

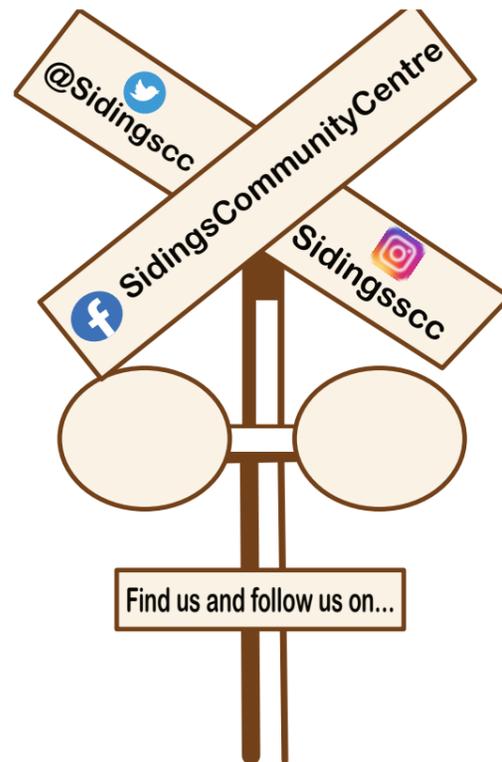
ANNUAL REPORT 2021



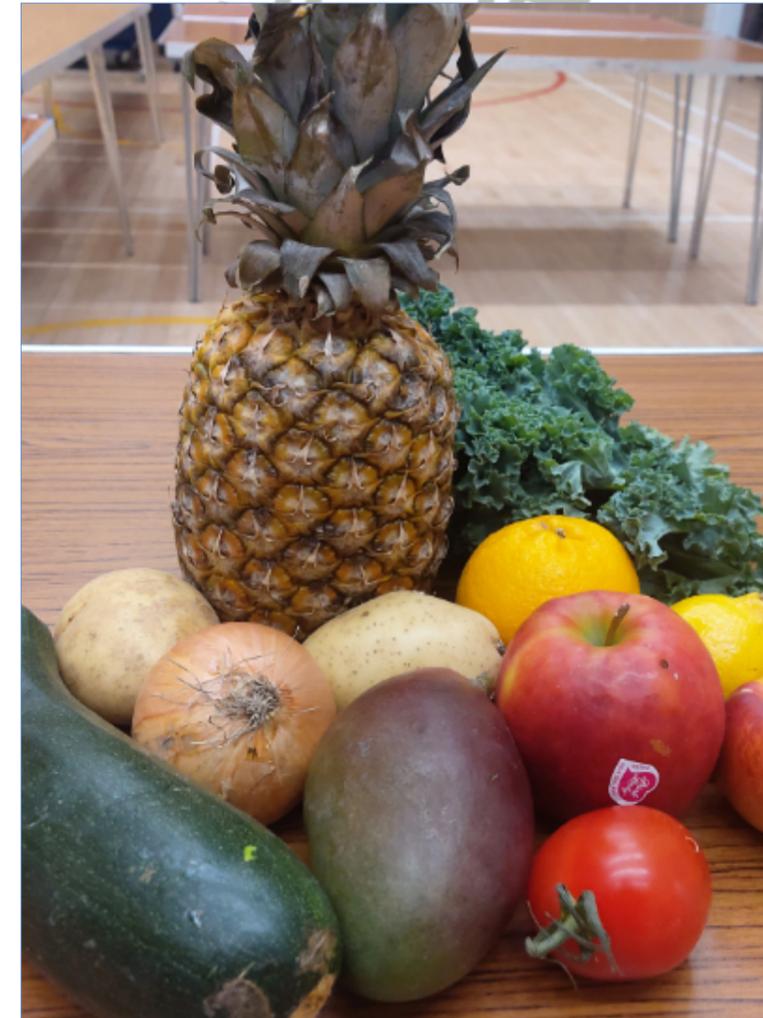
**Sidings
Community
Centre**

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"Our daughter really loves coming to youth club. She has made friends with other kids and I really feel it's good that she has other friends outside of school"

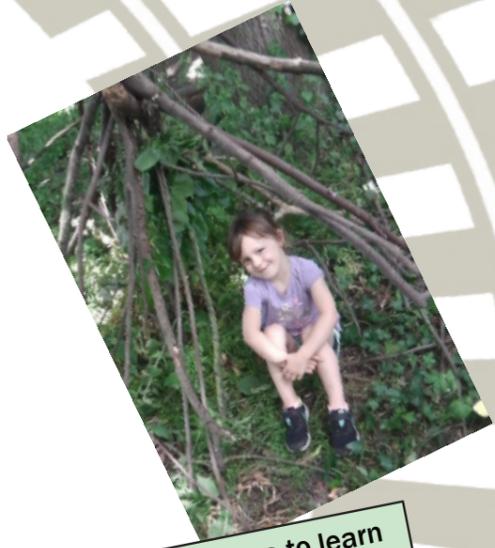


"Many thanks for your kindness, help and support in these troubled times."



"Many thanks for your overwhelming kindness in these difficult times."





"It is important for me to learn the names of IT equipment, so I can recognise these."



"I enjoyed the session. I want to do more."



"I feel a lot better about taking photos with my phone. I have achieved my goal for today. I can do it on my own."



"Very nice. I enjoy it. It opens my mind."



"I really enjoy coming to youth club because I get to spend time with my friends, go on trips and try out new fun activities"



"This session was just what I wanted. I'm feeling optimistic."



"I learned so many things I didn't know."



"I'm feeling more confident. I will start organising my filing system."



"Our daughter really loves coming to youth club. She has made friends with other kids and I really feel it's good that she has other friends outside of school"



"We're really grateful that we have a place that we can send our son to, knowing that we will enjoy himself and be safe"



Management, Staff & Volunteers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair

Lorna Russell

OTHER MEMBERS

Lynda Stuart & Marc Da Silva

STAFF TEAM

Centre Manager

Youth Coordinator & Development Worker

Play & Sports Coordinator & Youth Worker

Youth Workers (paid and volunteers)

Sessional Sports Team (regular & relief/volunteer)

Holiday Play Scheme Staff

Sue Measures

Jo McMillan

Aston Stewart

Shakira Alexander

Ayomikum Oluwasanya

Djamila Boubatra, Goldie Luzulo,

Ayomikum Oluwasanya, Anthony Norris

Caretaker

Admin worker

Joe Stenson

Giovanna Sanchez

EARLY YEARS TEAM

Early Years Coordinator

Early Years Staff

Cynthia Painter

Sadiqa Khan, Faiqa Malik,

Alexandra Neophytou, Jamila Rafky

Alex Dowden, Luisa Edwards,

Melanie Landu, Angela Flavia Margine,

Ujjwal Manandhar

TUTORS & USER GROUP/PROJECT LEADERS

Digital Skills Tutor

ESOL English Tutor (WMC)

Chantraine Dance Tutor

Yoga Tutor

Geoff Stilwell, Abdulghani Leily

Juliana Drakouli & Asli Mohamud

Sam Stepaniuk

Moira Smith

WEST HAMPSTEAD COMMUNITY FOOD HUB

WHCFH Co-ordinator

Pranay Hariharan (August 2021)



Sue Measures



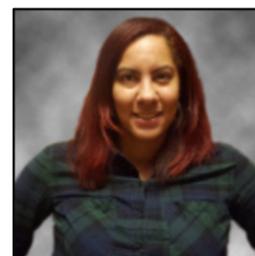
Cynthia Painter



Joe Stenson



Aston Stewart



Jo McMillan



Shakira Alexander



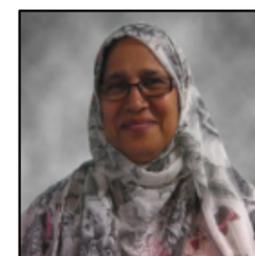
Giovanna Sanchez



Pranay Hariharan



Alexandra Neophytou



Sadiqa Khan



Faiqa Malik



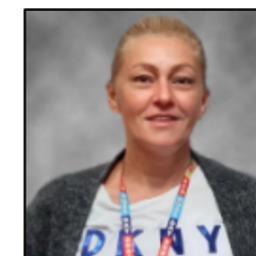
Alex Dowden



Melanie Landu



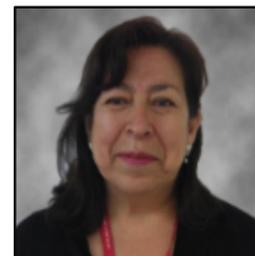
Ujjwal Manandhar



Angela Flavia Margine



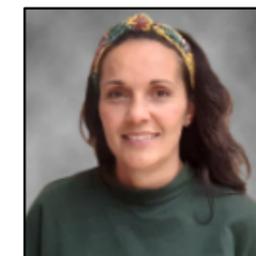
Jamila Rafky



Luisa Edwards



Ayomikum Oluwasanya



Djamila Boubatra



Anthony Norris



Anthony Salter



Sinead Dalton



Goldie Luzulo

Chair's Report

Sidings Community Centre is an incredibly special community hub, which plays a vital role in supporting the West Hampstead and wider community.

I've been proud to be a Trustee on the board since 2018, and even prouder to have taken over as Chair in March this year. Over this period, the centre has gone from strength to strength and remained resilient in the face of difficult circumstances.

Adapting throughout the pandemic

As Trustees, we are pleased that the centre has not only continued to provide services to the community throughout the pandemic, adapting to meet constantly changing Covid-19 restrictions, but also worked with local and borough partners to enable us to respond to the changing set of priorities and needs as we navigated the effects of the pandemic.

