

Managers' Report 2024

Another busy year. New groups coming, and unfortunately the odd one's going, but that is to be expected. We are enjoying a growing number of corporate organisations and parties booking with us. Weekends used to be relatively quiet in the centre. Now we have regular weekly and monthly sessions, making the weekends full of private parties, sewing groups, Table Tennis, Pilates, the community café and much more. We do try to help any groups that are struggling, helping with promotion or changing to a cheaper option of room hire if we can. Room hire income as increased by over £8000 this year.

Keeping connected with the grant providers and councillors is essential so that we don't miss out on any grants. Planning improvements and, what is needed with regards to maintenance for this old building. We have had a good few grants this year, to help us with new windows, a Welcome Space and starting up the new 'Men's Club'. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in securing a gym grant for a new Multi-gym. The committee authorised investment into a new treadmill, and Multi-gym, as our users had come to us with some concerns regarding the wear and tear of certain machines. The Gym income continues to attract new members, and income has increased by over £5000 this year.

As always fundraising is a big part of the centre life. Finding ways to raise money is constant. In events and raffles we managed to raise £2334 this year, also book sales, Easyfundraising, Loose Change boxes. £1835.00 was raised from gift aid, as a result of donations.

We now have a new source of income from allowing iPost to have their locker in our car park, this brings in £1300 a year.

Having staff and volunteers in reception helps us with taking bookings, enquiries, and having that connection with centre users and the public. It offers us the chance to find out what the public would like from the centre, the opportunity to push fundraising events and letting the public know how they can help us. Our staff and volunteers at the centre are wonderful, always ready to help, I thank everyone for always giving their best.

Alison Boyd (manager)

Report of the Treasurer 2024

The investment into the building continued this year.

Some of the major items are as follows

Decorating £2230

Car Park £5232

Annual Insurance £3115

Roof £8167

Windows £4953

Grants covered some of the costs. We are very grateful to DCC, North Point, AAP and Karbon Homes without whom we could not have fulfilled all the projects.

The rental prices were increased by 5% enabling income to cover increased cost of utilities and salaries.

The bank balance remains at a level which could cover our expenses, if needed, for a six-month period without income. This could protect the centre if any emergency meant having to close the doors.

The Gym has continued to be popular, with a steady flow of new memberships. The original equipment is slowly being replaced, but gym equipment is expensive. Funding has been sought, but not successful.

Donations from private individuals, events, books, and jigsaws increased and with successful gift aid management amounted to £12k being raised.

The end of year shows a surplus of £8873.96, which should provide some protection from future increases.

The future continues to be unpredictable but with the support of residents and friends of the Community Centre will endeavour to provide a service and amenities to be proud of.

Glenda Horne

Treasurer.

Chair Report 2024

I am pleased to report that the Community Centre has enjoyed another busy year. Bookings have been maintained and increased. This shows the Centre continues to provide a relevant and attractive venue for all. As stated in our constitution our objective is to:

"promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Lanchester and the neighbourhood..... to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants. "

The Community Centre provides a wide and varied choice of interests. From mum and baby, drama, table tennis, Tao Kwon Do, Art, Social Clubs, keep fit to Local History and Wildlife groups among many others. All these activities support individuals' health and welfare.

We continue to invest into the building. We are now in a position where hopefully, we have secured the building from any major expense in the foreseeable future.

The staff lead by Alison do a great job. Stephen, Paul, Brandy and Charles work hard to make a difference. Many thanks for all they do.

I am pleased to announce that we have recruited some new members to the Committee. I would like to sincerely thank all the members for their participation and support to the Centre. There is a need for a new Chair and/or Treasurer to be appointed. Hopefully this will happen soon.

I thank everyone for all the help and support given to the Community Centre as it is something we can all be proud of.

Glenda Horne

Chair.