

# RAVEN MEOLS COMMUNITY CENTRE

## ANNUAL REPORT 2024

### CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I am pleased to present the Annual Report for Raven Meols Community Centre for the year ending 31st March 2024. This year has been a period of growth, improvement, and community support. Despite financial pressures, we have continued to serve our community, offering an affordable and welcoming space for all. We are proud of the progress made and look forward to continuing our mission in the year ahead.

Thank you to all our dedicated volunteers, partners, and funders for their invaluable support.

**Jane McNeice**

**Chairperson, Raven Meols Community Centre**

### INTRODUCTION

Raven Meols Community Centre was established in November 1985 to address the need for a community space where local groups could meet in a comfortable, warm, and accessible environment. Our mission is to provide an affordable venue for local residents and organizations to meet, hold activities, and foster community spirit.

The centre offers a variety of amenities, including two meeting rooms, a fully equipped kitchen, and large storage areas. Groups also have the option to hire the adjacent Hall of the Professional Development Centre (PDC) for larger events. The Centre is governed by an Executive Committee of volunteers, composed of three Trustees and two Committee Members, all of whom are committed to maintaining a space that supports the community.

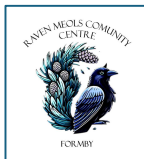
Current groups that use the centre include:

- U3A Ukelele
- U3A Watercolour
- U3A Guitar
- Chess Club
- Yoga
- Formby Photo
- Tappy Toes

### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Over the past year, the Executive Committee has focused on improving the facilities to enhance the experience for the groups that use the Centre. Thanks to grants from Formby Parish Council and Sefton LA Transitional Funding, we were able to:

***The Raven Meols Community Centre is a registered charity – Charity Commission no. 518241***



# RAVEN MEOLS COMMUNITY CENTRE

- Re-decorate key areas of the Centre
- Install new carpeting
- Make several general improvements to our facilities

These enhancements have already been positively received by the groups. We anticipate that these improvements will increase usage of the Centre, further benefiting the local community.

## FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2024

### Income & Expenses

The Centre's operational costs are primarily covered by the fees charged to the groups that use the facilities. Despite rising costs, particularly due to increased energy prices, our rates remain competitive compared to other local venues.

For the financial year 2024/25, we anticipate:

- Projected Income: £19,000
- Projected Expenditure: £17,000

Our contingency fund remains sufficient to cover unexpected financial events and future costs, such as lease obligations with Sefton County Council and other emergency expenses. We review the Centre's accounts at every Executive Committee meeting, ensuring transparency and careful financial management.

### Grants and Funding

While we have successfully secured funding this past year, we remain vigilant regarding future funding opportunities. Should we encounter any shortfalls, we are prepared to make necessary adjustments to ensure the Centre's long-term sustainability.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

### Achievements

- Successful completion of the renovation and redecoration of the Centre, funded by external grants.
- Maintained a strong and diverse range of groups using our facilities.
- Kept rental fees at affordable rates despite inflationary pressures.

### Challenges

- The rising cost of energy has required us to adjust fees to maintain financial stability.
- Securing additional grants remains a key focus to ensure that we can continue to offer a high standard of facilities.



# RAVEN MEOLS COMMUNITY CENTRE

## FUTURE PLANS

### Social Media Presence

In the coming year, we aim to increase our visibility by establishing a social media presence. This initiative will allow us to communicate more effectively with our existing users and attract new groups and individuals to the Centre.

### Policy and Procedure Review

We are also in the process of reviewing our policies and procedures with the support of Sefton Council for Voluntary Services (CVS). This review aims to ensure that the Centre operates in line with the latest best practices and compliance requirements.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

As we look forward to the year ahead, we remain mindful of potential risks, including:

- Further increases in energy prices
- Changes in the availability of grants or external funding
- Decreases in community group participation due to external economic factors

Our contingency plans are in place to address these risks, ensuring that the Centre continues to operate effectively, even under challenging circumstances.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The continued success of Raven Meols Community Centre is due to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, Trustees, and Committee members. We also extend our thanks to the community groups and users of the Centre, as well as our funding partners, including Formby Parish Council and Sefton LA. Together, we are making a positive impact in our community.

**ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT  
TO RAVENMEOLS COMMUNITY CENTRE  
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

I have examined the financial records of the Ravenmeols Community Centre for the year ended 31 March 2024 and in my opinion, they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of that account as at 31 March 2024 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

**R W Theckston**  
**Chartered Accountant**

**8 October 2024**

**RAVENMEOLS COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Income & Expenditure year ended 31 March 2024**

<b><u>Income</u></b>		<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>	
Lettings	18,913.50	<b>SMBC Costs</b>	
		Lease	3,738.56
Grant Formby Parish Council	1,550.00	Room Hire	2,067.50
		Insurance	1,512.86
Grant Redecorate	3,100.00	Rates Relief	99.80
		Heat and Light	4,174.20
Grant SMBS	10,800.00	Cleaning	2,264.23
Interest	1,055.76	Bank Charges	11.10
Parish Council Key	20.00	<b>Miscellaneous costs</b>	
		Insurance	618.72
		Repairs and Maintenance	7,083.62
		Stationary and postage	123.01
		Sundry	257.45
		Excess of income over expenditure	13,488.21
	<u>35,439.26</u>		<u>35,439.26</u>
	=====		=====

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 March 2024**

<b><u>Assets</u></b>		<b><u>Liabilities</u></b>	
Current Account	31,307.90	Retained Income b/f	17,819.69
		Excess of income over expenditure	<u>13,488.21</u>
		Retained Income c/f	<u>31,307.90</u>
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