Music' qualification and has just started teaching classes for us on her own.

She & my other full-time instructor are currently working to get qualified to teach a new class concept called Jungle Body, which has different class formats including Konga (a mix of combat/dance/toning), Jagua (a core/conditioning/stretch & balance workout), Burn (a choreographed dumbbell workout and Vypa (a high-intensity cardio/combat class). We will be the first to launch Jungle Body in Nottingham and are aiming to introduce Konga & Jagua to our timetable towards the end of the summer. We launched a brand-new class in the New Year called Beatz Fitness and currently have 2 Beatz classes on our timetable, which are both well attended. We added an extra FitSteps class to our timetable at a slightly earlier time, due to our other 3 classes having a constant waiting list, and the new class is doing well. We also added a late-morning chair-based class to our timetable here at the Sherwood Community Centre, that particularly caters for older adults & those with physical limitations.

In March of this year, we launched our own clothing line with a varied mix of styles, colours & sizes so that there's something for everyone. The line includes fitness wear, casualwear and accessories.

Our main goal over the next 12 months is to continue growing the business to enable us to afford to keep on our apprentice instructor at the end of her apprenticeship.

Sally Hilton
Buena Vida

Jill Gregory School of Dancing

In June, some members of the Dancing School performed at Arnold Carnival.

In November, once again, we joined thousands all over the country to try to break the record for the greatest number of people doing the same dance at the same time in multiple venues. At the Community Centre, there were 69 of us taking part, although not all



were members of the Dancing School. A few mums who don't dance had a few lessons to learn the dance so that they could take part in this charity event. As well as the registration fees of £690 sent to The Performers Project (who organise the event), we raised around £100 more by selling tea and coffee and having a cake stall. The money we raised and the registration fees (after cost of T-shirts) is donated to Children in Need.

We held examinations in July, December and March. However, one of the December dates was snowed off and had to be delayed until January.

Nottinghamshire Bobbin Lace Society (NBLS)

Membership/attendance

Our county-wide membership numbers continue to fall slightly year on year, due to the advancing age of our membership, and the difficulty in attracting younger members. Sadly, we have lost a few of our most senior ladies recently, but there are a few new members registered, and the totals now show 166 members, including 11 life members and 5 juniors.

We have a website as well as a quarterly Newsletter, in magazine format. We hold five Lace Days annually, with Suppliers, at four regular venues across the county, 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 60-80 members for Lace Days. Non-members are also welcome. Due to ever-increasing hire costs, the entrance fees at these events are on annual review.

The Society aims to be self-sufficient, and the annual membership fees cover the cost of the Newsletter publication, postage, and Committee expenses. Some members now choose to have their Newsletter sent electronically, and as far as possible Newsletters are hand delivered via classes or Pop-ins. This has lowered the costs of printing and postage; hence the annual fee has remained static for several years.

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 led 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.

The Society continues to be an excellent support network as well as an educational and leisure group. There is always a great deal of chat and laughter at all our events, sometimes at the expense of progress on the lace pillow!

In addition to the regular weekly classes and Lace Days, we hold two courses during the year. The Spring Lace Course arranged for March this year had to be postponed due to the bad snow conditions, and is re-scheduled for early May. It is being held at a new venue, Grangewood Methodist Church in Wollaton. This course usually offers a full day's tuition from local Teachers from

Notts and Derbyshire who are also Society members, and 21 ladies and 1 gentleman are enrolled. The gentleman and his wife are fairly new to lacemaking, and are regular attenders at most of our events, coming from Portsmouth and staying in their caravan in the Peak District for the weekend. They say our Society and teaching experiences are 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 regular venue. Each year, the facilities seem to improve. There has been further development of the site, and there are new garden areas which our students appreciate. 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. The Society offers a bursary award for this course, drawn from the membership at the Anniversary Lace Day. We now have a few regular attenders who travel from various parts of the country to join us, about 8 this year. As an alternative entertainment we held a social evening on the Saturday, with a raffle and a quiz. This year we raised £104.00 towards our chosen charity for the year, Treetops Hospice.

