

**Kentish Town Community Centre**  
*Connecting and Inspiring Kentish Town*

# Annual Report 2009 – 2010



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## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

A lot of effort was focused on capital fundraising this year. We secured the rest of the funding for the building project, appointed a project manager and a design team, and agreed important design changes. This project to enlarge KTCC's building is very important for the organisation's future. It will enable us to meet demand from the community and to raise income, making us less dependent on grant funding.

Changes in management of the youth project provided a challenge this year, as did an increased number of young people with complex needs. KTCC is committed to the challenge of meeting those needs and supporting those young people in fun and engaging ways. Staff did a great job, managing to run interesting and supportive activities throughout the year.

There were fewer bookings for parties and meetings in 2009-10 than in previous years, which affected KTCC's revenues. This was partly because we made a decision to restrict party bookings to one per week, to avoid fatiguing our neighbours. But the economic downturn doubtless played a role. There was an increase in the number of people who came to KTCC seeking employment and debt advice.

But while there may have been less partying, KTCC offered more structured activities of its own than ever before. Volunteer opportunities also continued to expand, particularly in the dementia project (12 volunteers), the gardening project (6 volunteers) and alternative therapies (reflexology, reiki and yoga). The role played by office volunteers in the day-to-day running of the organisation was also strengthened in 2009-10.

Towards the end of the year we created a second full-time post (Assistant Manager)—a milestone in KTCC's development which has added greatly to the resilience of the organisation.

**Cathy Crawford**  
**Chair of Trustees**

## **WHO WE ARE**

***The mission of Kentish Town Community Centre is to provide a hub for the whole community to create and take part in a range of positive activities.***

KTCC is a company limited by guarantee (company registration number: 5020050) and is a registered charity (charity number: 1104278).

### **The people**

#### **Trustees**

Kentish Town Community Centre is an independent charity managed by a board of trustees. During the year from April 2009 to March 2010 the following people served as trustees:

Dr Catherine Crawford (Chair)  
Aurea Fenty  
Micheline Lobjois Sullivan  
James Tang  
Jasper Williams  
Wendy Munro  
Ruairi McAleese  
Dr Deirdre Krymer  
Bankole Ojo  
Matthew Peltier  
Louise Smith  
Jo Crease (resigned November 2009)  
Stephen Kapos

#### **Co-opted Committee Members**

Julie Harrup (from user group)  
John Hill (premises committee)

#### **Staff**

**Centre Manager:** Justina Forristal

**Youth Project Team:** Amelia Aiken resigned as our Youth Project Coordinator to start training as secondary school teacher. Amina Marshall was appointed as the Interim Youth Project Coordinator from July 2009 until April 2010. In June 2009 Louis Akinlode was recruited to lead on work with the young men who attend the project. He resigned in November 2009 after securing a full time position in another part of London. The KTCC Youth Project continued to draw upon a talented pool of casual youth staff to support Amelia and Amina.

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**Office support:** In 2009-10 a new full-time role of Assistant Manager was created following the merging of the part-time Projects Assistant and Administrative Assistant roles. Sarah Graham resigned as the Projects Assistant in December 2009 to pursue full-time postgraduate studies in ceramics. Sam McAuliffe resigned as the Administrative Assistant in April 2009 to join the police force. The position of Administrative Assistant was filled by Rebecca Ehrlich from May 2009 until March 2010, when the full time position of Assistant Manager was created. Catherine Pymar was recruited in March 2010 as a full-time Assistant Manager.

**Little Stars under 5s Drop-In Workers:** Sandy Ritchie continued as the Drop-In Coordinator and Nuru Keba continued as our Drop-in Assistant. During the year, Nuru achieved her NVQ 3 in childcare studies.

**Creating Links Project:** Sara Newman was confirmed in post after Cathy Byrne decided not return from her maternity leave in February 2010.

**Caretakers:** Grant Richmond and Elona Portakalos continued as our caretakers, Doreen Meah and Eddie Watson resigned, and Lee McGee joined the team in November 2009.

