



# Springwell Village Community Venue

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
2018

REPORTS  
2017 / 2018

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 520900

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## **Aims and Objectives**

**The association abides by the constitution and aims to: -**

Promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Springwell Village and the neighbourhood without discrimination, to provide a safe environment for the promotion of activities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time aimed at improving the quality of life of members and surrounding neighbourhood.

We maintain and operate within charity law, covering a wide range of activities and are open to all age groups and abilities.

In achieving its objects S.V.C.V. will not discriminate upon the basis of age, sex, race, religion, disability, status of sexuality.

## **TRUSTEES**

Tracey Cowper

Diane Ellwood Susan Holt

## **INTERNAL AUDITOR**

Tracy Masters

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

It's been incredibly busy this year, with the Pantomime, Craft Fairs, training bookings and parties.

After much soul searching and deliberation, it was decided that since the Carnival seemed to be failing in its popularity, that we try a 1940s Weekend. This required an incredible amount of hard work in the organisation of this event, and my sincere thanks to Suzanne for her dedication in co-ordinating and planning all of the activities, with particular support from Jacqueline Foggin, Lewis Adgar and Amanda from SNCBC who works within Bowes Railway Museum. The weekend was wonderful, enjoyed by village residents, people from surrounding areas, and everyone participating in the re-enactments, vintage sellers, and those who organised the exhibitions. It involved all organisations within the village, including the Primary School, Springwell Club and the Guidepost, and before the event finished, we were being asked by many if the event would be repeated the following year. The event was spoken of very highly both face to face, and on social media, and I have to say, I was so proud to be part of this fantastic event. Driving through the village, seeing so many people dressed in 1940's uniforms and outfits was thrilling, and I commend everyone involved in making it such an undeniable success.

Our website and Facebook are increasing in its use and popularity, improving our profile, advertising upcoming events, and obtaining feedback. People often ask about venues for parties, and it's great to see so many people being so proactive in mentioning Springwell Village Community Venue as the ideal location for such an event.

All of the groups using the Venue continue to be well attended, and my hope is that this continues with the unwavering support from staff, volunteers and the Management Committee.

My thanks go to Carole, Vice Chairperson for chairing most of our meetings, supporting me and Suzanne in our roles, to Vicky for keeping the books balanced, and to the other members of the Management Committee who work diligently in coming up with ideas for raising funds, supporting in any way they can at the events going on throughout the year. My sincere thanks to Suzanne for her unwavering dedication, hard work, enthusiasm, and sheer determination in keeping us all on track! We simply couldn't do it without you!

As always, I am extremely grateful for the unstinting hard work of our superb team of volunteers, particularly Jackie for managing, with support from her team - the Cozy Café, not forgetting the A-Team, Alan, Allen, Clem and Jim who work tirelessly in maintaining our Venue to such a high standard.

The continued success of Springwell Village Community Venue will always be due to the dedication and commitment of a strong management committee, unwavering hard work and support from our team of volunteers (who are always looking to enlarge the team!!), and from the residents of Springwell Village and surrounding areas enjoying the activities and productions of Springwell Village Community Venue.

I regret that due to my work commitments, I have not been able to be as effective in my role as Chairperson as I would like, and to this end, I am stepping down as Chair, only with the knowledge that we have someone else who will be able to devote more time to this role. I will continue to be part of the Management Committee and will continue to support in any way I can.

I look forward to another wonderful, successful year with continued support from everyone, hopefully seeing lots more new faces too.

Thank you very much.

Lynn Scott  
Chairperson

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Once again, we have had a successful year which would not have been possible without the support of our many volunteers.

We have received numerous grants to support a variety of projects (see below). Successful projects include a grant from The Big Lottery Fund which for a 'Governance and sustainability project' to enable the trustees to produce a governance development plan and look at future sustainability for the venue. The generosity and support from funders enable us to deliver worthwhile projects that benefit members of the community. Many thanks to all the funders involved for their valued support.

Springwell Village 1940s weekend was a new venture that involved all the community. It proved to be a huge success and we were proud to be a part of such an event. A special thank you to Councillor Bernie Scaplehorn who's support, and advice has been fantastic, and we appreciate his involvement.

The annual pantomime, bar, community café and entertainments have all done extremely well. All income generated continues to help sustain the centre so a huge thank you to everyone involved as there are too many people to mention.

This year we have spent money on fitting hand dryers in both the ladies and men's toilets and we have also had the main hall floor stripped and varnished. These expenses have been necessary, and we will be upkeeping the main hall floor on a regular basis.

We strive to keep up the good work and not sit back and be complacent.

