




# Annual Report 2022




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Registered Charity number 1157806

# Our Purpose



Grange Park Centre charity exists to help people to come together sustaining a stronger community



# The Arc's Groups



2022 started as 2021 left off – with Covid measures and uncertainty but as cases began to fall, restrictions were lifted on 24th February and a sense of optimism emerged. The Arc had been a lifeline to many people, particularly new mums who were able to attend our socially distanced Little Stars baby and toddler group, and now we were able to fully open our doors and welcome back all sections of the community.



**ADVICE** Little Stars has gone from strength to strength. Led by former committee member Jo and her team of volunteers, Helen, Emma, Ang, Zoe, Maria, Pauline, Tracey, Mary, Ellie, Evgeniia, Cara, Bob and Gina, they provide activities and refreshments, regularly attracting over 30 families. Hosting a weekly baby and toddler group was one of our aims in the bid we submitted to the National Lottery, for funding to help build the Arc in the first place, and we are very proud of our Little Stars!



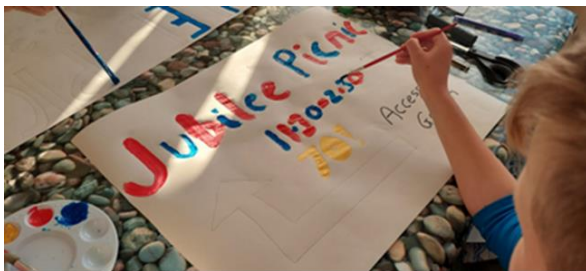
**ENERGISE** One of our other core aims is to energise people, providing space and opportunities for exercise. Our table tennis group were also happy to return in 2022. It has increased in popularity with regular sessions on Tuesday mornings and Sunday evenings and we were delighted to receive funding from Sport England to purchase another table, bringing us up to 4. Run by volunteer Paul, we welcome absolute beginners to some very talented players who share their experience in a supportive environment.



**COHESION** Our Youth Group was set up to provide a safe environment for young people to develop their social skills and achieve their potential. Designed for those in school years 6, 7 and 8, we aim to provide a supervised and structured environment with role models to help them make positive choices. We were successful in bids to both Leics County Council and Charnwood Borough Council for funding which enabled us to continue our relationship with Go Getta CIC, a leading provider in youth work in Charnwood. This too has grown, so much so that in the summer of 2022, we had to employ a 3rd youth worker to cope with demand!



# Community Activities



The Arc is so much more than just a building! 2022 allowed us to put on a full programme of community activities:



**EVERYONE GROW** Cook and Eat – a programme designed to support people who may feel lonely or isolated, who may want to make new friends or who may just want to learn how to make bread. Funding from Charnwood Borough Council and Loughborough University allowed us to put on 2 of these short courses and we intend to continue these in 2023.



**ENTERTAIN** Our Easter Family Fun Day brought people together for the first real community event since The Arc opened. An egg trail, games and music, crafts and seed planting saw around 60 families take part.



**EVERYONE** People came together to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee in June with a bring your own picnic. HWRA Residents Association provided a cake (thank you Bob) and a Lancaster flew over to make the day complete!



**ADVICE PEACE** In 2022, for the first time, The Arc was able to take part in the Big Green Week. Our Sustainability Fair in September brought together a number of like-minded organisations to promote sustainable living. We also arranged a very popular Bat Walk, in conjunction with the Leics and Rutland Bat Group, who provided sonar devices for us to hear and identify the species – it wasn't just the kids who loved this!



**EVERYONE** Our first scarecrow trail drew entries from both Grange Park and Shelthorpe. It is intended that this becomes an annual event, creating something fun for both scarecrow makers and those following the trail.



Our Family Halloween party sold out within 24hours! Entertainment was provided by DeeJayz Parties, the hall was decorated by our team of volunteers and spooky refreshments were served throughout the evening.



We held 2 gift Fairs during 2022. A Spring Makers Market, to promote local, independent craftspeople and sellers and our hugely successful Christmas Gift and Craft Fair. Footfall exceeded all expectations and this will definitely be repeated next year.



We were fortunate enough to secure a donation of 100 saplings from the Woodland Trust. These were planted around our borders to encourage wildlife by forming a hedge of native species.



2022 ended with a free community Christmas party. In partnership with HWRA Residents Association, we welcomed around 260 local residents for an afternoon of music, craft, refreshments and soft play. We also provided Santa's Grotto which sold out within a couple of days. Loughborough Male Voice Choir and the Quorn Ukelele Orchestra kept everyone entertained, prizes awarded for the best Christmas jumper and the opportunity was taken to thank our amazing volunteers!



