

AGM Managers Report November 2021

- WELCOME
- Thankyou for your attendance today
- Yesterday , I was reminded of the reason why “ALL” exists as I attended a funeral of our oldest member Doris Mills, Doris was 100 years of age and for the past 14 years she has attended our lunch club, she had attended with her husband Alf before he passed away and after his passing “ALL” became even more important to her and her family.
- This is the story of so many of our members finding a place to belong and discovering friendships, often at some of their lowest points in their lives.
- I have come to **understand** that this is truly a place where people find just that, thanks to the dedicated team of staff and volunteers who give their time so freely and with such skills and experience.
- It is important to acknowledge this and all those who have given their time and talents to our charity over the years and especially as we next year will be celebrating our 40th anniversary....what an achievement to have been serving the community like this for 40 years! Just think for a moment how many lives this charity has made a difference to in that time.
- In the 6 years I have been part of “ALL” I have seen the tangible difference that working together with a dedicated team means, each of us having a special role to play in ensuring that our objectives are met.
- Last year we lost many of our members, and It is right at this time of the AGM that we remember them and all that they brought to the community
- I am thankful that I have known these members and it has been lovely to have shared with them along with their stories.
- Storytelling and sharing experiences is such an important thing to do as we learn from each other and help one another. We must improve on this daily as it is far more important to be interested rather than interesting and it is one way we can embrace diversity, learn from each other and thereby create opportunities.
- Last years AGM report held on zoom ended with the news that we had resumed our meals out service following the temporary closure due to the lockdown. The Meals delivery service was clearly needed with a total of 2453 meals having been delivered to the local housebound between November and the end of March 2021.
- During this time we also assisted Formby lunch club to ensure that their members received a hot meal daily and this was a good partnership where we provided the meals and their drivers delivered them.

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- The closure of the centre to activities created a huge financial challenge for us as approximately 80% of our funding was raised through activities, hence the need for grant funding and we have been able to source new funding during this time to the value of £41,150 which even resulted in a small surplus to budget at the end of March.
- My thanks go to all our funders, a separate list of which is available and to the whole team for the work that has been carried out in what has been an extremely challenging year, both from a mental perspective and also physically due to capacity.
- In the first 6 months of this financial year a further 2774 meals have been delivered, we are no longer assisting Formby lunch club due to them reopening their own facility again from July however it is worth noting that there has been a significant increase in meals delivered to new members in receipt of meals to our local area.
- Our memberships have reached 155 and we were able to give 150 free memberships thanks to a grant from living well sefton alongside 200 wellbeing packs which were given to attract members back to the centre and aid co-vid recovery.
- In the first half of this financial year we have sourced funding to the value of £54,541 and again a separate list of these funders is available and we are incredibly grateful to these funders for their support.
- Following a successful application, We have been chosen as one of the CO-Ops community charities for the year, so please become a member, please support us and remember to swipe your card. (if you need further details on how this works, please ask me)
- Furthermore our activities have started to re-open and at an appropriate pace whereby members are able to feel safe when returning. We have capped classes to ensure we meet co-vid risk assessments and the classes that of the gym, tai-chi, art and patchwork are proving to be popular and we have recently relaunched the café with “ a food for thought” theme utilising the help from John Moore’s foundation and taking the opportunity for consultation with members as to what they would like to see.

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- Our Lunch club has opened on 2 days a week and this has been popular with an average of 25-28 attending each sitting. In the new year we intend to extend this to 3 days a week, whilst the café will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for lighter options and looking forward to the spring we will be able to utilise the new patio area which has been funded through the Community champions Fund from Sefton.
- We are grateful to them and thankful to the gardening club that have kept the gardens at the front and back in tip top condition for everyone to enjoy.
- The re-introduction of the games afternoon and music for all is also aimed at informal afternoons whereby members can return to socialising and some kind of normal.
- Plans for the new year include other activities including Nutrition workshops, film afternoons, line dancing. Reminiscence etc and we would hope that the charity shop would also be able to re-open however, we are mindful of the virus and will only proceed with these if it is safe to do so.
- We are moving into our 40th year and I look forward to the opportunities that this will bring including a heritage project which will incorporate our 40th anniversary, celebrating the past 40 years of “ALL” and looking forward to the next 40 years.
- We hope to work closely with the local schools and colleges on these projects which will also bring volunteering opportunities alongside the benefit of working in an intergenerational way which all helps to ensure we are truly working as a community centre and as I said in the beginning where we can share stories and experiences in order to help each other.
- Finally it is with mixed feelings today that we have to say goodbye to our chair Lesley mixed because on behalf of the board I know we are sad to see her leave us, but incredibly grateful for all she has brought to the charity with her experience , expertise and strength she leaves knowing that she has inspired us in the way she has led over the past few years.

Rebecca Gomersall 30.11.21

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