### GRANTS RECEIVED

#### 2017/2018 GRANTS

The Readman Family Grassroots Fund at the Community Foundation serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland'	3,800
Sir James Knott Trust (1940s)	500
SIB Small Grants Scheme: Positive Activities for Young People (Juniors)	5,000
SIB Small Grants Scheme: Positive Activities for Young People (Seniors)	5,000
Sunderland City Council, Community Chest	839
Big Lottery Fund	7,920
Service Level Agreement – Sunderland City Council	5,035
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28,094</b>

#### 2016/2017 GRANTS

Asda Foundation (1940s)	800
SIB Washington Area Committee (1940s)	5,000
Washington Development Trust (1940s)	500
Gentoo Group (1940s Weekend)	500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,800</b>

### FUNDRAISING & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Entertainments Committee: Acoustic Night, Craft Fairs, Tea Dance, NYE	6,398
Annual Pantomime – Senior Drama Group	2,914
The Cozy Cafe	12,611
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>21,923</b>

Completed projects: -

- Music in The Community Project was supported by 'The Readman Family Grassroots Fund at the Community Foundation serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland' and this was a hugely successful project. The project enabled us to provide portable PA to be used in a variety of ways including group activities and events. The main beneficiaries of this project were children and older people.

- SIB Small Grants Scheme: Positive Activities for Young People in the Washington West Ward areas was delivered throughout the school holidays. The project was aimed at children and young people throughout the school holiday periods across 2017/2018. We developed a full programme of activities that offered a range of opportunities for all children aged 8 – 10 years and young people aged 11 – 19. We worked with SNCBC to deliver centre based activities in Springwell Village and Albany as well as offering a limited number of out of area activities. Detached youth work was carried out prior to the project start date and this proved beneficial in engaging young people into the project. Throughout the project we engaged with 50 children and 67 young people. Many new skills were learnt through the varied activities, the sessions proved to be very informative in a fun informal setting. Out of area activities proved very worthwhile and again were extremely informative as well as being great fun attractions. The project has helped young people engage with youth workers and other young people and this has resulted in many of them attending the weekly youth club at Springwell Village, engaging in activities, increasing their skills and building relationships. It has been noted that certain individuals have benefited more in the social skills aspect of the project, this has been one of many positive outcomes and one that has been noted by both youth workers and parents/carers.
- We received Community chest funding to replace the water damaged ceiling tiles in the main corridor and toilets and we also fitted splashbacks underneath the hand dryers in both the male and female toilets to alleviate health issues.
- Funding was received from The Big Lottery Fund Awards for All and this was for a governance and sustainability project which we began this year, but it will not be fully completed until next year. The trustees have had a few strategy and planning sessions and have worked with H.C. Horizons to produce a governance development plan. We are looking forward to reporting on the governance and sustainability project in next year's annual report.
- Springwell Village 1940s Weekend – please see individual report. (page 7)

Finally, once again, a huge thankyou to the vast number of volunteers for giving up their time to support their centre as without volunteers we would simply not be here.

Vicky Adgar, Treasurer

## **PUBLICITY, ADVERTISING & SPONSORSHIP**

Publicity, advertising and sponsorship plays an important role in raising the profile of the Venue and informing people of the wide variety of activities and events on offer. Activities and events are publicised and advertised as much as possible. Flyers are regularly given to both Springwell Village Primary School, George Washington School, Fell Dyke and St.Oswalds School and we are grateful for their continued support.

There has been a lot of interest generated from the website and we continue to keep it updated and welcome any suggestions.

The SVCV Facebook page is going well, the number of members continue to increase, and this is proving to be our main source of advertising. The page is very active and updated regularly with up and coming events, news and photographs.

Sponsorship has also continued. Thanks to Village Photography for sponsorship of the Carnival Princess evening.

Many donations have been received for a variety of events e.g. raffle prizes for the monthly dance, items for stalls and Spring and Xmas Fairs etc. These are sincerely appreciated as every little helps and many thanks to all.

Marie Thompson

## ENTERTAINMENTS

The Entertainments Committee have planned a variety of entertainment and fundraising activities throughout the year aimed at providing a programme for all ages.

The weekly sequence tea dance continues to thrive with over 70 people accessing each week, the 50/50 Dance and Jazz nights ( see pg.11) are both going well, and the Acoustic / Band Nights have proved as popular as ever as are the Spring and Christmas Fairs. The New Years Eve Dance continues but we have been monitoring this over the past couple of years as numbers have dropped and we need to ensure it is cost effective and also something that people want to see continue as an annual dance.