**Volunteers:**

- Paul Grindle left his volunteer administration assistant position in June 2009.
- Sharon Logan continued volunteering with the Little Stars Drop-In team and also helped out with some of the creches throughout the year.
- Galfrid Congreve continued to coordinate the Memories Group for people with early stage Dementia and was joined by Rebecca Ehrlich, Ellie Hayden, Adina Nemes, Fatima Bibi, Micheline Lobjois, Jennie Robertson, Katie Combs and Adriana Amorim , who all helped to facilitate groups.
- Anna Gillespie, Marina Benini and Joanne Duff continued their work with the dance and movement group for people with Parkinson's disease.
- Carmel Gallaher joined KTCC as a volunteer massage therapist, Mira Boto joined KTCC as a volunteer reflexology therapist and Jessica Puglie joined KTCC as a volunteer yoga teacher.
- Gardening project volunteers got underway creating raised beds for growing vegetables and herbs in Montpelier Gardens: Simonne Smallman, Gabriel Silveira, George Pugh. Florence Chatelain, David McDougall, Robert MacGibbon, Ben Simpson
- In the office, Elona Portakalos joined KTCC to gain skills through voluntary work. Supported by KTCC, Elona has now started an NVQ 2 in Business & Administration. Lisa Steel also started volunteering to gain administration skills.
- Alan Wheatley continued the 'IT Nursery' offering one-to-one support for people with low-level skills and confidence in using a computer.
- John Hill continued to advise with any building problems and Stephen Kapos has supported us every step of the way on our ambitious plans to develop and expand the building.

## **REVIEW OF THE YEAR** **April 2009 to March 2010**

### **Attendance**

Attendance at structured activities at the community centre increased by 21% in 2009-10, from 246 per week in 2008-9 to 297 per week in 2009/10. This included a large increase in the number of men now accessing services at KTCC. (46% of attendees of structured activities were from Black and Ethnic Minority communities; approximately 8% felt they have a disability and 30% were male).

Interestingly, the total number of people through the doors at KTCC remained around the same in 2009-10 as in 2008-9 (15,910 in 2009-10 compared with 15,847 in 2008-9). This is because, whilst attendance at structured activities is up by 21% on 2008-9, bookings and therefore attendance at parties and meetings decreased in 2009-10.

### **Activities**

#### **Creating Links Project**

The 'Creating Links' project (funded by the Big Lottery) was established in April 2008 with a focus on ensuring that those most marginalised in Kentish Town are enabled to help develop and attend activities at the Centre. In its second year the project achieved greater user involvement with a member of the User Group co-opted to the board of Trustees and a large increase in the number of volunteers at the Community Centre with four volunteers offering alternative therapies and classes; 12 volunteers helping with the Memories Group; a volunteer-led computer class; two volunteers working in the front office and six working on the gardening project. The Memories Group for people with early-stage dementia flourished, with volunteers leading groups both in the community and in the Wellesley Road Nursing Home. KTCC secured access to a section of Montpelier Gardens, a local park, to grow vegetables. Additionally the project supported two intergenerational projects: the Leighton Project for young people with disabilities came to the Centre each month to share the fabulous cakes they had cooked with the Chatty Craft group, who in turn shared their knitting skills. Children from the Torriano Junior School came to KTCC to make a large bird puppet with the Chatty Craft group which was proudly paraded at the 'Come and Grow' day in the summer.

#### **Under 5s activities**

The Little Stars Drop-In continued to be extremely busy with many new families using the service for the first time. New garden toys gave outdoor play an increased focus and a trip to the zoo gave was enjoyed by all in the summer of 2009.

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Other services for children aged 0-5 at KTCC in 2009-10 included our weekly Toy Library, crèches for ESOL classes and exercise classes and Play and Learn sessions for 2-3 year olds.

**Children's activities 5 – 13s**

The Caversham Girls Group continued to flourish at KTCC, offering fun activities and outings for girls aged 8 -13, and the Transitions play project continued to make good use of the computers at the Centre on a weekly basis.

Two new hip-hop dance classes were introduced for 5 – 8 year olds and 8 – 13 year olds. The children showed off their new moves to their proud parents at the Spring Fair in April 2009 and at a special Christmas showcase.

