

# Sidings Community Centre



## ANNUAL REPORT 2013



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*Sidings CC 30th Birthday Celebrations*



*Volunteers and Staff at Sidings Heritage Fair*

# Sidings Mission Statement

*The main aim of Sidings Community Centre is to “improve the quality of life for local people.”*

The Centre works towards achieving this by offering services of a high standard which provide a range of educational, recreational, cultural and social opportunities. We aim to work in consultation with local people and other statutory and voluntary agencies in developing our programme and responding to new initiatives. These focus on the following principal areas:

- Early Years Children’s Centre & Parent Support Services (for Under 5’s and their carers)
- Play and Youth Provision
- Community Education Classes (cultural, educational & recreational)
- Health and Fitness
- Provision for, and new initiatives with, Older People
- UK Online Centre and Computer Learning Centre internet access, computer drop-in sessions and courses
- Venue for Community Groups, Meetings, Rehearsal Space, & private hire
- Activities to enhance employability, specifically for women and young people
- Opportunities for Volunteering, Community-based capacity building, and promoting active citizenship
- Being a source of advice and support
- Partnership and networking with other agencies to ensure centre is responsive to new and emerging needs and maximize development of resources and services locally.

The Centre works within an Equal Opportunities ethos and aims to ensure that all sections and ages within the community have a voice and access to decision-making and services within the Centre’s infrastructure. We would therefore aim to promote social inclusion at all levels.

The Centre Charter aims to promote a clear and positive framework for users, staff and management to use and enjoy the centre facilities and services.

To enable the Centre deliver these key services, the centre has a locally-based voluntary Board of Trustees, and a staff team of up to 20 people over the year.

The Centre has a busy 7 day-a-week programme. The main centre premises comprise of: small car park, large and small hall, café/kitchen area, reception area and foyer, meeting room, UK Online Centre, and new Youth Resource Room, office and toilets. In addition there is a separate U5’s Children’s Centre, with outside play facilities. The whole premises are on one level and are considered fully accessible.

We are particularly keen to develop Standards of Quality and have achieved PQASSO Standard Kitemark (level 1). Our Childcare Services are Ofsted Registered and we strive to meet the legal requirements of being a Registered Charity and Company Ltd. By Guarantee in the highest possible way. We aim to be good employers and support and develop the skills of our dedicated staff team. We welcome our users to get involved and continue to make Sidings an exciting and valued place to be!



**Heritage Fair - Youth members with centre manager**



# Sidings Community Centre Charter

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## **Sidings Community Centre's main aim is to:**

*"improve the quality of life for local people by providing good quality services in consultation with the local community"*

This Charter sets out the terms of reference and mutual expectations that the management committee, staff team and centre users can have of each other.

It aims to provide a clear framework for everyone using the centre, so that all concerned can have a positive experience and enjoy the opportunities that the centre can offer.

## **Centre Users are asked to:**

- respect each other and the staff, and be polite
- respect the building and its facilities
- observe centre procedures and policies for users which should be on display, or provided for key service areas
- realise that staff can have conflicting pressures and that in certain circumstance for the benefit of other users, you may be asked to wait until support or assistance can be given
- expect to be responded to politely when asking for advice or assistance

## **In addition, users should:**

- feel able to make a complaint, air concerns, or make suggestions for improvement without prejudice, within given procedures
- comply with and assist with user consultation and monitoring (often a standard requirement nowadays)
- be encouraged to volunteer and have their views heard
- be sensitive to the needs of others



*Sidings Heritage Fair Exhibition with Sue*



*Camden Cyclist stand at the Heritage Fair*

### **The Staff Team can be expected to:**

- be courteous and polite to centre users and to each other
- create a warm and welcoming environment
- operate within centre policies and procedures, which they must observe
- observe contractual obligations and codes of confidentiality
- respect cultural diversity, and when necessary, challenge users on issues of Equal Opportunities
- adopt a positive attitude
- ensure there are adequate systems of communication to enable them to deliver services
- raise issues concerning employment which will assist them in carrying out their duties to the best of their potential or within new legislation
- use existing methods, or feel able to identify new methods, for improving centre services and staff development
- develop systems of consultation which enable them to represent the views of centre users

### **The Trustees can be expected & entrusted to ensure that:**

- there are up-to-date policies and procedures in place to enable the centre staff and users to deliver and receive services within current legislation
- there are satisfactory systems for monitoring and evaluating our services within key funding and legislative requirements
- that the community is consulted about our services and future developments
- the centre operates as a good employer
- the management committee aims to reflect the community it serves
- there is a clear management structure for all users, staff and outside agencies to understand
- that our services are delivered within an Equal Opportunities ethos, respecting cultural diversity, and safety
- that key centre policies are displayed and users have access to relevant information
- training is provided when necessary in order to carry out the above.



*Sidings Heritage Fair Mosaic participants*



*Out of School children's Mosaic contribution.*

# Management, Staff & Volunteers

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair..... Louise O'Brien

Treasurer ..... Heather Thompson

## OTHER MEMBERS

Pran Handa, Lydia Wenden, Emily Petherbridge, Barbara Wilson

## STAFF TEAM

Centre Manager ..... Sue Measures

Assistant Coordinator (responsible for Youth Provision) ..... James Ingram

Play Coordinator & Youth worker (responsible for 5-12 yr olds).. Aston Stewart

Youth Workers (paid and volunteers)..... James Ingram, Aston Stewart, Shanez Crichton,  
Paul Williams, Shakira Alexander.  
Volunteers - Adrian Wilson, Sanaz Ghanbari

After School Club Team (regular and relief/volunteer)..... Aston Stewart, James Ingram, Sarah Leslie,  
Paul Williams, Lucy Nicholas

Holiday Play scheme staff ..... Stephen Walrond, Sarah Leslie, Paul Williams,  
Lucy Nicholas, Adrian Wilson, Shakira Alexander.

UK Online Development Worker ..... Geoff Stilwell

Camden ACL Tutors ..... Mohamed Omar, Chris Carr & Zoe Lee

UK Online Volunteers ..... Anne Gordon, Sylvia Stilwell, Sarah Ahiafor,  
Jenny Linn-Cole, Yuka Fujimoto, Suzette D' Cruz,  
Kashif Mohammed, Christine Burnett, Jill Wheatcroft,  
Emily Petherbridge, Michael Fowler, Jack Anderson,  
John McGahern, Lumturiye Metrama, Steve Richards.

Caretakers ..... Michael Aidoo

Cleaner ..... Enrique Gutierrez

Data Admin Worker..... Anne Gordon

Admin Worker..... Giovanna Sanchez

## EARLY YEARS TEAM

..... Cynthia Painter (Coordinator), Shanez Crichton,  
Sarah Leslie, Vritti Jhala, Jale Erikmen, Sadiqa Khan,  
Faiqa Malik, Sandra Maloney, Luisa Edwards,  
Reva Valmont, Jusnara Begum, Agota Szabone  
Nagy Sipos, James Ingram, Mayemba Nkanga,  
Adrian Wilson

Students on Placement/Apprentices/volunteers ..... Ben Phelan (Work Experience from Hampstead School,  
July 13), Cience Green Work Experience from Hampstead  
School, July 13) and Joao Barriguinh (Work Experience  
from William Ellis School, July 13)

## Tutors And User Group Leaders

Pilates Tutor..... Sarah Pfitzner

Chantraine Dance Tutor\*..... Patricia Woodall

Cookery Tutor\* ..... Ricardo Janco & Philip Norris (started Oct 13)

ESOL Tutor ..... Lisa Williamson & Chris Carr (started Oct 13)

Everyday Maths Tutor\* ..... Anju Chhibber

Gymnastics Tutor ..... Jay Dujon

Mantock Dance UK ..... Noemi Best

\* Funded through Westminster Kingsway College





*Sue Measures*



*James Ingram*



*Aston Stewart*



*Geoff Stilwell*



*Cynthia Painter*



*Shanez Crichton*



*Jale Erikmen*



*Sarah Leslie*



*Sadiqa Khan*



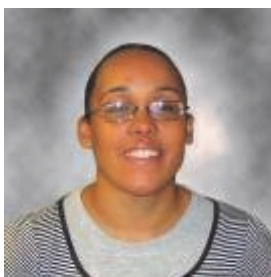
*Luisa Edwards*



*Sandra Maloney*



*Jusnara Begum*



*Reva Valmont*



*Faiqa Malik*



*Agota Nagy Sipos*



*Vritti Jhala*



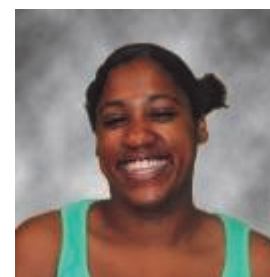
*Giovanna Sanchez*



*Michael Aidoo*



*Paul Williams*



*Shakira Alexander*

# Chair's Report

As Chair of Sidings, I am delighted to report on not just another busy and successful year, but also our special 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year. I have been proud to have been Chair since 2003, and helped provide support to the trustees, staff, volunteers and many centre users during the last 10 years, which has seen the centre grow, respond well to changing agendas, and consolidate its position within the community.



*Celebrating Sidings 30th Anniversary at the Heritage Fair*

It has also been heartening to see the support and sense of celebration at our 2 special anniversary events – our 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday in May and the wonderful Heritage Fair in October. Some of the quotes which have been received are a testament to the quality of our services, events and interface with the community, echoed throughout the report. I take particular pleasure in a quote from a visiting professional the Heritage Fair who has known the centre for many years.

*"I was so impressed with the numbers of people who came along to celebrate and take part in the day, what a hugely diverse group of people and what an age range from tiny tots to over 70's. Not surprising I suppose, as Sidings has such an open and welcoming feel to it."*

*It was also lovely to watch the performances, the singing from the Red and Green Choir brought a bit of a nostalgic lump to my throat and the South American dancers were really colourful. I was particularly impressed with how many young people use the centre and who were happy to be part of the entertainment too. Sidings is a fantastic resource for the community and obviously really well loved and valued. I can't wait to see the community mosaic – it was a great idea to involve so many people from the community in creating the mosaic – almost a metaphor for the centre itself, it has a little bit of all the people who have loved and used it over the years. Lastly (though not least), what lovely food on the day*

*and the scones and cake were truly naughty (but nice!)"*

However, whilst we had opportunity to celebrate the many achievements of the centre over 30 years, staff and trustees have also worked hard at improving the "behind-the-scenes" infrastructure and procedures to ensure the centre responds well to current and future demands. It is always encouraging when this hard work is demonstrated by external indicators of success as the centre aims to constantly improve. Two particular aspects of our work which evidence this deserve highlighting. The first is the re-designing of our website to be more interactive, with links to our Facebook page, easy to access and browse for users, but also presenting a professional image to funders and other agencies who wish to use or view us from a professional perspective. We would like to particularly thank Gio, our admin worker for her hard work on this and developing the now essential social media image and links. A quote from one particular Camden-based professional felt he had to write the following experiences when using Sidings:

*"I always consider that good performance deserves to be recognised so it is a pleasure to make a few short comments about my experiences with your organisation. I occasionally have need to hire one of your rooms for consultation meetings.... I have just used your website and it is clear, concise and easy to use. It really does make life easy so thank you. Your staff have always been very helpful, pleasant and professional. Your facilities are ideal for purpose, have always been clean and presentable and this helps set the appropriate tone for my meetings"*

The second is our Early Years Children's Centre Services where we spent considerable time updating our policies and operational procedures to respond to the new EYS framework, including our safeguarding and parents manual. As a VCS provider, Sidings faces 2 sets of inspections – one for our Early Years (EY) childcare services and another as being one of Camden's registered Children's Centres. Following an EY Ofsted inspection in October, we received a Good rating, with a great deal of favourable comments. This reflected the hard work and dedication of the EYS team, in providing a high quality EYS service for children and parents,. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cynthia and the EYS team on helping to achieve such a good Inspection outcome. We must also note our successful application as a provider for the 2 Yr old free funded places. Having been one of a few centres



piloting this scheme for the last 2 years, we were extremely pleased that our application to be a provider on a long-term basis was successful as this means we can offer a more comprehensive and continuous EYS Service to local parents with young children aged 2 – 4 years.

**Brand:** External indicators of success are always essential. I do believe that Sidings has built up a good “brand” image as centre staff report favourable comments on the centre from agencies and people outside the centre at various events. However, evidencing the difference we make to people’s lives is increasingly important as government, local and national, are now becoming more “outcomes” focused. The Heritage Fair helped us reflect and appraise some of the differences the centre has made to local people, but also enabled us to showcase the wide potential of the centre to act as an agent for change and social interaction.