This year saw the birth of Springwell Village 1940s Weekend and the entertainment committee was active in helping to plan and deliver this event alongside members of the community.

## CANTEEN

### Cafe

2018 has again been a busy year for the cafe crew. The cafe has now been running for four years and volunteers have worked very hard throughout this time. A massive thank you to the Cozy cafe crew: Diane, Annie, Brenda, Marion, Lewis, Joanne, Vicky, Norma, Gabrielle, Mary, Carole, Pauline, Margaret, Dorothy, Kathy, Sheila, Matthew and Charlotte, and Suzanne who works in the cafe, volunteers in the cafe and holds it all together. We have recruited some new volunteers to the crew which is great, but we are always looking for more volunteers.

Thank you also to the men, Alan c, Allan h, Clem, Jim and Neil who do all the 'unseen' jobs behind the scenes.

### Kids clubs

The tuck shop is open for the youth clubs which runs each week, thank you to the staff for managing these with help from the young people.

### Entertainments

We continue to have regular events including the new 1940s weekend and our regular craft fairs across the year. The 1940s event required a massive team of volunteers and it was all hands-on deck, Eileen, Emma, Meriel and Aston regularly help the cafe crew, and for this event we had Chris and Neil both helping too, thank you so much to everyone, it was a busy event. A very successful event.

We have also continued the afternoon tea idea this year and have these booked at regular intervals. Thank you to Meriel, Aston, Michelle, Gwen and Betty who join the cafe crew to help cater and serve these events. They have been brilliant and greatly enjoyed by those attending.

Stella and Betty continue to manage the tuck shop for family nights including the carnival princess night, thank you to you both, it's really appreciated.

### Sections/bookings

The pantomime requires a lot of help across the week, a huge thank you to everyone who helps there are too many people involved to list them all, A massive thank you to each one of you.

We also supply the tuck shop to bookings and again Betty and Stella are stalwarts, helping throughout the year with support from others as required.

The cafe staff have helped Suzanne with catering for training bookings from outside agencies which have been booked regularly over the last year, thank you.

### Coffee morning

This is a long-established group running three mornings per week. Thank you to the ladies who keep the group running,

If anyone would like to volunteer with the Cozy crew, please contact me or Suzanne or any of the regular crew. We could not run the canteen without volunteers and if you can give any time we would appreciate it, from making sandwiches, washing dishes, to serving in the cafe or at events, we need you soooooooooooooo much.

Jacquelyn Foggin

## LETTINGS

The venue maintains a host of weekly lettings that enables us to have a consistent income whilst providing a varied weekly timetable for all. These lettings consist of: Romero School of Dance, Mini Divas, Sandra Taylor Art Class, Jittabugs and Clubbercize. The Mini Divas continue to hold their annual show at the venue and as always it was another huge success.

Throughout the year we have had regular bookings from Foster Care Solutions, National Childbirth Trust, Castlevue Recruitment, Baltic Training and a variety of other organisations.

Once again, we have seen a busy year with private hirers i.e. Children's parties, Birthdays, Anniversaries. These provide additional income and we continue to promote and advertise the hire of the venue for such events. Many thanks to all the volunteers who help set up and clear away the children's parties and making the hirers feel welcome.

### 1940s Weekend



2017 saw the launch of the Springwell Village 1940s Weekend and what a weekend it was! Absolutely amazing and a huge boost for the village and it would not have been possible without the support of the numerous volunteers as there were so many people involved from start to finish and of course the funding support received from SIB Washington Area Committee, Asda Foundation, Gentoo Group, Washington Development Trust and Sir James Knott Trust. This enabled us to deliver a high profile, hugely popular local event which attracted over 2000 people. We have received fantastic feedback from the local community and further afield and we have hopefully built the foundations of an event which hopefully will become an annual themed community gathering.

A Facebook page was set up which is still very active and there are numerous photographs and comments posted from various people *springwellvillage1940sweekend* demonstrates clearly that the event was popular with Springwell village residents and people from other areas.

As we ensured that there was something for everyone during the "war time weekend" the whole community and participants benefitted. Outside involvement was vast and the event proved to be a success on a grand scale. There was involvement from Northern WW2 re-enactment group, Army and Air Cadets, WI groups, British Legion, Bowes Railway Museum, Beamish Museum, Asda, Gentoo, local businesses and local people keen to be involved.

The various activities brought different members of the community together, e.g. young and older people, and this contributed to the overall feeling of community spirit we want to support. We were particularly pleased to see how members of the community from different age groups and backgrounds interacted together and from this we are hoping to deliver ongoing inter-generational activities and events. As well as giving people a real insight into WW2, our event looked at how communities worked together to face the challenges the war created.

