



October 2023

Accidents/Incidents reported – 0
Complaints received – 0

This report is written collectively from all staff, with snippets and photos from our busy centre allowing us to share some of our good news stories, successes, achievements, and lessons learnt.



Report from Hyleen

Our Space - This facility is still used every week by varying numbers of people. We will be planning extra activities for the group over the coming months e.g. energy saving advice, something special to celebrate Halloween etc.

Food Parcels - We do distribute some food parcels to people in the area who are financially finding things hard.

We know that in a month or two's time the need is going to be much greater when people must start using heating & more electricity in their homes. This is when money is very tight for some people.

We are looking into possible further funding so that we can help these families.



OPSIF - During September we showed the film Calamity Jane. We had

about 23 people attend. Sweets, ice creams & teas & coffees were provided. Everyone seemed to have a lovely time.



We have completed 3 of the talks by Wellbeing for Life. We have not had large numbers but the people who have attended have found each session to be informative & useful.



After two of the sessions the participants have received a gift, appropriate to the topic that has been discussed e.g. note pad & pen to help with list writing & toiletries for caring for themselves.

OPSIF

Old persons isolation fund.

Visitor Talks

20.09.23 - 12 - 2PM
Caring for your mental health.

27.09.23 - 12 - 2PM
Diet for the older person.

04.10.23 - 12 - 2PM
Caring for feet, nails, body etc.

11.10.23 - 12 - 2PM
Exercise for the older person.

For more details pop in or call: 01913700726.

If you require any further information, please contact me, Hyleen Wood, Centre Coordinator

September has been a busy month with our groups starting back up and introducing new sessions to our already busy timetable. We've welcomed 25 new attendees at Owl & Owlets this month. WoW!

The Macmillan coffee morning proved popular amongst our toddler group. It ran alongside the session on Friday 29th September, and we raised over £130 during the morning. Our families are always very supportive in helping us raise funds and we were also able to donate £65 to Epilepsy action this month. We donated this via a just giving page as Helen, one of our brilliant volunteers, ran the Great North Run in support of the charity.



Fit Mamma, our new exercise session for post-natal Mum's has got off to a great start. We've had brilliant feedback from those attending letting us know how it has helped not only improve their fitness and energy levels but also their confidence and mood. Those attending have also benefited from the social side of coming to a group session forming new friendships and being able to confide in others going through the same experiences. The ladies signed up for a seven week block of sessions and we have a second block ready to start in November for a new group of Mum's.



Happy Hippo's is slowly building in group size, 9 children have tried out the session so far and enjoyed spending time with friends socialising and playing, with a few new friendships made already. During the sessions I've spoken with both children and adults to find out the children's interests as well as views and

opinions so that we can adapt and improve the sessions to make them more appealing.



Pelton Community Centre

WEDNESDAY
(TERM TIME ONLY)
4PM - 5.30PM

New!

A space to socialise and have fun with friends.
Do you have homework to finish? Bring it along with you.
Grab your friends and come along!

HAPPY HIPPOS

No Booking Required
£1 per child

Adult supervision required throughout

Snacks and drinks available
or bring a packed lunch tea

Reception & Key Stage 1
4-7 years old

BALLINGER
COMMUNITY CENTRE

Recent Development:



MUSIC SESSIONS

PURPLE BEAR MUSIC
07470 391 478
PETE HUTCHINSON@HOTMAIL.CO.UK
TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/PURPLEBEARMUSIC

AGES 5 - 11
MUSIC SKILLS
SONG COMPOSITION
INSTRUMENT LESSONS
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED
GROUP PERFORMANCES
SOCIAL INTERACTION
MUSIC THEORY
£5 PER SESSION

PELTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/PURPLEBEARMUSIC



Free Ceramics Course for Durham Residents

Four week course starting on Friday 29th September 9:30am-4pm (one day per week)

The Course will take place at Pelton Community Centre, Front Street, Chester-le-Street, DH2 1DE
To qualify you must -
Live in County Durham
Be aged 19+
Have the right to live and work in the UK
Complete all four weeks of the course

Please contact Pelton Community Centre to book your place

Dates:
Friday 29th Sep, Friday 6th October, Friday 13th October – Miss a week, then Friday 27th October.



HALLOWEEN DISCO
TUESDAY 31ST OCTOBER
2-4PM
TICKETS £2 EACH - EVERYBODY NEEDS ONE.
FANCY DRESS COMPETITION
SOFT DRINKS & SNACKS AVAILABLE
RAFFLE
ADULT SUPERVISION REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES.
FOR MORE INFO: 01913700726
Pelton Community Centre

- Purple Bear Music are now based in our centre on a Saturday morning, offering relaxed music lessons for children aged 5-11yrs old. Learning new skills together as a group in a fun manner. We have already seen a good few attend and hopefully numbers increase soon.

- Home Group are now here on a weekly basis offering a drop in advice service, for those needing advice and support around Housing, benefits and more. People are able to pop in any Thursday between 10-12midday and someone will hopefully try and help. The Kettle may also be on.

- MBC Cermaics have started a new 4 week Ceramics course in Room 3 this Autumn, with 7 learners attend all day on a Friday to learn skills, techniques and meet other fellow crafters. We were pleased with such a great turn out.

- Reminder: We are hosting the fantastic **Beyond Caring Play** in October this year.

