

THE FURZEDOWN PROJECT



WORKING WITH OLDER PEOPLE



ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018



THE FURZEDOWN PROJECT
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0208 677 4283
www.furzedownproject.org
charity number 1076087



The photos that illustrate this Annual Report were taken by Chris Turner, a member of our new Photography Group which meets on the third Tuesday of each month from 10.30-12.00. Chris took the pictures at our Summer Garden Party with a brief to capture the social interaction that goes on between members of the Furzedown Project when they come together.

This year the Summer Garden Party was generously hosted by the Streatham Park Bowling Club in their marquee and grounds, off Pringle Gardens. Fifty Project members attended and feasted on fancy sandwiches, cream teas and choc ices. We think Chris's pictures truly portray the fun of the day, the noise and hubbub that was generated, and the friendship and peer support that was exchanged.

The Annual Report has been designed and laid out by Pauline Copas, our Community Development Worker. Pauline also designs out quarterly newsletter and contributes greatly to the running of the Project. We are very grateful for her skills and dedication.

Reflecting back, this has been a vintage year for the Project, we have received a generous grant from the Battersea Power Station Foundation, which secures the future of our Home Visiting Scheme and Supported Transport Service for a further three years.

The staff team and Trustees organised and took part in a 'Blue Skies Thinking Day' to discuss ways forward for the project, the premises, and the development of future activities. There were lively debates and interesting ideas some of which need further work and others that have already be acted upon. Most notably we have seen the start of two new member led groups:

- The Photography Group which meets on the third Tuesday of the month. Cameras are snapping all over the area chasing the big shot.
- The Perambulators, a group of hardy walkers who plan and organise walks of between 5 and 12 miles to some of the loveliest spots within reach of SW London.

We are also celebrating the second year of our Thursday LGBT Coffee Morning. It is going from strength to strength and is the most successful and pioneering group in South London looking out for the needs of the over 50 LGBT community.

The talks team have already staged 'Owzat' a talk by Pete and Jon Norman, not surprisingly it was about cricket, it was highly entertaining, and we hope to arrange a guided tour of The Oval to follow it up. Then came a talk about the history of Tooting Common which was also very informative. The next presentation will be 'Journeys' a documentary film recounting how some local people, including several our own members came to live in Tooting. It was filmed by children from Furzedown Primary School and is terrific. Come to see it on Wednesday 24th October 2pm. The fundraising team as always have organised Christmas and Spring Fairs, a plant sale, a bric-a-brac sale, and raffles, as well as having stalls at the Community Network's Christmas Market and Big Day Out. All good fun and raising money for the project. Well done team!

The IT team works quietly behind the scenes updating our website, notice board and using social media for our benefit. The website looks great, see for yourself : www.furzedownproject.org

This is the year I stand down as Chair of Trustees, I have done my allotted seven years, five as vice chair and two as Chair. After that time our constitution decrees that you must stand down from the Board of Trustees for at least a year. I can honestly say that I have thoroughly enjoyed my term and have been fortunate to work with a dedicated staff team and other great trustees as well as getting to know so many of our members. Furzedown Project is truly unique and it is a pleasure to be part of it.



MANAGER'S REPORT

When I sit down each year to write my piece for the Annual Report and AGM I try to find a theme that is current in our work and reflects one of the many special characteristics of how the Furzedown Project functions. With this being my 10th Annual Report you might think it would be a struggle to find something new to write about, you would however be wrong.

With so many of our members contributing to every aspect of our services – our activity sessions, our Supported Transport Service, Home Visiting, the warm welcome given at the reception desk, fundraising, and event catering – there is a great variety of inspiring acts of generosity, friendship, and skill that I can draw upon to inspire me.

This year what has inspired me is also tinged with some personal sadness and regret. That is because our wonderful Chair of Trustees, Liz Sines is stepping down as she has served the maximum term of seven consecutive years as a Trustee. Liz's contribution to the Furzedown Project has been immense, Liz is by nature a unifier, she has an uncanny ability to bring people together, and provides a centre point around which people are happy to work and give their best. Liz has been a keen supporter of change and has been instrumental in bringing through new ideas and new activity sessions as you will see from her own report. Liz has also given great supervision to me, she has provided me with challenge, words of wisdom and, support.

