

Deepings Community Centre



ANNUAL REVIEW

of

**The work undertaken by
Deepings Community Trust**

at the

Deepings Community Centre

during the period

September 2006 - August 2007

The Purpose

The main objective for the Trustees has been to create a Centre for the Community in the heart of the Deepings. This will remain our focus year on year. It is very important to us as the management Team that we make every effort to ensure that the Centre is well presented, clean, safe and welcoming. We also aim to have or provide expertise, equipment and information for our customers in order that they can develop interesting and challenging activities for the Community.

We have a threefold remit from the South Kesteven District Council to develop and encourage activities under the headings of Health, Education and Community Activities. We are aware that the duplication of activities can waste precious resources, so we have researched the area to find out what is going on and what opportunities exist, thus enabling us to develop our programme to complement other voluntary efforts.

The People

As we prepared the Seventh Annual Report, we took time to look back over the period and reflect on how the Centre has changed. We are now open fifteen hours a day from Monday to Friday and at weekends depending on our bookings. Originally the Centre was open just three days a week. Even with these opening hours, we still cannot accommodate all the groups who wish to use the Centre. It is at this point that we wish to record a big thank you to our volunteer team. Without their commitment the Centre would not have survived. This last few years we have agreed to take on a few unemployed people for one or two sessions a week on work experience. So far seven people have returned to work and kept their jobs! We have also been able to nurture some small businesses in the health field.

Our in service training programme, which is the envy of many a centre, rolls on. We thank all tutors/trainers for their help and patience.

As a little appreciation of our volunteers, we present Centurion Certificates when they have reach 100, 200 or 300 hours of service. Pictured below are just two of the several presented recently.



The Finances

Not for us is the luxury of sustainable funding from statutory sources, all ours comes from marketing the Centre from our website or by word of mouth. We need to raise some £45,000 per annum to keep the building open. This review year saw two of our major regular users leave us. Sense to a new head-quarters, and Boston College closed their computer training centre. Whilst we have done our best to re-let the rooms, it has left us with a shortfall of £1000. The closure of the computer training gave the Trustees a major headache. It is a valuable addition to the programme, so we decided to set it up as and experiment in social enterprise. This action has also stretched our finances, This coming year you will tell us how successful we have been.

See page 7 for a summary of the Profit and loss account for the year.

Programme

Approximately 2000 members of the public come through our doors each month. Over 40 different organisations use our Centre every month offering wide ranging activities in Health, Crafts, Education, Sports & Pastimes, Information, Computing, Advice & Support and Local History to name but a few. (See our separate leaflet “Something for Everyone” for a full list, including Contact Details.)

In addition to our large Community Notice board, we also have a Tourist Information Point. New this year is a folder containing details of jobs for the 18 to 25 year olds.

Our informative website, where Hire Rates, Booking forms, Terms & Conditions, Facilities and What’s on & Who to contact, can be accessed and downloaded. Visit - www.deepingscommunitycentre.org.uk



The Garden

As usual we again contributed to the Town in Bloom Competition. The judges complimented the Community Centre as an example of how to involve the community in its Development. The mallards again nested in one of the beds and the pippestrelle bats still roost in the roof.

Partnerships

We could not manage a building of this size without working in partnership with our users, other voluntary organisations, the Market Deeping Town Council and South Kesteven District Council. Our garden has been looked after by the U3A Garden Groups, the Deeping Lions, the 2nd Market Deeping Brownies and various other individuals who help with particular projects. This year Queensgate Centre Management donated a garden bench and Norwich & Peterborough Building Society a brand new garden shredder. We, in turn, continue to support the Deepings Show.

The Future

We did start to plan a possible extension to the building to meet the expressed need for a larger hall for bigger meetings. With the help of the Town Centre Partnership who adopted this project as one of their objectives, we talked to architects and sought local support. Sadly the project was held up at District Council level and was judged not to meet their *changed* priorities. This is a major blow, the local community, the Town Centre Partnership and not least the people who manage this Centre for free. However we will not give up as there is considerable time left on our lease and we owe it to the community to keep trying. Maybe next year we *will* make progress.

The future is bright, the Centre will continue to be a place which is warm, clean and friendly, supporting the community as best we can. We try to do what it says on the tin -
A Centre for the community not just a Community Centre.

Publications

The leaflet "Something for Everyone" is updated as required. It has been very well received. We try to ensure visitors to the Centre are aware of what goes on here and many visitors are offered a copy when they visit us. New tri-fold leaflets are now available for information on "Computer Training", "Health Facilities at the Centre", "Hiring the Lionel Beck Room" and "Could you be a Volunteer".

Due to lack of time we have not published a newsletter for a while, perhaps someone will come forward to take on this important PR opportunity.

The Trustees

At present these are Cathy Pridgeon, Joan McCormack and David MacVitie. We must recruit more, as for some, our three year term will expire at the end of 2007/8, and then who knows?

Chairman's Special Message

To my fellow Trustees, Joan and David, our President Pauline and our two staff, I just want to say that without your support, guidance and loyalty to the Centre and to me, little of what has been reported on these pages would have happened and this area would be the poorer for it.

Cathy



Summarised Profit & Loss Account

Income

Letting of Rooms	32296		
Gifts and Donations	4161		
Other	<u>3155</u>	39612	39612

Expenditure

Payroll	15597		
Utilities	9405		
Premises Maintenance	879		
Cleaning	2566		
Insurance	1101		
Telephone & Postages	2491		
Printing & Stationery	1129		
Legal & Professional Fees	1922		
Training Note (1)	1557		
Business Rates	1300		
Security & Fire Cover	1515		
Misc. Sundries Note (2)	1253	<u>40715</u>	
Excess of Expenditure before Depreciation		<u>-1103</u>	
Depreciation	3366		
Total Expenditure	<u>44081</u>		<u>44081</u>
Excess of Expenditure after Depreciation			<u>-4469</u>

Notes:

- 1.Includes Volunteering England Registration Fee £1000
- 2.Includes Adverts, Travel, Licences, Garden & Equip. Maintenance



Deepings Community Centre

Deepings Community Centre

The Centre is for the use of all residents of The Deepings, whatever their age, ability and interests and is now an established and valued part of many local peoples' lives. It is a base for a wide range of activities including:-

A centre for community services such as Red Cross, Citizens Advice, Youth Offending Service, Pension Advice.

Access to a range of complementary therapies, including reiki, reflexology, podiatry, chiropody, osteopathy, sports therapy and Manual Lymphatic Drainage.

A fully equipped computer facility, offering computer and IT courses and learning opportunities.

A base for local clubs, including Deepings Camera Club, Deepings Heritage, Weight Watchers and many more.

A local information point .

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