The Summer Lace Day was at a new venue this year, the Becket School, and was a very enjoyable event, with a catered buffet lunch included. It hosts the Society's 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 3 categories, chosen by secret ballot by the attending members. This year a new category was added, for novices (up to two years' experience). 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 voted to support Treetops Hospice, who were our Speakers at the Summer Lace Day. We 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 £445.00, as proceeds from our Autumn Lace Day raffle and small cake sales held at Lace Days during the year. Members who offer unwanted lace equipment for sale at a Pop-in 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. One of the suppliers at the Summer Lace Day was so impressed with the Treetops presentation, that she donated her profits from the day separately.

As usual, many members joined the coach trip to the National Lacemakers' Fair at Cranmore Park (Solihull) in early December. None of us need any more bobbins, but we surely want one or two ... and some new threads, and a new pattern, and so on. We continue to provide regular bobbin lace 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. We find ourselves frequently explaining the difference between "Nottingham Lace" and what we do. (Nottingham Lace is any machine-made lace produced on the Leivers machine - invented here - no matter where in the world.) But how clever to have invented machinery which interprets our original hand-made lace patterns to produce machine lace in such quantity. And such an important part of Nottingham's social, industrial and economic history - with strong links to the Centre here at Woodthorpe House, once owned by a thread manufacturer supplying the local lace trade.

Valerie Hunter. (NBLs Rep to SCA)

April 2017 - March 2018

Paul Cupit – Yoga and Thai Yoga Massage

No report submitted

Tea Dance run by Nottingham Osteoporosis Society

Our Tea Dance, which we hold every Thursday afternoon between 1.30pm and 4.00pm continues to flourish, with an increase in attendance probably due to the increased awareness of our existence by advertising at other Community Centres, Libraries etc. .

We do have a continuing problem controlling the temperature of the hall, it is sometimes too hot when we have a sudden warm spell, and the opposite if it is exceptionally cold.

Mick and Moira Holmes

Sherwood Playgroup.

Staffing and Sessions.

We now have 7 members of staff who work various sessions. We continue to take students, work experience and also have some regular volunteers. From September last year we extended our opening hours so that we could offer 30 hours to any children age 3 upwards of working Parents who were eligible, this means we now open at 8.30am every morning and run a breakfast club, lunch club still operates 3 days per week and we still open every morning and 3 afternoons.

Children on Roll.

At present we have 26 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, or qualify for 30 hours 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 Autumn Term as we do need to raise extra money. We are part of the Co-op in the Community scheme where customers can nominate a charity to donate their Co-op points to, this is paid in a lump sum to us and we hope to be able to improve the outdoor area with the money we get in November this year.

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

had to increase from September 2017 along with lunch club fees. 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 bac spray, tissues etc. This has been successful and Parents have been very generous. We are also signed up to the Fare Share scheme where food from Tesco is donated to us twice a week, this helps with cutting down on our fruit/snack bill.

Jayne Lowe - Morning Session Manager

Railway Interest Group

Background

The Group was formed in September 2016 by ex-members of the "Woodthorpe Model Railway Club".

Its main purpose was to provide a facility whereby its members could run model trains around a reasonable sized circuit. It was never the intention to build a Model Railway in the accepted sense.

Baseboards were constructed in section and track laid. Two different gauges can currently run on the layout:

"0" Gauge – which is at a scale of 7mm to the foot

"00" Gauge – which is at a scale of 4mm to the foot

Activities January to December 2017

The Group – since formation – has met on a fortnightly basis and since its origins has seen membership increase. The increase led the Group to moving to a larger room during the year. The layout hadn't grown in size... but the number of people attending had gone up to the point where the room when in use was getting more than a little cramped.

As indicated by the name of the Group its activities are not merely restricted to running model trains. Over the year it has held two sessions where the evening has been spent watching old railway films and pictures. In addition, two of its members are currently

building a "5inch" model that they intend – once completed to operate at the heritage centre in Ruddington.

The group attended the Christmas Fayre in December where it ran a large and diverse range of models. Both gauges were represented in addition to some old "Hornby" tin plate items dating from before the 2nd World War. I feel it fair to say that this attracted a significant amount of interest particularly from children and their fathers.

