



**Nunsmoor Centre Trust**  
a place for our community

# Nunsmoor Centre Trust Annual Report October 2016 – 2017



Registered Charity No: 1148020

Company No: 07928591

## Trustees who have served on the Board for the past year

Chairperson:	Alyson Hampshire	
Board Members:	Liz Turnbull	Vice Chairperson (resigned 22/01/17)
	Simon McIntosh	Company Secretary (resigned 28/07/17)
	Adetoyoski Adeniyi	Company Secretary (commenced 28/07/17)
	Margaret Mabbutt	Treasurer
	Ann Byers	Trustee
	Brian Graham	Trustee
	MD Riazul Hague	Trustee (commenced 10/07/17)
	Cheslava Udechukvu	Trustee (commenced 11/09/17)
	Susie Leech	Trustee (commenced 30/01/17 Resigned 8/07/17)
	Wajid Hussain	Trustee (resigned June 2017)
Ward Committee Rep:	Cllr Nigel Todd	Trustee

***Many thanks to all the trustees for their input, hard work and commitment to the work of the Trust.***

Volunteers:  
Liz and Robin Turnbull  
Susie Leech  
Neil Joyce  
Erin and Kyle Emmerson

***Our thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers for their enthusiasm, help and support during the past year.***

***Sincere thanks to the Service Manager Early Help and Family Support, the Community Family Hub Lead (West), the Integrated Early Childhood Services Practice Leads and all of the Community Family Hub Team, the Administration staff and the Caretaker for working in partnership with us, within the centre, during the past year.***

**Nunsmoor Centre Trust**  
**Annual Report**  
**October 2016 – 2017**

*“A warm smile is the universal language of kindness”*  
**William Arthur Ward**

This year's Annual Report begins by remembering the life of Jean Calvert. The quote sums up Jean's approach to people in her life. Her smile had a warmth which reached out and touched all whom she came in contact with. Jean worked with the community, within the West End of Newcastle, facilitating Arts and Crafts for many, many, years. People of all ages, ethnicities, gender, backgrounds and ability had their lives enriched by Jean. We are grateful to have known her and to have had the privilege to work with her. Our Winter festival and events will be the poorer for her absence. We will miss her enormously. Jean's approach is a reminder that often what seem like quite small things, in our lives, can actually have hugely positive affects - the small acts of kindness the warm welcome, the making of time to provide a listening ear, compassion, a smile.

We as trustees would strive to emulate a genuinely warm smile of welcome in our work, to all whom we come in contact with on a daily basis as we undertake the work of the Trust. It is so important that we engage with people, no matter what their age, ethnicity, gender or ability in a respectful, kind, compassionate manner - beginning with that genuine, warm, smile. The Trust believes wholeheartedly that the way we interact with children, young people, families, individuals, partners and organisations is hugely important.

It has been another busy and productive year for the Trust. As a team we have worked hard to meet the challenges of the year as they have arisen, listening to the views of the community we serve and making changes in line with the growing need.

The further budget constraints upon Newcastle City Council have meant that those of us within the voluntary sector remain under pressure to increase the service that we offer. Funding to support our work remains generally less abundant and decisions regarding what projects and activities we can provide have continued to be carefully considered and difficult choices have had to be made.

We strive to increase the amount of partnership work that we undertake, in this way providing a good service, meeting more of the identified community need and making the best use of limited finances. Activities this year have included:

- Managing the NCC's ACCESS Fund for children with additional needs and disabilities
- Facilitating the NCC's 'Get Connected' Sports Inclusion contract
- English Conversation Classes with crèche provision (working with NUSU Go Volunteer and the Angelou Centre)
- Parent and Toddler Group
- Toy Library
- Environmental activities
- Summer and Winter festivals including the Decade of Diversity Community Event
- Partnership work to provide activities and projects
- Work with Greening Wingrove
- Arts and Crafts Club (Working with NUSU Go Volunteer)
- Summer Weekend Play Area Project extended to cover the three months summer period
- The Junk Music Project
- The Well Being Project (working with AgeUK)
- Activities, projects and events for children and families i.e. film nights
- Supporting other agencies booking the venue
- Consultations
- Fundraising
- Work to secure the longer term use of the centre for the local community

The Trust firmly believes in a proactive approach to working with children and young people. One of the challenges of this past year has been to find new ways to provide activities and projects, identified through consultation with the community, for our children and young people.