**Youth activities 13 – 19s**

The youth project continued to offer 10 hours provision per week to 13 – 19 year olds. In 2009-10 an average of 11 young people attended each session and the project worked directly with at least 157 young people. Activities included:

- a car maintenance project, teaching young people about the workings of the engine, brakes, gears, etc. and the opportunity to re-spray and customise a car kindly donated to the Community Centre;
- an evening exclusively for girls, which was set up in response to a decrease in numbers of females attending the project;
- a digital music project, funded via the Big Lottery's 'Make It Sound' fund, which involves helping young people explore their musical creativity, and giving contact with music industry professionals . In the lifetime of the project, at least three young people will be offered training in youth work, opening them up to valuable employment opportunities;
- weekly football skills training on the Peckwater Estate;

Activities were also offered in all school holidays with a mixture of trips in and out of London, structured workshops and less structured 'open sessions' with opportunities to play pool and table tennis, play computer games, engage in art activities etc. All holiday activities were run in partnership with the Somali Youth Development Resource Centre providing an opportunity to break down barriers between different ethnic groups of young people in the area.

**Adult Activities**

In 2009-10, KTCC offered a number of opportunities for local people to learn a new skill, keep fit and healthy, meet new people and get advice on employment or managing debt. Most activities were offered free of charge, but where a charge was levied, efforts were always made to ensure that the activity was affordable to those on a low income.

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- Local food writer Richard Ehrlich ran a series of 'Cooking on Budget' classes for people living in local temporary accommodation;
- The Parkinson's Dance and Movement Group provided weekly dance sessions from the Kentish Town Health Centre;
- KTCC hosted Irish Dancing classes for adults;
- The Stretch and Tone class for women with crèche received new funding from Comic Relief and renamed itself Women's Workout to reflect its more vigorous style of exercise;
- Gardening workshops were held in Montpelier Gardens in the Food Growing project;
- Older people with dementia were offered reminiscence therapy in groups, both in the community and at Wellesley Road Nursing home;
- Volunteers offered yoga, reflexology and massage sessions at very affordable rates;
- The Chatty Crafts, Pilates class, ESOL classes with crèche, Massage and Relaxation for the over 50s, and Belly Dancing classes continued to flourish.

### **Advice and Guidance**

- The Citizens Advice Money Advice sessions dealt with over £2million of debt and raised benefit income by £20,000 a month.
- KTCC partnered with Next Steps to provide a weekly employment advice session at KTCC. The service is also based in the local job centre, and this has introduced a number of new people to the community centre.
- The Safer Neighbourhoods Community Safety Police team held weekly drop-in advice sessions offering residents the opportunity to discuss community issues informally with the police.
- The three local ward councillors continue to hold advice surgeries each month at the Community Centre

### **Intergenerational Activities**

The Community Centre staff and volunteers always welcome opportunities to offer activities that bring older and younger people together to learn and have fun. This year the following activities were designed specifically for this purpose:

- Funding was secured from Santander to develop a new website for KTCC. This involved filming, photography workshops for both young people and adults, as well as within a local secondary school.
- The Leighton Project, a life skills project for young people with various disabilities visited the Chatty Craft group monthly to share their cooking and knitting skills.
- The Gardening Group in Montpelier Gardens has encouraged gardeners of all ages to grow vegetables in the public park, from elderly residents to toddlers from Montpelier Nursery.
- An intergenerational project to create a large bird puppet took place between pupils from Torriano Junior School and the knitters from Chatty Crafts. The bird puppet was proudly paraded at the Spring Fair in April 2009.

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**Community Events**

As in previous years, KTCC continued to offer opportunities for the community to come together to celebrate their achievements and to meet other people who live in their community.

- In April 2009, KTCC hosted a Spring Fair with stalls, a showcase of local talent and children's entertainment;
- In August 2009, KTCC held a 'Growing food without a Garden' event which saw people from different generations and age groups learning to plant vegetables and fruits in recycled containers to the sounds of the Camden Light Orchestra;
- Older members of KTCC danced and celebrated International Older People's Day on 1<sup>st</sup> October;
- KTCC partnered with the Camden Abu Dis organisation to host a celebration of International Women's Day in March 2010. Attractions at this event included home cooked food, various craft workshops and information on a recent exchange programme with Palestine that Camden Abu Dis had undertaken;
- A Festive Fair was held on 5<sup>th</sup> December with craft stalls, a magic show and a visit from Father Christmas; and
- The Little Stars Drop In has hosted intercultural celebrations such as Chinese New Year and Eid/Christmas.