Another member of our Board of Trustees who is standing down is Therese Nolan. Therese has served several stints on the committee and acted as Chair for one year, though she will tell you that she did not enjoy that role at all. In many ways the work done by the Project's Board of Trustees is something that goes unnoticed on a day to day basis, it is however of vital importance. In fact the very existence of the Furzedown Project depends upon there being an effective committee, without such a committee there would be no legal foundation for us to operate, employ staff, rent our premises or seek grant funding for the work we do. The forward steps that have been made whilst Liz has been Chair of Trustees follows a long tradition of progressive development of the Furzedown Project. In the ten years that I have been Project Manager I have worked under two previous Chairs: firstly, Jenny Weinstein, then Moira Harbord. Their achievements followed on from the work put in by many others. Looking back through our catalogue of Annual Reports it is possible to identify some of the key individuals who led the Project at key moments in its growth and evolution.



They include (in no particular order): David Whitlock, Reg Hall, Tricia Fossett, Ruth Dixon, George Gibson, George Lottinga, and Norman Levinson. Behind them were many others who also took on the responsibility for the proper management of the Project and helped to drive it forward. That is also true of today's committee and knowing them as I do I am confident they will step up to carry the Project through the next twelve months.

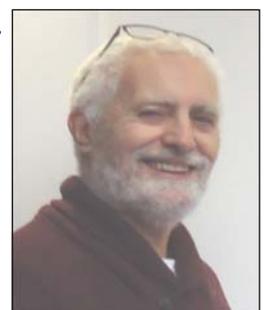
It is also a comfort to note that Liz will continue with her Tuesday and Thursday morning Reception Duties, contribute to fundraising and event planning, and that having "rested" for one year she will be eligible for re-election as a Trustee again at the AGM in 2019.

Mick Morrell



AN APPRECIATION OF LIZ

Liz's welcoming smile, always full on and ready to turn into laughter and conversation, is as much a part of the welcome to the Project as any sign on the door. So, it's good news that, even after she has to stand down as chair and trustee, she will continue those familiar roles as receptionist and stall holder at the various fund raisers. What is special about Liz is just how much she knows about members, when something extra is needed to help or she sees a spark of interest that can be turned to good effect, for the individual and the Project. Also impressive is what she knows about the Project as an organisation, and how she draws on this in the trustee meetings or in meetings we've had out in the community. I know that this won't just stop because she's no longer a trustee but that she will continue to dispense wisdom and good cheer even after her 'retirement' and I look forward to continuing our friendship.



Jeremy Weinstein, Vice Chair

HOME VISITING SCHEME & SUPPORTED TRANSPORT

In May 2018 the funding given to us by the Big Lottery for the Home Visiting Scheme and Supported Transport Service came to an end after five years. The end of grant report required us to look back at the work done since May 2013 and describe our performance against the outcomes we said we could achieve. We are pleased to say that in each of the five years we were successful in completing the challenges we set ourselves.

Through the Home Visiting Scheme we have consistently given support to between fifty nine and sixty five people each year. The surveys returned to us and the feedback spoken directly to us confirm that our HVS clients do “look forward to seeing their befriender”, that they “feel less lonely and more positive” and, that they really do “feel they have enjoyed the benefit of having a friend”. Clive also undertakes a range of case work on behalf of HVS clients and other members of the Project. This produces added benefits as we signpost people to other services and make available information to ensure clients are aware of all the help and support they are entitled to. By effectively reducing feelings of isolation, and promoting access to other support services we allow our clients to keep their independence and life choices for much longer.

Our Supported Transport Service, the use of the minibus for picking up and taking home people who are not able to make their own way to the Project has also achieved its targets. We have consistently provided opportunities for forty-five people to attend weekly exercise classes and over fifty to take part in weekly social and conversational activity sessions. When we add in members who have used the minibus to go on trips out in the summer or, attend special events such as the Garden Party, Christmas Party or AGM the number of beneficiaries climbs to over one hundred and twenty. Once more our members surveys gave evidence of what an important impact the running of the minibus has on their lives. The responses we received showed that nine out of ten people agreed that they were “able to make or maintain friendships at the Project” and that “without attending the Project they would feel more isolated, and experience loneliness”.

The final strand of the work we promised to do for the Lottery was the involvement of our members in the design and delivery of services. We said that at least “sixty older volunteers will provide access to activities that help their less able peers to maintain healthy lifestyles and to benefit from being part of a wider community”. This was probably the easiest of the targets to achieve, simply because this way of working was already deeply ingrained in the culture of the Furzedown Project. The gift of time, skill, experience, and friendship is constantly on offer from one member to another and this goes a long way to establishing a wider community that is supportive to those whose needs are highest. This sharing community is underpinned by those of our members who take on more defined roles and as you will see from the credits on the opposite page, there are well in excess of sixty such volunteers. We are truly grateful for all they do.



VOLUNTEERS AT THE PROJECT

RECEPTION

Ann Ziegler, Barbara Bunby, Colette Murnaghan, Joyce Moses, Liz Sines, Louise LeSage, Pam Carpenter, Tony Buffery, Michelle Bennett.