We were delighted to be the lead organisation for the Winter Festival hosted at the centre in the run up to Christmas. We welcomed partners, including Greening Wingrove, the Parks and Countryside department and the Time Exchange. Jean Calvert joined us for this event working with attendees to make beautiful, fresh, evergreen wreaths to adorn front doors over the festive season. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming. The event was very well supported by the community with capacity numbers. There were lots of seasonal activities provided for all age groups: 'hand print' calendars, the decorating of fire cones, making jolly robins from wood with bright scarlet

breasts, decorating gingerbread men, making book marks and cards. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the delicious homemade soup, provided with bread, which was made by our volunteer Susie Leech. The excitement grew as the event culminated in the eagerly anticipated visit from Santa (a huge thank you to Santa) and, in the fading afternoon light, the switching on of the festive outdoor Christmas Tree lights accompanied by happy children singing as they clutched their Christmas chocolates given to them by Santa. It is always a privilege to witness the wonder on the faces of small children at such times and to be part of such a joyous occasion. We are grateful to the Community Foundation for their financial support.

We held a family film night where we showed the film 'The Polar Express' as the last community event of 2016. Families enjoyed the film on the big screen. Trustees and volunteers were in attendance, complete with festive hats, to provide oranges and drinks and to ensure that all the children were enjoying the evening. As families left it was a pleasure to give out chocolate coins to the children and to wish them all a very happy holiday.

The Trust continues to provide a Parent and Toddler Group every Thursday morning during term time. Two of the trustees, Margaret Mabbutt and Ann Byers, facilitate the group which is proving to be very successful. It now has 74 babies and children on the register. Parents are encouraged to take ownership of their group and to input into the activities. Sincere thanks to Margaret and Ann for their hard work and commitment. Thanks also to our volunteer Susie Leech who has provided support to the group. (additional paper attached) Sincere thanks to NAPI for their ongoing support of this group.

We were extremely grateful to have received funding from the Hadrian Trust and the Rothley Trust to extend the stock of our Toy Library. We have purchased extra story sacks and are in the process of purchasing more games and appropriate toys that we can offer on loan to families. We intend to have a general relaunch of the Toy Library once the new stock is in place and available to loan out to parents. We strive to ensure inclusive working and to welcome children of all abilities to access our services. The Toy Library has been run alongside the Parent and Toddler Group each week for families to access and enjoy. We hope that parents may volunteer to help with the Toy Library undertaking tasks such as cleaning and checking toys and maintaining the loan service register as they become more involved.

The work to strengthen a longer term agreement with the council regarding joint use of the centre continues. A joint Working Group made up of both NCC officers and NCT trustees has met regularly. We are extremely grateful to Councillor Joyce McCarty, Wingrove Ward Councillor, for her ongoing support

with this work. Councillor McCarty has a keen interest in ensuring that the centre is fully accessible to the community and remains so in the longer term future. The group has made great strides and real progress over the year. We are grateful to Rachel Baillie, Assistant Director Commissioning and Procurement, Wellbeing, Care and Learning, for her input over the months and enormously grateful to Alison Priestly, Service Manager Early Help and Family Support, for her time, input and commitment to the work of the group and her belief in finding a way forward.

The Joint Working Group has worked to find better ways of sharing the venue. There is now a much better understanding of each other's needs and respect between parties. We are grateful to all the staff for their patience and support as we have worked together to reach a better understanding of what is required from the building and how we might achieve the best use of the facility. We are now at a point where we can see that huge progress has been made. This is, in no small part, due to a great deal of commitment to ensure that there is a better day to day working relationship which has resulted from a genuine desire to ensure that we work together in partnership. Sincere thanks to Di Robertson, Intensive Family Support lead, for her part in addressing any day to day issues which might occur, with regard to the building, and her availability.

The Trust increased the number of 'key holders' for the building which has given us more availability around community bookings. We recruited several new members to the team of key holders, Sarah Harrington, Rachel Richman and Mary Ashley joined the team working on a self employed basis. We said goodbye to Rachael Hales and Sunnie Mann, we thank them for their input and wish them well. Sadly, we also said goodbye to Simon McIntosh, our trustee keyholder in July. Simon had also held the office of Company Secretary. We thank him for all his service and wish him well in his future undertakings. Wajid Hussain continues as a volunteer keyholder although he stood down as a trustee earlier in the year due to family and work commitments. We are grateful for his continued volunteering and support. Una Bradley has continued as our Bookings Officer. We sincerely thank her for her help, order and support. We hope that we will be able to increase community usage of the building which is an identified need, and a priority, for the Trust.