We are particularly proud of the work that the centre has done to support the needs of the community by hosting the West Hampstead Community Food Hub from August 2020, and today we continue to provide around 120 families in the area with weekly food parcels. We also note that Sidings has hosted Camden's vaccine buses in our car park three times, as we play our part in assisting with the vaccine roll-out.

Our children and young people's services continued in one form or another throughout the year too. In 2021, our holiday play service became one of Camden's new HAF-funded partners, and we worked with the Young Camden Foundation to ensure local children were provided with free food and holiday play activities during the summer school holidays.

Our Early Years nursery team have worked tirelessly since re-opening our nursery in June 2020, adapting early years learning delivery to ensure Covid-19 precautions were in place whilst also making play and learning still fun and as normal as possible for the young children attending.

Jo, our Youth Coordinator, worked with other team members to engage our youth members online, and organised various activity packs to enjoy and be creative.

We resumed our on-site programme for adults in the summer months as well, including our Digital Skills and Adult Learning classes, and the return of important physical and well-being activities such as our popular table tennis, wonderful Chantraine Dance, and our Yoga for You classes.

What is also significant is that activities have seen an increase in on-site attendance, reflecting a greater awareness and appreciation of sharing physical exercise together. We have also been pleased to add the new community badminton group on Tuesday evenings.

The centre's role as a community hub venue has also been reinforced, and it is great to see even more local partners seeking to use the premises during the autumn, such as the Kiln Theatre, and more recently for consultation forums on the redevelopment of the nearby Phase 2 Liddell Road site.

Our role as home to the West Hampstead Community Food Hub

The groundswell of goodwill within the community to offer to support the Food Hub has been amazing.

As Trustees, we would personally like to thank the fantastic team of staff and volunteers who have provided essential help in sorting, packing, collecting, and delivering the food parcels since the Food Hub began – both in its early creation at St Cuthbert's Church, and since relocating to Sidings in August 2020.

On behalf of the centre, we would also like to thank the many community, local faith group, and business donors who have helped fund or provide food, household goods, and seasonal gifts for families in need of support.

It was great to see their collective efforts recognised through a community award they received from Parliament too, which was presented to the Food Hub in April 2021 by our local MP Tulip Siddiq.

Looking ahead to the future

As the local area around us changes, so too must the centre adapt to ensure that we have the right services and skills in place to meet the evolving needs of our community.

This is particularly important given the upcoming redevelopment of the former Liddell Road site just next door, which will bring an increased local population and more focus on the park and centre.

Towards the end of two very challenging years, we are therefore pleased to resume working with our CEO, Sue Measures, and our architect, Ronan Bond, to finalise an updated feasibility study to implement £23,000 worth of S106 funded building improvements and changes during 2022/23.

When completed, the centre will be upgraded, have more flexible options for an increased range of activities, and be more future-proofed against rising costs, all with a reduced carbon footprint.

As Trustees, we will be working with staff and partners in the new year to review our operational model to ensure some of the changes emerging from the pandemic are met too.

Whilst the need to have a strong online presence and increased use of digitisation is important, we must also balance this against our role as a

community hub, providing a base for people to meet and come together and provide on-site activity. A move to blending on-site and virtual is also likely to be a consideration.

Our wonderful team

As we reflect on what has been a successful year for the centre in what have been difficult circumstances, we want to give a special thanks to our excellent staff and volunteering team - without them our success would not have been possible.

First, all of our Trustee would like to pay thank you to our wonderful CEO, Sue Measures, for her dedication to the centre over the last three decades, and her work in leading the core centre staff team who have worked with amazing dedication over the last 12 months.

I would like to thank my fellow Trustees – Lynda and Marc – for their unwavering commitment to the centre, and thank Eddie and Alina, who left earlier in the Spring, for their time spent as Trustees.

We would also like to thank the three Food Hub workers – Sinead, Anthony, and Pranay – for steering the Food Hub through a rapidly changing set of demands over the year. Sadly we have lost several long-serving members of staff over the last 12 months, including: Sandra Maloney, Katielee Sullivan, and Sadiqa Khan from our early years team; Michael Aidoo our former caretaker; Geoff Stilwell (our Digital Skills tutor – although now happily returned as a self-employed tutor!); and at the end of November, our creative and multi-skilled Admin Officer, Gio Sanchez who is moving to a position in the Corporate Sector. We wish them all well for the future and say an enormous "thanks" to all.

But we are pleased that we have also welcomed some new members of staff over this period too – Alex Dowden and Jamila Rafky to our Early Years team, and our lovely new caretaker Joe Stenson.

As Trustees, we want to support staff and volunteers to feel valued and recognised, and also ensure the centre is fit for purpose and a welcoming place to be for everyone. We are excited to be recruiting for new Trustees to join our Board, to help steer the centre to create an updated Business Plan to take the centre forward during the next two very important years. We especially welcome those who have professional skills, and also genuine commitment to supporting the centre, to join our Board. The difference the centre has made to people, young and old, is reflected in the various reports, photos, and quotes in our "gallery", and we happily invite you all to read the rest of the report to see our many achievements during 2021.

Lorna Russell

Chair of Trustees



Ham & High article photograph - Receiving award



West Hampstead Community Food Hub Volunteers

Finance Report

Finance Report 2021

It is important to understand that the first part of this report focuses on a historical review and analysis of the Centre's Audited Accounts from April 2020 – March 21. The second part of the report provides a brief assessment of the financial performance from April – December 2021.

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2020/21:

The Statement of Financial Activities shows income for the year of **£442,576** (£398,966 in 19/20) and

total expenditure of **£369,979** (£409,080 in 19/20). Taking into account all accrued balances, the total reserves at the end of the March 2021 were **£129,475** (£56,878 for 19/20). Our end-of-year financial position therefore was significantly improved.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE:

Despite the many challenges thrown up by the COVID pandemic, the overall impact on the centre's

finances were to restore a much more positive financial position at the end of March 21. The temporary cessation of on-site services and "time-out" from our previously our normal programme, presented the centre with a financial breathing space, which impacted on our financial position by:

- non-replacement of staff posts which were vacant due to restricted activity
- taking advantage of the Furlough Scheme
- additional COVID related funding to which offered financial support to mitigate against losses
- one-off "emergency response" funding for projects such as the new Food Hub
- Rent and Rates Waivers

Examples of such funding were:

- £40,286 in Business Support Grants
- £10,000 CIL Grant approved by Fortune Green Councillors towards COVID related costs
- £7,160 in Furlough Grants
- £10,500 from Edwards Harvist Trust to help establish new West Hampstead Community Food Hub
- £10,000 from London Community Response funders towards running of Food Hub
- £8,625 from London Borough of Camden towards Food Hub staffing and food costs

- £3,000 from Hampstead Wells & Campden Trust for distribution of vouchers and food costs
- £5,000 from Young Camden Foundation towards running school holiday play scheme for primary school aged children in July and August – with provision of Free lunches
- £4,292 from Young Camden Foundation towards Digital and Art Therapy projects for young people accessing our youth services
- £9,990 from BBC Children-in-Need towards school holiday activities for young people

The centre was also fortunate in retaining continued grant funding which covered staffing costs and enabled the (temporary) transfer of some services to online during lockdowns. Continued grants included:

- £90,000 London Borough of Camden – Strategic Partners Funding
- £29,979 London Borough of Camden – Universal Youth Services
- £7,480 London Borough of Camden – for Digital Skills

At the end of the financial year this gave Trustees and Staff were in a much better position to consider forward options for developing a more sustainable operational model. This will be the major challenge during the coming year of 21/22, whilst the centre continues to deal with the impact of the pandemic and undergoes a "recovery, reset and rebuild" process.

Financial Achievements & Performance: April – December 21:

The start of the new financial year in April came after a second period of lockdown, and it was clear that the impact and journey through the pandemic towards an end-game was by means going to be straight forward or immediate.

More of our pre-COVID activities gradually resumed and several user groups returned for on-site activity Sadly. the loss of our large regular weekend church group to a local Hotel with large events space, is a symptom that many VCA organisations are experiencing in one form or another, in that the path to the "new norm" is financially much less certain, and income from fees and activities remain at a significantly lower level. In recognition of the need for continued support, Camden had invited centres like Sidings to apply for Resilience Impact funding worth £15,000, who have progressed our application to Stage 2.

This is to help VCS organisations to reset and recover whilst emerging from the impact of the pandemic.

We also developed some new initiatives which built on themes emerging out of the pandemic. This included the centre's school holiday play services becoming one of Camden's government funded HAF (Holiday Activity Fund) partners, working in partnership with the Young Camden Foundation (YCF). We were awarded HAF funding of **£6,944** plus additional Special Needs support staffing of **£1,149**, for a very busy and popular 3 week summer scheme, when families – particularly for those whose children were on free school meals – enjoyed free 2 course lunches and a lively programme of arts and sports activities, including trips to local parks and Hampstead Heath. We also received an additional **£3,000** from YCF Summer Opportunities Fund to provide extra additional places and activities for families not included in the HAF scheme. We continued to gain funding for the Food Hub through grants from Hampstead Wells & Campden Trust (**£10,000**) and a further CIL Grant approved by West Hampstead Councillors (£10,000).

However, sometimes it is important to recognise it isn't just about the money. Throughout the pandemic, it has been heartening to recognise that the Food Hub is supported by local people, faith groups, and businesses in the community who continue to collect and give donations of food for the Food Hub. As a result of various campaigns, we now have a donor base that gives an average of **£1,400** each month to help purchase food, and also respond to one-off appeals such as our recent Christmas campaign. The inspiring weekly input of our volunteers who help run the Food hub is as important an asset as any funding. Since the onset of the pandemic, we have made much greater use of our fundraising platform, Just Giving, which in 20/21 raised **£17,920** in donations to the food hub and other projects, and so far from April – Dec 21 has brought in a further **£20,303** mostly for the Food Hub but also for some specific Youth Projects.