Traditionally we have elected a Carnival Princess and this year was no exception, the competition was once again sponsored by 'Village Photography' and this year's Princess was Sofia Douglas who lead the procession to Bowes Railway Museum on the Saturday of the 1940s weekend.



Sofia Douglas 2017



## CHILDREN'S GROUPS

We have continued to provide weekly community clubs for children.

The weekly Twins Club proves an invaluable outlet for parents and children and new members are totally made welcome into a friendly social group. Many thanks to Jim for helping to set up each week and thanks to Sheila and Kath who are so good with the children in the café area, they have a lovely relationship with the group and the parents appreciate their help.

We offer three weekly Toddlers sessions, and these are open to everyone. Many thanks to Deb, Kath and Kim who volunteer to help run the sessions, setting up and taking control of the register. These busy sessions would not be possible without their help and support.

The Mini Monkeys club has had another good year with 15-20 children attending regularly. We held a Christmas party, Easter party and an end of year party, which all the children enjoyed. We could really benefit from a volunteer to help with the Mini Monkeys weekly Tuesday sessions from 4pm-5.30pm. With the support of a volunteer we would then be able to offer more varied activities and open the session to new members.

## Youth Active Project



Y.A.P. has had its first full year and has been very successful. The junior session has continued to have a steady stream of numbers each week. The senior session started slow but once the word spread the young people engaged in the sessions and numbers rose to approximately 40.

We were initially supported by Washington Development Trust and Gentoo Group who enabled us to get the project up and running with the purchase of much needed equipment and project costs. With funding we purchased a portable speaker for the senior youth club, which we are extremely grateful for as this is a well-used piece of equipment. We have also received funding from Community Chest, which gave us the ability to deliver a healthy body/healthy mind project and finally we received a grant from The Readman Family Grassroots Fund at The Community Foundation to help deliver 41 sessions and this has meant that we have been able to keep the Youth club running. This year we said goodbye and thank you to Nikki Masters who has volunteered for a couple of years in the club, she will be a huge miss, but we wish her luck for the future. Finally thank you to Carole and if anybody is interested in volunteering in either the junior or senior session that would be a great help.

Marion Parkin  
Treasurer

## **SENIOR DRAMA REPORT**

Senior Drama is a group of volunteers who share a passion for the arts and has been running for over fifty years and we still have some of original cast members (only joking). We always welcome new members so please feel free to get in touch.

The group met from September 2017 to February 2018 each Thursday and Tuesday evening and also Sunday afternoons to rehearse for our annual pantomime. The chosen production was Camelot The Panto and we played to full houses each night, week commencing 19th February for six performances. Everyone involved worked tremendously hard and thanks from me for all the effort put in to make this such a success.

We desperately needed new costumes for the production and these were provided by the valiant efforts of Marion Parkin and Jean Bateman (along with a little help from cast members) so thanks especially to those – the costumes were beautiful and remarked on by all who saw them. Thanks also to everyone for help with props and scenery especially Phil Younger and Joe Duprey. My personal thanks to Diane Ellwood and Helen Johnson who assist me in all they possibly can and I'm sure I will need to lean on them even more for this coming year! Financially, it seems to have been viable and we did work hard to keep costs down. We had some new younger people in our cast and the children were exceptional both in their performances and behaviour off stage. May we look forward to them being involved again for the forthcoming pantomime! We shall have our first meeting of the coming season this September and would welcome anyone who wishes to join our group whether it be for performing or backstage crew. The choice for pantomime 2019 will be announced at this meeting and all that can be said at this stage is that we will be using a script from the same writer as last year, so we look hopefully forward to the same success and laughs. Here's to another successful year and once again on behalf of the Production Team "thank you" to all who work tirelessly to make the group a success.

Pauline Clark – Producer

## **LADYBIRDS**

2017 started with a faith supper and over the year we had speakers, films, parties, day trips, xmas and birthday party. 2018 we started the year with a new year's supper and over the last ten months we have had speakers, films, demonstrations and of course bingo. Our summer trip to Beverley was a great day out with lots and lots of sunshine. We are looking forward to our birthday and Xmas parties.

We also have gained lots of new members and we are growing from strength to strength.

Audrey Miller – Secretary

## **Springwell Art Group**

Thankfully this year has been one without us losing members due to that which is inevitable. Numbers are a bit down, however, at this time of year due to holidays and illness. We are always on the lookout for new members and I am pleased to say that Rose and Richard seem set to stay.

