

ANNUAL REPORT



2018 -19



The Furzedown Project
Working with Older People

THE FURZEDOWN PROJECT
91/93 Moyser Road, SW16 6SJ
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www.furzedownproject.org
charity number 1076087



CHAIR'S REPORT

Each and every one of our members will know and appreciate the Project for your own particular reasons. Perhaps you come to an exercise class, or play scrabble, bingo or bridge. Perhaps it's your creative side that's touched at the art group or new poetry session, singing group, or the Indian classical music session. I'm also struck at how often, and quite rightly, food features, at the Garden, Christmas Eid and Diwali Parties, after the Annual General Meeting, or just dipping into the biscuit jar in reception (maybe that's just me?).

These regular activities are the core of our work but there are also the special one off events. A striking example was our showing the 'Journeys' documentary featuring the migration stories of Project members, made by year 6 children from Furzedown Primary School, a truly intergenerational initiative. It was moving to hear the poems the children had written inspired by the stories and their shock at hearing about the racism our members faced when first coming to the UK.

The Project is important not just to us members, we are very much part of the Furzedown community with our vibrant stall at the Big Day Out, and the many local people we attract to our fundraising Xmas and Spring Fairs, or the use our rooms for the evening and weekend classes. We also have a special place in the borough. At every a meeting about older people the Project is admired as a beacon of good practice. This was recognised when one of our members, Vito Ward, won an outstanding Volunteer award from the Open Doors charity, partly in recognition of her key role in setting up the Project's weekly LGBTQ coffee morning.

I haven't space to name all those who make the Project so effective, you who help run the activities, greet people at reception, maintain the website, man the minibus, do home visiting, support me as fellow Trustees. But central to all this is the staff, Clive, Pauline, Jackie, our new worker Suzanne and of course, Mick. He is indefatigable in his efforts to keep the good ship afloat.

This next year will be an exciting one. We're busy negotiating with the council to buy our lease which if successful will give us a new lease of life (excuse the pun). There are also plans to make the Project a much more 'green' space by reducing our carbon footprint and generating less plastic waste. We can't make the outside world any easier what with Brexit uncertainties or talk of the social care crisis but we sure do the best we can.

Jeremy Weinstein

MANAGERS REPORT

Over the past year one of the major initiatives I have been working on with the Board of Trustees has been a negotiation with Wandsworth Council to purchase an extended lease (25 years) on the premises that is our home at 91-93 Moyser Road. The Furzedown Project has been on this site since the late 1970's. Our occupation remains secure, but throughout that period we have been required to pay an annual rent (currently £10,000 a year) for the use of the building. Just now we are in the fortunate position of having a grant from the Battersea Power Station Foundation with permission to use this to purchase a longer lease. Whilst the negotiation is not quite done, I am confident that an agreement on the terms and price will be made very soon. The benefit of this will be to reduce our fixed overheads year on year making the Project more resistant to fluctuations in income and to further cement our place as a key service and venue in the local community.

To make our case with the Council I have looked back at how the Furzedown Project first secured the premises here at Moyser Rd, how previous Boards of Trustees have developed the building and the facilities and thought more about its importance as a community resource. What I have appreciated more fully from my research is the scale of the achievement of the trustees, staff and members over the last 40 odd years. The first lease taken on by the Project was for the small rundown shop, with a list of building defects as long as my arm, at 93 Moyser Rd. Once in occupation the members quickly set about making the shop suitable for offering services to local older people, providing a place to meet, to socialise and to combat the harmful effects of social isolation and loneliness. By the mid 1980's the Project had outgrown number 93 and persuaded the Council to acquire the corner shop – number 91 Moyser Rd. So, in 1988-89 the Project combined the two shops to create more space to offer an expanded range of services. In the Annual Report of that year the Chair of Trustees, Ruth Dixon set out a challenge to Project members, she wrote,

“the next 12 months will be exciting but will require the active involvement and ideas of as many members as possible. We must make sure that our Centre is as well used as possible and carefully build up activities that will appeal to all kinds of pensioners. We need to raise more funds, top up our grants and to attract more volunteers”