# Community Support



**ARE YOU UNEMPLOYED?**

If you are out of work, come and talk to us, over a coffee, when we are at the Arc Community Hub in Loughborough!

**WORK.LIVE. LEICESTERSHIRE**

Meet our outreach team, from the Rural Community Council (RCC), on Friday August 26 and then September 2, Monday September 5, 19 and 26 (10am-12pm).

Find us at [workliveleicestershire.org.uk](http://workliveleicestershire.org.uk)

THE WORK, LIVE, LEICESTERSHIRE (WILL) PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND AND THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND.



As the centre of the Grange Park and Shelthorpe Community, we try to be reactive to need and supportive of those groups who have an ethos or aim we share.

In 2022 we supported the Polish Club by setting up a collection point for supplies of basic necessities for Ukrainian refugees. The community came together and the room was overflowing with nappies, toiletries and medical supplies.

We also supported the WiLL Project by providing a base for outreach work for the unemployed.

We are delighted to have continued to host Molly's Gift and their HAF playschemes. 2022 also saw the launch of their Saturday Club.

Police, MPs and Councillors surgeries meant that the community had access to information, support and advice and the Arc was also used as Polling Station.

We offered several pop up coffee mornings but unfortunately these were not well attended and this is something that will need further consideration for 2023.

The Arc is fast becoming a venue of choice for parties. In order to avoid causing disturbance to our neighbours, we took the decision to stop offering party bookings late into the evening and focus on children and family parties. An Indian wedding transformed the hall and we were delighted to have been able to facilitate this special day.

# Our volunteers



Like so many charities, we are reliant on volunteers to help and support us along the way.

This includes the team running the baby group, as mentioned earlier, and our keyholders, Jason, Nicholas, Liz, Kat, Ben and Meetal. HWRA Residents Association continue to be a massive support – Bob and Nigel seem to be able to turn their hand to anything!

We also need to thank 4 specific organisation who helped us out in 2022. LSU Action sent a team of students to make a start on our borders, PH Jones gave the centre a bit of a refresh with paint donated by Anstey Wallcoverings and The Rotary Club put up our new notice boards for us.

Of course our Trustees are also volunteers and give their time to oversee the strategic aims of the charity. See 'the legal bit' for full details

Many thanks to the Trustees who have served the Arc and stood down in 2022 – Paul Gadd, Andrew Gostelow, Upexa Mistry and Grahame Killey. Their contributions have been invaluable.

Thanks also to former employees, Cara and Catriona who both moved on during 2022. You have helped put The Arc on the map!

One person deserves a special mention. In July 2022 Paul Gadd stepped down as Chair of the charity after serving the maximum of 2 x 4 year terms as set out in the Constitution. Paul was instrumental in the Community Centre vision and has devoted a huge amount of time to the project- navigating it through initial design, funding, construction, opening, and the pressures of the recent pandemic. We would like to formally thank him for his time and commitment over the years.

# Going Forward

The Arc is in a strong position going forward but the cost of living crisis and in particular, the increase in gas and electricity prices will undoubtedly have an impact on us. We will continue to seek funding for projects which bring the community together or address a specific need but will also look at other ways to support the centre financially. We believe that we offer value for money in a new, purpose built environment and will continue to do that.

We recognise that our website is no longer fit for purpose and it will be replaced by something new and more reflective of where we are now. As we become more popular we understand the need to provide effective social media and will look at other platforms to reach as many people as possible.

2023 will see the coronation of King Charles III and the extra bank holiday for this is to be all about volunteering – The Big Help Out. The Arc will put together an event to mark the day, combining a celebration with an opportunity to give back to the community.

In support of our aims and objectives, we will turn our attention to provision for the older generation by introducing an exercise group for the over 60s. This will sit with the Little Stars Baby and Toddler Group, The Youth Group and the Table Tennis Group as our own group. We will also focus on provision of debt advice and counselling along with IT support for the digitally disadvantaged.

Our scarecrow trail will take place again over the first weekend in October and we will put together Christmas events including a repeat of our high quality craft and gift fair and the ever popular Santa's grotto.

If you have ideas or proposals that you would like to put to us, we would love to hear them! Maybe you would like to start a sewing group or a book club? An art class or a men's group? Do you have skills that you could offer us in terms of odd jobs? The Arc is YOUR centre so get involved and we look forward to welcoming you.