We are grateful to Steve Padden for his on going work as our Funding Consultant over the past year. In these difficult financial times, when none of us know what future restraints there will be on Newcastle City Council's budget, we are aware that we may be called to provide more for the community we serve. Further budget cuts may well impact upon centre provision and this may mean a further reduction on services available to the

community. The Trust need to keep abreast of the situation, plan ahead and be ready to meet the challenges which arise.

We undertook work with the Cranfield Trust to look at actions the Trust needed to undertake to strengthen its position. The original intention had been that working together we would develop a Business Plan. However, after in depth discussions the Cranfield Trust's representatives put together a document outlining areas the Trust needed to work on to strengthen their position as an organisation. It also highlighted possible scenarios re the future which we might consider going forward and which might well help to shape our forward planning, actions and funding priorities. One of the main areas the Cranfield Trust felt that we needed to concentrate on was 'recruitment' to the Board. We were grateful for their input and recommendations. Work has been ongoing to implement many of their suggested actions which we continue to review. Alongside this we have undertaken a team workshop working with the facilitator, Emily Sweetman, to ensure that we have a very clear Trust vision regarding the way forward in the future.

The Trust has been keen to support the work of the Greening Wingrove Project in its final year. The Summer Food Festival was a particularly successful event which we were delighted to be part of. Hundreds of people supported the day which provided a wide range of activities, cuisine and information delivered by numerous organisations. We are sad to see the Project end and wish the staff well in their new ventures as they go forward. We will continue to work with Greening Wingrove CIC into the future. Our vision is that, amongst other things, the centre will be seen as a 'green hub' for the community in future years.

Following the success of last year's Summer Weekend Play Project the Trust secured funding from the Dockray Foundation to enable the opening of the Play Area at weekends during the three month summer period this year. This was in response to the feedback from the Summer Weekend Working Project undertaken last year and following the consultation and feedback regarding this project, from the community. This involved retaining two self - employed Play Rangers to man the play area every weekend. In the end we were fortunate to be able to retain Mary Ashley and Berta Matillo, the same Play Rangers as last year, to cover the Summer Project. The project was well used and appreciated. Numbers for the three month period topped six hundred children of all abilities and ethnicities.

It was extremely rewarding to be able to welcome children with additional needs and to be able to ensure a positive and inclusive environment for children, young people and families to share time and a safe play space.

Feedback and evaluation have both been very positive and will help to shape our forward planning. Sincere thanks to Mary Ashley and Berta Matillo for their hard work over the summer weekends. Thanks also to Sam NUSU Go Volunteer student who supported the project. They all did an absolutely excellent job. – Separate report attached.

We were invited to attend a Circus Skills Workshop by the CHAT Trust and Greening Wingrove, within the Bike Garden in Nunsmoor Park. We asked the Intensive Family Support Team to be involved and to bring some of their children and young people. Twenty children and young people, some of whom were members of the Arts and Crafts Group, (along with students from NUSU Go Volunteer supporting) and some were young people who came with staff from the Intensive Family Support Team. A number of the children and young people had additional needs. An excited group set off that afternoon to experience the Circus Skills Workshop. The workshop was a big hit with our young people. A sincere thank you to the CHAT Trust and Greening Wingrove for hosting such a wonderful project for the community and to Circus Skills for providing such an exciting workshop – a short report is attached.

In July we hosted a large community event at the centre to celebrate 'A Decade of Diversity' - Ten years of the centre welcoming our wonderfully diverse community. A big thank you to Steve Padden for helping to secure the funding to facilitate this event which was a great success and a glorious day enjoyed by everyone. We were delighted by the number of local organisations and agencies that took part. These included:

- FOOTSTEPS
- CHAT Trust and Base
- Greening Wingrove and Greening Wingrove CIC
- The Time Exchange
- The Angelou Centre
- JET
- The MILLIN Charity
- AgeUK
- FAR
- The Children with Disabilities Team (NCC)
- The Early Years Team (NCC)
- The Community Policing Team and Police Cadets
- 'Ping Pong' (NCC)
- The Harvest Church
- PLAYinNewcastle
- The ACCESS Panel