The best news at the end of 2013, was the announcement from Camden’s VCS unit that our main source of funding – which provides for the management and development of the premises - has been extended to March 2016, albeit at a reduced level of 18% less from Jan 15. This gives centres like Sidings a vital breathing space to reconsider ways of working with the likelihood of much less core support funding from Camden. Sidings, along with other VCS organisations, is also being asked to sign leases with Camden. Whilst this will clarify our leasehold status it will bring with it a raft of new premises linked costs which also have to be factored into our budget along with other new responsibilities like pension contributions.

So, whilst celebrating the last 30 years in 2013, we must look forward to the future with a clear Business Plan with realistic options and clear priorities for development and new sustainable revenue sources. We are hoping to benefit from some of the considerable \$106 funds available as part of the payback from the massive new development in the area. We are pleased to have been awarded an initial £27k in July for new lights to replace our ailing system in the hall. Overall, we aim to redesign and extend the premises, to maximise activities and revenue sources at all times. This can be daunting but can also be exciting, and unleash a new set of creative ways to tap into the energy and goodwill of the community.

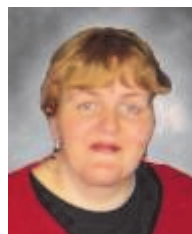
Underpinning all of this is the need for an effective and multi skilled Board of Trustees. Sadly, we have

lost some members over the last year due to illness and change of circumstance, but as we look ahead to 2014, we would like to extend a warm invitation to those members of the community who wish to give something back by lending their skills to our Board of Trustees. It should be an exciting year, full of challenge but we do believe, that as Sidings has responded well to change over the last 30 years, we are capable of meeting the challenges of the next 30! So please consider joining us.



*Flick Rea, Sue Measures & Louise O'Brien at Sidings Heritage Fair*

As always, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Trustees for their support over the past year, the Centre Manager, the centre staff team and wonderful volunteers who have helped make this our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year a very memorable one. Here's to the future!



*Louise O'Brien*  
**Chair to the Board  
of Trustees/Directors**

# Finance Report

As Treasurer, I will focus on two particular aspects relating to the centre's finances. Firstly, a historical review and analysis of the Centre's Audited Accounts for 2012/13, and secondly, as assessment of the financial performance from April – December 2013 and brief outline for future plans.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW 2012/13:

The Statement of Financial Activities shows income for the year of **£414,189** and total expenditure of **£404,604**. Taking into account all accrued balances, the total reserves at the end of the March 2013 were **£109,705**, being made up of **£81,287** in unrestricted funds and **£28,418** restricted funds. Despite cuts, this is an increase against the reserves level at the end of March 2012 which was £100,120.

**Reserves:** The end of year unrestricted reserves balance of **£81,287** demonstrates that the centre is able to meet its core commitments. However, it is important that this level is maintained and increased as much as possible to respond to increased demands in future. We will continue to use our risk management and financial monitoring procedures to ensure this is achieved. The additional restricted reserves of **£28,418** includes £17,000 of funds held by the centre on trust on behalf of the North Area Youth Partnership in Camden, awaiting joint agreement for spend. There are also carry forward balances from 2 youth work related grants awarded in 2012/13. These include a small grant from Camden for Volunteering £4,917, of which 4,733 is carried forward, and one from BBC Children-in-Need for school holiday schemes of £9,990, part payment of £5,495 being given in 12/13, of which £4,685 is carried forward to 13/14. Similarly, the balance of £2000 which is brought forward for our UK Online Computer Learning Centre, is part of the £11,000 awarded by Camden ACL across the academic year from Sept 13- July 14.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

We note that the level of unrestricted reserves is down from £98,120 at the end of March 2012 to £81,287 by March 2013 - a decrease of £16,833, although the level of income has increased from £403,026 to £414,189 and exceeds spend by £9,585. The reduction in unrestricted reserves is partially explained by the reduction in our main grant from Camden's Communities and Third Sector Unit from £113,188 (11/12), down to £94,250 (12/13) and the introduction of a 20%

Business Rates payment of £3,778.12. When factored into the overall performance this indicates the centre has generally maintained a reasonably stable position but must maintain current reserve levels.

However, whilst we note the funding reductions, the centre has also continued to benefit from a good level of commissioned annual funding from the London Borough of Camden as below:

- Communities & Third Sector Unit  
(Camden Community Centre Fund) **£94,250**
- Early Years Children Centre Services  
(annual funding) **£93,173**
- LBC- Universal Youth Services  
(annual funding) **£24,870**
- Adult and Community Learning (SFA)  
for UK Online Learning Centre **£11,000**

Other significant sources of income for our Early Years Services have come from government sourced funding for Nursery Education Funding for 3 & 4 yr olds and the pilot 2-yr-old free places scheme – with a combined total of £92,888

We must also note that the centre's self-generated income totalled £45,173, slightly down from 2011/12 at £47,029. Increasing self-generated income must be a future priority.

## Grants from Trusts:

The centre benefitted from some important Charitable Trust funding during the course of 2012/13. We gratefully acknowledge a grant from Hampstead Wells & Campden Trust of £6,000 which enabled the centre to continue our popular playschemes for children aged 5 – 12 years on an affordable basis. As well as the BBC Children in Need Grant of £9,990, we took advantage of the "Olympic Year" to get a small grant from All Sports of £1,477 to establish football & fitness skills on Wednesdays to replace our generic After School Club. This also enabled us to set up our lively Over 50's table tennis, which continues to grow in numbers. Lastly, we received a Small Grant for Youth Volunteering of £4,917 to work with People's Voices Media (based in Manchester) to create our young "Community Newshounds" team (see Youth Work Report) and encouraging volunteering amongst young people in the community.

## Business Plan 2011-14:

During 2012/13, the centre continued to develop priority areas in the Business Plan for 2011-14, identified by Trustees and Users. Key areas or

activities were:

- Exploring and setting up activities to generate new revenue and income streams.
- Increased marketing and use of social media to attract more donations and sponsors.
- Fundraising for activities for older people, play, sports/health & fitness/mental health & well-being, and volunteering.
- Commitment towards continuing and developing high quality existing commissioned services from LB Camden such as Early Years Children's Centre, Universal Youth Services, and UK Online Computer and Computer Learning Centre
- Improving the centre premises to maximise future revenue opportunities.

The centre has continued to benefit from a considerable level of commissioned funding from Camden, but this has impacted on our capacity to fund-raise from Trusts and Charities in 2012-13 which was not as prolific as we would have liked. However, this will substantially change during 2014-16 and specific attention to address fundraising on a continual basis will feature more prominently which may involve infrastructural adjustments..

#### **April—December 2013:**

However, we have made some good progress with improving sustainable funding potential during April—December. Good examples are:

- investing in new Adventure Soft-Room equipment to meet updated requirements and open it out again to private hire for parties
- Successful application for Centre to be a provider for the 2 Yr old free places in our EYS services
- Redesigned website which is attracting more people to use centre
- Raised £27,000 towards complete refurbishment of hall lighting system from unused S106 funding locally allocated

#### **Future Plans:**

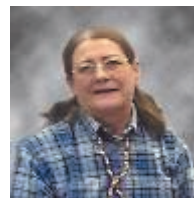
Trustees and staff will undergo workshops and consultation early in 2014, to produce an updated Business Plan to take the centre forward and help build financial resilience for the future. We will identify ways to increase reserves to meet increasing demands on our resources—including extra costs as part of the new VCS lease with Camden for the premises. We will need to build

on support from all sectors in the community to increase our opportunities for volunteering and fund-raising at all levels. We have taken advantage of extending our capacity in Early Years as a provider for 2 Yr old free places, and will explore emerging priorities in other areas to help respond to identified needs within the community. We can also develop opportunities for sponsorship locally.

The confirmation of continued “core” funding from Camden's VCS unit, and hopefully also 100% rent relief, extended until March 2016 is the most comforting news at the end of the year. Whilst the core funding is reduced by 18%, it will still provide vital extra breathing space to enable more fundamental infrastructural change to take us forward into a more challenging and less certain financial future.

Lastly, as always, I must end by thanking the following for their assistance during 2013:

- my fellow trustee colleagues for their consideration of increasingly complex financial matters
- Thanks for the centre staff in working hard to retain and manage a successful level of commissioned funding and grant-aided projects
- In particular, the Centre Manager, for her financial and administration skills, support for fund-raising applications and finance reporting
- Thanks must finally be extended to the efficient and professional services of our Auditor and Accountant, Tony Groman and Kandiah Ranjan.



*Heather Thompson*  
**Treasurer**



# Accounts

## THE SIDINGS COMMUNITY CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

### BALANCE SHEET *(continued)*

31 MARCH 2013

#### FIXED ASSETS

Tangible assets	11	9,124	10,734
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#### CURRENT ASSETS

Debtors	12	14,215	14,843
Cash at bank and in hand		99,968	117,776
		<u>114,183</u>	<u>132,619</u>

#### CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	13	<u>(13,602)</u>	<u>(43,233)</u>
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NET CURRENT ASSETS		100,581	89,386
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TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>109,705</u>	<u>100,120</u>
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NET ASSETS		<u>109,705</u>	<u>100,120</u>
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#### FUNDS

Restricted income funds	15	28,418	2,000
Unrestricted income funds	16	81,287	98,120

TOTAL FUNDS		<u>109,705</u>	<u>100,120</u>
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DRAFT v2a 28.11.2013

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

These financial statements were approved by the members of the committee on the ....., and are signed on their behalf by:

H.THOMPSON  
Treasurer

Company Registration Number: 2139909

**THE SIDINGS COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING THE  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2013**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2013 £	Total Funds 2012 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Incoming resources from generating funds:					
Voluntary income	2	–	368,991	368,991	355,919
Investment income	3	25	–	25	78
Other incoming resources	4	45,173	–	45,173	47,029
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>45,198</b>	<b>368,991</b>	<b>414,189</b>	<b>403,026</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Costs of generating funds:					
Costs of generating voluntary income	5	(535)	–	(535)	(100)
Charitable activities	6/7	(56,854)	(342,573)	(399,427)	(400,288)
Governance costs	8	(4,642)	–	(4,642)	(6,547)
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>(62,031)</b>	<b>(342,573)</b>	<b>(404,604)</b>	<b>(406,935)</b>
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources for the year/net Income/(Expenditure) for the year					
	9	(16,833)	26,418	9,585	(3,909)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		98,120	2,000	100,120	104,029
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>81,287</b>	<b>28,418</b>	<b>109,705</b>	<b>100,120</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

DRAFT v2a 28.11.2013

# Centre Managers Report

***“It’s our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year – a year to celebrate the past and prepare for the future”***

As 2013 draws to a close, we must say a heartfelt “thank you” to everyone who helped wish us a Happy 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday” at our special lunch back in May, and to those who attended or contributed to our wonderful Heritage Fair event in October. It seemed particularly important to take time out, evaluate and celebrate the achievements of the centre over the last 30 years with our many users and well-wishers. However, it is a particularly significant and pivotal year for not just ourselves, but the community as a whole. The title of the Heritage Fair exhibition “All Change at West Hampstead” is indicative of how the immediate neighbourhood around Sidings is about to change due to the enormous amount of (re) development in the area. Over the next 2 – 3 years, there will be significant change in the look and feel of the area due to developments at the bottom of Maygrove Peace Park and Iverson Road, the Interchange area around West End Lane, and the additional prospect of a new school, houses & businesses on the Liddell road site adjacent to the eastern side of the park. This will substantially change the nature of our immediate community – bringing in more residents, new businesses and most likely a brand new school building. Whilst this renders both the park and community centre an even more vital resource to the community, it will be a changing community and the centre needs to plan ahead and consider how to best respond to this considerably larger but more varied audience.