However, it is also important to recognise that core funding is crucial to survival, and we were fortunate in retaining annual funding from Camden the Strategic Partner Funding **£90,000** and Youth Services (**29,979**) and Camden ACL of **£8,613** for our Digital Skills Learning programme which we have now transferred to a new operating model. Through the centre's partnership in C4 (Camden Community Centre Consortium) we are also involved in discussions regarding a new rental & lease agreement which could further reduce rental levels against social value of our services. As the rent has been a major aggravant to our finances since it was introduced in 2017, this is a key factor in maintaining reserves.

FUTURE PLANS:

Following a short survey with Trustees and Staff, and user feedback priorities highlighted were:

- Undertake a Strategic Review to construct a new operational model which reflects the post
- COVID environment and addresses medium and long term risk
- Work with architect to finalise our post-COVID feasibility study to implement **£235,000 of S106 funding** to upgrade the premises throughout and make maximum use of space
- Creating a more vibrant online and social media presence, increasing potential for engagement with the community and other key partners
- Continue to support and develop new initiatives such as the Food Hub and others such as a community garden responding to increased interest in, and awareness of, the environment
- Increase our levels of fund-raising and revenue raising activity

Thanks must be given to the following for their assistance during the last 12 months:

- Trustees for their consideration of complex financial matters at meetings
- The centre staff in working so hard to deliver a high quality service, and being so willing to respond to the challenges posed by the COVID pandemic
- Particular thanks to the Centre Manager for offering considerable financial support to Trustees in providing finance reports, budget reviews and fundraising
- To Camden Council for its continued commitment to supporting its voluntary sector
- Thanks must be extended for the professional service of our Auditor & Accountants –Goldwins Ltd. The auditor made a favourable comment related to the improved financial position in March 2021.

"Well done on such a good year in such problematic circumstances (fantastic result!)."

Below is an example of how grants and donations for the Food Hub have had a positive impact on the lives of local people during the challenges of the pandemic

"Can't thank you enough for all the help we got when we needed it most. The food was wonderful!"

Accounts

The Sidings Community Centre
(Company Limited By Guarantee)
Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	10		2,809		3,304
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	11	26,195		21,800	
Cash at bank and in hand		146,589		65,107	
		<u>172,784</u>		<u>86,907</u>	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>(46,118)</u>		<u>(33,333)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			126,666		53,574
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>129,475</u>		<u>56,878</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>129,475</u>		<u>56,878</u>
FUNDS					
Restricted funds	14	69,708		50,037	
Unrestricted funds	14	59,767		6,841	
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>129,475</u>		<u>56,878</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements were approved by the members of the committee on the 25-01-2022 and are signed on their behalf by:



Lorna Russell
Trustee
Company Registration Number: 2139909

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Lorna Russell
Trustee
Company Registration Number: 2139909

Centre Managers Report



Tulip Siddiq @TulipSiddiq · Apr 19
 Congratulations to the West Hampstead Community Food Hub @w_hub on your commendation by the UK Parliament Awards for the amazing support you have given to our community this past year.
 It was a privilege to visit @Sidingscc on Friday to present your well-deserved certificate.

“Climbing out of COVID – moving from response to reset and refresh”

A journey through the year:

The year began with the second major lockdown due to the COVID pandemic. Despite restrictions, the centre was able to continue 2 major on-site services considered as “essential response” provision to support the community through the pandemic – namely our early year’s nursery and the West Hampstead Community Food Hub which the centre has hosted since August 2020. So despite the dark and cold winter months there was still children’s laughter and a spirit of camaraderie and goodwill in the wonderful team of staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure the Food Hub provided vital support to those struggling to access food during the height of the pandemic. Through the Food Hub, we became a key local partner within Camden’s Food Network (part of the Borough’s COVID Response Strategy), including being a source of emergency referrals and other wrap-around services to support those unable to access food for a variety of reasons during this time. In recognition of the wonderful work and fundraising by all those involved with the Hub, we were nominated by our local MP, Tulip Siddiq, for a Parliamentary award for “Community Campaign of the year 2021” Presented to by Tulip in April 21 (Photo Shown Above).

Off-site, our youth team were also actively engaged online with our youth members – with cookery videos, quizzes, fun exercise routines (yes, remember the Tik-Tok dance!), WhatsApp group chats and Art Therapy Activity packs to provide a sense of fun despite the difficulties posed by the pandemic. We also partnered with the innovative “Maths on Toast” to hand out fun maths learning packs to families who use our holiday play service. Sadly, as our Digital Skills Tutor, Geoff Stilwell, had retired in December 2020, our Digital Skills centre was inactive during the winter months. Fortunately, however, during Autumn 2020 many users were helped with getting onto Zoom or attended our Google Apps course to take more advantage of online services using smartphones and mobile digital devices during the second lockdown. Our Sports Coordinator Aston also supported the local West Hampstead Primary School in provided sports coaching assistance for primary aged children at lunchtimes. My thanks must go to all staff and volunteers who worked with endless dedication and determination against a very challenging set of circumstances.

As Spring moved into Summer and lockdown restrictions gradually lifted, the centre re-opened more on-site services, including our Adult Ed and Digital Skills classes and the wonderful Chantraine Dance for Older people. It was a joy to see some of our users return and for many it was the first time they saw each other physically again for more than a year. It emphasised that – despite the undeniable benefits of digital and virtual meeting platforms —

the value of physically getting together is crucial and can never be replaced.

As well as the Food Hub bringing greater awareness of the centre as a wider community hub, the pandemic had also brought more focus onto Maygrove Peace Park as a local sports facility.

As Spring moved into summer, 2 examples of this are:

- The local Basketball fraternity had discovered Maygrove Peace Park as a basketball venue which resulted not only in a great partnership to kick-start a Sunday youth basketball project but also a first-time 3x3G Community Basketball Tournament on the outdoor court in July 21 – Sidings Summer Jam. (photo shown right) Our thanks to Martin Dyan for his great energy, support and endless enthusiasm for Basketball which he has passed on to many of our youth members which as a consequence attracted future funding to take forward.
- Our value as a response partner venue also resulted in the centre car park being used to host Camden’s mobile vaccination units on 3 occasions during May-July, with a full take up of vaccines on each occasion. (photo shown on right)

Summer School Holidays:

Sidings was more than pleased to be able to work in partnership with Young Camden Foundation to be one of their summer HAF (Holiday Activity Fund) partners, providing a 3-week scheme of creative and physical activities plus a 2-course lunch for all children attending the scheme (43 children aged 5 – 11 years). This enabled the centre to respond to the nationwide campaign, championed by Marcus Rashford, to ensure no child went hungry during the school holidays, particularly aimed at those children on Free School Meals, some of whom also benefited from our Food Hub. Feedback from both parents and children attending the scheme was extremely positive (see Play Service section). We look forward to continuing our involvement in the HAF programme and as YCF partners in future.

As we entered Autumn, changes in building use and the need to continue to maintain social distancing and COVID safety precautions meant that we have offered a fairly full but somewhat scaled back programme compared to pre-COVID times. Happily, more of our former user groups and some new ones were keen to resume or start up activities. Significantly, some of our main physical activity-based groups, including Adult Table Tennis, Chantraine Dance and Yoga for You, which respond mostly to



Sidings Summer Jam 2021



Camden Vaccine Bus



Sidings Summer School Holiday Scheme



Chantraine Dance



Adult Table Tennis Club

people aged 50+, have had increased attendance since re-opening on-site classes. This is possibly a side effect from the months of less physical inactivity and lack of socialising opportunities during the pandemic, placing a higher value on well-being activity.

We have also added Community Badminton sessions on Tuesday evenings, which benefit from the sports and coaching skills of Aston Stewart, the centre's Lead for Sport.

As we approach the end of this second unusual year, many are asking about our AGM and reflect the desire to "be back to normal". Whilst much of what the centre offers, including even the Food Hub, seems to reflect a "normal" pattern – back to pre-COVID normal is not going to happen. Life moves forward and at the end of the year, new initiatives have already started. Sidings is now one of the host bases for the Kilburn Job Hub, and is keen to work with other advice partners to add wrap around support to those who are struggling with the financial impact of the pandemic. The nearby Kiln Theatre have used our premises occasionally for activities, and the long-awaited Phase 2 of the Liddell Site is now about to start, which will dramatically change the local landscape and neighbourhood around the Peace Park. When finished in 2 years' time, this will result in a village type campus with 106 new residences, a new office/business building, and a public square providing more fluid access and inter-action between the school, new residents, park and centre. It will significantly change the dynamics of the west central part of West Hampstead and bring some new opportunities which the centre should plan ahead to take advantage of.

Time to Evaluate, Reset and Refresh:

As we reach the end of the year – it is time to reflect, re-evaluate and refresh. Trustees and staff have already started this process, ahead of implementing a centre-wide visioning process and fresh Business Plan to take the centre forward as longer term impacts from the pandemic become clearer.

Good News:

1. The centre has £235,000 of S106 funding to improve centre facilities to increase our venue offer to the community. Implementation was delayed due to the pandemic but this has advantages as our Architect can produce a refreshed feasibility study which is more reflective and adaptable to the post COVID environment and priorities. One new

initiative is to create a new community garden in the disused part of the car park, adjacent to the Peace Park. This would create a base for green activity as well as a more protected and secluded space for individuals and groups to meet outside away from the public park areas.

2. Our financial reserves are somewhat healthier to enable the centre to take time to plan and make choices
3. The Food Hub has made the wider community around West Hampstead and beyond more aware of the centre and brought in support and interest from more sectors in the community, which we continue to build on and expand.

