

Annual Reports from Councillors Appointed to Outside Bodies 2018/19

1 St Johns Art and Recreation Association – Sue Livings

St John's Arts and Recreation Centre in Old Harlow is run by St. John's Arts and Recreation Association, a Registered Charity, founded in 1983. The ARC is essentially self-funding, and only occasionally seeks external funding/grants for special projects.

The centre itself continues to support a diverse programme of opportunities through learning and service provision for the communities it serves. Providing a meeting place for over 20 local groups, the centre offers opportunities for children and adults to take part in activities which contribute to healthy growth, well-being, reduced social isolation, and development. The centre also promotes a range of centre led activities, from fitness and music, to arts and crafts sessions and has a popular "Lunchtime Concert" recitals on Friday lunchtimes which continue to be very successful with three series of concerts totalling 24 recitals in the year. Many of the musicians receive support from the ARC's Tollinton Fund and young musicians are supported with the Tobin Fund.

Fundraising

St John's ARC is committed to supporting volunteering and currently has a team of local volunteers, including Cllr Sue Livings, who work hard to ensure a programme of fundraising activities is in place throughout the year. A fundraising target of £10,000 was set in 2017 to meet an extra £10,000 required for essential maintenance works. The centre are working hard to secure funding and are looking at grant giving opportunities as there are many repairs required, as well as new chairs needed for the many large capacity events that are held at the centre.

Events

This year the ARC Volunteers are organising fundraising events including Quiz Nights, an Afternoon Tea event and craft days. The ARC will also be running a free open day as part of the national event, Heritage Open Days.

Marketing

There has been a slow down in private hire in the past year and the centre have set up some attractively priced packages for children's party and christenings which hope will attract new bookings. The new website is up and running and many enquiries are received via the online enquiry form. There is currently an opportunity to promote to the new housing developments in the area and the centre are currently looking into prices for new leaflets.