



To all members and supporters:

The Goosecroft Centre has been closed since the 17th March due to the pandemic and because of the restrictions we are not able to hold our usual AGM. Nevertheless, we would like to keep our members and supporters informed and hope that the following information will be helpful.

Annual accounts and report

The accounts for 2018/19, together with the annual report, were approved by the Trustees on 18th June 2020. This was done via email. The annual return to the Charity Commission was submitted on the 22nd June. The accounts and report can be accessed on the Charity Commission website - just go to 'search the charity register' and type in our charity number 224222 or you can ask us and we will send you a copy.

Finances

Income from our usual sources, lettings and activities, has stopped since the lockdown and will clearly be down for some time. However, because of the generous bequests and donations we have received, the Society is in a strong financial position with substantial reserves. This means that the Society is in a good position to maintain its presence and functioning well into the future.

Trustees, accountants and membership

The Society's Trustees and accountants are usually appointed or re-appointed at each AGM. This year the standing Trustees, including myself as Chairman, have agreed to continue for another year and the accountants we have used for several years, F E Metcalfe and Co from Ripon, will also continue. We will also assume that your membership will be carried over for another year – with no additional membership fee.

President

The Rt Hon. Lord Hague of Richmond became the Society's president in 1999. After over twenty years Lord Hague decided to resign from this position with effect from June 2020. Lord Hague's support has been very much appreciated. The position of President is now vacant.

Developments

Before lockdown, the Goosecroft Centre was being well used for a range of activities and by the local community. Classes were well attended and the drop-in on Wednesdays was being visited by up to thirty people each week with the café and activities very much appreciated.

Now, as the lockdown eases, we will need to carry our risk assessments and consider very carefully how we can resume activities and lettings while maintaining covid-19 secure measures. We will be doing this over the next few weeks and Trustees will be asked to endorse the proposals at their meetings in August. It is likely that some activities will be able to start in September.

Community Safety

Work has continued with the Community Safety Task Group which have written an easy read guide to Scams. The finished document is waiting to be printed and will be distributed as soon as we have copies. We maintain close links with the Safer Hambleton and Safer Richmondshire Teams. Sue attends training and meetings about Prevent and other Task and Finish groups as required.

Our local Police Community Safety Officer has moved on to be a Police Constable in County Durham, we wish him well and welcome his replacement, PCSO Carly Stokes who is keeping in touch through the COVID-19 pandemic and is looking forward to meeting our members when possible.

Treat Me Well

We have formed a Treat Me Well group to take our campaign forward to establish a matron or Learning Disability Nurse post to cover the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton. The group has been in contact with the Chief Executive and other officials of the South Tees Trust that covers James Cook and the Friarage Hospital about our campaign. Work will continue when we can meet again. We want to enhance the work that is currently being done by a member of staff based at James Cook Hospital to make sure that people with a learning disability receive equal health care with reasonable adjustments being made.

Round the World Challenge

Joint working with Joe McKechnie, Hambleton District Council and Mencap to support people who are taking part in the challenge is well established. Some people have already completed more than one route and are already well on their way to complete the World Route too. Some activity packs have been sent out to participants that were put together by Mencap and Sports England to encourage people to carry on with

exercise activities during lockdown. The challenge lasts for a year so we will be following up and checking what people are doing as soon as we can to see how people are getting on. Full support is being given by the Royal Mencap team too. When the challenge is complete we hope there will be a celebration event for everyone taking part.

Art Packs

Ruth Hawkes our Art Tutor has prepared information and materials for an art pack which has been distributed to 60 people who have requested one. The packs are free and further copies can be ordered for collection from the Goosecroft Centre. We hope that people who have the packs will send us pictures of their artwork so that we can share them with you all.

In conclusion

We hope that this information has been of interest. We will be posting further information on our website and on facebook. Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions or concerns.

You can telephone: 01609 778894, email: admin@northallertonmencap.org.uk or write to: Northallerton and the Dales Mencap Society, Goosecroft Centre, Goosecroft Lane, Northallerton, DL6 1EG, or visit the Centre.

Please find attached a questionnaire to ask people about how else the Centre might be used and what additional services we might offer. We hope that a wide range of people will respond. Our aim remains to support people with learning disabilities, their families and carers in the Hambleton and Richmondshire areas and to work with other organisations with similar aims.

Frits Rab
Chairman

Sue Lear
Development Manager