- The Parks and Countryside Dept (NCC)
- The SHE Choir

What a fantastic celebration of diversity. We are extremely grateful to all the organisations who took part. They brought with them information and activities to share. A special thank you to Caroline Emmerson from CHAT who organised the young people to provide entertainment with lots of great music. Thank you to all those young people. We were also delighted to welcome the local SHE Choir who sang for us. Activities were numerous with 'something for everyone' ranging from face painting and balloon modelling right through to environmental activities and freebies! We were grateful for the delicious and varied cuisines from various parts of the world which were on offer. It was altogether a glorious day. The young people loved the drumming. People of all ages enjoyed the 'Bollywood dancing'. Friendships were formed and closer working partnerships forged. In the words of Jo Cox, and our strapline for the event, *'There is more that unites us than divides us'* There we were all together in the Summer sunshine enjoying time spent in each other's company – babies, children, young, old, diverse ethnicities, disabled and 'non disabled' just content to be. The lasting image for me was of a young person in her wheelchair Bollywood dancing with everyone else. Thank you community for making this a day to remember.

The Trust is most grateful to Centre West and the staff for their help and support. We have been most grateful to Graeme Williams for his ongoing help and support in advising the Trust with regard to their future working. The work and advice is ongoing. It is likely that the journey we are undertaking will see the Trust continuing to meet with Graeme, in an advisory capacity, in the forthcoming year.

Our work facilitating the distribution of the ACCESS Fund has continued. Brian Graham has again taken the post of Grants' Officer, undertaking a great deal of work and doing a wonderful job. I have again chaired the Access Fund Panel which has met regularly. Panel members are most conscientious and extremely committed to their role of distributing the fund. We are grateful for all their input and hard work. It is a huge privilege to be asked to undertake this work. Thanks to all the panel members, staff, organisations, trustees and volunteers who help to make the ACCESS Fund the success it is in helping children and young people in Newcastle experience new activities, become more involved in their communities, and reach their potential.

The Trust's contract with the Council has been extended until March 31<sup>st</sup> 2018. There is the possibility of further funding through until 2020 dependant on the financial situation. We are hopeful that despite the constraints on Newcastle

City Council's budget that funding will be available in view of the fact that the ACCESS Fund has been so highly regarded by parents and has produced good outcomes, and outputs, to be able to feedback to Newcastle City Council. The Trust considers this work of high priority and would welcome a further extension of the contract to facilitate the Access Fund from April 2018 if offered it by Newcastle City Council. - A separate short report is attached and a full Access Fund Report 2016 - 17 is available upon request.

Following on from the success of the ACCESS Fund we were delighted to be approached by Newcastle City Council, earlier this year, to enquire if we would consider, as a Trust, taking on a contract with Newcastle City Council to facilitate the 'Get Connected' Sports Inclusion work. This was a really exciting prospect for the team and we accepted the offer. Part of the initial work was to draft the job description and advertise the freelance post of a 'Sports Inclusion Worker' To find the right person for the post turned out to be quite a challenge. We had lots of very qualified 'sporting' candidates but we knew that the emphasis of the post needed to be ensuring that we found someone, who possessed the right qualities to support the child, or young person, and their families referred to the service. Each child or young person with additional needs or disabilities will be supported to access a mainstream sport, or healthy living activity, within their local community. It is early days but I'm delighted to say that we have appointed Stephen Douglas to the post and the work is gaining momentum.

The Trust has continued to provide English Conversation Classes, in response to community need. We have worked, in partnership, again, with NUSU Go Volunteer to provide this service. Crèche workers from the Angelou Centre have provided good quality creche provision. The classes have been well attended. We have provided a Thursday class, without a crèche facility as well as the original Friday class when a creche facility is provided. The feedback has again been extremely positive. We will work in partnership, with NUSU Go Volunteer, to continue to provide this resource for the community. Our thanks to Phil Hay, Volunteer Coordinator, at NUSU Go Volunteer and to all the students who volunteer for this project. We are grateful to Awards for All for funding the project for the academic year. NUSU have set up a larger project called N.E.S.T. which provides classes for refugees across the city. We wish them well with their new venture.

We have also worked with NUSU – Go Volunteer to continue the Arts and Crafts Club for children in the 8 – 12 year age range each Friday after school. The students call it the 'Cookie Club' The children who have been involved thoroughly enjoy the activities which have been wide ranging and varied. They have used all types of materials and mediums. Sincere thanks to the students

who have organised and supported the club. We are grateful for Sir James Knott funding to be able to retain an Arts facilitator to extend and enhance the work whilst the University students have been on leave.