Sadly, we have also lost some skilled staff during the course of the last 12 months – mainly due to non-COVID related life reasons such as retirement, non-return from maternity leave and others for reasons such as career progression or move to jobs in the corporate sector offering better pay and conditions. This is a reminder that re-evaluation after the pandemic works both ways and some people have opted to move to the voluntary sector – meaning that VCS organisations such as Sidings must make effective use of resources whilst also being mindful of offering favourable terms and conditions to all staff. Fundraising and funding in general must remain a top priority moving forwards. Marketing and promotion will play a key role in this as well as a strong Business Plan to underpin our vision and key values, which should reflect:

- Supporting community resilience and building community wealth (in the belief that people are our best assets)
- Promoting inclusion and diversity
- Creating clear responses to promote the well-being of our environment and well-being of those who live and work in our community

Equally, a recognition that the drive to more online and digital services, particularly with regard to data management and reporting can have many benefits but needs dedicated time and resourcing. Partnership working is also key and the centre has also benefited from some key partnerships over the past year to support, continue or develop our services during this challenging time. These are listed at the back of this report.

Impact and difference: the centre is always mindful of what difference our services have made to people. Examples of our impact are reflected throughout the various service areas and project reports, which evidence the positive impact the centre has made. Some of the

quotes are included in our "gallery" at the front of this report.

At the end of such a tumultuous 2 years – as Centre Manager- I would like place on record my profuse thanks to:

- ♥ all the wonderful staff team who have shown dedication in such difficult times and been so supportive to both myself and each other
- ♥ The core group of Trustees who have remained committed to the centre despite the loss of some members in the Spring
- ♥ The wonderful group of volunteers and donors who have helped with the Food Hub who frankly have been a source of inspiration throughout the pandemic to the whole community
- ♥ Our lovely users who have expressed kind wishes, and the children and young people who bring fresh ideas, creativity, laughter and boundless energy – they are after all the future!

My very best wishes to everyone at the end of yet again a very challenging year.

Sue Measures,
Centre Manager.



Adult Badminton Club



Plan of Car Park and Garden

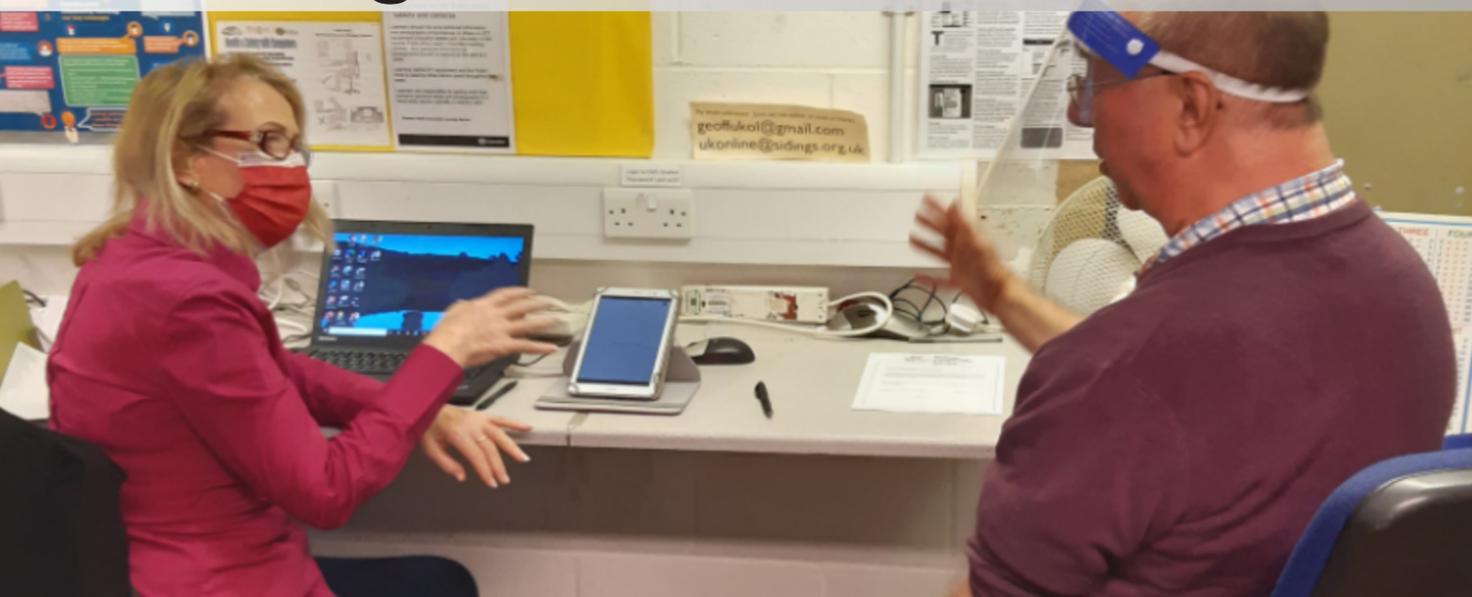


West Hampstead Food Hub



Early Years Sand Play

Computer & Digital Skills Learning Centre



As reported earlier, our long-serving Computer & Digital Skills Tutor, Geoff Stilwell, retired at the end of 2020 after 18 years in post. As the new year brought a second lockdown, our computer learning centre was suspended during this time awaiting recruitment of new staff. As many of our registered learners are at a beginner or relatively low level of digital skills, most seemed to want to wait until there were learning opportunities on site rather than online courses.

As restrictions allowed the return of on-site sessions in the summer term, we improved our Wi-Fi connection in the hall, and provided group courses in our spacious hall to comply with a COVID safe environment, and individual or one-to-two sessions for targeted support in our smaller computer room. Happily, Geoff returned in a self-employed capacity to kick-start the Digital Support Sessions in the summer term, joined by Abdulghani Leily, who between them offered

a combined programme of individual and group sessions covering a range of digital skills – including help with Zoom and use of mobile devices for communication purposes, the basics of Word, Excel and PowerPoint, plus help with using their own laptops and various other software programmes. Both Geoff and Abdulghani returned in the Autumn 21 term – offering very popular courses in Google Apps as well as Smartphones and Mobile Devices to respond to the much greater emphasis now put on digital communications and use of Apps to access online services. We also introduced Saturday morning sessions to help those needing to up-skill to enhance employability prospects.

Significantly the number of learners from Autumn 20-July 21 totalled 51, much lower than previous years, but for the autumn term alone from September – Dec 21 we have registered 45 students with several new learners who would certainly fall into the

Computer Learning Centre

Learner Voices from the Google Apps Course on how the courses made a difference:

“The Google Apps class has been a wonderful learning experience for me. I have learnt a lot on how to send email, translate in different languages, maps as well as have a meeting with Friends and Family on the web. Many thanks for the opportunity”

“I feel much more confident and this has boosted up my well-being. Translation is a very important tool which I learned and it will be useful for my life time. Thank you very much”

“I can understand Google Apps better and can apply them to my daily activities where it matters most. I am now able to create folders to store my important documents and also share them with people close to me”.

category of Digitally Excluded. The profile of users during 2021 also revealed the following when compared to Camden wide usage as below:

Total of 51 students	Sidings	ACL Service Wide
Learners within lowest 30% IMD 2019	39.2%	42.9%
Female learners	72.5%	77.3%
BAME & Minority White	64.7%	66.7%
Learners with LLDD	25.5%	23.5%
Learners aged 60+	64.7%	34.0%

One particular profile which Sidings is significantly higher than Camden is the percentage of older people who may have

been Digitally Excluded skills-wise in one form or another. As an indicator this may also correlate to the fact that the local IMD stats (2019) for older people also fall within the top 10% of deprivation levels, and we will continue to respond

particularly to this age group in future. However, we should also note that several of our users included students from other courses at the centre, with 21% recording that employment was their progression outcome, and 18% wanting more digital skills for volunteering opportunities.

The Mid-term Learner Survey in the Autumn Term also demonstrated the following levels of satisfaction:



“I understand more now what “in the cloud” means for storage. I have learned more on my Smartphone as it’s a new model. Thank you Abdulghani.”





Working Mens College

The Camden College



ESOL Entry 2 June 2021

WM College continued its successful Employability Skills with English and English for Speakers of Other Language (ESOL) courses at Sidings in January. Despite both courses finishing days before lockdown at the end of March, every student who completed the English with Employability courses were able to submit their portfolios with the help of their tutor, Juliana Drakouli. We are pleased to announce that 100% of learners achieved their qualifications and have now been awarded their certificates from Open College Network London (OCNLR) respectively. Congratulations to all those students for working hard and keeping their focus during such a difficult time. Special mention to Juliana who worked tirelessly to enable her students to complete their studies and sit their exams before lockdown. 100% of students, who completed the courses agreed that their confidence had improved. Comments include: "I have more confidence to speak out in group". "I feel my opinions are more important [and] I have more confidence to try new things [and] I have made new friends". "The course helps me academically because [the tutor] always helps and motivates me to do better well-structured work".

The employability courses not only enable students to gain a variety of work and vocational skills but the confidence to thrive in the work place, either in the voluntary sector or through paid employment. At time of writing:

- 7 students have entered part or full time work
- 4 students have entered Higher Education and Voluntary work
- 15 students have entered Further Education

The Covid-19 lockdown caused classes to move online. Credit is due to everyone who managed to adapt to the digital classroom during this time. Students from both classes were originally destined to progress onto accredited courses. However, due to the difficulty in delivering exam-based courses online, these were made non-accredited. In one class, 5 from a total of 8 learners were able to access the course digitally. By the end of the course 3 learners remained and achieved their course. In the second class, all 8 learners were able to access the course digitally and remained until the end of the course. Attendance for both classes was a remarkable 100%. An emphasis on acquiring digital skills is embedded in all WM College courses, as well as continuing advice to government departments of the importance of digital and internet access.