As a community centre, Sidings and our users have been engaged in various ways in this process. As Centre Manager, I have been closely involved with



*Youth Members at Consultation - Proposed expansion of Kingsgate Primary School*

the West Hampstead Neighbourhood Development Forum (WHNDF) in working with local people to shape and create a Neighbourhood Development Plan. This has been a 2 year plus process, due to be completed in late 2014. The centre has also acted as a consultation base for local people to comment on proposals for site developments. Importantly, we have tried to ensure this process involves young people as well as older ones, and the photo below shows James



*Youth Members with James Earl Chair of WHNDF*



*Youth Members at Public Consultation - proposed redevelopment of 159-161 Iverson Road*

Earl, chair of the WHNDF, engaging with our youth members and their views of what’s important to them about their experience as young people living in our neighbourhood. We have also been active in co-discussions with local councillors and representatives of other VCS agencies regarding the allocation of S106 funds locally – aiming at greater transparency in future. In tandem to the physical changing face of our neighbourhood, it is likely that existing public and VCS funding patterns will also change. The financial crisis has led to a re-think by national and local government about the shape and delivery of local services, tapping into the voluntary sector in



particular for its innovation, cost effective service delivery, engagement with target groups, partnership connectivity and the potential of volunteering. However, despite being capable of responding swiftly to changing agendas, fundamental restructuring takes time. The extension of what is considered “core” funding for the centre from Camden’s Communities and Third Sector Unit, until March 2016, has been a lifeline in enabling the centre to prepare properly for the prospect of further cuts in local government funding after 2016. We will need to develop and utilise a larger volunteer base and create new sustainable revenue sources to help sustain the centre and its activities for the future.

### **Premises:**

As our base and biggest asset, we need to focus on keeping our premises in good condition and fit for the wide variety of purposes reflected throughout the report. The premises and adjacent Peace Park facilities offer particularly good opportunities for activities which promote health and fitness for all ages, and we will be working with various partners to help develop this. Fortunately, the prospect of S106 funding from the various developments locally, will assist the centre in re-designing parts of our premises to maximise revenue raising activities at the same time as delivering services – the 2 currently not always being possible to run concurrently. Improvements to lighting and decor will hopefully attract Camden and local businesses to use us as an option for training and events, including Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) exercises. The premises are well-used on a constant basis, by over 800 people most weeks, and whilst built of durable materials, some parts are showing they are 30 years old. We were particularly pleased when we received £27,000 in July from some local S106 towards refurbishing our ailing 30 yr old lighting system in the hall, to help rejuvenate our multi-purpose large hall. Income from lettings was identified as a key area to increase and this year we have maximised opportunities from lettings, including the re-introduction of hiring out our new Adventure Soft-Play equipment for private children’s parties.

**Partnerships and Collaborations:** in making the Centre fit for the future, it is important to build effective partnerships with a wider range of sectors – something now featuring as a priority within most local and national government agendas. Accordingly, as Centre Manager over the past 12 months, I have tried to ensure the centre

has engaged with possible new partnerships to help bid for, and take advantage of, future funding initiatives. In particular, through the Camden Community Centre Forum and Network, several community centres are working to set up a pan-Camden consortium to take advantage of larger commissioned bids. This year we have already become involved in key areas as regards to developing new initiatives for people aged 50+, Corporate Social Responsibility and Health. As priority agendas are merging – eg health and well-being for all ages, adult social care and renewed emphasis on co-production and volunteering, employability and childcare – the centre continues to be a key partner for certain Camden Departments. In particular, our Children’s Centre works as part of a local cluster, working with support services across all areas. Our UK Online centre helps deliver digital inclusion and attracts volunteering in a highly effective partnership with Camden Adult and Community Learning.

Our services and premises also attract partners to assist in delivering positive outcomes to improve the lives of local residents. We have hosted “healthy eating” sessions for parents, provided a base for consultation over health screening, and assisted various schools to provide student and volunteering placements for young people. As a renewed emphasis is being placed on local and connected delivery of services to underpin better outcomes for communities, Sidings will continue to work with our partners to promote the potential of community centres as a strategic local hub.

### **Partners and Partnerships in 2013:**

During 2013, the centre has worked with the following partners or partnerships to develop services:

#### **London Borough of Camden:**

- Communities and Third Sector Unit - re Community Centre Forum, lease negotiations and CSR initiatives
- Integrated Early Years Services – for Early Years & Children’s Centre Services which includes the Kilburn Grange Locality Partnership, family support workers, health visitors, dental hygienist, Family Services and Social Work (FSSW), Early Years Intervention Team, Camden MOSAIC, Speech and Language Therapists, Advisory Teachers, plus pilot project related partners eg Forest School, PEAL, REAL, Apples and Pears
- Integrated Youth Support Services – for universal youth services
- Camden Adult & Community Learning – for

UK Online, Computer related training and ESOL

- Camden Housing – for consultation events
- Camden Community Intervention and Safer Neighbourhoods Police Team – re improvements to lighting on estate and in park
- Camden Parks Department – for matters related to Maygrove Peace Park
- Property Services – for support with repairs and lease proposals

## **Other Partners include:**

- Voluntary Action Camden
- Camden Community Centre Network
- Real Resources (local community centre consortium with Abbey CC and Kingsgate CC)
- Westminster Kingsway College – for adult education and placements
- Inspire agency – for Hampstead, Parliament, William Ellis schools for student placements
- The Brandon Centre – for Youth C card scheme
- People's Voices Media (for Young Newshounds Project)
- Volunteer Camden
- West Hampstead Neighbourhood Development Forum
- North Area Youth Partnership
- Camden Sports Team
- Job Centre Plus
- Maygrove Peace Park Friends Group
- Fordwych Residents Association
- Hampstead Wells and Campden Trust – for delivery of Xmas hampers and other donations

and emerging partnerships with:

- KIDS Company
- Apples & Pears Health Project (re tackling obesity)
- Our Camden (for developing new initiatives with Over 50's)

The centre has been used by the following groups for consultation purposes:

- Your Shout- for consultation over redevelopment of 159-1616 Iverson Road
- Camden Education Department for consultation over the Liddell Road site
- Camden Housing – for consultation on

improvements to properties on Maygrove Road

- VAC – for health screening consultation

and by the following user groups for hire and delivery of activities:

- Praise Chapel
- PSLA for parent and toddler Drop-in sessions
- Shotokan Karate
- Chantraine Dance
- Fluid Motion Pilates
- Mantock Dance UK (for ballet Classes)
- Children's Gymnastics Club
- UES London Ltd

**Current and Future Priorities:** The centre has responded where possible to newly identified government funding priorities, reflected within the Camden Plan and Equality Taskforce strategy. Successful examples of this were:

- the successful application to be a provider for the new free childcare places for 2 year olds, which has brought in funding and additional capital improvements to enable us to be part of this new drive to provide free places for 2 year old from less advantaged families
- In partnership with Westminster Kingsway College, negotiated an accredited Childcare course for local women (mostly mothers) to enable them to gain the basic qualification to enable them to work in the field of childcare (due to start Jan 14)

**Business Plan 2011-14:** throughout the report we can see evidence of progress against the priority targets of our current business plan. However, creating a new plan to take us into the next 2-3 years will be a priority for the Spring and we look forward to engaging as many local people and partners from all sectors to help build a plan which will provide sustainable and resilient options for the future, and increase our profile locally. Key areas to address will a review of existing services and how best to sustain them. Likely areas to explore will also be how to develop a better response to people over 50, increase volunteering and training opportunities, developing health and fitness activities, creating new enterprise initiatives, building centre and community resilience. Within these areas we must have regard for green and sustainable environment issues, and the interconnection of services and partners to ensure effective and long-lasting improved outcomes for the community.



*Sue & the Mayor at the Heritage Fair Exhibition*

As always, I extend my extreme gratitude to the dedicated hard-working staff team at Sidings who deliver a fantastic range of services for the local community.

Lastly, I must end by thanking the centre trustees who work “behind the scenes” and grapple with a wide range of complex issues, to provide governance and leadership to steer the centre in a positive direction.

**A BIG THANK YOU TO YOU ALL!**



*Sue with youth, volunteers & staff at the Heritage Fair Celebrations*



*Sue Measures,*

**Centre Manager**

**email:** [manager@sidings.org.uk](mailto:manager@sidings.org.uk)



*Sue, the Mayor and Caporales San Simon UK*

**Thanks:** as always, I must end my report by firstly thanking all the wonderful volunteers, who have swelled in numbers considerably this year, for their kind support and commitment to the centre on both a regular weekly basis, or for one off events. In particular, we extend thanks to the fantastic team who helped at the Heritage Fair without whom it would not have been possible to stage such a large scale event.



2013 was as busy as ever for the UK Online Computer Learning Centre. Our end of year review for 12/13 revealed that total number of learners attending was 154, with 135 using those delivered directly by Sidings, exceeding our target by 8%. Of those, 53% were new learners. Significantly, 57% were in the lowest 30% IMD, 33% were male and 67% female., 65% were from BME communities, 58% were aged 19-59, and 42% aged 60+. Most encouragingly, 99.5% thought teaching and learning was good or very good. The programme of activities for 2013 is shown below. In the summer term the structure changed., making Friday afternoon a time for volunteer development and administration, but also creating space for an additional centre-run structured courses in a term. The courses were chosen in collaboration with Camden Adult Community Learning (ACL) Tutors to offer a progressive and integrated learning package over time.

## Structured Courses run by Sidings UK Online centre

### Spring Term

**Word Processing:** this class was aimed at learners who had already completed the beginners' St@rt course whowanted to extend their word processing skills. Learners achieved a good standard learning about character & paragraph formatting, margins & page orientation, find & replace, headers & footers and tabs & indents.



*Word Processing Class - Spring Term*

### Summer Term

#### **Word Processing – Page Layout:**

Some continued from the spring term course and two new people joined. All these learned how to use tables, columns and images to produce more involved documents including newsletters and posters.

**Photoshop Elements:** for beginners, focusing on fixing, resizing and enhancing digital images and developing their own images. Students produced multi-image montages cutting photos from their surroundings and placing them on a more exotic background.

### Autumn Term

**Excel – Next Steps:** for learners who had already reached a basic understanding of spreadsheets but wanted to use more of the functions and features. This course was as a result of learner requests for some progression from the basics. Learners are developing their home budgets and developing databases. They are starting to use advanced functions to analyse the data they collect and make more sense of it and also automate the process.



*Excel - Next Steps Class - Autumn Term*



*PowerPoint Presentations Class - Autumn Term*

***Presentations with PowerPoint:*** for learners who wanted to develop presentations and actually deliver them to their peers using PowerPoint slides to provide visuals. Learners are working on Presentations that include: BSA Motorcycles, London's Open House, The Commonwealth Memorial in Green Park and Yoga. I'm looking forward to seeing them delivered.

## **CAMDEN ACL TUTORED COURSES**

Different ACL tutors provided different courses in different terms based on learner requests and the tutors' strengths.

### **Spring Term**

***Create your 1<sup>st</sup> Website*** - Tutor: Mohamed Omar. For learners wanting to create their own website using the online WordPress blog/website creation software.

***ECDL Preparation - Internet*** - Tutor: Mohamed Omar. The European Computer Driving Licence is a well-respected, entry-level course which provides modules focusing on office skills using the Microsoft Office software, ultimately working towards a qualification. In the spring term the focus was on using the internet for web browsing and using email.

***Buying & Selling Online*** - Tutor: Pip Williams. For learners wishing to use Ebay or Gumtree websites to buy and sell goods online.

### **Summer Term**

***ECDL Preparation – Excel:*** Tutor: Mohamed Omar. This time the focus was on Spreadsheets using Microsoft Excel, taking students through all basic aspects of spreadsheets.



*Tablets & Mobile Devices Class - Summer Term*

***Tablets and Mobile Devices*** - Tutor: Mohamed Omar. Learners had been asking for a course to help them to learn about their iPads, Android tablets or even mobile smart phones. This was an extremely popular course culminating in a visit to the flagship Apple Store in Regents Street for all the learners.

***Buying & Selling Online*** - Tutor: Pip Williams. Learners who attended in the spring term wanted to extend their buying and selling skills further so the course was extended.

### **Autumn Term**

***Create your 1<sup>st</sup> Website*** - Tutor: Zoe Lee. Due to popular demand, this was the 2nd course this year where students learned how to create a website/blog using free web-based software for personal or promotional purposes. This course ran to capacity with a waiting list.



*Create your 1st Website Class - Autumn Term*

***Digital Photography*** - Tutor: Zoe Lee. This course proved very popular, again with a waiting list. Students learned how to use digital camera's different settings and features, plus different methods to present, upload, and share photos on social networking sites, websites or other types of media. It dovetailed well with the Create Your 1st Website course for people wanting to post photos on their websites.



*Digital Photography Class - Autumn Term*



### **ECDL Preparation – Word:** Tutor:

Mohamed Omar. Focussing on word processing for beginners this course provided students with a solid grounding in all basic aspects of Word, essential to pass this accredited ECDL module.