A highlight of this year has seen the Junk Music Workshops commence. The first series of six workshops were funded by the Children with Disabilities Team budget. This involved a group of ten children in the 8 – 12 year old age range. It was a mixed abilities group which included about half of the children having additional needs. Musical instruments were made from junk and donated materials. Gary Bowden from Pool of Sound worked with the group supported by students from NUSU Go Volunteer. The original series of workshops were really successful and the feedback was extremely positive. The workshops were a total joy! On the strength of the feedback we were fortunate to secure funding from the Community Foundation to run a second series of workshops in the Summer of 2017 facilitated by Gary Bowden and supported by Becky and Charlie NUSU volunteers. This second series has been even more successful and the children have recorded their own CD which they are extremely proud of and so are we!

We obtained funding from the GREGGS Foundation to run a 'Wellbeing' Project working in conjunction with AgeUK for senior residents. This project has offered taster sessions which have included chair yoga, arts and crafts, footcare, games etc. The idea behind the project was to help reduce isolation and loneliness amongst older people. It hoped to empower people to take more responsibility for their own health and wellbeing and to lead to a longer term project where those attending would take ownership of the group and develop what they would like to do going forward. Our 'Afternoon tea' and evaluation afternoon will be happening at the end of October when we hope to develop a plan, with the attendees, to take this project forward. A big thank you to Linda Williams from AgeUK for her partnership work on this project.

The Nunsmoor Centre is a fantastic facility. Promoting use of the centre is enormously important. As well as providing good quality services the centre has the capacity for other organisations to make use of the space. Room Hire is necessary as the income helps to provide extra activities and resources for the community. We work hard to promote the centre to other organisations. Wherever possible we help to facilitate organisations bringing good quality activities and projects to the venue.

Despite the challenges and changes of the past year much has been achieved. Good partnership working appears to be the key to future development. We are most grateful to all the organisations who have worked

with us during the past year. Sincere thanks also to our local Ward Councillors and Community Facilitators.

Huge thanks must go to all of the centre staff – the administration team, the caretaking staff, and the Community Family Hub Team. We are extremely grateful to them for their support, encouragement and help during the past year.

The Trust extends a most sincere thank you to the families, residents and diverse range of centre users who help to shape our work and support us with enthusiasm. We would welcome enquiries from anyone interested in joining the Board as a trustee, or anyone who would be interested in volunteering at the centre. We are also promoting membership of the Trust which is free.

As Chairperson can I take this opportunity to add a very personal, heartfelt, 'thank you' to all the trustees and volunteers who have worked extremely hard during the past year. They have all given a huge amount of their time and commitment to the work of the Trust, for the benefit of the community which we serve. Trustees who have stood down during the year are Liz Turnbull, Susie Leech, Wajid Hussain and Simon McIntosh I thank them most sincerely and wish them well in the future. The Trust has welcomed new trustees in recent months. I look forward to working with them in the year ahead. It has been my privilege to work with all of the trustees and I am most grateful to them for the support they have afforded me during what has been a challenging, but rewarding, year.

Having paused to evaluate and review the work and activities of the Trust, during the past twelve months, we now look forward to the year ahead with renewed commitment to the diverse community we serve – with a genuinely warm smile!

Alyson. E. Hampshire

Chairperson

October 2017

## **Thanks to:**

The Community Family Hub Team (West)  
Una Bradley - Bookings Officer  
Play Rangers  
Key Holders  
The Access Panel Members  
The NCC Children with Disabilities Team  
Newcastle University Students Union – Go Volunteer  
The Angelou Centre  
FOOTSTEPS  
CHAT Trust  
NAPI  
The Time Exchange  
Centre West  
Greening Wingrove Project Team and Greening Wingrove CIC  
NEYouth  
FAR  
The Millin Charity  
WEA  
NCC Parks & Countryside Dept  
HealthWORKS  
Westgate and Moorside Schools  
NCVS  
Wingrove and Westgate Ward Committee Members  
Ward Community Facilitator  
Newcastle City Council  
Steve Padden Funding Consultant  
The Community Foundation  
Awards for All  
Dockray House  
Joicey Trust  
RW Mann  
Sir James Knott  
Hadrian Trust  
Schofield Trust  
Comic Relief  
The GREGGS Foundation  
The Rothley Trust  
Gary Bowden Music facilitator  
AgeUK Newcastle  
Colin and Louise Metcalfe Photography  
BBJA  
Al-Ihsan  
The Cranfield Trust  
JET  
Emily Sweetman Consultancy  
Ellison Services

## **And most importantly:**

The parents, carers, children and members of the community for  
using, enjoying and supporting the Centre.

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