From September, Sidings Community Centre kindly hosted an ESOL class from neighbouring Kingsgate Primary School. Classes returned to face to face with some 'blended learning' where students work part of the time in class and part of the time online. Students are working hard to achieve their qualifications and we wish them every success. Attendance has dropped this

term, due to the uncertainty of the times but we are sure as time progresses we will return to 'normal' soon.

Extra-curricular Events

Students studying with WMC were given the opportunity to visit Working Men's College campus in Crowndale Road. Accompanied by the tutor, students were shown the facilities including the beautiful 19th century library steeped in history, free careers advice and guidance support, the Open Learning Centre and the Ruskin Café providing locally sourced and cooked on the premises selection of food and drink.

During this time, the class also organised and delivered an informative presentation and celebration around Equality and Diversity repeated again this year in all courses with Entry level students creating a live presentation in class with traditional uniforms/dresses from their countries, posters, homemade food etc. (photos of recent presentation).

The Level 1 Employability class worked particularly well to develop their study skills and achieve their qualification. The learners studied the importance of project planning, researching, organising and delivering results by meeting deadline. They studied note taking methods, mind mapping techniques, essay writing, critical evaluation, referencing and reflection. The learners reached a point, where they understood that the applicability of these skills is not limited to writing, but it forms part of the logical thinking, which is the underlying foundation of every project. By studying online, they also achieved to comprehend the difference of digital learning and the importance of up-skilling. It was great to see that students, who had never used Microsoft Teams before, managed to give presentations using digital resources (PPT and Videos) and learnt to share their screen with their audience and even achieved to organise and deliver group presentations as part of their assessment and portfolio evidence.



Egyptian Presentation



Sidings Early Years Services

2-4 years old



From January 2021 the childcare services continued to remain open and in September welcomed a new cohort of children, parents and carers. A few families were still hesitant in returning due to the COVID-19 pandemic though with encouragement, support and advice started to return.

We continue to work in partnership with Camden and the Government in receiving the latest Covid-19 information to guide our Risk assessments and Contingency plans and informing them of attendance.

The government continues to offer 15 hrs of free childcare universally to all children aged 3-4 yrs old and an extra free 15 hrs of childcare to all those families in F/T employment—Camden offer an extra 15 hrs free childcare for 3-4 yr olds, to those families living in Camden, who meet the eligibility criteria of 'free school meals'. This has a positive impact on the cohort of families that may want to attend, creating a more diverse and mixed group of employed F/T, P/T and non-working families. The change is integral to the Centre's approach on an independently sustainable mixed-economy business plan going forward.

We are very pleased to be able to continue to offer the Centre's childcare services :9am—4pm day, especially supporting those families who are working/ studying.

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, parents and carers. Our registered childcare provision operates within OFSTED requirements., and our last inspection (Jan 2018) was rated Good with some outstanding features.

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 improve outcomes for young children and their families, reducing inequalities, and continuing to develop a range of childcare, drop-in and parent support services which are affordable and accessible to everyone.

Our services aim to fully meet the Government's 'Early Years Foundation Stage' (EYFS) incorporating the EYFS Safeguarding and Welfare Framework' and "Development Matters' (providing all the development stages from Birth to Five yrs). These guiding principles sub-divides learning into 3 'prime' and 4 'specific' areas of development. We have been working hard from the start of the year in embedding the new Ofsted Framework that started from September 2021.

We have a comprehensive **Parent Handbook** for all parents to help understand the delivery of our services and

encourage all parents to be closely involved in their child's learning and development. The EY staff continue to develop their knowledge and skills through training.

Services:

Early Years Centre Services - Extended Day Care for all 2-4 yr olds.

We offer the flexible opportunity to take a minimum P/T and F/T places (*minimum of 3 sessions per week*) from 9am-1pm and 1pm-4pm (*places permitting*). Flexibility particularly supports families working or studying,

School-holiday provision: In addition to our term-time services, we offer Childcare during the school breaks for 3 weeks in the Summer, each Half Term and Easter (*depending on demand*). The hours from 10am - 4pm, run in conjunction with the centre's 5-11's holiday schemes, in order to support working families with children in more than one age group, depending on demand.

We also continue to offer advice and information to parents throughout the year.

Parent as Partners

All children are encouraged to develop their potential at their own pace, and as the child's 'first educators', parents are encouraged to be involved in their child's development, participate in some parent-led activities, attend parent forums and join Centre Board of Trustees. Each Early Years setting operates a Key Worker system, who support the child's settling, making positive relationships and to plan the curriculum activity to meet the needs of each individual child. Parents are encouraged to contribute their knowledge of their child/ren, to inform their personal 'characteristic of learning' and the 'seven areas of development' adding to our staff's own observations, under guidance from the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. This is still quite challenging with the new September cohort of families, whilst continuing to ensure a COVID-19 safe environment, though again we were able to find new ways and adapt.

Camden as Partners

We retain an effective relationship with Camden's Integrated Early Years Services, whose specialist staff continue to support our service to be part of new projects. One particularly successful example during 2019 was 'Forest School' training, which part of the Sidings team attended. This has now been able to be put into action at last as we have been able to use the designated area on the Maygrove Peace Park, creating exciting learning opportunities in a unique environment. The EYS Team continues to access Camden's Free Safeguarding Training, which positively impacts on the quality of learning for staff, parent/ carer and children. Camden's





IEYS Advisory Teachers have continued to support us in improving our service. This year, though actual visits were put on hold, the Camden Early Years team have continued to support us at the end of an email or by phone and are regularly keeping us up to date with all the latest Government Covid-19 Guidance and information, which has been so helpful.

Transitioning to School: We continue to develop links and support for children transitioning onto school at the end of the summer term. This year we were still able to communicate (albeit remotely) with schools and parents, in providing support for children transitioning onto school; working with parents on assessments, providing a 'school readiness information pack', creating a virtual tour leaflet of new schools and passing on relevant children's information to the schools. It was sad to see so many transition on without our usual leaving picnic, although, in one way or another, we managed to say our goodbyes.

Support & Fund-raising:

Parents kindly continue to donate new toys, batteries and old newspapers that have really helped. Parents can also access other services onsite for support such as, the Food Hub, Camden Job Hub, ESOL and Digital Skills Classes. Young children may also benefit from occasional partner offers such as free books.

Drop-ins at Sidings:

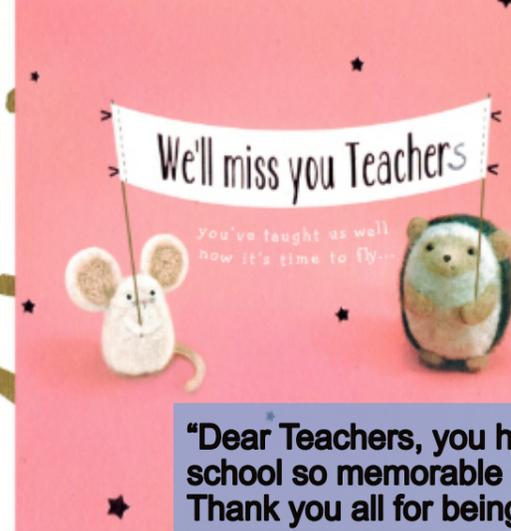
During 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic it has not been possible to run our popular adventure soft-room drop ins for children aged 1-4 years old. The centre will be working to see how best to restore our soft-room service from 2022 onwards.

Special Needs Support: The Centre continues to fund-raise and offer support to children with additional/special needs, when needed. We communicate with relevant professional agencies regarding specific needs of the children, as within our SEN Code of Practice.

Training: All EY staff are qualified and trained in delivering services within the EYFS Framework through a minimum of 21 hrs training per year, including Safeguarding and Child Protection, First Aid and recording children's progress. We continue to employ a QTS in the role of the Curriculum Support Worker to ensure high quality within our curricula offer.

All Early Years staff have a relevant early years qualification. For more detailed Early Years information, policies and procedures, please enquire at the early Years office/see the Centre website.

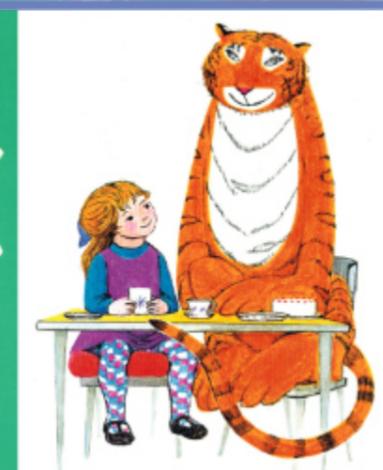
I would like to say a very sad goodbye to Sandra Maloney, Katielee Sullivan, Sadiqa Khan we will miss them very much and want to thank them for all their dedicated support and



"Dear Teachers, you have made our child's first year of school so memorable by creating a nurturing environment. Thank you all for being so passionate and caring."



"Thank you so much for all your hard work with my child. She adores going to school. Thank you especially in this pandemic! We will miss you!"



professionalism over the years and wish them well for the future.

We would also like to welcome Alexandra Dowden and Jamila Rafky to the team.

Lastly I would like to say my appreciation to the EY staff team for continuing to work at a time when the whole world was quite unsure how to cope during the pandemic and continuing to give a high level of service to our users.