## **Open Learning (OL)/ Computing:Your Choice**

### **Volunteer Development**

As reported previously, Friday afternoon was the least well attended Open Learning session, so in summer we decided to change this to volunteers could develop their own skills individually or as a group, as well as offer some admin assistance. Occasionally these sessions would be led by a tutor or volunteers could study material on their own or help with administrative tasks.

### **Tuesday Evening, Thursdays, morning and afternoon & Friday mornings**

The OL sessions are not a free-for-all but provide a more informal situation for learners to engage with learning opportunities with less of an insistence on a commitment to specific times and number of weeks which can be a serious barrier to some learners or gives some learners the chance study the same material covered in the structured courses that they were not able to join. Learners have been involved in developing their skills in word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, databases, digital imaging, and web authoring. Most learners aim to enhance their skills with a view to improving their employment potential, personal lives, and/or enable them to take a fuller role in the community. Smaller scale activities have included creating a family tree using online resources, setting up Skype so they can contact their friends and families by phone through the computer and using social networking sites such as Facebook. Most of our learners are relative beginners who want to set up and learn to use an email account, access online services or information or just find their way around their own computer. Learners, who take small steps such as these, are often encouraged to progress to more substantial projects or structured courses. From Jan 2013 to date, 122 different learners have taken advantage of our OL sessions, and many of the sessions are run to capacity, including use of the extra PC's in the small meeting room.

### **ACL Celebration**

Towards the end of the academic year Camden Adult Community Learning planned a Celebration Event on Friday 12th July at the British Museum. Learning centres from all over Camden were represented and over 30 awards presented in three categories: Achievement, Overcoming barriers and Volunteering. Awards and certificates were presented by Marcela Ashcroft Del Pino from the Skills Funding Agency, Richard Lewin, Camden's Assistant Director for Children, Schools and Families and Cabinet Member Cllr Nasim Ali OBE. Sidings nominated one learner, Gerry Duffy, who had achieved a great deal in the area of Digital Photography and using Photoshop. We also nominated all our volunteers as we couldn't single any one individual as they all do such a wonderful job! During the evening there were presentations about the learning happening at various centres and the achievements made by individuals and groups. The final presentation slide had a quote from a user at Sidings.

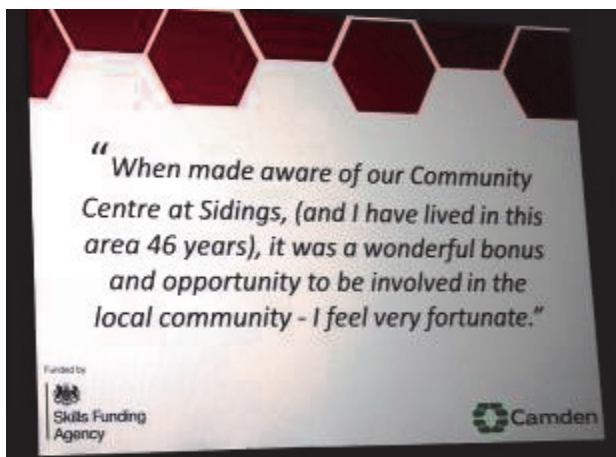


*Gerry Duffy receiving an achievement in Digital Photography and Photoshop*

### **Placements**

Sidings quite often provides opportunities for young people at school to do a Work Placement with us. This year Joao Barriguinha was referred through our volunteer, Anne Gordon. He worked in most parts of the centre but spent most of his time with UK Online as ICT was his main interest. He supported learners in Open Learning sessions but particularly surprised us by teaching the students all about Tablets.





*Quote from a user at Sidings at ACL celebrations*

## Statistics

At the time of writing we have had a total of 187 different learners this calendar year. They were from 17 different ethnic backgrounds speaking 36 different languages, 68% in the BME category. Whilst the overwhelming majority come from within Camden, both locally and further afield in the borough, learners also came to Sidings from other London boroughs, particularly from our close neighbouring boroughs of Brent, Barnet and Westminster. Our youngest learner is 21 and the oldest is 90, 72% are female and 28% male.



*Joao Barriguinha teaching learners to use tablets*

## Volunteers

Volunteers are now an essential part of our UK online service, providing an injection of skills and time to those students who need extra support or confidence in both the Open Learning and also structured courses. Some volunteers also attend courses as students to help acquire skills themselves, which helps them move on to employment or other opportunities. "Goodbyes": we said goodbye to a number of

regular volunteers during 2013. Jakub Novak who was very much a part of the team last year, started work in a new job in January. Michael Fowler, who has been a volunteer both at Sidings and with another ACL tutor teaching an ESOL class in Camden. Michael wanted to focus on English teaching and work towards a teaching qualification in this area so moved after Summer.



*Anne Gordons Leaving do*

More recently we had to say goodbye to Anne Gordon who has been with us for just over three years. As well as being PTLLS trained and supporting classes and Open Learning sessions she was also helping with admin. She now wants to spend more time renovating a new house in her home country, Scotland. We wish all our leaving volunteers success in whatever they do. ....and welcomes:

We have had a couple of new volunteers who phoned or emailed to offer their services. Kashif Mohammed works for Brent council as an IT Professional but is looking to developing teaching skills and is supporting the Tuesday evening Open Learning session. Yuka Fujimoto got in touch with Camden ACL and began by supporting Mohamed Omar's ECDL class but also offered her time for the Thursday Open Learning sessions. She has IT skills already so is proving a great asset. Several volunteers already with us have developed their expertise and now offer more than before. Lumturije Metrama and Kumiko Mizuno both supported Mohamed's classes through the year. Kumiko is also providing help in the Thursday morning Open Learning session. Both Jenny Linn-Cole and Steve Richards have become invaluable as they have progressed their skills and experience and have become much more confident supporting in both structured classes for Sidings and ACL tutors and in the



*Volunteers at ACL Celebrations*

Open Learning sessions. Both are skilled in digital photography and editing and Steve helped produced the small local history exhibition at our recent Heritage Fair.

Sarah Ahiafor still offers support our Thursday morning Over 50's session. My wife, Sylvia, provides support to the OL sessions, mainly on Tuesday evenings, and emergency cover when other volunteers are away.

There are many other volunteers to thank who assist in ways other than supporting learners: filing and administrative tasks, assisting with promotion by delivering the leaflets and putting up posters, or at our Centre Open Days, welcoming new learners. Thank you to: Christine Burnett, Jill Wheatcroft, John McGahern, Jack Anderson, Regina Manuel, Muhammed Abdulhusein and Steve Richards.



*Sidings Volunteers & Staff with Mayor of Camden*

### Thanks

I must say a very big thank you to all our volunteers from me and all the people you help. We couldn't provide the service without your dedicated work.

Thanks must go to the Camden ACL Tutors: Mohamed Omar, Zoe Lee and Pip Williams who have brought fun learning opportunities to Sidings such as Digital Photography, creating a website, tablets and mobile devices and buying and selling online.



*Volunteers assisting with the summer promotion*

Thanks to all of Camden's IT technicians who continuously keep our network and all the aging equipment working.

Thank you also to the ACL team in Camden who provide so much support behind the scenes, particularly Ashoka Norman, Helen Holden, Lenka Wymer and Paul Dallaway.



*Geoff Stilwell*

**UK Online Development Worker**

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# COMMUNITY EDUCATION

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## ESOL for living in the UK E1/E2 Class

THURSDAYS 1.00pm - 3.00pm

My name is Chris. I'm a CELTA trained ESOL teacher. I currently run an E1/E2 ESOL course at Sidings Community Centre on behalf of Camden ACL. We are open to everyone in the community.



*ESOL English Autumn Term Class*

The course is aimed at E1/E2 ESOL learners covering reading, writing, speaking and listening. It is a non accredited course but we do offer a good basis and a chance to practice English in everyday situation. We work in a small class of up to 10

people, with a range of nationalities which reflects the diversity of the local community. The class is every Thursday between 1-3pm.

The course started in October and runs through until July. I hope we provide a welcoming, supportive learning environment to all learners and that the course will help benefit people in their future life in England.

## Everyday Maths Class

FRIDAYS 10.00am - 12.00pm

This class is now in its second year, which enables those people who want to improve their basic maths and numeracy skills. The course is accredited and students will gain a basic qualification to help with their own life skills or employment prospects. This course is also useful for those who might attend some of our computer courses in our Computer Learning Centre. We would like to thank the tutor, Anju Chhibber, for her commitment to the course and students over the last 12 months.





# Sidings Youth Project

***“There are no such things as bad children..only good children placed in bad situations.” - Anonymous***

Sidings Youth Project has held these tenants since its inception nearly three decades ago, and they remain core to who we are and what we do over the generations. We continually try to push the boundaries of whom and what we are and this has resulted in some noticeable successes.

This year has been very productive in terms of what has been achieved, and I feel that it can be summed up in one phrase...proactive voices. SYP worked with a number of young people averaging 14 young people per session, inclusive of our Transitions sessions, with 45 % coming from a BME background. We also had an 87% success rate in the delivery of our planned activities with our youth trustees and volunteers working tirelessly to help us achieve this.

## Thanks

Many thanks to our staff team of Aston Stewart, Shanez Crichton and Shakira Alexander, again for their dedication, enthusiasm and energy over the last year, and many thanks to Paul Williams who began a new job in a school in September, but who remains on our Play Team. I would also like to thank our volunteers Sanaz Ghanbari and make a special mention to Adrian Wilson. This is a young man who started with the Sidings Family when he was 2 years old and is now giving the benefit of his learning and experience to the next generation. He is a testament to Sidings' tenacity, longevity and propensity to nurture that has driven this organisation over time. We would also like to welcome Issy Nicholls and Lewis Neophytou to our volunteering family.

We have maintained our high quality provision looking to address a number of youth issues which are affecting our users. The C card scheme is still in operation delivering sexual health advice and guidance during our youth sessions thanks to the steadfast work of Shirldon Barthelemy.

The Transitions project also benefited from the development of the 'Top Spin junior table tennis club' run by our skilled coach Aston Stewart which has recently coached two young people into the table tennis squad for the London youth games.

Our summer provision, funded kindly by BBC Children in Need, was successful in offering positive activities to over 40 young people, engaging in a number of activities that included a



*Group at Thorpe Park - Summer scheme*

day trip to the seaside, a graffiti workshop and my personal favourite, the first ever Sidings Scavenger Hunt! Two teams had to collect as many items on a list as they could within a 3 hour time limit. Whilst fun, I feel that it achieved its main aim of getting the young people to develop their communication, team working and negotiation skills. The winning team showed great resourcefulness and ingenuity to prevail, victorious!



*Sidings Scavenger Hunt winners - Summer scheme*

We also took a group down to the Westminster Boating Base where the young people engaged in Kayaking and power boating rides along with multisport coaching and fencing. During the Easter holidays we decided that the Welsh Valleys had been a little quiet of late and so strove to address this by taking a group up to Acorn Adventures, Brecon for a weekend. Though the weather threw everything that it could at them, this intrepid bunch persevered participating in Dragon Boating, Bush Craft, Abseiling, Climbing and Stand up Paddle Boarding to name but a few activities!

## Sidings Youth Project



*Kai Sparkes - Kayaking Summer Scheme*

The culmination of the years work was celebrated at the Camden youth Awards 2013 at the Camden Centre. We took a delegation of some of our achievers to receive awards. We also took the roof off the building with a joint SYP/ARC performance from Lewis Neophytou and Esther Gibbons who performed their song "Destiny", whilst ably supported by dancers Regina Manuel, Laura Balakaite, Ryan Appiah-Sarpong and Michael Nearchou. We are already thinking about next year's show stopping performance!



*SYP dancers & Clive at Camden Youth Awards 2013*

Our latest innovation is the 'KWH Community Newshounds Reporters Project'. This was a project funded through a Small volunteering grant with the aim of getting young people aged 13 - 17yrs volunteering and contributing to their local community. This gathered momentum slowly but like a snow ball rolling downhill has gathered pace, scale and gravitas. The newshounds undertook training by Teresa Wilson from People, Voices Media and myself in interview, recording and editing techniques which enables young people to have an active voice in their community being informative, offering insights and telling the stories which need to be not only told, but more

importantly heard. We currently have 7 accredited Community Newshounds. They are Toufa Kadir, Kerry Fowle, Jannath Begum, Daniela Escobar Correa, Daniel Bowman, Elle O'Donnell and Diego Sotelo Ceres. We are really proud of them and are looking to expand on this number. So please get involved and next year a young person



*Kerry & Jannath - Community Newshounds*

could be writing this instead of me! One highlight was their participation at the Sidings Heritage Fair. Parents and users of Sidings both past and present were filmed offering commentaries and memories of their associations with Sidings. Notable dignitaries including Councillors Nancy Jira, Maajid Nawaz, Flick Rea, Tulip Saddiq and council candidate Lorna Jane Russell were interviewed by the newshounds who probed and teased out their views on the centre and the local area. After being interviewed the Mayor of Camden, Jonathan Simpson, commented; "That was like being interviewed by Jeremy Paxman!" Sky News, be afraid, be very afraid.