2018

This year the group are looking to expand the layout to the extent that it will be able to operate a "Three Rail" model railway system as produced by "Hornby" up until 1963. Further film shows are envisaged as is the possibility of a group outing to either a preserved railway or the NRM in York.

Membership

There is no formal "membership" and the group is open to anybody with a similar interest to attend its meetings. A charge is however payable in order that the group can cover costs of room rental and storage. This is a charge only levied on attendance.

Paul Bence
Secretary and Treasurer

May 2017

Nottingham Self Help For People Who Stammer

No report submitted

Seniors' Group

We are a group of Females/Males age from around 60+. We play Bingo for a while, then we have an interval for drinks and bikkies. We play cards until the end of the meeting. We are a happy group (usually) LOL!

Pauline Braker

Sprouts

No report submitted

The Yoga Village

This year The Yoga Village has continued to be busy in our core area of pregnancy, postnatal and family yoga. We have been running three evening pregnancy classes and four daytime sessions for mums with little ones. 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.

Alongside Hannah and Ameet, a new pregnancy yoga teacher has joined us, Debbie, and our new complimentary therapist (remedial massage and shiatsu) is Andrea. Paul has remained as an associate teacher running morning Ashtanga classes and regular weekend workshops.

Sophie 's kids' yoga classes continue to be popular - fun and engaging sessions which appeal to a broad local community.

Our relaxation approach to yoga is represented in two general classes - the longstanding yoga and relaxation class on Tuesday nights, and the women's yoga on Friday mornings.

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 2018/19!

Hannah and Ameet Malhotra

Woodthorpe Model Railway Club

No report submitted

Yoga on Wednesday Mornings

Last autumn I switched to teaching from Wednesday evenings in the Hall to Wednesday mornings in the annex.

While I lost some students in the move, the venue is much smaller and I have continued to have a very stable group with good attendance and students who work well together, with only one new member. This means, however, the class is currently full, and although I have got a waiting list, there is a very limited prospect of

taking anyone else on. I'm only able to consider students with several years experience. 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 13 students enrolled in the group, several cannot attend every week, so each week between 8 and 10 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. About three times a year we have an evening meal in Christine's Community cafe, with previous students then able to join us.

Rhoda Fox

Zumba

"Zumba with Charm continues to grow at SCA! We are now in our 7th year. Classes are busier than ever with a waiting list for both classes. I feel there is a real community benefit to this class, people feel they belong to something, are obviously enjoying the physical health benefits but the positive mental health benefits just cannot be measured. Thank you to the community centre staff for their ongoing support"

Charmaine Daley

Chair Based Zumba Gold Social

This fun and friendly class is a chair-based Zumba Gold class run by the SCACIO for the benefit of the Community. It was started in January 2016 in conjunction with Christine's Community Café with the aim of providing exercise to the more elderly and those with physical limitations, although it is open to all. We also hoped to combat isolation amongst the elderly in the community we provide the chance to socialise afterwards with tea/coffee and cake or biscuits in the Café. As we are non-profit making, any surplus funds are put back in Community Centre funds for improving the Centre's faculties.

There are around 15 people regularly attending with more newcomers joining recently. Many of our class members come because they cannot access mainstream exercise classes or like gyms but enjoy the gentle pace of the class and feel they are not being judged if they cannot manage sometimes. Some have said it is the highlight of their week, and they all really enjoy the chance to chat and socialise afterwards in the café.

We have a diverse range within the class, a mix of ages and genders, some who stand rather than sit, some who need walking aids and need to sit, those suffering from anxiety and some who are brought by carers or personal assistants. Every other week we have some adults with learning difficulties joining the class. They have been made welcome and are helped and encouraged by other members of the class and join in the social side of the class afterwards.

This class is great for improving mental health, such as combatting anxiety and depression, cognitive benefits, such as improved memory, balance and coordination, as

well as physical health benefits and improved fitness levels. Many have seen improvements to their physical conditions. They have become more confident and new friendships have been formed.

In the coming year we hope to build on this and increase numbers. Local doctors' surgeries and pharmacies are passing our details to patients they think will benefit, retirement homes and other organisations are passing on our details. We are hoping that Age UK and Nottingham City Council will support us too.

Margaret Hilton
Trustee and Zumba Instructor