Working with and observing the young children reminds me, at a time of such uncertainty, that there is a way of adapting and continuing to; explore, question, learn, have fun, have respect, get frustrated... as these photos show a normal day at Sidings:

Cynthia Painter

Early Years Coordinator

Email: early.years@sidings.org.uk





Play & Sports Services

Sidings Play Services - 5-11 years old

Once again in 2021, COVID restrictions meant we could not run a fuller on-site holiday play service as in previous years. Fortunately, as restrictions eased, we were able to offer a full 3 week summer play scheme for primary school aged children for 5 – 11 year olds. In 2019 and 2020, Sidings had been one of several Camden organisations running holiday schemes which offered free meals in addition to other activities – funded in partnership with Young Camden Foundation, Hampstead Wells & Campden Trust and the Mayor for London Funded “Kitchen Social” programme. This year, Sidings was pleased to continue as one of Camden’s new government-funded HAF providers, offering a full programme of activities and free two course hot lunches for local children, particularly those who were in receipt of free school meals. We had a total of 43 children accessing the scheme, which was also co-co funded via YCF’s Summer Opportunities Fund.

Although lunch was a highlight, we provided a 6-hour daily programme from Monday – Friday for the first 3 weeks of the summer holidays. Starting with a daily keep fit exercise session appropriate for young children, we offered a programme of creative, sports and physical activities, fun shared games, talent showcases, and also trips out to Hampstead Heath and Queen’s Park. Each week had a creative or specific focus, with the last week being focused on the Olympics – making flags from countries around the world and having our own mini Olympics on the Maygrove Peace Park outdoor pitch. We also benefited from some additional funding to support children with special needs to ensure our play scheme was as inclusive as possible to all children. At the end of the scheme all families were given a special food parcel from our on-site Food Hub.

End of Scheme Evaluation revealed the following difference our scheme had made to parents and children accessing the scheme:

Parents on provision of free lunches:

“The lunch was healthy and my son was telling me how tasty it was”

“It was a blessing as worrying about making packed lunch with little funds is stressful”

“It was a chance for my child to experience new dishes”

“I am so thankful that my children were provided with free lunch. It was extremely helpful and took a lot of pressure off my shoulder”

On activities:

“Some families can't afford the holiday or travel somewhere to spend the summer time, so these 3 weeks are very important for all kids - we really appreciate it”

“I just think the whole thing was amazing and so important for the children, especially as socialising was so lacking this whole year - so this was so important”

“Amazing quality, lots of variation”

“Good mix of outdoor & indoor activities, wonderful staff to encourage & help younger children.”

“Great, my older son has autism and finds it hard to mix, the staff were great with him”

“It was amazing. I look forward to next year’s scheme”

Satisfaction Survey revealed overall on quality of staff, service & activities, and safety – parents rated between 85% to 100% Good to Excellent on all areas.



And Children’s Comments:

When asked if they enjoyed the scheme out of 42 children who responded, all said they enjoyed the scheme, 39 said they felt more confident at the end of the scheme, and 42 said they had fun, and 33 said they had tried new activities.

When parents asked if they would recommend our play scheme to others – 100% said “yes” and equally 100% said it had taken pressure off their budget. 80% said the fact the scheme was free made a difference to their children being able to attend.

Staying in touch during lockdown: during the latter part of 2020 and Spring of 21, we also kept in touch with parents and children by giving out Take and Make Boxes in partnership with Kitchen Social, and also Maths Activity packs in partnership with “Maths on Toast”. As Christmas 2021 approaches, we have also been given a fantastic range of new books from Harper Collins, in partnership with Kitchen Social. to distribute, plus seasonal goodies and food parcels for those using our Food Hub.

We look forward to establishing a fuller programme in 2022 as the impact of the pandemic (hopefully) lessens.

Off-site Sports at West Hampstead Primary School (formerly Beckford Primary School)

“During this most challenging year the Sidings have supported us superbly once again by providing a variety of stimulating lunchtime and after school sporting activities at an affordable cost for the children and families of West Hampstead Primary School.

The Sidings Sports Coaches continue to support the school’s participation in a variety of Camden run competitions and extracurricular activities including, football leagues, basketball, netball and tennis competitions, along with our annual sports day in which our pupils are performing very well.

Since January 2021 under very difficult circumstance and varying restrictions due to Covid, the Sidings Sports Coaches have been supporting our school in whatever capacity they’ve been able to.

Children look forward to attending after school clubs and feedback from parents and children is always positive. Our children look forward to their lunchtime sporting activities each day and are very enthusiastic.

Strong, lasting relationships have been built with all staff at Sidings Community Centre, we have found that they are always polite, punctual, reliable and a pleasure to have on site.

The provision that the Sidings Community Centre have provided has enabled the children to improve their sporting skills, including, balance, movement, fitness, confidence and self-esteem. They are encouraged to work well as a team and to work together to achieve desired outcomes.

We continue to look forward to working with Sidings Community Centre in the future.”

Paul Dougan,

School Business Manager



Sidings Youth Project

11-19 years old

We started 2021 with another nationwide lockdown, which meant that we were unable to have face to face contact with our youth club members between January and March. We engaged with young people by running online Zoom sessions, arts and crafts tutorials, cooking videos, and even joined in with some Tik-Tok challenges. We also kept in contact with parents and young people via regular calls and texts. During February half term we sent care packages to our young people which included books, games, activities, and stationery plus beauty and hygiene products.

Some of the indirect effects of COVID-19 were the stress, anxiety and mental health issues caused during lockdown. We received messages from parents who were worried about their children. As schools had been closed for months, many young people had not been able to see their friends and they were not able to go out socially.

Thanks to continued funding from Camden - boosted by small grants from Children in Need, London Youth and Jack Petchey - our annual programme of universal youth activities has continued with a number of notable highlights detailed within the report.

In April we prepared for the end of UK lockdown by transitioning from online back to face to face provision. During the COVID 19 lockdowns, young people were cut off from their usual forms of physical activity as well as familiar social settings and friendship groups. After lockdown many of our young people returned to youth club suffering from stress, anxiety and other issues relating to isolation. In April 2020 we devised a fitness programme which included football, basketball, boxing and personal training and have tried to improve the amount of physical activity included in our youth club sessions and school holiday projects. Young people said they were more likely to participate in sport and physical activity, outside of school hours because of

the activities they'd tried during youth club and school holiday projects at Sidings.

Youth Club sessions continued to run weekly during term time on Mondays and Wednesdays, including a mix of sports, games, arts and craft, cookery and group discussions. During the week on Monday evenings we also ran Table Tennis sessions for young people. All of these sessions were supported by our in-house youth sports staff and qualified coaches.

In May we launched the Ball4Life community basketball project with local basketball coach and consultant Martin Dyan from the GG3x3. Project-led by the GG3x3, the UK's largest non-profit community 3x3 basketball platform, the programme was run in partnership with three local community groups - Sidings Community Centre in Camden, Safe Haven Basketball in Southwark, and the Enfield Scorpions basketball club.

Over a three month period, basketball coaches from Jump for Health coaching provided positive, fun activities for young people who had found the pandemic particularly challenging. These included young people from under-represented communities or who faced barriers to participation and those with learning difficulties.

The Ball4Life Community Project was funded by Sport England's 'Tackling Inequalities Fund' (TIF) which exists to help to reduce the negative impact of coronavirus and the widening of the inequalities in sport and physical activity. The fund is delivered through the governing body for basketball, Basketball England.

Martin Dyan, founder of the GG3x3, said: "We are so pleased to have secured the funding and have put together a fun and exciting programme. Through our Ball4Life Community Project we have the opportunity to bring positivity to young people all over London. With the

Government supporting grass roots basketball in this way, young people will benefit mentally and physically, both on and off the court.

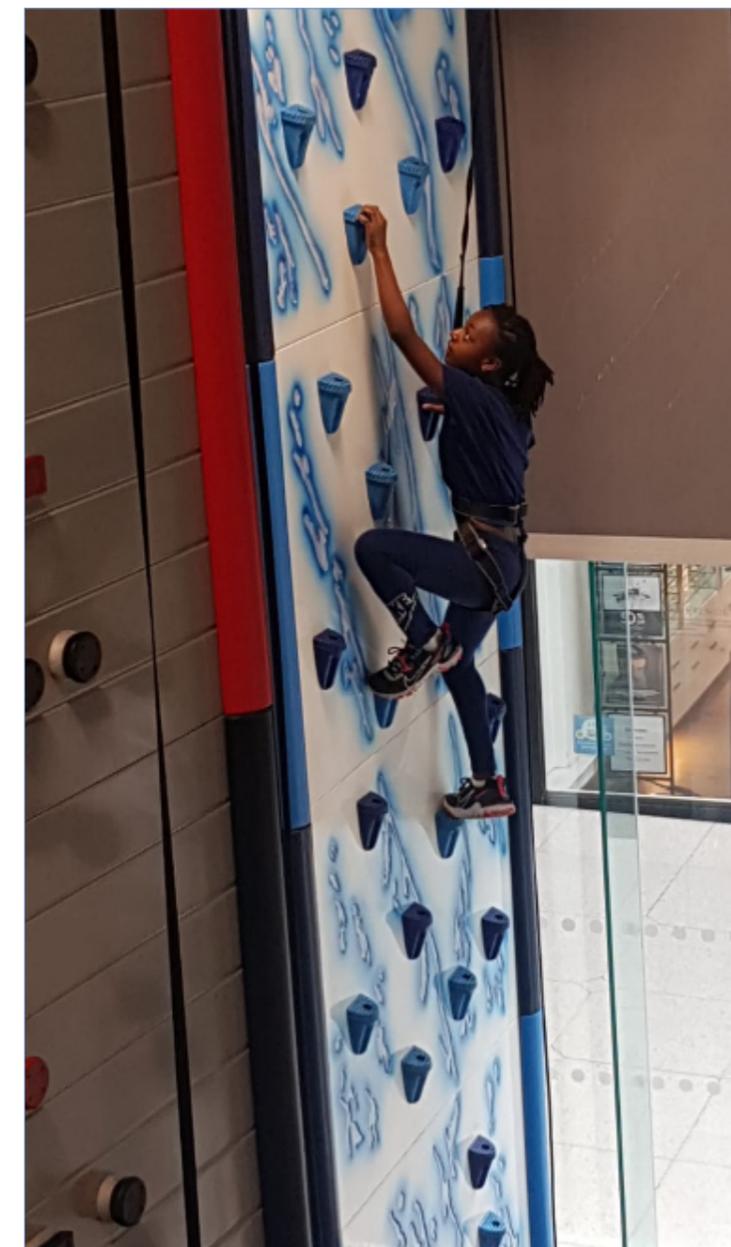
The Ball 4 Life project ran for 12 weeks with young people learning the skills, knowledge and disciplines associated with basketball. At the end of the project young people were invited to participate in a tournament at the Nike Regal & Jordan basketball court in Lambeth, which was a lot of fun. Many of the young people who took part said that they had no experience of playing basketball before the project started, but they really enjoyed it and would definitely continue to play. Thanks to this short project, basketball is now an important part of our regular youth club sessions with young people choosing to practice or play during their free time.