*The Mayor of Camden interviewed by KWCNH*

We would like to extend our thanks to Teresa Wilson and Gary Copich from Peoples, Voices, Media for their help in enabling us and our young people in realising our story telling aspirations. We continued in helping young people express their views on how the economic downturn has affected services and the life choices for young





*Young Foundation Consultation Session*

people. We again held a consultation session with the 'Young Foundation' where the group spoke passionately about how their circumstances had changed. This was especially pertinent with regards to further education and employment opportunities and also how criminal endeavour has unfortunately become a by product. What was interesting was that the young people were looking at volunteering as a way to gain invaluable work experience to keep pace with a dynamic workforce and environment, and develop a better understanding evolving and burgeoning industries. SYP also attended the Camden Shout consultation event attended by young people and professionals who engaged in workshops and performances on a multitude of youth orientated issues. We also welcomed other consultative groups such as the Neighbourhood Development Forum to discuss the new developments, which are happening all around us presently, and how they will impact on their lives both now and in the future. We thank James Earl for coming to the project, actively seeking perspectives from young eyes.

S.Y.P played its own small part helping some young people gain work experience working with



*Young People on Work Experience*

Hampstead School both here at the community centre in our differing units and with other external organisations such as Ruby Psuedo Consultancy. All the young people acquitted themselves admirably and we are sure that the experiences attained will stand them in good stead for the future. Well done to Abdul Kayam, Cience Green and Ben Phelan.

We also have young people who are being proactive in their work to make the project better by submitting grant bids for funds to support current work. We also have two young women who are a part of the Youth Action Group with a job of looking at funding requests from other youth provision and decided where the much needed funds are allocated. Yet again, Toufa and Daniela, we salute you.

### **So what does the future hold for SYP?**

Looking ahead for the next 2—3 years, it is important that we continue to build active partnerships to maximise opportunities for our young people. We need to create a clear action plan to enable us to respond to key priority areas—those identified by the young people themselves, and others in response to need identified by government, nationally and locally. We will continue to develop successful initiatives and empower young people locally to “have a voice” using our Community Newshounds Project. We will look particularly at encouraging volunteering amongst young people, and ensure we seek out activities which are fun, challenging but also provide new skills for young people to grow their potential.

As our young people continue to inspire us, it is important that the centre finds ways to ensure that they in turn are aspirational and that we enable them to “follow and realise their dreams”.

***“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” — Eleanor Roosevelt***



*James Ingram*  
**Youth Project  
Coordinator**

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# Out-of-School Project

The Centre's Out-of-School Project provides a term-time Afters School Club for children aged 6 – 12 years (Monday from 4.30pm – 6.30pm), Football and Fitness (Wednesday 4.30-6.30) and holiday playschemes during Half-terms, Easter and Summer School Holidays (for 5-12's).

We aim to provide an exciting & meaningful range of activities over the year, which are accessible and affordable, enabling children to access opportunities they might not otherwise have been able to have. We operate within a child-centred ethos, meeting the requirements of voluntary registration with Ofsted (100559), particularly for those younger children transitioning from our Early Years Services in our playschemes.

## **After School Club:**

Our weekly Monday After School Club has continued to make good use of centre premises and equipment to provide activities for our children, incorporating a balance between play, education and fun. We have focused sharply on activities promoting “being healthy,” and “enjoying and achieving”.

**Being Healthy** impacts on a child's long term and personal life. It also improves behaviour, energy levels, concentration strength, growth and emotional wellbeing. Our children are encouraged to develop physical and exercise skills through a range of sports and physical activities and healthy cooking. Our large hall offer a good range of multi indoor sports - e.g .badminton, fitness exercises, dodge ball, table tennis . We are also fortunate in being able to access the facilities on the adjacent Maygrove Peace Park.

**Enjoy and Achieve:** We encourage children to achievement and be aspirational. We provide a range of creative and artistic workshops and games which have included: fun arts & craft, knowledge quizzes and group discussion games, library visits, awareness/knowledge sessions on Black History month, Parachute games, firework safety, Jumanji trip (to local pet shop), making cards/decorations and trips out.

Children attending the After School Club can also access computers to improve I.T. skills and internet research, with staff offering assistance with homework. . Children contributed towards seasonal centre celebrations – eg decorating the Centre as part of their Xmas theme, making cards and decorations which encourages a greater sense of belonging and contribution.

## **Holiday Playschemes (Half-Terms & Easter):**

Our holiday playschemes once again proved very popular and attracted many new children and families. During Easter we introduced a new multi sports Project which focused sharply on multi—sports and physical activities organised by qualified coaches. Children of all abilities were encouraged to participate and to develop physical and exercise skills. This was a direct result of our popular Wednesday Sport and fitness session. Due to successful fundraising we were able to offer extended playscheme days! .Each playscheme adopts a theme, which this year have included themes such as our February theme of “Mythology/Culture and self image” which included research discovering self image, painting /drawing re-self image and discovering your Chinese star signs. October –theme “Practical Madness” .



Activities have included: making Halloween craft, making African print design, making mosaics, a trip to the National Science Museum where children explored space, rockets, medicine, and multi media. Children also enjoyed bulb planting exploring nature and the environment. This included the element of Enjoying and Achieving. Featured activities incl..Games , various sports including badminton and dodgeball, indoor and outdoor games, also trips out to local parks and cinema. To promote healthy eating, we always include a cookery session where they play an active role in planning, preparing and eating! We hope the programme of activities encourages a sense of belonging, environmental awareness and contribution to the park and community.

## **Summer Scheme :**

Our Annual 3-week Summer Scheme helped showcase our children and young people's talents. Children helped organise and played an active part

in choosing some of the activities within the themed programmes; Our theme were Week 1 “Exploring Animals” Week 2 “Exploring Nature” Week 3 “Arts & Craft” Activities:

- a trip to the Cinema
- picnic at local parks, including Princess Diana Memorial Park.
- Making insect cards
- Trip to farm
- Arts and craft, indoor games, healthy eating workshops and sports in partnership with other agencies( see partnership)
- Team participation in running the end-of-scheme “Disco Party”

We Hope tour Playschemes enabled the children to experience new opportunities, learn new skills and visit places of interest they would not otherwise have visited. Whilst enabling our children to play and enjoy experiences with children from other cultures and background. We were blessed with wonderful weather!!

Amongst the many comments from parents were “Excellent”“My daughter has had a great time, lots of fun and made new friends, great workers also there”..Extremely well organised and my daughter totally enjoyed it, full of energy and positivity we love it.”.Comments from children “I liked doing art because I like drawing (even though I am rubbish!) Going on trips because they are fun to see new things. Playing here and meeting new people”.

### **Fitness & Football Coaching:**

We have developed our structured Wednesday football skills and fitness session for our 6-10yr old's. This has proved to be popular we have had 35 children registered during the year either indoors or on the Maygrove Peace Park Sports pitch, with both boys and girls participating. Sessions are organised by qualified coaches and with a focus on learning new skills & team work!



This is self sustained funding. and has also enabled us to continue making a meaningful commitment to the Olympic legacy principles and respond to Business Plan priorities.

### **Partnership working:**

We have promoted integrated partnership working with various partners in several practical ways during 2013. Examples have included:

- **Promoting Healthy Living:** (*Being Healthy*). **Camden Healthy Eating Team ran In conjunction with Camdens Healthy Eating Team** healthy eating workshops in our holiday playschemes. This combined with a number of activities to introduce a healthy eating culture, including healthy cookery, quizzes related to healthy food and lifestyles,. “healthy packed lunches”.
- **Camden Sports Development Team** agreed to continue organising various sports sessions on the outdoor sports pitch during our Playschemes. This helped in providing more physical activity for local children, and helped to underpin our theme on Olympic legacy by encouraging children to engage in sports. Many of whom now use our Wednesday First Score Football & fitness sessions. We have also supported Maygrove Peace Park Friends Group in promoting our park/environment by bulb planting in the October 13 half-term.
- **Camden Sports;** A few of our members have been selected to join Camden Table Tennis squad training for the London Youth Games



- **Create Mosaic:** (*making a positive contribution*). We also ensured children from our Playscheme contributed to the Heritage Mosaic which will commemorate our our 30th anniversary. Create Mosaic organised 2

## Out of School Project

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workshops where children attending the October scheme made mosaic trees and flowers to surround the symbolic “Sidings Red Train”

- KIDS Company—towards the end of the year we have also enjoyed some partnership working with KIDS Company, based in Fordwych Road. Again, pursuing the Olympic Legacy, we have hosted some introductory Tennis Sessions for girls aged 5—9 years in our main hall.



**Usage:** All in all 181 children and young people accessed our After School Club and Holiday Play Provision over the last 12 months, including several children who have moved (transitioned) on from our early years services into school.

### Updated Ofsted registration

Since February 2009, our Out-of-School Project has updated “voluntary status” within the childcare register, which makes particular provision for younger children aged 5-7 in the transition process from the Early Years to the Out of School provision.

Camden Play Service: As of mid 2012, Camden no longer directly run a play service in Camden, having commissioned VCS organisations to provide a scaled down play service, focusing on specific target groups. . We decided to adopt a strategy of developing an alternative, community-based play and sports service, underpinned by fundraising and affordable fee-paying, working with local partners to achieve this.

We must gratefully acknowledge grants from Hampstead Wells & Camden Trust in 12/13 and 13/14 to help the centre continue our popular Playscheme services for local families who otherwise would have no provision during the school holidays.

### Staff Team

Well done and thank you to our dedicated staff (paid and voluntary) over the year who have included: Aston Stewart (Play Co-ordinator & Youth Worker), James Ingram, Sarah Leslie, Lucy Nicholas, Paul Williams, Stephen Walrond, Luisa Edwards, Shakira Alexander, Adrian Wilson, Josh Phelan, and volunteer Giovanna Sanchez

Thank you to the Board of Trustees for their continued support in the development of our service. We look forward to future and exciting developments!



*Aston Stewart*  
**Play Co-ordinator & Youth Worker**  
email: [osp@sidings.org.uk](mailto:osp@sidings.org.uk)



# Early Years Service

Sidings Early Years Children's Services are encompassed within the broad remit of our classification as one of Camden's registered Children's Centres. Our comprehensive, flexible child daycare offers provision for children aged 2 – 4 years and offers advice and support for their parents.

The full range of services include: flexible extended day care for children aged 2-4 years (in association with local childminders to reach the larger core offer when needed), term-time free places for 2 yr old & 3-4 yr olds up to 15 hours per week, crèches to accompany adult training on and off site, plus Adventure Soft Room, Music & Movement, and PSLA Drop Ins, and a Toy library.

## Principles guiding our services:

Underpinning all our childcare services is a family-centred approach, and the emphasis is enabling each child to reach their full potential by working in partnership with other professionals and the parents and carers. Our registered childcare provision and Drop Ins operate within OFSTED requirements (100559).

Children start to learn about the world around them from the moment they are born. The individual approach to care and education, offered by our setting, supports children to continue and develop by providing a fun, exciting and tailored environment of learning appropriate to their interests and **individual** stages of development.



The Centre is committed to the 'Core Purpose' for Children's Centres to improve outcomes for young children and their families, reducing inequalities, particularly around:

- Child development and school readiness
- Parenting aspirations and self esteem
- Family health and well being

The centre works hard to implement and meet all

requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework, which includes the EYFS Safeguarding and Welfare requirement. (all of the legal requirements in order to operate) the 'EYFS Development Matters' (providing all the development stages from Birth to Five yrs. and the '4 Commitments'. We work hard to ensure children's learning and development encompass all aspects of the 'Early Years Foundation Stage' and enable children to reach their full potential.. This incorporates the **four EYFS key** Commitments:

**A Unique Child +**

**Positive Relationships +**

**Enabling Environments**

**= Learning and Development**, which subdivides learning into 3 'prime' and 4 'specific' areas of development.

## Prime areas:

Personal, Social and Emotional

Communication and Language

Physical

Specific areas:

Literacy

Mathematics

Expressive Arts and Design

Understanding the world

Please see our Parent Handbook and term programmes for more information.