As ever the Project's Members responded and came forward with the ideas, skills, money, and commitment to inhabit and make use of the extra space they had created. In fact, they were so successful that by the turn of the century the Projects membership, it's activities and the services provided had again outgrown the building. And so, in 2004-5 another major improvement to the building was undertaken. Using over £130,000 raised by members and grants from a range of Charitable Trusts the old back yard of the two shops were enclosed creating a further 90 square metres and creating the rear activity room that accommodates our extensive exercise programme, the singing group and the Co-op Shop. Now in 2019 Furzedown Project offers 26 activity sessions each week, attracting typical weekly attendances of 230 +, and provides services to a membership that totals 420. Whilst the premises have been developed primarily for the benefit of our own members, we also make them available to a range of other community groups in the

OUR HOME IN MOYSER ROAD

evenings and at the weekend. Currently the “out of hours” use includes regular adult and children’s Art Classes, Pilates, Zumba, Tai Chi, The Great Gustos Choir, Lotte Berk Dance, and Bulgarian Country Dancing. In addition, we host the Furzedown Ward Councillor’s Advice Surgeries, the Furzedown Community Network meetings and events, the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team Meetings, and various one-off public consultations. In many ways our building is a key focal point and resource and it is just one example of the contribution that older people make to communities and society in which we all live. Testament to this can be seen in the comments made by those who make use of the Project’s facilities below:

“The Project is a great community asset located in the heart of Furzedown; its fully accessible and is an ideal location for Councillor Surgeries.

Councillor Graham Loveland

“I have been lucky enough to use the Project Space for over 10 years to run my art classes. A huge number of local children and adults have attended my classes over the years and the Project building is firmly rooted in the community as a resource for all of us. It is perfect for my classes, comfortable, accessible and easily recognised and central in the Furzedown area and mind. It is a lovely way to bring children to the Project and to link their lives with those of the older members of the community. The adult group I run on a Monday often includes Project members who also attend the Project Art Group on a Friday and artists often move between the 2 groups, so I am really pleased to be able to introduce potential new members to the Project.”

Lucinda Denning (Art teacher)

‘The Furzedown Project provides an accessible, safe, affordable, central and well-known meeting-place and venue for so many local organisations and groups, such as ours, 1000 Trees for Furzedown. Rooms are easily booked; the staff are always exceptionally helpful, and the space provided is valued and treated with respect by the local community. It is an invaluable local resource!’

Caroline Holden

“Furzedown Project works with a number of community groups, including Furzedown Community Network (FCN). FCN make considerable use of the Project’s building and facilities and we are very grateful for this. Among other things, FCN have been using the Project’s premises for our annual Christmas Market, which is a very hugely popular event, and monthly committee meetings and AGM. We also receive post and store the equipment we need for our large community events, particularly the Big Day Out and the Christmas Market.”

Peter Ramell

The Great Gustos is a community singing group. We are 40 or so friends, neighbours and relatives who live or work in or around Furzedown. When we first formed, we practiced in our living room but as we grew, we needed a proper rehearsal space. The back room of the project is perfect for us; somehow spacious but also intimate, light and airy in the Summer, warm and toasty in Winter. We sing harmoniously and laugh loudly together every Tuesday. We occasionally share the project with other groups, and this enhances our feeling of being part of a community hub.

Denise Broad

HOME VISITING SCHEME & SUPPORTED TRANSPORT

So far, the bulk of my report has focused on the premises where we host the activity sessions that are the bedrock of our work. However, equally important to our mission of preventing and overcoming social isolation are our Outreach Services; that is, the Supported Transport, and Home Visiting Scheme. The importance of these is that they provide a lifeline to the people within our community who find it challenging to get out and therefore are most at risk of experiencing the acute suffering that loneliness can cause.

Our minibus sets off every day of the week, in all seasons, and all weather to collect those members who would otherwise find it impossible to travel to the Project. It brings them in to the warm and welcoming embrace of other people who share their enjoyment of their chosen activity. Be it, Bingo, Singing, Craft, Bridge, Scrabble, Exercise, or the Get Together our Supported Transport provides the route to a place where they enjoy good company, fellowship, conversation and peer support. In addition to the weekly programme the minibus is used for summer day trips, for our major seasonal events providing opportunities to visit old haunts (Battersea Park/Fulham Palace etc) and favourite seaside resorts (Eastbourne/Brighton). The bus is kept running by a dedicated team of drivers and escorts, their contribution to our work is invaluable and the impact that it has on the quality of life for their passengers is immense.