Basketball fever continued right through the summer with the launch of Summer Jam at Sidings – our first ever 3x3 basketball tournament. Thanks to a grant from the Camden Events team, and project management help from the GG3x3, we were able to organise an event to connect with the growing basketball community who use the court in Maygrove Peace Park. We recruited 8 teams of 3 players to register for the tournament. Players came locally from Kilburn and West Hampstead, and a little bit further from Devon!

On the day of the event, our coach Martin ran a junior basketball coaching session for young people before the over 18s tournament began. Some of our young people stayed on to watch the main event, or joined the volunteer team. We were so grateful for all the volunteers who came down to help on the day including members of the Great Britain basketball team. After some very difficult games, the winners of the tournament were the 45ers - a local team from West Hampstead. Winners received trophies and medals, as well as donated products from skincare/shaving brand Harrys. We're also really grateful to Innocent Smoothies for supplying drinks all day, and local clothing brand Made In London for supplying much in demand bucket hats to staff and players.

We have recently been funded by London Youth as part of their "Getting Active" programme to launch a new basketball project for young people, starting in early 2022. "Saved by the Ball" will be a project for young people age 11-19, including those most at risk from youth violence. Young people will receive free basketball coaching as well as further opportunities within the game.

During the school holidays we were able to offer a full programme of activities in June, July and August. Our June half term activities included crazy golf, a trampoline session, and a cinema trip to the O2 Arena where we travelled to Greenwich by boat. During the summer holidays our activities included bowling, cinema, indoor rock climbing, go karting, and swimming. We also ran trips to Chessington, Madame Tussauds, Brighton, Southend





Basketball Tournaments



Cinema Trip



and an Arsenal FC stadium tour. Our youth team were pleasantly surprised when we received flowers from a young person to say thank you for organising the scheme

Through the school holiday project we have encouraged young people to build their confidence by participating in activities they may not have tried before and learning new skills

After the holiday schemes we asked young people to give their feedback on the project. Some of the young people said that they had come to youth club with friends from their school, but broadened their friendship circles by making friends with young people from other schools and areas through the holiday project. When asked, some young people said the best thing about the project was spending time with their friends.

One of the really nice things youth workers noticed was that the older youth created their own peer mentoring groups - voluntarily taking on the roles of looking after the younger or new young people during trips and activities.

In September we resumed our evening youth club. During our sessions we gave young people a platform to speak about the issues affecting them in 2021 including youth violence, mental health, online safety, racism and women's safety. We also had a variety of Black History Month sessions including games, quizzes, videos and food.

As we came to the end of our 3 year school holiday funding from Children In Need, I decided to think ahead to February term. The school holiday projects have been really popular, and while we are currently waiting to find out if our funding will be renewed, I wanted to make sure that we have secured funding for February. In September I ran the Ealing Half Marathon (13.1 miles), and raised over £600 which will help us to cover the February scheme. A special thank you to one of my fellow runners, who sponsored me £100 after I checked to make sure he was okay during the race. The campaign page is still open, so if you would like to make a donation please visit our page: www.justgiving.com/campaign/syphalfmarathon or leave your donation with a member of staff in the office.

Thanks to London Youth and the Jack Petchey Foundation we were able to run our school holiday scheme during October Half Term. We had an active sports session on the pitch at Maygrove Peace Park, a visit to our favourite trampoline park, a cinema trip and a Halloween arts and craft session.

At the end of October we hosted our annual Halloween party. Young people put maximum efforts into their costumes this year, so we handed out prizes for the best costumes. The event was attended by our regular special guest, community sports coach Jonny Phelan, who had great fun scaring the young people in his frightening self-made zombie outfit. We were also joined by basketball coach Martin who came to present young people with medals and certificates for their participation in the Ball 4 Life project earlier in the year. We also awarded young

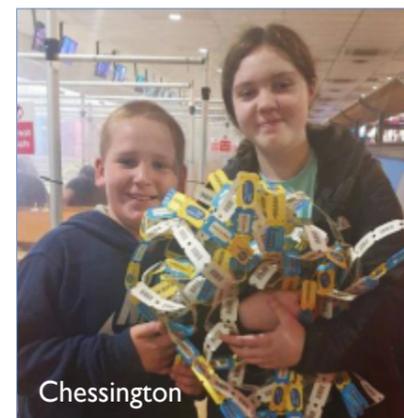
people with certificates for various achievements during the summer holiday scheme such as improved behaviour, being kind and helpful, and overcoming personal fears.

This year I was invited to be part of the Rise Up leadership programme with London Youth. The programme was run in partnership with Leap Confronting Conflict. The training course was launched to strengthen London's youth sector by investing directly in front-line youth practitioners and their organisations to help tackle the causes and impact of violence affecting young people. Modules on the course included:

- Trauma Informed Practice
- Gender Informed Practice
- Critical Response to Violence
- Race and Youth Violence
- Mental Health First Aid
- Organisational Leadership

This year I was also invited by Adidas to be part of the Football Collective Changemaker Forum. The forum was created to join together community leaders in London to discuss and implement how football can improve the lives of local people, helping to tackle poverty and inequality. In 2022 we will hopefully be collaborating with Adidas to organise a community event / family fun day on the football pitch in Maygrove Peace Park and look forward to building up a great relationship with them to increase football opportunities for young people in Kilburn and West Hampstead.

In December our youth team will be working alongside the West Hampstead Community Food Hub to provide food hampers, goody bags and activity packs to distribute to young people who may be facing a difficult time this Christmas. We also have lots of other exciting plans in the pipeline, which we can't reveal just yet!



Stormsy & Rhianna at Madame Tussauds





Chantraine Older Adults Dance

Chantraine older adults danced together on-line at home until everyone was vaccinated. We returned to Sidings for three weeks before the summer holidays to 'test the water' especially as many older adults in general at that time were experiencing anxiety about leaving their homes.

I think we need not have worried, the first dancing in person reunion was a joyous affair, with many of our 70, 80 and 90 years old appearing to leap about, irrepressibly, for joy.

Being on-line had meant that adults from other parts of the UK, for example Newcastle, Lincoln, Hampshire, had been able to join our class. For the three weeks in Sidings we tried 'blended' classes - dancing both online and in person. We are HUGELY grateful to Gio and Sue for their magnificent technical help in permitting those to proceed. In the end, however, we decided to start the new autumn term holding separate in person and on-line classes (and we have vacancies in the online class if anyone is interested in dancing from home).

We also prepared a short video to celebrate United Nations International Day of Older Persons 2021. The theme was "Digital Equity for All Ages"

A copy can be seen at <https://chantrainedance.com/unidop-2021/> and do note the thanks to Sidings in the acknowledgements.

I would like to thank all the Chantraine dancers at Sidings, for their commitment, dancing, sense of adventure and fun.

Special thanks go to Kate Green, Head of the Chantraine School UK and Sarah Cole, who leads the School in Buckinghamshire. Nearer to home I'd like to thank Clare Johnston and Patricia Connolly for all their support and leading of the classes if the teacher is unavoidably absent, so that there is always continuity.

Most of all I thank the founder of the Chantraine method, Francoise Chantraine, who became a great friend to Patricia Woodall who brought Chantraine dance to the UK over forty years ago. Patricia who passed away in 2019, led the Sidings classes for many years. I think that she would be very pleased with how her class is flourishing.

In closing, however, we wish to pay tribute to the Board and staff of Sidings, who, during the pandemic lock-down stepped up to enable Sidings to remain a true centre of the community, making sure that help was available to everyone who needed it through their food bank and distribution of food parcels.

Sidings, we salute you.

We heard that Gio is leaving. We thank her for her 'over-and-above' service and send her best wishes for the future.

Sam Stepaniuk
Chantraine School of Dance
Tel: 07584 294373
www.chantrainedance.com

Hatha yoga is the style upon which almost all new versions of yoga are built. It's very versatile and can be adapted to the needs of those practising.

The more modern day requirements are to focus on the asana practice while paying attention to breathing techniques and relaxation.

The yoga drop in sessions have been running since the Summer term (2014) to give the community a variety of different health and fitness techniques with the asana practice that helps with (posture) attaining steadiness, concentration and lightness of body to prepare for meditation that may suit their needs.

The classes are showing progression thanks to the yoga regulars that have been attending, we always welcome new comers to come along and join in the experience of Hatha Yoga.

Moira Smith
Yoga Teacher
moirawaltonsmith@yahoo.co.uk



Yoga For You?

Free your mind, Body & Soul



Adult Table Tennis Club

We have restarted our over 50's session on Monday.