**Expansion and Improvements Project**

In 2009-10 KTCC made significant progress with its ambitious project to extend and improve its building. The staff and trustees hope that the improved space will not only enable the Centre to provide better and increased activities for the community, but also that it will enable the Community Centre to be more financially sustainable in the future.

The remaining funding for the Expansion and Improvement plan was secured from the Garfield Weston Foundation, the City Bridge Trust, the Tudor Trust, the John Lyons Charity, and Mercers Charitable Foundation. £24,000 of the £895,455 has been underwritten by the John Lyon's Charity and the Tudor Trust with the expectation that KTCC will secure this funding from elsewhere before building works begin.

With a keen eye on future income generation and financial sustainability, the Building Committee agreed some design changes to the original plans that will result in a larger IT room, increased storage, and the moving of the youth space to the ground floor. The design team have been working on final drawings in preparation for going out to tender in the next financial year.

## **Future Plans**

In the coming year, the key priorities will be for construction to begin on the Expansion and Improvements Project and to keep as many services as possible going whilst this is going on. The Community Centre will actually have to close for at least six months with activities relocated to various locations in and around Kentish Town. This will be extremely challenging but it is the priority of the Trustees and management that we maintain contact with our members and consistency within our staff team. This will mean that when our doors open again in Busby Place, we will be in the best position to flourish.

Additionally, KTCC will undertake further research into the needs and how to better engage with isolated older people in Kentish Town; continue to offer opportunities for people without a garden the chance to grow their own food; launch the new website and host a street party to mark the closing of the Community Centre for building works.

**OUR FINANCES**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**(including Income & Expenditure Account)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2010**

	Unrestricted Funds 2010 £	Restricted Funds 2010 £	Total Funds 2010 £	Total Funds 2009 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>				
<b>Voluntary income</b>				
Donations	1,165	-	1,165	2,083
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>				
Lettings & Other Income	16,227	-	16,227	22,862
<b>Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities</b>				
Grants	8,000	349,545	357,545	245,212
Other incoming Resources	19,054	-	19,054	18,071
Investment Income - Bank Interest	262	-	262	2,709
<b>Total Incoming resources</b>	<b>44,708</b>	<b>349,545</b>	<b>394,253</b>	<b>290,937</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>				
<b>Cost of generating funds</b>				
Fundraising trading:				
cost of goods sold and other costs	-	-	-	306
Charitable activities	8,396	238,056	246,452	214,066
Governance costs	-	63,159	63,159	41,755
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>8,396</b>	<b>301,215</b>	<b>309,611</b>	<b>256,127</b>
<b>Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfers</b>	<b>36,312</b>	<b>48,330</b>	<b>84,642</b>	<b>34,810</b>
Gross transfers between funds	(37,593)	37,593	-	-
Net movement in funds	(1,281)	85,923	84,642	10,401
<b>Reconciliation of Funds</b>				
Total Funds brought forward	40,632	56,148	96,780	61,970
Total Funds carried forward	<b>39,351</b>	<b>142,071</b>	<b>181,422</b>	<b>72,371</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All incoming resources expended derive from continuing activities.

## Sources of Funding

Abbey Trust  
Comic Relief  
Fitzrovia Youth In Action  
Garfield Weston  
Jack Petchy  
John Lyons' Charity  
LB Camden  
Mercers Charitable Foundation  
Metropolitan Police  
My Tunez  
Posgate Project Trust  
Reaching Communities – Big Lottery  
Volunteer Centre Camden

## Summary of Financial Information

### Income

- Total income from all sources £394,253
  - Total income from grants £357,545
  - Total income from lettings £16,227
  - Total income from other activities £20,481

### Expenditure

- Total expenditure was £309,611. This included £246,452 expenditure that was directly related to charitable activities.

### Reserves

- KTCC's financial position was relatively healthy at the end of the 2009-10 financial year.
- As at 31 March 2010, the unrestricted reserves totalled £39,351. The Directors have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. The Directors believe that the level of unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets (the free reserve) held by the charity should be around £40,000, enabling the provision of core activities for some six months in the event of a significant drop in funding.