

Manager's AGM Report 2019 Covering period between September 2018- November 2019

- Thanks for your attendance today. It is a privilege to be part of an organisation that has so many years history of serving our community. Yesterday marked my 4th year of being part of this fantastic organisation and it has flown and yet I feel as if I have been here for ever.
- As mentioned many times the team work here is the best I have ever known. The diverse skills of the volunteers and staff and the support that is given by them and the board of management is much appreciated not only by the staff team but significantly to our members and visitors who come on a daily basis.
- Without the presence of Ainsdale Lunch and Leisure and its many facets of activity friendship and good nutrition, there would be considerable gaps in the lives of the people who attend and we are pleased that we are able to meet that gap and to help people in their lives often at monumental times of loss and isolation.
- Members have consistently informed us of the difference we are making in their lives and this is what makes Ainsdale Lunch and Leisure a place of importance where friendships are formed and wellbeing improved upon and maintained.
- Ainsdale Lunch and Leisure is a happy place where people feel safe and welcomed and people frequently comment on the positive difference it has made to them. This is demonstrated by the weekly average footfall which is 438 and the length of service of many of our volunteers which in some cases is 25 years plus.
- Membership is currently at 331 at the end of October with 126 members taking membership for the first time.
- Volunteers are currently at 103
- We continue to develop activities to suit different interests and encourage people to come along. Activities developed in the past year have included Music classes, Interest talks and the regular Forums and we know that working in partnership with other agencies and organisations creates good communities. Together we are stronger. This has been demonstrated through the partnership work between Sefton Pensioners Advocacy where we host the Ainsdale Forum, provide refreshments and Justine sources speakers which have been varied and interesting enabling members to gain important knowledge about subjects that affect them. Subjects have included Health, Policing and various research topics.
- An additional partnership has been with EDDA Arts, their horticultural students have been assisting to maintain our community garden which has not only helped them with qualifications but has assisted us to maintain the community garden for people to enjoy. EDDA have also entertained us with their performance of Cinderella and Swallows and Amazons and are soon to give a performance of "The Night before Christmas" as part of our festive celebrations.
- Other partnerships have included those with local Colleges, KGV and Southport College, giving opportunities for young people to carry out their work experience here enabling them to gain new skills and we currently have 3 business students who will be working with us weekly until May.
- Over the past year we have worked alongside the Local Princes Trust Teams from Southport and Blackpool and have given the young people on the course opportunities to practice the skills gained when they carried out their team challenge with us. So far we have worked with 3 cohorts and we currently have a young person who has started to volunteer for us regularly. The Princes Trust team have also chosen us to host their final presentations which

has been mutually beneficial and has given further networking opportunities in addition to potential future funding opportunities.

- We are grateful for the service that has been given by our volunteers throughout the year. We miss those who have left us whether they have been with us for only a few weeks or for many years. This year also Maria our longstanding Art Instructor has stepped down and we are pleased to welcome Sarah to this role.
- Caroline our Catering Manager for 6 years resigned at the end of August and we are thankful for the difference that she made to the organisation specialising in the care of our volunteers with Special needs and on behalf of the Board of Management and members take this opportunity to thank her officially for the service she gave and wish her well for the future.
- Whilst the recruitment process was carried out our catering assistant Mandy acted as Catering Manager and on behalf of the Board and Members I would like to thank her for the hard work put in during a period of 8 weeks when there were additional activities delivered including a harvest event, 2 Flu Clinics, Additional dance event, a Training Course and Funeral Catering.
- At the end of the recruitment process, Mandy was successful with her application and interview and was appointed as Catering Manager.
- A new Catering Assistant Patricia has since been interviewed and recruited and we are delighted to now have a full team again where we feel we can continue to develop the catering areas with particular focus on the development of the café.
- Our Grant funds this year have included 2nd year funding from The Steve Morgan Foundation of (24,750/yr)
- A grant of £7,500 from PH Holt towards the Café project.
- A grant of £1000 from Old Links Rotary
- A grant of £5350 from Sefton Council
- A Grant cheque of £500 last year and £750 in October for Knights of St Columba
- We continue to fundraise and write grant applications – We have just been notified that we have been successful in our bid to the Co-op Local Community Fund where Co-op members have the opportunity to choose their cause and donate 1% of their purchases. This scheme is open for a year and I would urge you to support us in this way. The Co-op have also supported us by way of fruit donations for our health fayre.
- In addition we will continue to develop activities in order to not only give a varied programme but to also raise the necessary funds to run the project.
- We wish to remember at this time those who have passed on and I would like to draw your attention to the Anniversary Rose Bed in the Community Garden where family and friends can remember in a practical way for the enjoyment of others.
- Finally we must not forget the difference this charity makes to the community and my thanks go to the Board of Trustees , My Staff Team and all our volunteers without whom we would not be able to operate.

Rebecca Gomersall 11/11/2019