This has acted as a relief and welcome boost for our members some of whom were confined to their homes during the COVID-19 lockdown for a longer period than most due to their vulnerabilities. We have a regular group of sixteen, for five tables. Our oldest member is eighty-four years young!

We were successful in obtaining two new tables and equipment's due to funding!

Our table tennis offers a social element where members can catch up with each other whilst enjoying physical activity. It is very cognitive and combines with mobility and eye hand coordination. They all have differing abilities.

Friday's session is primarily for over seventeen years! Again we are rebuilding our membership due to the stop start nature of the pandemic restrictions.

The members have expressed joy and happiness in going back to do something they enjoy!

We are in accordance with the English table Tennis Association in regards to start up and their safe guideline policy to the Covid 19 pandemic.



Adult Badminton Club

Aim: To develop fitness, agility skills & game awareness.

We have a badminton session on Tuesday evening with a regular group of six people using our hall, we only have one court. This is an advanced group with some members from our estate. This group is friendly whilst being competitive.

We are hoping to attract another group maybe beginners at an earlier evening time on Tuesday.





West Hampstead Community Food Hub

What is WHCF?

The Food Hub was founded at the start of 2020 as a response to the COVID crisis. It's genesis was to form a safety net within the community aimed at alleviating people suffering from food poverty. The Food Hub started operating at Sidings Community Centre from the 3rd quarter of 2020.

The Food Hub currently has over 150 families using its service on a regular basis. The offer is a generous bag of fresh fruit and vegetables and a bag of ambient food. The service is offered on a Saturday morning from 10:00am until 12:30pm.

The Food Hub is a key community partner to Camden Council and an active member of the Camden Food Network and Camden Food Poverty Alliance as part of the council's Emergency Response initiatives.

Awards

The food hub was one of a handful of projects in the UK to have been presented with the "Highly Commended" award from the British parliament in 2021 under the Community Campaigns category. Local MP, Tulip Siddiq nominated it for this award.

(picture from H&H can be used for this) <https://www.hamhigh.co.uk/news/west-hampstead-food-hub-awarded-tulip-siddiq-sidings-7911210>

Key partnerships:

- i. The Food Hub has local drop off at Emmanuel Church in Fortune Green as well as Paramount Properties and Waitrose on West End Lane. These organizations are key community partners to the project.

- ii. The Felix project for fresh fruit and vegetables and bulk ambient from time to time. Increased fresh supplies from Felix has enabled the hub to move towards a focus around fresh food in order to maximise nutritional impact the food parcels offer. We do our bit for the environment via this partnership as Felix is one of the largest food recyclers in London. This results in a reduced food wastage in-turn leading to a reduced carbon footprint presence.
- iii. Harissa and Lemon Ltd for Fresh food and weekly bulk ambient orders.
- iv. Camden Council

Funding

- i. Hampstead Wells and Campden trust
- ii. London Community Response
- iii. West Hampstead CIL
- iv. Community donations from the wider West Hampstead and Fortune Green community via Just Giving.

Key Stakeholders

- i. Guests using the food hub service
- ii. Sidings CC
- iii. Steering Committee
- iv. Grantors & Donators

Volunteers

It takes about 25 volunteers a week to deliver the service on a Saturday. Current volunteer base of over 90 members.

Operating model changes

The food hub started out as 100% delivery model operating on a Saturday. Over the period of its operations, we have moved to a model where guests now are encourage to come in to Sidings CC to collect their parcels with a view to offer them the choice of picking items and also asking for specific

items that they might need from time to time. 65% of our guest now come to Sidings to collect. We serve between 120-130 families on a weekly basis. The collections focused model has helped the Food Hub to slowly learn about its guests with the aim to strategically bolt-on wrap-around support by way of employment help via a job hub, digital skills development and wider advice needs such as on debt etc via Sidings CC and other Advice partners that Sidings aims to partner with.

Special projects

- i. Autumn 2021 donation drive with the Shri Swaminarayan Hindu Temple in Willesden
- ii. Special food parcels for families attending the summer 2021 play scheme
- iii. Hello Fresh deliveries from Felix
- iv. Delivery of advice leaflets on Fuel and Job Hub

Finance Figures

Food purchase costs of between £2,800-£3,000 per month. (not including food donations)

Revenue via community donations of between £1,400 - £1,500 per month.



Partnerships

The centre is pleased to have continued as one of Camden Council's strategic partners and maintain active relationships with their Community Partners Team. During the unravelling of the pandemic, we have also played an active role within Camden's Food Network and more recently Camden's Food Poverty Strategic Alliance. We also continue very positive partnership working with Camden Adult & Community Learning for Digital Skills courses and workshops, plus Camden Parks and Open Spaces for matters concerning Maygrove Peace Park, and Camden's Integrated Early Years' Teams who help provide advice and support to staff and families attending our nursery.

On-site we are pleased to host classes run by Working Men's College in providing free accessible accredited employability and ESOL classes, and also to see the return of much valued user groups such as Chantraine Dance of Expression.

We continue to benefit from membership of C4 – the Camden Consortium of Community Centres – which offers a supportive network for consultation and provides a coordinated strategic voice for community centres across Camden.

There is a growing local neighbourhood network of partnerships including local Mutual Aid volunteers (who played a vital role in underpinning the West Hampstead Community Food Hub now run from Sidings Community Centre), neighbourhood TRAs, local churches and some very supportive local Businesses. Towards the end of the year we also hosted joint meetings for residents and CField Construction Ltd, to work together to form a local consultation forum for the forthcoming redevelopment works of the former Liddell Rd Site 2.

To help promote services for young people, we are also active members of the Camden North Area Youth Partnership and Young Camden Foundation, and continue our association with the Mayors-fund-for-London's "Kitchen Social" network.

We look forward to continuing these much valued partnerships and developing new ones during the course of the next 12 months.

Sidings Community Centre 150 Brassey Road, London, NW6 2BA

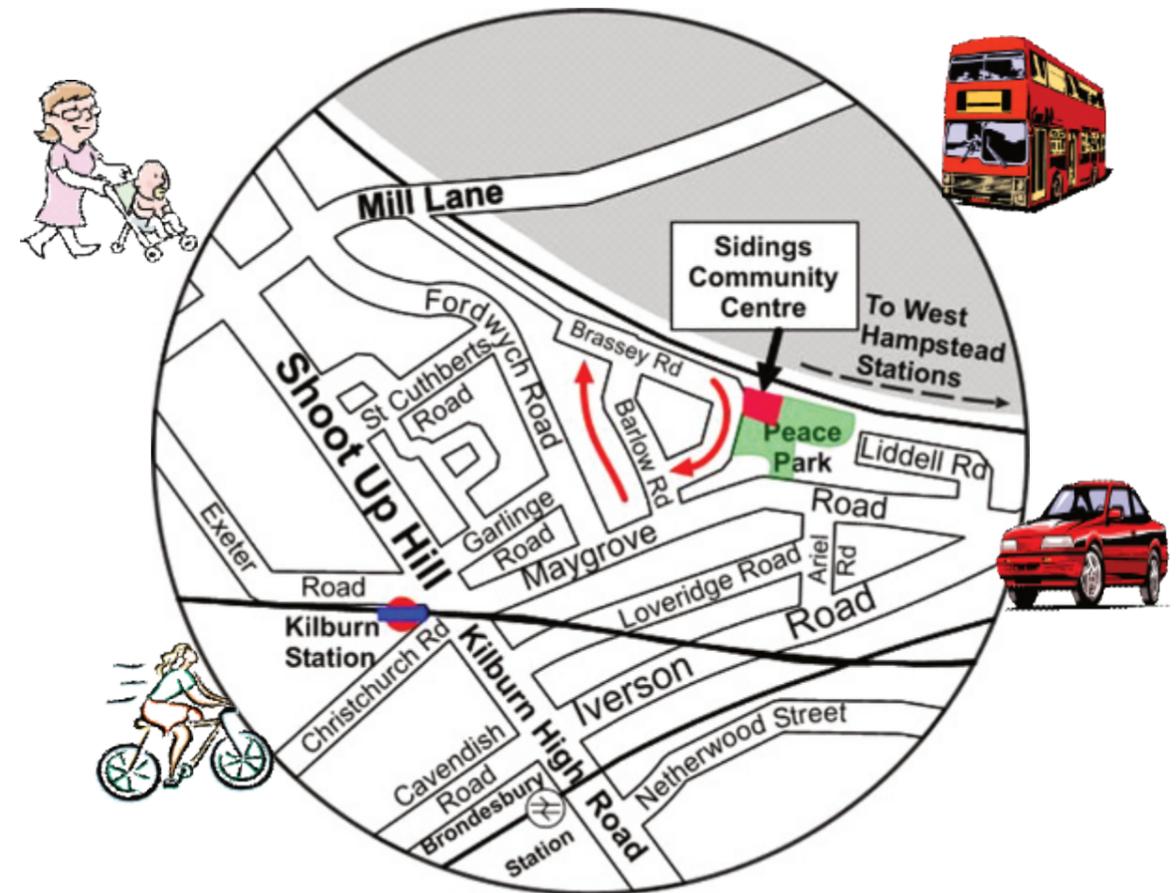
Centre Office — 020 7625 6260

Early Years — 020 7624 0588

Digital Learning Centre — 020 7372 0242

Website: www.sidings.org.uk

Find us and follow us on:	Facebook		SidingsCommunityCentre
	Twitter		@SidingsCC
	Instagram		SidingsSCC



Transport:

Bus routes: Kilburn High Road, 16, 32, 189 & 316
West End Lane C11, 139 & 328

Underground: West Hampstead and Kilburn Jubilee Line underground stations.

Rail: Thameslink Line - West Hampstead
North London Line - West Hampstead & Brondesbury Stations

Sidings Community Centre is wheelchair accessible.



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