## Services:

### Extended Full Day Care

**Early Years Children's Centre -**

**Extended Day Care for all 2-4 yr olds.**

We offer the flexible opportunity to take any sessions up to 10-1pm-4pm up to 5 days per week (*places permitting*). We offer a variety of childcare to families, fee paying, NEF and Camden's 2 yr old pilot scheme, enabling more families in need of support, to access free childcare. We are pleased to report on a successful application in August, to continue to be a recognised provider for 2 year old free places, increasing our allocation from 8 up to 16 . Additionally, we were also awarded some capital funding for new flooring and an extra toilet and sink to accommodate the extra 2yr olds in our end crèche room. Overall 82 children accessed our child care services from Jan - Dec 13

### Extended day care for 3 & 4 yr. olds attending term-time playgroup.

We offer the Government's 15 hours funded place for all 3-4yr olds (*term after their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday*)

from 10am -1pm or other combinations when possible. Parents/ carers can also choose to use the fee paying service until 4pm. This offer is primarily to support families working/ studying, who may be able to claim up to 70% back through Child Care Tax Credit (*places permitting*).

### **Funded crèches**

Times: Term time – Monday – Friday, mornings and afternoons (according to schedule). These crèches offers a friendly, stimulating childcare service for children aged 2-5 years, which operate in conjunction with some Adult Education Classes in the Centre to provide employability/ learning opportunities.



**Increased school-holiday provision:** As part of being a Camden Children's Centre we now offer Day Care during the school breaks – offering 3 weeks in the summer and 3 days in each half term and Easter. The hours from 10am-4pm, run in conjunction with the 5-12's holiday schemes, in order to support working families with children in more than one age group. All places were taken up, many using the provision on a flexible basis.

### **Aiming at Quality:**

We provide a safe, secure and stimulating environment ensuring equality of opportunity for all children and their families from all cultures and beliefs. All children are encouraged to develop their potential at their own pace, and parents being the child's 'first educators' are able be involved in their child's development planning and with the Centre's decision making; participating/ organizing activities during the session or be involved in parent forums/ Centre Management Committee. The playgroup operates a Key Person system tailoring the curriculum activity planning to the need of each individual child, their 'characteristic of learning' and the 'seven areas of

development' from parent's and staff's knowledge, observations and guidance from the Early Years Foundation Stage Guidance.

We have had another successful year with an EY Ofsted Inspection in October, achieving a rating of 'Good' with only one recommendation off 'Outstanding'. Our partnership with Camden Integrated Early Years Service continues, nominating us to be part of 2 new projects: REAL and REAL maths (involving parents in their child's learning journey for Literacy and mathematics).

Additional projects such as ECAT (early identification of children needing support with their language and communication), POMS (early identification of a child's Well being and Involvement), and Forest School (supporting children who thrive in learning outdoors) have now been integrated into the everyday planning.

Camden's IEYS Advisory Teachers continue to support improving our 'Planning Cycle' on how we plan, evaluate and evidence children's development and learning, including the completion of the new 'required' 2yr old 'Progress Checks'. If you would like to know a bit more about any of these projects or the revised EYFS please ask one the EY staff team.

### **Encouraging parental involvement:**

In July our 'end of term' outing was extended to all families using the Centre childcare, it was a great day to Ruislip Lido and everyone really enjoyed themselves and even the weather was kind was kind to us! It was also a sad time to have to say goodbye to many of our children and their parents/carers, moving on to school, but a chance to have a nice day out and say thank you to them.!

During the last year we had many parents carers coming in and participating or initiating activities, bringing in extra skills for the children to enjoy; flower arranging, origami, their new pet kitten, bathing twin and making and selling cakes! (Please see our display in the Centre Atrium).

Our waiting list is still very oversubscribed; more children seem to be staying on till the term before they are five. One factor seems to be the change in intakes at local schools of just one a year now.

We continue to improve our communication with local schools to enhance the transition for children and their families to school.

## Special Events:

This year, parents/ staff and children raised money for the Meningitis Trust by going on a sponsored 'Waddle' at Queens Park and raised over £400.00! Thanks to all those parents who came with us and well done to all the children who walked, you deserved your medals!

Through the parent's and staff effort in holding a stall at the Fortune Green Summer Fair, we managed to raise enough money to book the ever popular 'Family Seaside Trip' to Broadstairs. The weather was amazing and everyone again had a fantastic day!



**Drop-ins:** The Early Years Children's Centre Adventure Soft-Room sessions on Tuesday (10am – 11.30am and 12-1.30pm) continue to be highly popular, providing safe indoor soft-play facilities all year round for parents and young children. Overall 247 children accessed our morning sessions and 210 children accessed our afternoon sessions. It is an opportunity for children to progress in areas of their development, focusing on the 3 'Prime areas: Communication and Language, Physical and Personal, Social and Emotional. We have been working on ways to inform, support and involve parents/ carers in the progress of their children's development and have customized information posters, evaluation forms and basic records to track their child's progress; one parent quote from a returned evaluation form said *"My child is 7 months old and her physical development has improved greatly since coming here!"* This provision also is a 'gateway' to other Centre Services and the sessions are also used by visiting locality specialists to engage with parents on child health and development issues (eg dental health, librarian) enabling the offer of valuable signposting/ advice and referrals. Due to the rising numbers and families having to be turned away we have

offered this particular Drop In to families/ carers living in Camden. To support the many families who do not get in at first and choose to wait for a possible place during the morning, we have set up the Toy Library at the same time in an adjacent area, so there is somewhere for the children to play while they are waiting.

The Community Centre's Friday morning lively Gymboree Music & Movement Drop In Sessions are universally open to all.

The Centre also hosts PSLA 'Stay and Play' Drop Ins on Monday mornings from 10-12noon and Thursday mornings 10-1pm, offering a different kind of Drop In experience.

## PARENT/CARER PROJECTS

**Father's Support Work:** James Ingram works in the ASR Drop-In to try to encourage and support male parents/ carers to access our services more.

**Toy Library:** On Tuesday mornings there is a 'Toy Library' Drop In session (term time run by 'School Home Support'). It is for all families with children under five to be able to play and borrow toys. They have a website to see what toys are available and to be able to book some resources in advance.

**Local agencies:** have hosted several workshops/ advice sessions for parents carers: PEAL, Government CAN Parent, 'Fun with Food', 'Fussy Eaters'.

This year we handed out a 'Treasure box' to all children attending the childcare provision, containing 2 new books to support reading at home.

Our registered childcare and crèches enable parents/ carers to access Community Education classes such as Creative Writing & Literature, Employability, ESOL, Everyday Maths, and Healthy Cooking and attend our UK Online centre to improve their computer skills. This year, after requests from some of our mums, we have been able to host a' NVQ level 2 childcare course, starting in the New Year. This will support us in supporting parents in return to study/ work. (Please ask EY staff for more information).

**Student Placements:** We have had 8 student placements over the year and a certificate of recognition for all the support we have given and will continue to give to students in their placements.



**Special Needs Support:** The Centre continues to raise support of children with special needs, when needed. We communicate with relevant child agencies regarding specific needs of the children, as within our SN Code of Practice, and this year, have supported 2 families in gaining 'recognised' SN support and one child with their transition to school. Cynthia Painter, our



Special Educational Needs Coordinating Officer (SENCO) is currently responsible for the coordination throughout the Early Years setting. A special "thank you" must be given to Camden's Early Years Intervention Team for all their support in enabling us to give a positive Transition to school for 2 children with special needs.

**Training:** All EY staff are qualified and trained in delivering services within the EYFS Framework (display for all to see on the Board in EY foyer) through a minimum of 21 hrs training per year, including Safeguarding and Child Protection, First Aid and recording children's progress. There is an additional requirement for Children's Centres to have a 'Teacher Status' worker in place. All Early Years staff now have an up to date, relevant qualification.

### Staff

**Cynthia Painter** – Early Years Coordinator, SENCO, Nominated Safeguarding and Child Protection worker

**Shanez Crichton** – Early Years Deputy, Nominated 'Managing Behaviour' worker, First Aider

**Sarah Leslie** – Early Years/ Link worker/Forest School Worker

**Vritti Jhala** – EY Curriculum/Support Development worker/ Link worker

**Jale Erikmen**- EY Curriculum/Support

Development worker/ Link worker

**James Ingram** – Fathers Support/ ASR Drop In worker, Early Years worker

**Sandra Maloney** – Early Years worker

**Sadiqa Khan** – Early Years/Link worker

**Luisa Edwards** – Early Years/Link worker

**Jusnara Begum** – Early Years Worker

**Reva Valmont** – Early Years worker, ASR Drop In worker

**Faiqa Malik** – Early Years Worker, crèche worker

Finally I would like to say a massive thanks to all Early Years Staff for their continuous hard work, commitment and dedication over the year and many thanks also to all parents/carers who have been involved, given us support and told us of our welcoming, helpful attitude and their appreciation of our hard work.

*Cynthia Painter*

**Early Years Coordinator**

**email:** [early.years@sidings.org.uk](mailto:early.years@sidings.org.uk)



# HEALTH & FITNESS CLASSES

## Chantraine Dance of Expression Classes

WEDNESDAYS 11.00am - 12.30pm for older people.

1.30pm - 3.00pm Intermediate (one or more years experience of dance/movement)



The Chantraine Dance of Expression classes had a full year both at Sidings and also in the wider community. There are two classes - one for seniors on Wednesday mornings and the other in the afternoon, for younger people (though not necessarily much younger), who have done some movement or dance before. Chantraine is a unique and all-encompassing approach to dance, created by two French pioneers in dance and movement – Alain and Françoise Chantraine – Françoise an acclaimed choreographer. It includes all the main styles - contemporary, classical, jazz and dances of other cultures - but goes beyond style alone and includes creativity, relaxation, technique and choreography. Its aim is the joy and well-being of the whole person and to link dance and life.

In February we had a workshop open to all Chantraine dancers and in March, there were two events. The seniors' class danced movingly at

Cecil Sharp House celebrating the life of Ann Finer, The afternoon class performed at Sidney Corob House, a residential home in Fortune Green, with choreographies featuring a waltz, a tango, a Romanian dance and the flight of an albatross.

In May during Adult Learners' Week, the "Metro" newspaper, surprised us with a photograph of the afternoon class in action in the Sidings. In June all the Chantraine classes – adults and children – came together for the School's annual Festival, again at Cecil Sharp House. This presented a varied programme which included spirituals, children dancing a rodeo, crossing a bridge in Paris, and the "Ride of the Valkyries".

Though no longer part of Westminster Kingsway College, we are delighted to be back at Sidings and very grateful that we can continue in what is one of the best dance spaces - or even THE best space in North West London! Thank you so much, Sue! We hope for many more celebrations of life & dance 2014 when our most senior member will be 90! We hope too that many more will join us !



*Patricia Woodall*

**Chantraine School of Dance**

**Tel: 020 7435 4247**

**Email: [info@chantrainedance.co.uk](mailto:info@chantrainedance.co.uk)**

**[www.chantrainedance.co.uk](http://www.chantrainedance.co.uk)**

## Body Control Pilates Classes

TUESDAYS 7.15pm Beginner class

8.30pm Intermediate class

2013 has been a busy year. I'm delighted with the ongoing and growing interest in the classes.

Pilates is a fantastically effective mind and body conditioning program which works by addressing muscle imbalances. Seemingly-simple exercises, precise movements, concentration, co-ordination, correct breathing and alignment are all used to strengthen, tone and rebalance the whole body.

Body Control Pilates teaches the classical Pilates repertoire in manageable pieces, progressively building these slowly and safely toward the advanced exercises – each exercise can be done safely, correctly and effectively by anyone, even people with injuries or illnesses.

