

St John's Centre
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Annual Report AGM 19th April 2004

General

The Centre has always been a great community resource, but since the expansion of the project, we have become even better. The Centre now has a very high profile in Old Trafford and continues to serve and meet the needs of the community, in its usual warm and friendly manner. The last year has been one of change, yet again, this time it has been mainly, staff changes, but we have also undertaken projects of a different nature, e.g. Old Trafford News Project, and are delivering many more courses than usual. Because of this The Centre is at present in a time of much needed consolidation. The danger being, we may become that much overused phrase, “a victim of our own success”. But we are aware of this and are taking steps to build in strong systems and an infrastructure that will support the continued quality provision of learning opportunities and activities for the community that we serve.

Courses

We have held many different courses over the last year. The Open Day for students to enroll in September 2003 was very successful, and attracted many new students to our courses. It was the first time we have undertaken anything like this and due to its success will be repeating it again in September 2004.

We also held enrolment days Jan 2004 to recruit for courses. The courses have been as follows:

Accredited = 9 Women in business, Assertiveness x 2, Dressmaking x 2, First Aid x 2, OTN Project, Computers intermediate.

Non accredited = 15 Computers basic x 2, DIY x2, Driving Theory, flower arranging, Improve your Math's, Photography, Mentoring, Ladies keep fit relaxation, sewing, Steps, Word Processing, Treasurers skills.

Other activities =2 Job Shop Sessions, Sports Drop in sessions.

This is our best yet, but it hasn't been without a lot of hard work from dedicated members of staff.

The Old Trafford News Project is a larger than normal undertaking for the Centre, and is coordinated by Steven Speed. The course is 21 weeks long and consists of several different elements: team building, photography, editorial & layout skills, research, and journalism

Funding

We continue to be funded by TMBC and have ERDF funding until 2005, with a possibility of a further 2 years, as we are in Clifford Ward, the most deprived in Trafford. ERDF is claimed in arrears, which is not ideal for a small community Project like us, as this can sometimes result in a 'cash flow' problem, especially if there is a hold up at Government Office. We have written to TMBC regarding this matter. Both TMBC and ERDF funding provide for the infrastructure, e.g. salaries, heating lighting and insurance etc.

Other sources of funding have been for **Equipment & Courses** We also need to raise further funds, around £3000, during the year to be able to provide courses in response to community need.

NLDC (Neighbourhood Learning for Deprived Communities), Awards for All, Kellogg's, and Let's go Global (a project we are hoping to work with in the future doing media courses) have jointly funded a networked Computer suite with broadband access and interactive smart board; office computers. Tables, Chairs *Bloom* – funded a keep fit tutor *Stretford Area Board* – Sewing machines, Black History event (to be held later in the year)

Rainmaker – Assertiveness Course

NLDC – Old Trafford News project

Numbers/Monitoring

We are continuing to achieve our targets for ERDF. Outputs April 03 – Mar 04 are:

People assisted towards employment = 84

(Female) = 72 (Male) = 12

People provided with learning support = 254

People finding employment = 4

The number of attendances this year has increased.

3986 (2002)

4092 (2003)

In the first quarter of this year we have already had 1570 attendances, and 57 new joiners.

Crèche

Crèche continues to be a popular resource, and of course necessary for those responsible for child care wishing to access our courses. The Crèche is still registered with OFSTED and continues to meet all the necessary standards for quality day care provision. The number of children attending the crèche is well up on last year. The majority of children are still from the Esol (English for speakers of other languages) courses run in the mornings by tutors from North Trafford College. These children have developed a great understanding of English and their use of the language is much more advanced than it would be had they not been attending regular crèche sessions.

Child development is an integral part of our provision, and the crèche supervisor has attended several training courses this year to refresh and update herself on current issues and good practice; which is then passed on to the other crèche workers. This makes for quality provision the crèche is not 'just somewhere to leave the kids'

Staff

Christine Aspinall is Project manager, Sandra Barber is now our full time Project worker, she replaced Joe Tandie who was employed by us this time last year. Sandra worked as a youth & community worker at The Addison Assoc. in Old Trafford before joining us here. Anita Ward continues as the administrator for the

project. Lisa Crosse and Shani Kaur are our main crèche staff with Salma Majoo as a sessional worker when needed. Himi Tukiran, our cleaner, has left after 18 months, to focus on his PhD. He will then be returning to Malaysia with his family.

