



Annual report 2009/10



AGM 2010 – Project Manager's Report

The Centre is in its 28th year and has continued to serve the people of Old Trafford in many ways in the last 12 months, enriching, engaging and enabling individuals and groups to come together in an atmosphere of trust and support.

The Centre values and continues to embrace the richness and diversity in Old Trafford and contributes to community cohesion and integration, though this is not undertaken in a specific way, the opportunities that the Centre creates for people to meet together get to know one another helps to build a strong integrated community.

The Centre has helped many people to gain skills and confidence this year by providing learning and volunteering opportunities which enable them to go on to further education or to enhance their employment chances; and is a place for other groups to meet and deliver their activities. We have also worked with schools and colleges providing students with teaching practice and work experience enabling them to gain valuable experience within a community setting. The Centre continues to provide employment for local 9 residents working on the core project, Old Trafford News and the Crèche.

and are looking to the future, as we wish to build on the successful history of Centre serving the community, and have been looking at ways we can use the whole site including the church to bring people together. We already offer space to 3 other groups and have held some of our meetings and activities within the church building.

We have had another successful year with numbers of users recorded as the highest yet. Though, people, not numbers are our main concern; individuals and families from Old Trafford who are vulnerable and marginalised, and as we continue to listen to what our community needs we will use creative ways to meet those needs wherever we can.

Courses/Activities

Once more we have been able to offer a wide variety of courses and activities delivered in partnership with learning providers (WEA, Trafford College, Faiths4Change, VCAT and other companies) and volunteers that help people build their skills, confidence and capacity to engage more fully in their community, and increase their chances of paid work.

These include:

Esol, Citizenship, life in the UK, English level1/2, Computers (beginners, intermediate, Photoshop, design, digital photography, workshop) Art, English, Maths (entry level 3 & level1/2) Dressmaking, soft furnishings, Ladies keep fit, Belly dancing, card craft, flower arranging, Jewellery making, Holiday Spanish, Arabic, Cake decorating

Enrolment day 2009/10



User groups

Many community groups use our Centre as their base, including: Old Trafford Boxing Club, Brownies, South Asian Families Association, Step Saturday School, Capoeira, New Way, forward mental health support, Trafford African Caribbean over 50's, Old Trafford Credit Union, Saudi Student Group, Trafford Carers. CAB/Law Centre Advice Sessions.

One of the roles that the Centre has been able to fulfil is to enable groups to develop using space at the Centre, and has acted as an 'incubator' for projects such as Old Trafford News. This year we have been able to support St John's Harmony Singers, Peacebuilders, the After School Cafe, and continue to provide office space for Faiths4Change.

We provide space in the evenings and at weekends to community groups who themselves offer a great service to our community, and with VCAT have held 2 Funding Workshops for groups using the Centre to enable them to get the advice and information they need to develop their groups and apply for funds. We plan to hold these workshops on a regular basis

The Centre has been used for numerous community events: St John's Community Pantomime, Old Trafford Neighbourhood forums, PION (Pride in Our Neighbourhood) event, consultations, Mental Health forums and events, Fun Days for young people, fundraisers, community weddings, parties and lots of other celebrations; there has been an increase in people wanting to use this facility.



Young peoples activities – summer 2009

Attendance figures: There has once again been an increase in members and new joiners for Courses and activities 433 students registered on 2009 database (283 in 2008 figures).

Average attendance daytime – 530 per month

Average attendance user groups eve/weekends – 554 per month

Average attendance Weekend celebrations and events – 1000 per month

Volunteering at the Centre: The Centre has a strong voluntary ethos and In the last year have used around 20 volunteers to help us run the Centre. We have been very fortunate in that we have some excellent people on board with us giving of their time during the week undertaking many of the duties and supporting paid staff.

We have been able to provide volunteering opportunities to people in the following areas:

- Tutor support
- Esol conversation group,
- Arabic
- Gardening,
- Sewing
- Computer workshops
- Office support
- Crèche
- Centre Bookings
- Management Committee

We have also been involved with local schools enabling young people to undertake their work experience. They have worked both in the office, Old Trafford News and crèche

We have worked with student placements that need to deliver teaching hours as part of their course.

We have started to take a more structured approach to volunteering at the Centre and are offering a 6 week course to anyone interested in giving of their time. The course is bespoke and covers all aspects of volunteering at the Centre, and gives opportunity for volunteers to come up with their own ideas.



Strategic Development:

The Centre has gone through many changes in the last year or two and this year it has continued to grow and develop itself using the 'social enterprise' model enabling the organisation to be less 'grant dependent' and more self reliant. This has worked well, and the strategy team (made up of Management Committee members and the Manchester Diocesan development officer), set up to oversee these changes continues to meet regularly.

The team have been working on a timed development plan to bring together the vision for the Centre over the next 10 years with short medium and long term plans. The short term includes plans for the Centre to become a 'Charitable Company' which will involve forming a board of directors as opposed to having a 'management committee', and having a memorandum and articles document (Constitution) setting out our charitable aims and rules of how we will run the charity. We will also have to comply with charity law. We are hoping this will be complete by September October 2010.

We will also be undertaking the PQASSO quality standards mark for our organisation so that we can continue developing and improving ourselves.

With A Mustard seed grant we have employed Claire Cowell, a youth work consultant, to do a piece of research on youth provision in the area, to see if there are any gaps for which we could provide a service, we are particularly interested in working with 16-19year Olds.

The longer term strategy is to develop the whole site to include the church space (whilst still keeping the space for worship) to serve the community in different ways. This could include exhibition space, conference/meeting space; space for community events (in October the church hosted a Black history event involving young people from the community sharing their talents. This was a major success and a great example of how the church can be used for the benefit of the whole community).

