

April 2015



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Hello and a warm welcome back, hope you all had a lovely time over the Easter holidays. This newsletter will mainly consist of an update from the Trustees outlining plans for the future.

To all members of Newcastle Toy & Leisure Library

Dear member,

We are writing to update you as promised with the Trustees ongoing consultation on the future of Newcastle Toy & Leisure Library.

As you know the Trustees have undergone a consultation with the members of the charity, a copy of the feedback will be available at Saturday Club. As we expected it shows that the entire service and staff are highly valued, and there are no areas where we could easily cut back.

The consultation was able to identify some members who are professionals in fields where the current Trustees have limited experience. Trustees are now looking into how we can make use of your skills.

We have developed the following plan:

Our absolute priority has been and remains safe-guarding staff and services. The staff are the greatest asset of the charity, and the fact that most members were unaware of the financial pressure staff are working under goes to show how professional and exceptional our staff are.

Over the next six months Newcastle Toy and Leisure Library will continue working to the current service specifications (including holiday activities), with the current staffing level, while working on raising additional income on a short and long term basis by:

- With professional support we will carry out an audit of who has been applied to and work on identifying additional funding streams available. He will also support us in writing grant applications and funding bids.
- A parents' fundraising group will be set up to harness the current energy and enthusiasm of parents. While the group will need to keep staff and Trustees informed of what they're doing the aim is that it will not take up additional staff time. There will be an Emergency Fundraising Appeal to try and maximise donations. Please look out for emails about the group and the appeal, and get involved.
- The membership fee will be raised to £35, and we are requesting this at this stage. You will receive a letter about this soon. As in previous years families won't be able to take part in summer holiday activities if they haven't paid their membership fee. If you are unable to pay this amount in one instalment please speak to staff to make alternative arrangements.

- Trustees will review the current pricing structure for “add on” activities at Saturday Club, e.g. Sports Club, Hydrotherapy etc. and consider alternative options.

Currently we are starting work on a business plan which will see us through this time of crisis and into the future with a definite structure which can be used to support the long term bids we need.

We are aware that this is a high risk strategy, and we will review it after three months. While it might have been more prudent to reduce staff hours and services now to allow us to continue for longer, the feedback we received from members and staff persuaded us that this was not viable. If at the three month review we have not seen a significant increase in income we will have to reconsider.

The Trustees were overwhelmed by the support of the members, who are prepared to give their skills, time and money to keep this charity that they love going.

We also wanted to let you know that Pat Cant is now stepping back from her role as Chair prior to standing down at the AGM. Sally Allen will continue Acting as Vice-Chair while Pat is less involved. Sally is also standing down at the AGM and one of the Trustees’ priorities over the next few months will be recruiting for a new Chair and other Trustees. If you have any skills you feel you could offer to the Board of Trustees, or know anyone who might be interested, please contact us to discuss joining.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely

The Trustees of Newcastle Toy & Leisure Library

Saturday Club dates: Jan 2015 - March 2015

- Saturday 9th May: 10.30am - 12.30pm
- Saturday 6th June: 10.30am - 12.30pm
- Saturday 20th June: 10.30am - 12.30pm
- Saturday 4th July: 10.30am - 12.30pm *A.G.M.*



The Summer programme

Our summer programme this year will be supported by funding from The Handley Trust. We need your help to decide what activities/outings you would like on this years summer programme. The details of the summer programme will be available on Saturday 6th June and signing up will take place on Saturday 20th June