



Autumn 2017 Newsletter

Goosecroft Centre Opening:

Saturday September 2nd was a very exciting day for the Northallerton and the Dales Mencap Society. Our President, The Rt Hon. Lord Hague of Richmond, along with some ninety invited guests, came to celebrate the opening of the newly refurbished and extended centre. The name, the Goosecroft Centre, was chosen by the Trustees. Thank you to everyone who suggested other names.



A new commemorative plaque was unveiled by Lord Hague.



Lord Hague met Isobel Burn one of our founder members.



The Northallerton Woodwind Ensemble, the Hands and Voices Choir, and Chrissie Grimston added greatly to the enjoyment of the event through their music, singing and humour.



Sue Lear, Frits Rab and Mike Searle outside the extension. The Goosecroft Centre remains the home of Mencap but it is a facility that is used by people from the local community as well as by our members. If you are interested in making a booking please contact Sue Lear.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the event and to all who supported the project to extend and refurbish the centre which, everyone agrees, is a great improvement.

**Mowbray Gateway Club
Celebrated its
50th Anniversary
on July 7th 2017.**



A buffet supper and party was held at Allerton Court Hotel, Northallerton where 107 members, carers and volunteers danced the night away.

Sally Ramshay, Mary Walburn and Lillian Jasper, the oldest serving members of the Gateway Club cut the cake which was very kindly donated by Cooplands & Son of Scarborough and tasted delicious.

Thanks go to everyone who donated prizes for the raffle and have continued to support the Club over the years.

Remember that the Gateway Club continues to thrive because of our small but consistent group of volunteers who along with our lovely members make it such a brilliant group; long may it continue.

Karen Jack

Gateway Leader

**Activities at the
Goosecroft Centre**

We met with people over August to discuss what activities we might plan at the Centre. We are keen to use the facilities to provide further opportunities for leisure, social contact and support.

From Wednesday 4th October there will be a drop-in at the Centre from 10 am to 1.15 pm. You are welcome to call in to meet with friends and enjoy some time together. You can also volunteer to help run the drop-in. Refreshments and a light lunch will be available, all at reasonable prices. Entry will be free.

From 1.30 to 2.30 Joe McKechnie will be running a special activity at the Centre, to include Boccia and other accessible sports. There will be a charge of £3 per person to participate with Joe.



The flyer enclosed with this newsletter has details of other groups or activities that we plan to organise if enough people say they would like to take part. Please complete the flyer and return it to the Goosecroft Centre. If you would like to ask any questions or want more details please let us know.

Goosecroft Centre telephone number is:

01609 778894

Christmas Fayre

Northallerton and the Dales Mencap Society invites you to join us at the Goosecroft Centre on Saturday 25th November from 12 noon to 4pm for a festive Christmas Fayre.

There will be a tombola, the Hands and Voices Choir will sing Christmas Carols, there will mince pies and much more.

Family and friends all welcome to join us for the start of the festive season.



Sue Lear

Valuing People Co-ordinator

Sue will be leaving her post as the Valuing People Co-ordinator of the Learning Disability Partnership Board with North Yorkshire County Council on 20th October 2017, a position she has held since 2008. Sue has been very effective over many years in working with the Partnership Board to improve awareness of the needs of people with learning disabilities and their carers across North Yorkshire.

Sue will continue to work for the Northallerton and the Dales Mencap Society as Development Manager and will spend more time with her family and grandchildren.



Hands and Voices Choir Christmas Carol Singing at Sainsbury's

Saturday 9th December 2017



The Hands and Voices Choir will perform Christmas Carols on Saturday 9th December 2017 from 10 to 12 noon in the foyer at Sainsbury's Northallerton to get everyone into the festive spirit. Please come along and join in the fun.

The choir welcomes new members, if you are interested in joining please contact: Sue Coulson at the Goosecroft Centre.



Tearoom

Northdale now operates a pop-in tearoom every Tuesday lunchtime from 12 – 2 pm. The pop-in tearoom offers a range of freshly baked cakes and biscuits and a selection of freshly made sandwiches. All the food is prepared on-site by the ladies and gentlemen working in our Tuesday café group. Everyone is welcome. We are happy to wrap goodies up to take away.

The Goosecroft Centre – Before and After



website and Facebook:

We have an active facebook page and a website.
Have a look and let us know what you think.

Find us on: www.northallertonmencap.org.uk or search on [facebook](#)

From the Chairman Frits Rab:

We are all very excited about the re-opening of the refurbished and extended centre in Goosecroft Lane and are keen for the facilities to be used to benefit as many people as possible. It would not have been possible to complete the project without the splendid help we received with fundraising and with the actual work that took place. This support has been very much appreciated and I would like to express my thanks, on behalf of Trustees and members, to everyone who contributed in any way. Also, thank you very much for the help received with the open day on 22nd July and the official opening on 2nd September.

If you are interested in joining the board of Trustees of the Society (we are a registered charity), would like to volunteer to help run activities or help with other tasks, we would very much like to hear from you. People with particular skills, such as in accounting or premises maintenance, as well as a general willingness to help out would be very welcome. We would also like to hear from you if you would like to volunteer but do not relish the thought of becoming a Trustee. If you are interested, contact us at the Goosecroft Centre on 01609 778894 or email us on admin@northallertonmencap.org.uk

