



# Hunter Lodge Annual Report 2010-2011



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## **Introduction**

I would like to start by dedicating this annual report to our three dear friends who we sadly lost this year ..

Pat, Barbara and Neil were a true inspiration to us all and we feel privileged to have been a part of their lives. They played a massive part in helping Hunter Lodge get to the place we are in today and our memories of them are truly happy ones ..

Like everywhere in the country we have struggled with reduced budget but as always “ Team Hunter “ have worked together and we have had another successful year.

We have continued to promote Health and Wellbeing and members have been involved in various activities like health awareness sessions, meal preparation, archery and golf .... Watch out Tiger Woods !

We have also continued to work with local colleges and community groups both in the private and voluntary sector, offering members the opportunity to learn new skills and gain qualifications. We have had two members work really hard and successfully gain a Level 1 in Customer Service. Congratulations to you both !

Once again in the Summer we held an Information Sharing event ‘ A Taste of Community Life’ for carers at the Sports Village in Leigh where we were able to showcase a variety of support services throughout the borough. In total we had 42 different organisations explaining to people the services they offer

The next 12 months I’m sure will be both exciting and challenging as we continue to work towards the Governments Personalisation agenda and increase people’s independence choice and control over their lives. We will endeavour to be a really proactive user led service

## Health and Wellbeing

Hunter Lodge has continued to encourage people to lead healthy life styles and members have continued to access various Health and wellbeing activities from both the active living team and community groups.

### Health Walks

Hunter Lodge encourages and promotes health lifestyles, each week we go on a health walk within the borough .

We have trekked through Haigh Hall, Mesnes Park, Pennington Flash and Scotmans Flash to name but a few.

We make the walks safe and sociable and aim on having a great time whilst staying fit and healthy.



### Meal Preparation

Members are encouraged to develop their independent living skills as well as basic food hygiene.

Members will purchase ingredients from the supermarket whilst working towards a healthy diet.

We work together with other agencies including the primary care trust and active living team, to encourage healthy lifestyles.



### Health and Wellbeing Presentations

Hunter Lodge holds coffee and information afternoons, where various agencies such as; NHS, Wigan Council and volunteer services have been invited to hold presentations.

This has included:

- Supported employment
- Active living
- Fire safety
- Breast cancer awareness
- Direct payments and PASS
- Prostate cancer

We are planning the future events working alongside England's awareness dates for health and wellbeing.

### **Group sessions**

Member at Hunter Lodge attend regular sessions, archery, badminton, golf and bell boating to name just a few, these have proved to be both fun and healthy and each week members are eager to attend.



### **Health, Self & Happiness**

Health, Self and happiness is a course run by staff to members at Hunter Lodge and Brookfield.

The courses hope to encapsulate most areas of what makes us feel well, therefore giving individuals more insight into well being.

The sessions included: -

- Medication & weight gain
- Healthy eating and depression
- Benefits of health walks
- A guide to healthy eating
- The importance of enjoying food
- How to easily achieve 5 a day
- Longer term benefits of health eating
- Supplements, food facts and fat facts

The group will provide opportunities for people to join in the active living teams groups, and access the local communities.



## Learning and Development

Hunter Lodge offers members the opportunity to learn new skills, gain qualifications and seek employment, working in partnership with local colleges, community groups and both the private and voluntary sector.

### College Courses

Hunter Lodge has continued to work alongside Wigan & Leigh College providing members of Hunter Lodge and the local community with the opportunity to gain a qualification in literacy and numeracy.

This year 7 people enrolled on the course, including 3 people from the local community . Exams will be held in June 2011.

### NVQ

Hunter Lodge has also continued to work alongside Skelmersdale college offering members who support with the reception the opportunity to gain Level 1 qualification in customer service. This year 2 members have gained the qualification and we are gathering names for the next intake of students.

1 of our members has been offered the opportunity to complete NVQ level 2 which she plans to take up.



### Dis:patches

A group of members have again created art for this year's disability arts event dis:patches. We worked in partnership with Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust, Disability Art network and other art groups around the borough. Some members created visual arts pieces others did some creative writing. We also worked with One Vision Media Productions on the project; together we did a short Alice in Wonderland Production. Some members have narrated the story

and other helped create the props. The production was filmed and our work was displayed at Fred Longworth High School. We decided to hold a mini event here at Hunter Lodge so everyone got the chance to see the art work. We also showed One Vision's and Wigan and Leigh Disability Partnership's work and invited them down for the day. Hopefully we will get the opportunity again this year to work on another Disability Arts Project.