# The Legal Bit

## Reference and Administrative Information

Grange Park Centre Charity

The Arc Community Hub

22 Knox Rd

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## Legal Status

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

## Governing Document

Charitable Constitution

## Charity Number

1157806

## Trustees

Harriet Burt

Sue Willetts

Mike Ellerby

Ben Bryans

Anatu Mahana

David Sangwine (from 2023)

Anne Gray (from 2023)

## Accountant

Michael Welbourne, Coalraven Ltd

## Independent Examiner

Colin Wood

## Bank

Lloyds Bank plc

## Staff Team

### Operations Manager

Sue

### Bookkeeper

Ian

### Social Media/Events Coordinator

Camille

### Cleaning

Beccy

# Financial Review

On 24th February 2022 the last domestic Covid restrictions in England were lifted, including the requirement for people with Covid-19 to self-isolate. As a result of the eased restrictions room hire income increased from £26,795 in 2021 to £44,086 in 2022.

During 2022 the Restricted Funds to ‘complete and equip The Arc’ were used to: fit attenuation panels to the ceiling in the hall to improve sound quality for users, improve parts of the garden, and fit additional security. £10,893 remained at the end of 2022, and a company was engaged to improve the website experience with the aim of improving hire income and increasing awareness of the Charity’s activities. Remaining final finishes to the building are also planned for 2023.

Grants received in 2022 helped to:

- support debt advice sessions
- cover running costs as income recovered after Covid restrictions
- enable quality drinks to be sold at The Arc Coffee Mornings
- provide materials for The Arc Community Easter Event,
- increase the capacity at The Arc Table Tennis club,
- fund The Arc weekly youth club (engaging GoGetta)
- fund 2 ‘Cook and Eat’ courses – encouraging residents to learn new skills and make new friends

Description	
Jan 22 Charnwood Borough Council (CBC) – Debt Advice Funding	£800*
Feb 22 CBC – Omicron Recovery Grant	£2,677
Feb 22 CBC Contain Funding – Cook + Eat course	£1,575
Mar 22 - CBC – Members Grant – Coffee machine for community coffee morning	£500
Mar 22 – Social Association grant – for activities at family Easter event	£150
Mar 22 - LCC, Shires Grant – weekly youth club for years 6-8	£4,000
Jun 22 – Loughborough University Grant – Cook + Eat course	£750*
Jun 22 – Sport England – to buy additional Table Tennis table	£464
Aug 22 - CBC, community grant scheme - weekly youth club for years 6-8	£750
Aug 22 - CBC, community safety partnership - weekly youth club for years 6-8	£1,500*

\* Remaining budget is being carried forward to 2023.

The increase in Charitable activities, coupled with more groups hiring the facilities, led to an increased workload for staff and volunteers.

At the end of 2022 a review of the operational needs led to the decision to increase the hours of employed and contracted staff to help The Arc run more smoothly and achieve its constitutional objectives. This resulted in:

- Increased cleaner hours
- Bookkeeper contracted for additional hours to deal with enquiries
- Part time Events and Communications role advertised in December

The investment in increased support staff will enable the Charity Operations Manager to focus on grant applications and other strategic objectives. Trustees agreed to invest some of the unrestricted funds to enable this, with the long-term aim of increasing hire income and grant funding to bridge any gap in running costs. Increased usage of The Arc coupled with the 'cost of living crisis' has led to an increase cost for utilities. Trustees expect 2023 to be challenging for operating expenses, with a +25% increase forecasted. The Trustees commissioned the support of Michael Welbourne, Coalraven Limited Chartered Accountants, to prepare monthly accounts to support decision making, and will review hire charges in early 2023. Despite the expected financial headwinds, the Trustees are confident that The Arc can rise to the challenge as it enters its first full year of uninterrupted operations.

### **Reserves policy**

General Reserves have increased from £61,167 in 2021 to £78,718 in 2022.

The current Reserves Policy is for 9 months of running costs to be held (approx. £54k based on 2023 forecasted operating expenses)

### **Statement of Trustees' responsibilities**

The charity Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and financial statement in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

The law application to charities in England and Wales requires the charity Trustees to prepare final statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements



Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose the reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2016, the Charity Regulations 2013 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees for the purposes of charity law who served during the end and up to the date of this report are set out on page 7.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

**Harriet Burt**

Trustee – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023