At one time almost everybody painted in watercolours but there has been a definite shift towards using acrylics and pencils with one person using water based oil paints. Carrying one's work is often the deciding issue as wet oil paintings need the use of a car and suitable carrying device whereas watercolours and acrylics dry quickly.

Based on the number of well attended art classes in the Washington area there is still a lot of interest in painting as a hobby for people who are free during the day. Classes are expensive for those on a fixed income and I like to see our group as an economical alternative or supplement to taught classes. We do have an advantage in that we are able to organise group trips to galleries. This year we have visited the excellent galleries in Bishop Auckland, Spennymoor and Sunderland where the BP Portrait Award Exhibition impressed us all. The Biscuit Factory in Newcastle was also an excellent visit showing all aspects of creative activity. We look forward to another year of painting and enjoying the excellent facilities at Springwell. Prospective members should contact me at the above address.

Keith Riley-Gledhill

## GAP GROUP

We have had another successful year with all enjoying the programme. We began the year with 18 members and have increased membership to 22 to date. The group continues to be very sociable with new friendships being formed.

The group had a stall at the annual Christmas Fair in November 2017 where we sold items made by the members, unsold items were taken to the Ladybirds the following week where they were snapped up, the money raised was put back into G A P funds. We enjoyed a night out to The Little Theatre Gateshead and saw an excellent production of Allo Allo. We never stopped laughing. These activities were followed by a Christmas cake decorating morning with all members taking away a lovely iced Christmas cake. Another week we spent making Christmas cards and at a further session we made a Christmas table arrangement in the form of a Christmas cracker. All three sessions were tutored by GAP members which is a testament to talent within the group.

In January we held our AGM and officers were duly elected.

CHAIR PERSON	Audrey Miller
ASS. CHAIR	Elaine Dodds
SECRETARY	Mary Peel
ASS. SECRETARY	Rena Jonas
TREASURER	Margaret Banks (Madge )
ASS. TREASURER	Dorothy Coleclough

We had two sessions again delivered by one of our members who is a brilliant artist showing us how to achieve beautiful drawings using a dot technique, another resounding success. This was followed by yet another member showing us how to make twiddle muffs for patients at the Mental Health unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. At Easter we made cards and decorated cakes for the occasion. This was followed by a private tutor coming in for two weeks to do crafts. Unfortunately, it was disappointing considering the cost.

In May we started to prepare a large wall hanging to celebrate the Tall Ships coming to Sunderland. It is now on display in the corridor of SVCV. Each member produced a painted square using the Batik method. The tutor took each individual square away and brought back the completed wall hanging. We have had a couple of days out, one to a garden Centre and another to the National Glass Centre, where we saw glass being blown into beautiful designs. A further six weeks was spent doing various craft designs with another external tutor. Again, this generally went down well with members. We have had several other sessions doing other craft items.

Next week on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September one of our members is hosting a coffee morning here at the hall to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support assisted in many ways by our members who either bake, donate raffle prizes for our raffle and tombola stalls as well as manning them and being there to support in every way possible. One member has made beautiful cards for us to sell on the day. The event would not be possible without such support including that of family and friends. Cancer is an illness that knows no boundaries with almost everyone being touched by it in one way or another. The support we get is greatly appreciated and helps make the event the success it is and brings people in from elsewhere advertising the venue also.

Finally our grateful thanks to the Management Committee for allowing us the use of the venue.

We are now starting to prepare for Christmas and this year's Christmas Fayre making items not just for ourselves but to sell at the event.

Overall another good year all down to our members who support us so well.

Mary E Peel  
Secretary

## ROMERO SCHOOL OF DANCE

I would like to thank Suzanne and the committee for my welcome back after my maternity leave, to the centre in January of this year.

Since January this year we have welcomed many new dancers from the area to the School. The new pupils have been working so hard and this Sunday (9<sup>th</sup> September) is for some, their first competition. The competition team continue to do well, and we have competed up and down the country winning many titles. Our pupil Lucy who has attended the school since 2009 won the NCDTA junior soloist of the year title for the second year running in March this year. In October we are heading to the British Championships in Blackpool- wish us luck!

Lindsay Romero



## LEVEE RAMBLERS

Our weekly Wednesday night "jazz club" is now in its 20th year having first opened on September 28th, 1998.

I have seen many changes to our band personnel and our supporter's over the years, but I will continue to keep the music alive at this venue as long as I can.

Our venue (SVCV) is well known in the jazz world and during the last year apart from across Britain we have had visitors and musicians call in from as far afield as Denmark, Australia and the USA.

Dave Rae

