



The Monday Night Club

organised by The Friends of Acton Mill Care Farm

Annual Report

1 November 2013 - 31 October 2014

Chair's Report

Structure, Governance and Management

The AGM was held on 27th January 2014 and the following members were re-elected:

Chair	Laura Gill
Secretary	Rosemary Hooper
Treasurer	Helen Gill

Members Margaret Clarke, Richard Skerm

Elected to the committee during 2013: Tom Clarke, Emily Sheward, Owen Prince, Joe Clarke, Jane Brooks, Bethany Truman

Resigned during 2013: Julie Bolton

The committee met on three other occasions in this financial year.

Objectives and Activities

We continue to meet every Monday night at Barbourne Ex-services Club. Our Monday Night activities have included:

- Birthday parties
- Themed Parties
- Talent Shows
- Karaoke Nights
- Barbeques
- Sports Nights
- Guest DJs
- Skittles matches
- A football tournament
- Dancing competitions
- A voting workshop

Using accumulated funds we organised a day trip to Cadbury's World for 59 people. We took 63 members to the pantomime at The Swan Theatre in December and 22 members to see Illyria-on Sea in Stourbridge in June. These were partly funded by income.

We received a donation of £3,697 to take 37 people on a two-day trip to London. We planned an event at the Shaw Theatre in London to show the film we had made last year to an invited audience. Some members of the club performed on the stage. The audience included The Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport, Rt Hon, Maria Miller MP, and Richard Bacon MP. On the second day of the trip we went to the Science Museum.

With the help of Mencap we held a voting workshop in September and were joined by Robin Walker MP for this event.

We have started a football team with the help of Worcestershire FA and hope to join the Three Counties Ability Counts League.

Income and Expenditure

Most of our funds are generated by the £1 entrance fee. We have also raised £406.10 by holding raffles and £105 selling our DVD. We received two grants from Worcester County Councillors' Divisional Fund Scheme – one of £1000 and one of £750. We also had a donation from The Worcester Lions of £150 to contribute towards our Christmas Party and family donations towards the cost of birthday parties. Two donations totalling £4,197 paid all the expenses of the London trip and theatre hire.

The largest amount of expenditure was the two-day trip to London to show our film and this was completely covered by the donations we received. We also spent money organising parties and paying for buffets, and DJs. We contributed £1151.25 towards theatre and day trips. We spent £852.67 on disco equipment.

Outcomes

We have had an increase in numbers attending on Monday nights from approximately 70 at the beginning of the period to about 120 at the end. We continue to publicise the club and new members come from various sources, including word of mouth and press coverage.

Our members' confidence has grown significantly. The trip to London to premiere our film gave them a wonderful sense of achievement and resulted in their talents and abilities being recognised by a wider audience outside Worcestershire. The friendships that have formed through this project are very strong and the trip brought the group together. This is particularly important to learning disabled people who find it difficult to make, and keep, friends. Their parents, carers and families also benefited by mutual support and shared experiences.

Personal success stories include one member who is now a full-time music student at a Birmingham Academy, another has written several short stories and written and directed a film of his own. Several members have now gained paid employment, apprenticeships, or rewarding voluntary work. Two members have become volunteers for the Club.