CO-OP SHOP

Ann Harris, Therese Nolan, Diane Norman, Gwen Race, Helen Bernhardt.

TRANSPORT

Alan Stanley, Angela Bradley, Deborah Danso, Graham Loveland, Jackie Dixon, John Farebrother, Mike Richards, Liz Richards, Moira Harbord, Patricia Orlando, Peter Clarke, Robert Broad, Roger Tucker, Terry Sines, George Bryson, Michelle Bennett, Bruce Bebington, Martin Ure, Eustace Yhap.

PROJECT & EVENTS CATERING

Christal Geater, Jacqueline Anderson, Kanta Vadukal, Liz Sines, Maureen Sandhu, Jacqueline Anderson. Olive Savage, Suzanne Richeux, Tara Lehmann.

FUNDRAISING

Barbara Bunby, Christal Geater, Diane Norman, Gillian Mires, Gwen Race, Kamla Cotter, Liz Sines, Maureen Sandhu, Tara Lehmann, Therese Nolan, Vito Ward, George Bryson, Jacqueline Anderson

WEB DESIGN & DISPLAY

Peter Clarke, Sue Pearson, Liz Sines, Chris Durne.

ACTIVITY SUPPORT

Ann Harris, Claire Clay, Gwen Race, Jeremy Weinstein, Lucinda Denning, Lynlea Ward, Linda Cairns, Neelam Chandra, Padmakar Mishra, Pam Carpenter, Rama Patel, Suzanne Ellis, Julie Mangroo, Kanta Vadukal, Patricia Orlando, David Robson, Anita Quinn, Diane Norman, Mike Richards, Liz Richards, Hilary Anderson.

HOME VISITING

Ann Harris, Ann Heywood, Audrey Silkin, Barry Ellis, Benedicta Tabirade, Beverley Martin, Christa-Maria Farouk, Colette Murnaghan, Dave Harbord, Emma Baxter, Eustace Yhap, Guy Gozmao, Liz Sines, Indumati Patel, Jane Heath, Jenny Freeman, Jenefer Spells, Jeremy Weinstein, Joyce Moses, Katya Filipova, Lola Phipps, Mary Heraty, Margo Random, Martin Hockey, Maxine Rhodes, Olive Savage, Rachel Husband, Sumita Sandhir, Therese Nolan, Terry Sines, Velma Dennis, Vito Ward, Myrtle Allen, Rosana Oluwasegun, Martin Beaver, Jenny Weinstein, Katie Ricketts, Judith Hare.

BOARD of TRUSTEES

Liz Sines - Chair, Jeremy Weinstein - Vice Chair, Mike Richards - Treasurer, Diane Norman, Gillian Mires, Gwen Race, Ilaben Patel, John Farebrother, Ann Harris, Padimini de Almeida, Therese Nolan.

Co-opted: Robyn Lynch, Jane Fisher, Varada Rajan



STAFF TEAM



Project Manager

Mick Morrell

Home Visiting Coordinator

Clive Brown

Project Coordinator (3 days p/w)

Pauline Copas

Finance Worker (1 day p/w)

Pius Gnanapragasam

Mini-bus Driver (1 day p/w)

Jackie Dixon

Mini-bus Driver (½ day p/w)

Peter Clarke

Freelance Exercise Specialist

Sandra Shaw



Our Purposes and Activities

“The Furzedown Project operates for the benefit of the public the relief of the elderly (being persons who are principally sixty years of age or over), the housebound and the disabled and their carers in the London Borough of Wandsworth.”

The main focus of our work is to prevent and overcome the health, and psychological difficulties that arise from the social isolation and experienced by too many older people. To do this we provide an activities centre that open from 9.00am to 5.00pm five days a week. We also run a home visiting and befriending service to those who find it very difficult to leave their home. Our method of working involves maximising the participation by our members and volunteers in the design and delivery of the services we offer. In the financial year 2017-18 we have remained focused on achieving these aims and utilised our staff, volunteer and financial resources to this end.

Throughout the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 we have consistently offered between 23 and 26 activity sessions each week. We have monitored our service on a quarterly basis and this has shown that our activities have attracted an average of 217 attendances each week; an average of 255 individuals have received our services in each quarter; between 65 and 70 people have utilised our Supported Transport Service to take part in our activities each week, and 62 individuals have benefited from our Home Visiting Service over the course of the year.

Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees believes it is prudent for free reserves in the region of six months running costs to be held. As of the 31st March 2018 our Unrestricted Reserves were significantly in excess of this as a result of: (i) an unexpected legacy of £50,000 donated from the estate of the late Ethel Summers, a client of the Home Visiting Scheme; and (ii) the phasing of payments from the grant award made by the Battersea Power Station Foundation. The BPSF paid over £150,000 of which £50,000 is Restricted Income for the purpose of funding the continued operation of our Outreach Services (HVS & Supported Transport). The remaining £100,000 was designated as Unrestricted to allow Furzedown Project the opportunity to negotiate with Wandsworth Council for the purchase of a long lease via Community Asset Transfer on the premises we occupy, and to provide a substantive sinking fund for the expansion and improvements to the facilities if the negotiation is successful. This would have a long term benefit to our financial stability as it would remove the fixed cost of the annual rent paid under our current occupancy agreement.



FINANCIAL ACCOUNT FOR 12 MONTHS TO 31 MARCH 2018

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Income	£	£	£
Grants and Contracts	100,000	114,531	214,531
Activities	11,871	6,578	18,449
Transport		3,676	3,676
Membership	5,665		5,665
Donations including Gift Aid	58,931		58,931
Room Hire	4,900		4,900
Fund Raising including Raffles	4,823		4,823
Miscellaneous	1,946		1,946
Bank Interest	87		87
Total Income	188,223	124,785	313,008
Expenses			
Salaries, NI and Pensions	2,839	91,582	94,421
Travel	76	144	220
Activities	4,206	17,292	21,498
Transport		4,548	4,548
Rent & Rates		13,023	13,023
Premises Costs		4,698	4,698
Office Costs	8,497		8,497
Insurance	882	1,916	2,798
Audit & Accountancy	6,960		6,960
Bank Charges	74		74
Volunteer Costs	194	984	1,178
Total Expenses	23,728	134,187	157,915
Management & Organisational Charge	7,222	(7,222)	
Net Cash Surplus/(Deficit)	157,273	(2,180)	155,093
Depreciation (Non-Cash)	5,026	6,655	11,681
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	152,247	(8,835)	143,412

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2018

	31/03/2018		31/03/2017	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets		27,557		37,622
Current Assets				
Debtors and Prepayments	4,677		15,237	
Cash at Bank and in hand	<u>317,632</u>		<u>108,708</u>	
	322,309		123,945	
Less Current Liabilities				
Deferred Income	57,750		13,053	
Creditors and Accruals	<u>3,962</u>		<u>3,772</u>	
	61,712		16,825	
Net Current Assets		260,597		107,120
		—————		—————
Net Assets		<u>288,154</u>		<u>144,742</u>
Represented by:				
Unrestricted Funds		228,445		76,200
Designated Funds		13,734		13,734
Restricted Funds		45,975		54,808
		—————		—————
		<u>288,154</u>		<u>144,742</u>

**Our thanks go to the following organisations
for their financial support in the year:**

Wandsworth Borough Council: Adult Social Services

Wandsworth Clinical Commissioning Group / Age UK
(Community Resilience Fund)

The Battersea Power Station Foundation

The Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund



Activities at the Furzedown Project

Tel: 020 8 677 4283

91-93 Moyser Rd SW16 6SJ

MONDAY

Outings (July – Aug)	(Various)
Swim Club	transport >>>> 10.00-12.00pm
Fit & Fitter: 2 classes of 45mins	9.30-11.00am
Exercise Therapy	11.00-11.45am
50+ Restart British Bangladeshi Group	1.00- 4.00pm
Monday Get-together	transport >>>> 2.00- 3.30pm

TUESDAY

Reading, Photography & Radio Group(s)	10.00 / 10.30 - 12.00pm
Yoga	10.00-11.00am & 3.00- 4.00pm
Bingo	transport >>>> 2.00- 4.00pm

WEDNESDAY

Co-op Shop	transport >>>> 9.30-11.15am
Craft Class & Friendship Group	transport >>>> 2.00-4.00pm
Singing Group	transport >>>> 2.00-4.00pm

THURSDAY

Exercise Therapy 9.30 – 10.15	transport >>>> 10.15-11.00am
Computer Support	10.00-11.00am
LGBT 50+ Coffee Morning	10.00-12.00pm
Chair Based Exercise	transport >>>> 11.00-11.45am
Relaxation	12.15-1.00pm
Bridge & Scrabble	transport >>>> 2.00- 4.00pm
Fusion Exercise	transport >>>> 2.15- 3.15pm

FRIDAY

Art	10.00-12.00pm
Fitness & Fun	10.00-11.00am
Classical Indian Singing & Friendship	12.30- 3.30pm
Bingo	transport >>>> 2.00- 4.00pm

Library service at all opening times

Councillors Surgeries 1st Sat of every month 11.30-12.30 pm