Many thanks to all of you who've been regular and dedicated Pilates-goers, it's been wonderful working



with you and seeing you progress, and also to Sidings Community Centre for hosting us. For any enquiries, please contact:



*Sarah Pfitzner*

**Pilates Teacher**

**Tel: 07084 151 121**

**[sarah@fluidmotionpilates.com](mailto:sarah@fluidmotionpilates.com)**

**[www.fluidmotionpilates.com](http://www.fluidmotionpilates.com)**

# HEALTH & FITNESS CLASSES

## Healthy Cookery Classes

THURSDAYS 10.00am – 12.30 pm

Our Healthy Eating classes at Sidings proved as popular as ever in 2013. Ricardo Janco, our lively Portuguese cookery tutor ran the classes until July 2013. From October 2013, the equally lively Philip Norris took over as tutor. The centre was very fortunate in having such highly qualified chefs who have brought considerable knowledge in cookery skills, nutrition and providing students with insight into healthy cookery and healthy eating. Students have gained a new level of appreciation in cookery, an exciting range of recipes, learnt how to put a menu together, and that final presentation is key. Student also get quizzed on what they have learnt to ensure their knowledge and skills have become embedded into a new healthy eating culture.

During Term-time on Thursday mornings, divinely wonderful tasty smells have wafted throughout the centre, accompanied by delicious looking lunches cooked by the students, keenly eyed by onlookers!

Students have been able to build up a portfolio of recipes to take home and use in the future, both main courses and desserts. As the recipes all have to be cooked and eaten within 2.5 hours, they are all simple and achievable by everyone!



Accompanying many dishes were tasty sauces or delicious looking toppings, lifting students ability to make each dish special and memorable.

The classes (funded through Westminster Kingsway College) have been aimed at promoting healthy eating by teaching students. The main learning aims are:

- To practice and be able to use basic cooking techniques
- Learn how to put together a delicious and complimentary menu

- Learn a variety of healthy dishes using recipes from the class (to take home)
- Improve confidence and develop personal cooking styles



The classes are always popular with a waiting list and have been attended by a wide range of students from different ethnic background and age groups, and by both men and women.

The photos speak a thousand words, but unfortunately cannot capture the wonderful taste and smells that emanate from the kitchen ON Thursday mornings.

Unfortunately towards the end of the year, our much used cooker of some 8 years is finally showing its age and we will try to urgently fund-raise for a new cooker in 2014. Until then—Bon Appétit!



# ACTIVITIES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Sidings Community Centre does not have any large stand-alone projects specifically for Older People. However, many older people do use a wide range of our services. Certain sessions or services do, however, have a focus on older people, and some are delivered by associated official partners. These include:

## **Health & Fitness:**

### **Chantraine Dance for Older People**

Part of our annual community education programme, on Wednesday mornings during term-time, Chantraine's Dance classes for older people are a wonderful way to maintain suppleness and mobility, whilst nurturing physical and emotional creativity. Whilst always welcoming new people, the class is also a forum for sharing friendship within the shared enjoyment of expressive dance. For those who have experienced illness and become temporarily less agile, the tutor creates opportunities for seated musical exercise & movement to participate alongside the dancing members.

### **UK Online - Thursday morning sessions:**

These are for older people, although, any notion towards it being a "silver surfers" session belies sharp IT skills which would shame many younger users. In reality, many of our older users come to several sessions over the week, but some may feel happier participating in a class of peers who may wish to develop IT skills within a more social and personalised framework. The range of use by our older members varies from the St@rt beginners course to those wanting to use their new tablets, learn how to skype, and create their own websites—all indicating our older UK Online members firmly embrace use of the new technology when given the opportunity.

Out of a total of 154 users over the academic year 2012/13, 65 were aged 60+ and have been regular users. Several of our volunteers are from the 50's plus age range, and we value the skills that their life experience brings.

### **Over 50's Table Tennis**

MONDAYS 2.00pm – 4.00 pm

As requests for more fitness and physical activity for older people is one priority we are pleased to continue the lively Over 50's Table Tennis club on Monday afternoons, started in 2012 through the Olympic Legacy funding from FreeSports.

The group has benefitted from the expertised coaching skills of Aston Stewart (our Play and Sports Worker) who is a qualified table tennis

coach, who ensures the group start with a short fitness routine ahead of playing table tennis. The group now has a dedicated core membership of 8—12 people, who enjoy playing table tennis and the sound of laughter from the hall on Monday afternoons is a tonic! We have recently benefitted from the donation of a very good quality table through contacts with Camden Sports Team, which has enabled more people to play.

**General activities** which older people may well benefit from to promote a healthy lifestyle, (although they are not specifically for older people), are classes such as our popular Tuesday evening Pilates and our Healthy Eating Classes, which have a warm multi-generational atmosphere.

We look forward to dedicating and raising more resources in the future to develop activities which promote health, fitness and well-being in older people. In May, Sidings along with several other community centres submitted a bid for developing a whole new programme aimed at Over 50's in Camden. Although unsuccessful, centres like Sidings will still look forward to being key partners in the "Our Camden" scheme which will be developing a range of new initiatives in the future, the first being in an Over 60's table tennis tournament coming up in early 2014.

### **Special Events with partners:**

Whilst Sidings Community centre does not necessarily run special events for older people currently, we are pleased to host events arranged by our partners and user groups. One such event which is a regular and extremely popular feature is the wonderful Over 60's Christmas Lunch organised by Praise Chapel in late December.



# USER GROUPS & PARTNERS

## Red and Green Choir

A socially and environmentally conscious choir

The Red and Green choir have grown in strength this year, and continue to meet weekly during term-time at the centre on Monday evenings from 7.30pm—9.30pm.

We have had a busy schedule during 2013 which has included:

- performing at the Sidings Heritage Fair in October
- A weekend away in Aberystwyth at the Street Choir's Festival, with 33 other choirs from around the UK, where we busked and performed
- Musical Choir Days—where lots of singers came together to sign against the Trident replacement. Days were organised in Reading, Newbury and Basingstoke
- In June 2013, we sang at the “Voicelab” organised by Southbank at the Choirs Weekend, when we gave performances and ran workshops
- We started working with the wonderful Cecilia Wickham from Black Voices, who is helping us to improve our singing techniques to lift our performing
- Performed at some regular demonstration events such as Save the NHS and Lewisham Hospital, and the Brent Advice for Renters Event

- We also joined with others to sing against the proliferation of arms at the DESi (Defence & Security Equipment International) arms fair in the EXCEL centre.

We have been pleased to continue to meet at Sidings and now look forward to ending the calendar year by singing at their AGM social event in December.



## Recycling and Giving & Exchange Projects:

Sidings is committed to developing both small and large initiatives to encourage the giving and exchange of goods and skills, plus expanding our involvement in green and recycling projects.

Over the last year 2 small initiatives have proved very popular. The simple but effective Book exchange Scheme continues to attract lots of donations from the public, with many users taking advantage of both adult and children's books on offer. Thank you to all those who have donated some wonderful books, especially for children.

Developing our response overall to more green-focussed initiatives which link to volunteering, the centre will be hoping to launch a new Recycle and Reward scheme in the new year.



*Adults and Children's Book Exchange*

## USER GROUPS & PARTNERSHIPS

### Mantock Dance UK

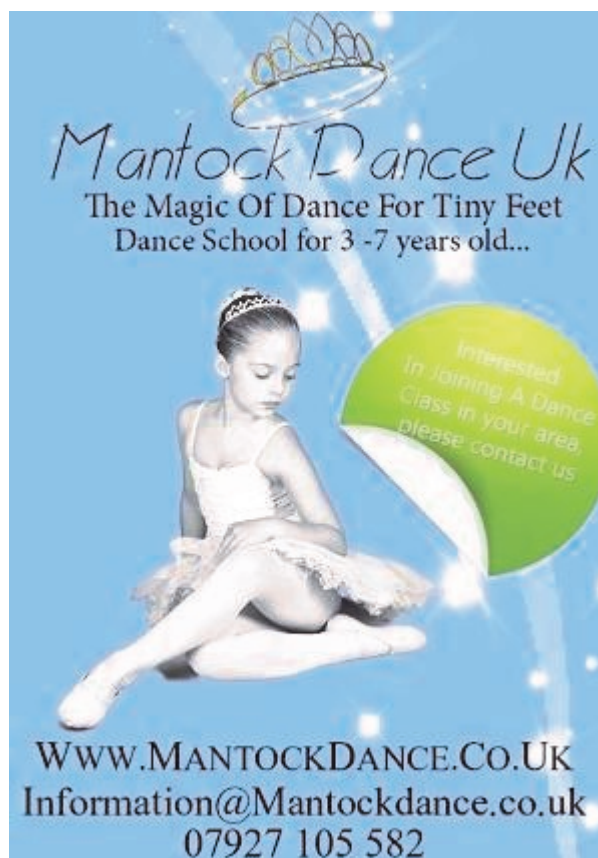
THURSDAYS 4.15pm – 6.00 pm

**“Welcome to the magic dance for tiny feet”.**

In October, the centre was pleased to welcome Mantock Dance UK, offering dance classes to children aged 3—7 years old. Mantock is a modern school of dance with over 10 years' pre-school experience. With dance styles from all over the world, Mantock aims to deliver an all round apperception of rhythm and motion.

Their unique way of working encourages students to become focused, co-ordinated and helps to improve their body posture. Mantock dance classes are underpinned by the belief that if children are taught the magic of dance it will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Their lovely tutor, Noemi Best, provides a warm and welcoming atmosphere for very young dancers to explore the world of dance for the first time and it is wonderful to see them all enjoying themselves dancing in their ballerina costumes.



### Children's Gymnastics Club

FRIDAYS 4.15pm – 6.00 pm

Starting in June 2013, the Friday evening Children's Gymnastics Club has brought a new sense of energy and high physical activity for children who are interested in learning about the basic techniques of gymnastics. The group benefits from using our spacious semi-sprung hall floor and soft-matting to provide a good venue for budding young gymnasts.

The tutor is Jay Dujon is a qualified British Gymnastics coach. Children are taught a variety of elementary gymnastic exercises appropriate for younger children aged 4 - 7 years.





## USER GROUPS & PARTNERSHIPS



**Tel: 020 8905 6249 / 0844 800 4307**  
**Email: [info@praisechapel.org.uk](mailto:info@praisechapel.org.uk)**  
**Website: [www.praisechapel.org.uk](http://www.praisechapel.org.uk)**

Praise Chapel is a church in the local community. Most of our activities operate from Sidings Community Centre. The church offers a place where lives can be restored, refreshed and revived. We are thankful to God for the wonderful opportunity to be of service to the local community as we continue to seek ways by which the needs of people can be met.

As always we are very grateful for the valuable ongoing partnership with Sidings Community Centre and we especially thank Sue Measures and the staff team for their continued support.

### 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

In 2013 we celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Over the last 20 years our aim has been to positively affect the lives of those we have had the opportunity to serve and to demonstrate God's love to a broken world.

Our church has a vibrant, fun-loving and welcoming atmosphere where people from all walks of life are accepted, embraced and valued. Activities and events are regularly arranged to cater for the broad spectrum of ages and interest groups represented within the congregation.



Three words that graphically embody the Praise Chapel ethos are:

***RELATIONSHIP, LEADERSHIP and SERVICE***

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Our Children's Ministry's core values are to train and develop children. We provide an atmosphere of unconditional love.



Our investment into children's lives is also based on the premise that they are God's greatest creation and we want to raise 'Champion Children' who realise their full potential



### YOUTH MINISTRY

Our ministry to teens is a dynamic and eclectic mix of talents, gifts and creative abilities such as dance, poetry, music and design to name a few. In the last 20 years we have seen continuous growth in this ministry.



The highlight of their year is LOUD 'Live Out Ur Destiny', our annual concert where we push all the boundaries of creativity to bring a message of hope to their peers.

# USER GROUPS & PARTNERSHIPS

## YOUTH PLUS

With an ever-expanding youth ministry over the last 20 years, Praise Chapel has also seen a mirrored movement in the number of young people aged 18-25.



With events ranging from social outings to seminars, Youth Plus has become a fantastic arena to discuss careers and relationships, offer counsel and advice, working together with the goal of creating whole young adults.



## KIDZ KLUB

*Impacting Children in the Community!*

As a community church, Praise Chapel is constantly seeking ways and means by which people's needs can be met.



Through Kidz Klub we aim to transform and bring hope to nations, one person at a time with the view of building prosperous individuals, who in turn will positively transform others for tomorrow.

## MY HOUSE FAMILY CONFERENCE



***"To strengthen a nation from its core is to strengthen the family."***

There is a great need for teaching on family and it is in response to this that we have our My House Family Conference each year. It is designed to equip people with tools to strengthen marriages, build families and invest in developing healthy relationships that will stand the test of time.