The Home Visiting Scheme offers friendship and support well beyond the walls of the Project for those who are most at risk. The service is managed by Clive Brown who co-ordinates a team of befrienders. Clive matches his clients with a volunteer and stands ready to step in whenever there is a need for additional information, referrals, signposting, or advice on personal care services and benefits. It is remarkable how consistently Clive's match-making works and how many of the friendships that are formed benefit both parties and are truly reciprocal.

Clive's work takes him out and about in the local area, visiting people in their homes, it also brings him into contact with family members and professional carers. He liaises closely with other local groups and faith communities, spreading the word about the Project's work, and receiving referrals for new clients. He recruits his team of volunteer befrienders from amongst own members, as well as from younger people of working age who live locally. Clive is well networked and a well-known face in the neighbourhood, the quality of his work adds yet another strand by which the Project is integrated in our local community. He remains truly thankful for all that his Home Visitors do and would like to pass on the following message directly to them:

“Without your work we would not be able to achieve our aim and support those older people who live alone in our community. I am extremely grateful for your generous efforts and look forward to continue to build and develop the vital lifeline we have established in our work together in previous years.”

Finally, on my own behalf I too would like to thank our whole staff team: Clive, Pauline, Jackie, Suzanne, Peter and Sandra for their hard work and support and also, Jeremy Weinstein and the Board of Trustees for their consistent and positive encouragement throughout the year.

Mick Morrell

VOLUNTEERS AT THE PROJECT

RECEPTION

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

CO-OP SHOP

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

TRANSPORT

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

PROJECT & EVENTS CATERING

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

FUNDRAISING

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

WEB DESIGN & DISPLAYS

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

ACTIVITY SUPPORT

Anita Quinn, Ann Harris, Barnaby Fitzpatrick, Bruce Bebington, Claire Clay, David Robson, Diane Norman, Gwen Race, Hannah Svensson, Hilary Anderson, Jeremy Weinstein, John Valentine, Joan Poole, Julia Philpott, Julie Mangroo, Kanta Vadukal, Linda Cairns, Liz Richards, Lucinda Denning, Lynlea Ward, Mike Richards, Moira Harbord, Neelam Chandra, Padmakar Mishra, Pam Carpenter, Patricia Orlando, Rama Patel, Suzanne Ellis.

HOME VISITING

Ann Heywood, Barri Ellis-Daley, Benedicta Tabirade, Beverley Martin, Christa-Maria Farouk, Colette Murnaghan, Dave Harbord, Diane Norman, Emma Baxter, Guy Gozmao, Indumati Patel, Jacqueline Anderson, Jane Heath, Jenefer Spells, Jenny Weinstein, Jeremy Weinstein, Joyce Moses, Joycelyn Charles, Judith Hare, Katie Ricketts, Liz Sines, Lola Phipps, Maia Forde, Martin Beaver, Mary Heraty, Maxine Rhodes, Moira Harbord, Natalia Balthazar, Olive Savage, Rachel Husband, Sisko Brand, Sumita Sandhir, Teresa Howells, Terry Sines, Therese Nolan.

BOARD of TRUSTEES

Jeremy Weinstein - **Chair** Diane Norman - **Vice Chair** Mike Richards - **Treasurer**

Gillian Mires, Gwen Race, Ilaben Patel, John Farebrother, Ann Harris, Jane Fisher, Elvette Bryan, Rosemary Scott.

Co-opted - Robyn Lynch, Varada Rajan.

STAFF TEAM

Project Manager

Mick Morrell

Home Visiting Coordinator

Clive Brown

Project Coordinator (3 days p/w)

Pauline Copas

Facilities & Activities Support Worker (3 days p/w)

Suzanne Richeux

Finance Worker (1 day p/w)

Pius Gnanapragasam

Mini-bus Driver (1 day p/w)

Jackie Dixon

Mini-bus Driver (1/2 day p/w)

Peter Clarke

Freelance Exercise Specialist

Sandra Shaw

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

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 for 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 2018-19 we have remained focused on achieving these aims and utilised our staff, volunteer and financial resources to this end.