Friday 27th October

Doors open 5.30pm

Show starts 6pm

Tickets start at £6.50

Tickets are now on sale, either from reception or online using the link below. Beyond Caring, a powerful new play by Christina Castling that takes a frank, humorous and heartbreaking look at life behind the doors of a care home, will be touring the North East of England this Autumn. Based on interviews with residents, relatives and staff, the play, co-produced by Gala Durham and Queen's Hall Arts Centre, uncovers the reality of caring for others, looking after ourselves and getting older.

- We have a SOLD OUT Halloween event for all our families to enjoy, with 120 tickets sold, we know it will be a fab afternoon. Our Family Discos with Candy Kids are always great fun, and we are hoping to book our Christmas disco in soon.... exciting times.
- Room hire continues to be a good stream of income for the centre, with Kajima showing the following value of bookings in the coming



home group

Homestay drop in: FREE support

Pelton Community Centre, Pelton, DH2 1DE. Every Thursday from 10am until 12pm.

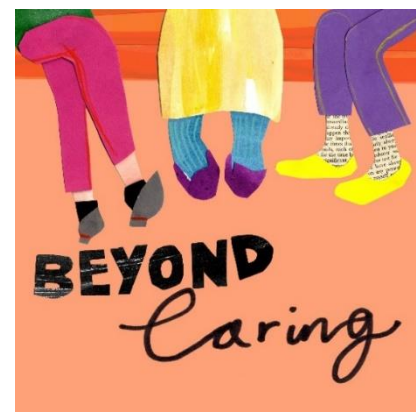
Looking for support with housing, benefits or any other issues? Drop by and speak to our support workers for help.

If you can't make it along in person, then please feel free to contact us on:

Phone: 0191 731 1470
Text: 07341 457 573
Email: contacthomestay@homegroup.org.uk
Facebook: County Durham Homestay Service

www.homegroup.org.uk

Home Group Limited (charitable registered society No. 2298(R))



BEYOND Caring

months. However, we are struggling to get new courses and bigger groups in, due to the lack of good gaps in our availability. With Park View now downstairs, it is looking unlikely that we can accommodate long courses over the week, as these often need 4-5 days of 9-2pm at the least. We are working with our providers, and looking into spreading the course out over a number of weeks, looking into evening opportunities etc. We will try our best. Our business plan does suggest we increase our provision for adults so this is something we are looking into. Maybe an extension? 😊

Value of bookings

£74,893

Since 01 Jan 2023

£6,237

in August

£7,593

in September

£7,615

in October

(ex. VAT)

Funding Applications:

- After receiving some funding from The John Horseman Trust, we were able to purchase the following items to create an emergency box for



Pelton Community Centre and Grange Villa Community centre after we were both discussing needing such a box for scenarios such as a storm, power cut etc. The box contains a Power bank, wind up torches, Emergency sleeping bags, emergency blankets, whistles, water container, wind up radio, hi vis jackets and batteries. The box is located in our reception, Grange Villa are doing the same, and is there for anyone to use if needed. Over time more items may be added, and of course we have other items around the building such as flasks, heaters, etc if needed.



- Work has started on our Roof with Apex Roofing and Durham County Council, you may have noticed the scaffolding, and the big tower in our Play Park. This work won't cause any disruption to our existing groups, other than the odd noise, however because of the access tower, our parks will remain

closed for the duration of the works. The work should take no longer than a few weeks but we will keep you posted, and look forward to a dry winter in our Main Hall 😊 This work is all thanks to Section 106 funding from DCC and we are very grateful.

- Funding opportunities have come in thick and fast this month, with funds dedicated to helping people through the winter months, during the cost-of-living crisis, the rise in fuel costs and social isolation over the winter months. We have applied for a few projects to take place over the winter and to help our community get through this as best we can. Our plans include having a cook based in our centre 2 days a week providing free hot meals to our community, groups and youth project. We have also asked for funding to help purchase more food for our food parcels, some funding for winter food hampers, and some hygiene packs to be distributed through Room 14. We have also asked for help towards our energy bills, as these are becoming increasingly high over the last couple of months, and we expect those increases to continue. For example, one of our electric bills this year was nearly £3000 for the month, bearing in mind we have two electric bills a month (one for the Centre and one for Room 14). The more help we can get through funding, the more we can do to help our community through these challenging times.



As always we are continuing to offer food parcels to those in need...you just need to ask.

Our Community centre also allows you to recycle damaged, broken or unwanted electrical items that fit in a carrier, these can be put in the DCC box under reception. You can also recycle your old batteries and now your soft plastics.

Regards Clare Robinson and Team

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING



MONDAY 11th DECEMBER
6.30pm - 8.30pm

ALL MATERIALS PROVIDED

£30 PER PERSON (TO BE PAID
WHEN BOOKING)

SMALL SELECTION OF ALCOHOL & SOFT DRINKS

AVAILABLE

MUST BE OVER 18 YEARS OF AGE

BOOK PLACE BY CALLING INTO RECEPTION OR CALLING
01913700720

OPSIF

Make a small seaside scene.

Friday 20th October 10am - 12pm.



Places are limited, pop into
reception to register.

For more info call: 01913700726



OPSIF

(Older persons social isolation fund)

Cinema day!

Monday 13th November

1PM

FREE
ADMISSION!

Snacks
available



OPSIF

OLDER PERSONS Isolation Fund

Quilling Workshop

Tuesday 28th November

1.15pm - 3.15pm

Book your place at
Reception

Limited spaces
available.

For more
info: 01913700726