Funding:

Though we are now able to generate some of our own income from the building, we still need grants to enable us to deliver the best service we can to the community.

The Centre applied to Trafford Council for a Voluntary Sector Grant last year and was given some funding until 31st March 2011. The amount was considerably less than we applied for and what we had been allocated previously from the Trafford Earmarked grant fund

We continue to be supported by Manchester Diocese and have grants from their 'Parish Mission Fund which contribute to staff posts at the Centre.

Children In Need have part funded our crèche facility this year – this funding will continue to Aug 2011. We will need to re apply in April next year for further funding. Other funding for the crèche up to July 2009 came from Trafford College, this was discontinued in September 2009 and a system put in place for college students to claim for a crèche place from LSC. We have since had to seek other funds so that we can continue the crèche service for those in the community who are in danger of being excluded from activities because of child care responsibilities. This has been quite a struggle but we are determined to keep this much needed resource.

In addition we have had a number of small grants for specific projects from the following: Cash for Action – PA System with induction loop, Faiths4change for cycle racks, North Trafford sports fund – keep fit equipment and tutor fees,

John Grant Davies Trust – After School Cafe, NLDC- signage, stage refurb, notice boards

Crèche Report

St Johns centre crèche has been booming since the day of enrolments up until now, nearly. We have registered 76 children since September 2009 and are still going strong, whether it be word of mouth or information given by tutors of St Johns this crèche has gained a reputation for providing a wonderful service which parents and children have full confidence in. We strictly follow legal guidelines (OFSTED) and are currently working of the EYFS framework.

Our crèche does not just provide excellent childcare provision, but has interconnected with the community to organise fun days and outings. A festive fun day proved a great hit with parents, children and staff where we as crèche staff organised a fun packed day including a visit from Santa.

Similarly the Halloween Fun Day was just as great, with everyone mucking in, making it just as enjoyable for adults as well as children.



St Johns Centre summer scheme 2009 was run voluntarily by crèche staff, expressing the great commitment we have with this centre and the community of Old Trafford. A trip to local museums, fun games and performances were all part of the fun and well worth seeing a smile on the children's faces!

Although there have been certain staff changes this year,(Shani left us recently and Jaz as acting supervisor and Easmin as new Ad Hoc staff) this has not affected the efficient and smooth running of daily life in the crèche.

Trips have been organised for this Summer, with successful funding bids to Trafford Housing Trust Community Panel and The Henry Smith Foundation. The trips are to Eureka in Halifax and two visits to the Forestry School in Didsbury in July as this year's fun and frolic's for Children and young people. We have both volunteers and paid staff to make these a safe, happy and memorable day.

Visit from the 'BBC Children in Need' representatives, who have provided us with money to keep the crèche going, gave staff a great boost in confidence ,when they came. They wanted to hear stories about how the funded provided by them has changed lives of children attending. There were many stories to hear and we showed them equipment brought through the money to enhance play and stimulation in the crèche.



Jasbir and Easmin are both looking at new ways to improve the crèche at all times making it an ongoing mission to make it a happy, successful and great learning environment for the children that attend. This will be encouraged by us attending and completing various courses

provided by Surestart. Jasbir is also hoping to pick up her level 4 and 5 qualification to improve on management skills.

The Centre still wishes to expand the crèche facility in the future to meet the high demand. We still have a feasibility study and plans drawn to build an extension onto the building so that we could offer 14 places instead of just 7, We are still seeking funds for this.

Old Trafford News: continues to go from strength to strength, and in addition to its quarterly Community Magazine has given training and support to many volunteers. Volunteers from Old Trafford News (Innes & Jan) made an excellent film of the Centre and its users, which will be shown at our Annual meeting. It can also be viewed on 'You Tube'. Lottery funding for the project comes to an end in June 2010 and Ally Fogg – editorial co-ordinator for Old Trafford News will be putting together a business plan in the near future, this will include plans to make them an independent and self sustaining organisation.

Fun & Fund Raising:

In addition to fundraising for the project itself, we have raised funds for Haiti this year (£486) from our Community Panto 'Jack & the Beanstalk', written by our own Ally Fogg (OTN) all proceeds from tickets and raffles went to the appeal. Many thanks to all who donated prizes and to staff, Brownies and other volunteers who made sure the show went on, regardless of the hitches and role changes (and there were many). The pantomime cow Daisy stole the show with her 'Bangra Dance' and is auditioning this summer for a part in a Bollywood blockbuster movie.

It was really hard work, but great fun for all and was thoroughly enjoyed by 200 people from the community. (Excerpts on 'You Tube')



Jack & the Beanstalk January 2010

Thank you: Thanks due to many this year, not least the Volunteers on whom we depend, for enabling us to put on a full service with a full time member of staff down.

Thanks to the Chair Rev. John Hughes, the management committee and sub groups, for steering us through this year of change.

Thanks to all our partners and supporters, and from me, thank you to the staff for all their support, hard work dedication to the project.

Christine Aspinall - Project Manager



Staff & Management Committee 2009/10

John Hughes, Gulnar Khan, Colin Barson, Louise Dunne, Evelyn Cosham, Polly Williams, Asifa Ahmed, Jagtar Ajimal,

*Partners & Associates
2009/10*

St John's Church

Trafford Council

Trafford College

UCA7

Faiths4Change

Workers Education Assoc.

South Asian Families Assoc.

ACE women's group

Blue Sci

Community Development Initiative

Trafford African Caribbean over 50's Club

HBA

Old Trafford Credit Union

Peacebuilders

Seymour Grove Health Centre

Manchester Diocese

St John's
CENTRE
enriching lives in our community