Mick Sellers was our Maintenance Worker (10 hrs per week) but stopped working for us in September. We have had trouble replacing him and so decided that when Himi left, as we knew he was going to, we would combine the cleaning and maintenance jobs into one to make it more financially desirable. In April we appointed John Ward to this position. We now have a full staff team.

The staff had an Away Day in March, for the purpose of team building and looking at how we work together. The day was facilitated by Board for Church and Society staff, Joyce Humphreys & Julian Hollywell. From this it was decided that both Joyce and Julian would come to the Centre to see how we are working together, and whether there are any improvements that can be made.

Volunteer tutors – Rebecca Edwards and Joe Roberts are both on teacher training courses and are doing their placements here teaching voluntarily. Rebecca teaches Basic Maths and Joe teaches Driving theory. Mike Quinn, Joyce Rainbow and Beryl Beresford, continue to mentor basic skills, Georgie Carleton is running the sewing group, and Lillian Munday has been teaching Word Processing, but has taken a break to recover from her hip replacement. We hope she will be rejoining the team again in September.

Management Committee

People serving on the Management Committee this last year have been: Chair Dave Wheeler, Vice Chair Chris Aspinall. Treasurer, Polly Williams, Secretary Lillian Munday/Anita Ward.

Colin Barson (VCAT), Evelyn Cosham, Mike Quinn, Joyce Rainbow, Steven Speed, Julian Sharpe (NWF), Margaret Wheeler,

The staff and Management Committee had an 'Away Day' to review where we are with the project. This was at Park House, Sale, and facilitated by Colin Barson

The committee has worked extremely hard this year, as there have been lots of changes and some quite difficult issues to deal with. I hope it was a positive and enjoyable experience for all who have served as members.

Old Trafford News

Rescue bid – the Centre along with Addison Comm. Assoc. agreed to do 3 issues of OT News (funded by TMBC) to save it from folding. This was then supposed to be taken on by Community. This didn't happen as expected. The first and 2nd issue have been done, mainly by Sandra Barber. 3rd Issue is being put together in conjunction with OT news Project; A project undertaken by us at St Johns, and funded through NLDC, that will give people the skills to enable them to put together a community newspaper. (There is a full report on the project included in this annual report booklet).

Thanks

The success of the Centre is not due to any one person, but a team of people working together to the same end. I think we do this very well here at the Centre. So.....

A big thank you! to all who have supported and contributed to the Centre over the last year: The staff, Management Committee, volunteers, staff, members, and all our associates, especially: - Trafford MBC, VCAT, Workers Education Association, Helen Britton Associates, North Trafford College, Manchester & District HA.

We look forward to another successful year working in partnership with all of you.

Christine Aspinall – Project Manager

MONITORING FIGURES FOR JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2003

(Figures for 2002 shown for comparison)

	Members	(2002)	New Joiners	2002
January	389	338	7	--
February	298	311	10	5
March	346+	284	4	12
Quarterly Total	1033	933	21	17
Monthly Average	344	311	7	6
April	190	285	2	--
May	324	384	12	--
June	407+	342	5	8
Quarterly Total	921	1011	19	8
Monthly Average	307+	337	6+	2.5
July	385	452	--	4
August	36	142		--
September	483	460	36	8
Quarterly Total	904	1054	36	12
Monthly Average	301	351	12	4
October	564	409	4	22
November	468	371	--	1
December	202	208	--	1
Quarterly Total	1234	988	4	24
Monthly Average	411	329	1.3	8
Total for year	4092	3986	80	61
Monthly Average for year	341	332	6.5	~ 5

The above figures represent the total number of visits made to the Centre in a month, **not individual students** etc.

Monitoring figures only give an approximate guideline to Centre usage, as not everyone using the Centre signs in. Actual figures may be as much as 40% higher than those shown.