Throughout the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019 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 226 attendances each week; an average of 259 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 2019 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 in 2017/18; and (ii) the phasing of payments from the grant award made by the Battersea Power Station Foundation. The BPSF paid over £150,000 (in 2017-18) of which £50,000 was 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 the Furzedown Project to negotiate with Wandsworth Council for the purchase of a long lease on the premises we occupy. We are now nearing the completion of this negotiation and are confident that there will be successful outcome. This would have a long term benefit to the Project's 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 2019

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Income	£	£	£
Grants and Contracts		107,617	107,617
Activities	14,689	5,232	19,921
Transport		3,175	3,175
Membership	6,433		6,433
Donations including Gift Aid	6,842		6,842
Room Hire	7,820		7,820
Fund Raising including Raffles	3,892		3,892
Miscellaneous	834		834
Bank Interest	276		276
Total Income	40,786	116,024	156,810
Expenses			
Salaries, NI and Pensions	3,209	99,358	102,567
Travel	107	110	217
Activities	4,607	18,093	22,700
Transport		3,622	3,622
Rent & Rates		12,905	12,905
Premises Costs		4,677	4,677
Office Costs	8,781		8,781
Insurance	1,369	2,206	3,575
Audit & Accountancy	6,960		6,960
Bank Charges	88		88
Volunteer Costs	653	119	772
Total Expenses	25,774	141,090	166,864
Management & Organisational Charge	7,901	(7,901)	
Net Cash Surplus/(Deficit)	7,111	(17,165)	(10,054)
Depreciation (Non-Cash)	3,955	6,655	10,610
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	3,156	(23,820)	(20,664)

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2019

	31/03/2019		31/03/2018	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets		19,706		27,557
Current Assets				
Debtors and Prepayments	4,767		4,677	
Cash at Bank and in hand	<u>256,224</u>		<u>317,632</u>	
	260,991		322,309	
Less Current Liabilities				
Deferred Income	8,333		57,750	
Creditors and Accruals	<u>4,874</u>		<u>3,962</u>	
	13,207		61,712	
Net Current Assets		247,784		260,597
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Net Assets		<u>267,490</u>		<u>288,154</u>
Represented by:				
Unrestricted Funds		218,742		228,445
Designated Funds		13,734		13,734
Restricted Funds		35,014		45,975
		<u>267,490</u>		<u>288,154</u>

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

Wandsworth Borough Council: Adult Social Services

The Battersea Power Station Foundation

The Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund

MONDAY at the Project	
Day Trips Outings July—September	
* Swim Club	9.45 -12.00pm
Fit & Fitter (2 Classes of 45 mins)	9.30 -11.00am
Exercise Therapy Class	11.00 –11.45am
50+ Restart British/Bangladeshi Group	1.00 - 4.00pm
* Monday Get-together	2.00 -4.00pm
TUESDAY at the Project	
Yoga	9.30 -10.30 & 11– 12pm
Computer Support	10 – 11am
Reading & Discussion Groups	10-12am
* Bingo	2.00 -4.00pm
WEDNESDAY at the Project	
* Co-op Shop & Coffee Morning	9.30 -11.15 am
* Craft Class	2.00-4.00 pm
* Singing Class (20th Century Songbook)	2.00 - 4.00pm
THURSDAY at the Project	
Exercise Therapy	9.30 -10.15am
* Exercise Therapy	10.15 –11.00am
LGBT 50+ Coffee Morning	10.00 -12.00pm
* Chair Based Exercises	11.00 -11.45am
* Bridge & Scrabble Club	2.00 -4.00 pm
* Furzedown Fusion Exercise	2.15 - 3.15pm
FRIDAY at the Project	
Art Group	10.00 -12.00pm
Fitness & Fun	11.00 -12.00pm
Classical Indian Singing	12.00 -2.00pm
International Friendship Group	2.00 -4.00pm
* Bingo	2.00 –4.00 pm
INFORMATION	
* Transport is available if needed	
Library Service available Monday-Friday	9.30-4.00pm
Councillors Surgeries 1 st Saturday of every month	11.30-12.30pm