## TAKING CARE OF SARAH LADIES MEETINGS

Our ministry to women is called 'Taking Care of Sarah' – spirit, soul and body. Over the last 20 years we have held annual breakfast meetings where we fellowship, share from the Bible and hear amazing testimonies of how God has moved in our lives. We have also had live fashion and lifestyle meetings, sharing fashion and shopping tips, decorating and keeping a beautiful home as well as makeovers and simply encouraging ladies to **LIVE LIFE TO THE MAX.**





# USER GROUPS & PARTNERSHIPS

## CHOICE MEN'S MINISTRY

The main purpose of our men's ministry 'Choice Men' is to build, enhance and empower men to be all that God has created them to be. Choice Men not only encourages the men to 'play the man' but to 'be the man' in every aspect of their lives as husbands, fathers, friends and colleagues.



Men serve in many of our outreach projects including the Community Barbecues and our Senior Citizen's outreach.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Each year, we support the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox Appeal. The organisation continues to share God's love to the world's poorest children through the generous gifts donated and the message of hope they bring.



It is such a wonderful opportunity to be able to bring joy to a child who is half way across the world in something as small as a shoe box.

The members of Praise Chapel fill shoe boxes with care items such as toothbrush, toothpaste, soap and also add toys and sweets. Over the last 10 years we have sent 4000 shoe boxes to different parts of the world. This year we made 800 shoe boxes.

## FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Our Family Development Centre offers a confidential Christian Counselling Service available

to all regardless of gender, sexual orientation, ethnic or cultural background, to people of any faith, or none. It is proving to be a valuable resource for those in the church and in the local community.



Our heart is to demystify counselling and therapy and encourage people to negotiate the stigma associated with seeking help for emotional and relational challenges. In the last decade we have seen many lives changed. In addition to one-to-one counselling we also run preventative counselling day courses on different aspects of life, to empower individuals to negotiate life successfully and life coaching skills.

For more information on the counselling service we provide and the courses we run please contact us.

Tel: 020 8238 5897

Email: [info@familydevelopmentcentre.org.uk](mailto:info@familydevelopmentcentre.org.uk)

Web: [www.familydevelopmentcentre.org.uk](http://www.familydevelopmentcentre.org.uk)



## Community Carols Service

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December, 7.00pm**

**You've done your shopping and the gifts are wrapped, so what's left to do?**

**Celebrate with us at our  
Community Carols Service!**



## REGULAR SERVICE TIMES

Sundays: 9.00am & 11.30am

Our Children & Youth Ministries

have sessions for all ages Thursdays: 7.30pm



# USER GROUPS & PARTNERSHIPS

## Cycling at Sidings -



Introduction by Geoff Stillwell: In May 2011 I joined the committee of the Camden Cyclists who are a sub-group of the London Cycling Campaign. Our purpose is to promote cycling in Camden and beyond because we believe cycling to be a cheaper, healthier, more environmentally friendly form of transport.

After I had been on the committee for a year I took on the role of Community Liaison which seemed natural as I worked in a Community Centre. I felt that the north-western corner of the borough was missing out on much of the action so I determined to bring some of Camden Cyclists' activities closer.

Last November 2012, Sidings Community Centre first hosted the monthly meeting of Camden Cyclists. We had presentations from Sue Measures the Community Centre Manager on "Cycling in the community" and a talk from our local councillor, Russell Eagling, a keen local cyclist. Committee members of Camden Cyclists spoke about changes to local roads in West Hampstead, easing cycling permeability, and a presentation about Dutch infrastructure from the coordinator of Brent Cyclists (our near neighbours). Another Camden Cyclists meeting was hosted at Sidings in July when we heard from James Earl, chair of the West Hampstead Development Forum speaking about cycling in West Hampstead and the commitment to improve cycling in the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

During 2013 there have been two cycle training events using the outdoor pitch on Maygrove Peace Park. The first training event was in April over a three week period. Beginners were given training on the sports pitch behind the community centre on two Saturdays followed by a short ride around the parks of Brent led by Camden Cyclist ride leaders. The second training event took place on the day of our Heritage Fair in October., where Camden Cyclists also had a stall. 13 people in all took part, attending morning or afternoon sessions. It certainly whetted the appetite. If you

would like more information about the free cycle training offered by Camden call: 020 7974 5537. The next meeting to be hosted at Sidings will be on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March when we hope to have an exciting evening planned.

Sidings is pleased to be a key north-west Camden hub for developing cycling initiatives for the future.



# USER GROUPS & PARTNERSHIPS

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## Maygrove Peace Park Friends Group



The Friends Group has had a relatively quiet year in 2013, being mainly involved in less visible work in overseeing the well-being of the park and acting as a consultation group to champion the cause of the park and its facilities locally. This has included raising the profile of the park at local meetings concerned with the award of S106 funding, of which there will be a considerable amount through the plethora of new developments due to start in 2014. Members drew up a list of priorities for improvement to the park in the Spring as a clear message that the park must not be overlooked as it is near to the epicentre of the wave of new developments, which will inevitably lead to increased demands on the park.



In the second half of the year, Friends members have been consulted over the plans for the Liddell Road site—including proposals for a new school building, new homes and business units immediately next to the eastern side of the park—by 2016. The Friends Group put forward strong representations for any opportunity to be taken by Camden to extend the park at the far end of the pitch, to create vital extra open space to cope with the significant increase in use by potential

school children and their parents, plus up to 140 new homes.

In the Autumn, we managed to get some bulbs so that the children from Sidings October Playscheme and the Early Years Service could plant up daffodils, crocus and bluebells in the park and early years play area. We await the new burst of colour in the Spring of 2014!



In 2014, the Friends members will look at how to raise the profile of the park to ensure its well-being during the start of the building programmes locally.



## Monday

- 10am - 4pm**  
**Sidings Children's Centre**, offering flexible Extended Day Care for children aged 2-4yrs, am & pm. Pre-school Free places for 3-4yr olds, Crèches & Parent Support Services.  
**(PSLA) Pre-School Learning Alliance** - Stay & play sessions for parents & children. Starting 5th Sept. Free Session.  
**UK Online Centre - Create your First Website**  
**UK Online Centre - Digital Photography & Photoshop for Beginners**  
Complete introduction to digital photography, uploading to computer & basic editing using Photoshop. Starts 16th Sept. **FREE**  
**Over 50's Table Tennis Club**  
Slay it! In a sociable environment by practicing & developing your table tennis skills with a qualified coach.  
**After School Club** for 6-12 year olds. Arts & Crafts, games, sports, cookery workshops & computer access for homework & research.  
**Youth Club** for 11 - 19 yr olds. Find **Sidings Youth Project** on Facebook.  
**Red & Green Choir**. Join our friendly choir to sing songs from around the world from a social & green perspective. *New members welcome!*
- Tuesday**  
**10am - 4pm**  
**Sidings Children's Centre**, offering flexible Extended Day Care for children aged 2-4yrs, am & pm. Pre-school Free places for 3-4yr olds, Crèches & Parent Support Services.  
**Adventure Soft-Room** - Soft play physical activity sessions for parents & carers run on a drop-in basis. Starts 10th Sept. **FREE**  
**Tot Library** - For parents & young children.  
**UK Online Centre - Preparation for ECDL**: Internationally recognised certificate in IT skills (Focusing on Word Processing) - Suitable for beginners. Starts 17th Sept. **Free**  
**Youth Club**: Transitions Group - aimed at 11-13 year olds. IT for homework, badminton, pool, cookery, arts & special projects.  
**UK Online Centre - Computing: Your Choice!**  
Open Learning flexible, open to all  
**Pilates Class - Beginners (pre-book)**  
**Pilates Class - Intermediates (pre-book)**  
**Praise Chapel** - evening meeting & study group
- 4.30pm - 6.30pm**  
**7pm - 9pm**  
**7.15pm - 8.15pm**  
**8.30pm - 9.30pm**  
**7.30pm - 9.30pm**

## Wednesday

- 10am - 4pm**  
**Sidings Children's Centre**, offering flexible Extended Day Care for children aged 2-4yrs, am & pm. Pre-school Free places for 3-4yr olds, Crèches & Parent Support Services.  
**UK Online Centre - Excel Spreadsheets Next Steps**. Suitable for those who are comfortable with Excel & want to move on to more advanced functions & features. **Free**  
**UK Online Centre - Presentations with PowerPoint**. Learn to create & deliver your own presentation using PowerPoint.  
**Football & Fitness**. Football skills & fitness multi sports training sessions with qualified coach & sports leaders for 6-10 yr olds. Open to boys & girls. Term-Time only.  
**Youth Club** for 11-19 yr olds. Find **Sidings Youth Project** on Facebook.
- Thursday**  
**10am - 4pm**  
**Sidings Children's Centre**, offering flexible Extended Day Care for children aged 2-4yrs, am & pm. Pre-school Free places for 3-4yr olds, Crèches & Parent Support Services.  
**(PSLA) Pre-School Learning Alliance** - Stay & play sessions for parents & children. Starting 5th Sept. Free Session.  
**UK Online Centre - Computing: Your Choice!**  
**Open Learning: flexible (over 50s)**  
**Healthy Eating Cookery course**  
Develop your cooking skills by learning to make healthy meals using hot simple & complicated recipes & planning a menu. Start 3rd Oct.  
**ESOL for living in the UK E1/E2** - Improve your confidence in speaking, reading & writing English in everyday situations.  
**UK Online Centre - Computing: Your Choice!**  
**Open Learning: flexible, open to all**  
**Praise Chapel: Midweek Service**
- Friday**  
**10am - 4pm**  
**Sidings Children's Centre**, offering flexible Extended Day Care for children aged 2-4yrs, am & pm. Pre-school Free places for 3-4yr olds, Crèches & Parent Support Services.  
**Music & Dance with Gymboree** - for children aged 1-4 & parent/carer. Contact us for details. Start 1st Oct. Starting 20th Sept.  
**UK Online Centre - Computing: Your Choice!**  
**Open Learning flexible, open to all**  
**Everyday Maths** - for parents & adults wanting to improve their basic maths & numeracy skills. Starting 4th Oct. **Free**  
**Praise Chapel** - band & choir practice. Youth Group, events & meetings.
- 11.30am - 12.30pm**  
**10am - 12pm**  
**10am - 12pm**  
**7pm - 10pm**

## Saturday

- 10am - 10pm**  
**Praise Chapel** - focus groups & events (as per schedule)  
Local councillor's surgeries - last Saturday in the month

## Sunday

- 9am - 2pm**  
**Praise Chapel** - Men's Services  
**Praise Chapel** - Youth Service - last Sunday in the month

Classes started with a 7 year tunnel through Camden's Westminster Kingsway College and fees for these classes are charge accordingly.



## Book Exchange Project

Bring in your unwanted books and take others for free. Donations of good quality Adult and Children's books welcomed.



## Help Support the Centre by Becoming a Member or a Trustee!

Sidings Community Centre needs your help and support to operate to its full potential. By taking out membership you can demonstrate your support for the centre. As a Trustee you can contribute skills, ideas and help shape strategic decision making.

- Membership Fees:**  
•Waged £2 per year •Unwaged £1 per year

## Opportunities for Volunteering and student placements

The centre offers a range of opportunities for volunteers - e.g. help with computer sessions, early years, payshchemes, general office type duties. This will help with future career and training opportunities - but will also enhance delivery of centre services. Support and training also offered. **GET INVOLVED!**



**Over 50's Table Tennis Club**  
Mondays 2pm - 4pm (Term Time)  
Please contact the office on  
020 7625 6260 or call in to the centre.



**Maygrove Pease Park Friends Group**  
If you are interested in joining the group, please contact the office on 020 7625 6260 or call in to the Centre.



# Sidings Community Centre

150 Brassey Road (Off Maygrove Road)  
London NW6 2BA

**Main Office:** 020 7625 6260

**Early Years:** 020 7624 0588

**UK Online:** 020 7372 0242

**General enquiries:** [info@sidings.org.uk](mailto:info@sidings.org.uk)

**Centre manager:** [manager@sidings.org.uk](mailto:manager@sidings.org.uk)

**Early Years:** [early.years@sidings.org.uk](mailto:early.years@sidings.org.uk)

**UK Online:** [ukonline@sidings.org.uk](mailto:ukonline@sidings.org.uk)

**Youth Project:** [youth@sidings.org.uk](mailto:youth@sidings.org.uk)

**Out of School Project:** [osp@sidings.org.uk](mailto:osp@sidings.org.uk)

[www.sidings.org.uk](http://www.sidings.org.uk)

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Sidings Community centre has wheelchair access and a car park