### **Confidence Building**

Hunter Lodge members requested a confidence building course, this was delivered by Wigan college over a 10 week period; How do you gain confidence in yourself?, the answer is do what I did, take a confidence building course. Everyone at Hunter Lodge who joined in the course enjoyed it and we each got something different from it and in doing so we are able to help each other with the little worries we all seem to have. I gained a

lot from the course and I seem to be more prepared for life than I was before.

Lynn Bickerdike (clubhouse member)

### **Horticulture**

There are a number of activities which are available to all the members on a weekly basis. One of these activities involves a gardening and maintenance group, which has been established for a number of years. The group currently work between two sites at Haigh Hall Country Park and Hunter Lodge.



The Haigh Hall site provides the group with four raised beds, which allows full Wheel Chair access. We have been using this site for growing vegetables i.e. potatoes, green beans, onions, cabbages and leeks amongst the long list of items.

The group attends Haigh Hall every second Monday, which also allows members to meet other like minded people in a

friendly outdoor environment. This access has been invaluable to our members and has allowed us to build community connections for the benefit of Hunter Lodge members.

However, with the current Government cutbacks we are unsure if this facility will still be available in the future and we are currently looking into working alongside Mayfield members to grow items at an onsite allotment.



Hunter Lodge members have taken a lot of time and trouble to make sure that the garden looks its best for both members and visitors alike. We take great pride in making Hunter Lodge look its best during the summer by making hanging baskets that colour the garden perimeter and entrance porch. Mostly our flowers are grown from seed in

the greenhouse, before making hanging baskets.



A great deal of time is spent in our greenhouse preparing the trays and soil before planting the seeds for the coming year. We try to grow as many of the plants from seed that we possibly can and also take cuttings if appropriate



## Publicity group

Members continue to develop and produce the monthly newsletter, this keeps everyone up to date and allows us to share stories and experiences. We also have a group who are responsible for the public information on our newsletters and web pages this is reviewed annually and any changes are made as needed



## World of Work



Supported employment offered the training 'World of Work', the course began in May 2010 and ran for 9 months.

The aim was to complete a number of units on various subjects of employment and to address the issues we may encounter as we enter the working world, in all the whole experience of the course was a good learning curve for everyone involved.

Wayne Simms (clubhouse members)

## Community

Hunter Lodge continues to work with the local community joining in and facilitating groups and local events.

### A taste of community life

Over the years Hunter Lodge has always offered support and information to our carers, this has always been greatly received and started to grow into a community carers event, growing annually. We now work with Wigan and Leigh Disability Partnership, this years event 'A taste of community life 3' is organised for 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2011. The event is held at Leigh Sports Village and allows all support services in the borough to showcase the service they can offer.

As the borough is a large area we are currently looking to find a location the event can be held at in Wigan to give greater options to carers.

### Coffee mornings

Members at Hunter Lodge attend 2 local coffee mornings in the community.

Hunter Lodge has held 3 coffee mornings this year raising money for, British Heart Foundation, McMillan Cancer and Breast Cancer.

We invite carers and members of the local community and the groups seem to be growing in numbers each event.



### Conference Room

Hunter Lodge provides conference facilities for anyone looking to book a comfortable meeting venue.

The room is adequate for groups of 12 people, various equipment and buffet lunch is available for a competitive price.

To date the conference room has generated an income of over £1700.00.

The room continues to be a popular venue, We hope to see it used to its potential in the future and will continue to offer the facilities.

## Fundraising

Over the year Hunter Lodge has continued to support charities alongside raising funds for our own amenities.

This year we have raised a total of £2375.01

We have achieved this by holding coffee mornings, Christmas fayre, raffles and dress down days.

### Money raised 2010-2011

British Heart Foundation £107.55

Carers Afternoon - £88.00

Coffee Afternoon - £117.93

British Legion - £605.79

Jeans for Genes day - £31.00

Prostate Cancer - £62.00

Breast Cancer – £33.00

McMillan Cancer - £57.00

Mayors Charity - £15.00

Children in Need - £239.76

Christmas Fayre - £425.88

Christmas Raffle - £140.00

Comic relief – £100.60

Auction - £351.50

We have raised;  
£1123.31 for Hunter Lodge amenities  
£1251.70 for Charities



All funds raised for Hunter Lodge are used as the members wish, this includes; training courses, development items and social events.

The Hunter Lodge amenities balance is currently **£ 4'548.12**



Sadly this year we have lost a number of our members. Two of our members family requested that donations be to Hunter Lodge.

Member 1 = £276.00 we are still planning what to purchase; suggestions have included a fish tank and flowers for the garden.

Member 2 = £1425.00 and money is still coming in, we will get the final total and ask for suggestions in steering group.

## Developments

Hunter Lodge is continuing to develop to meet the needs of members in line with the personalisation agenda.

### Skill building

Working alongside the college we have been able to contact the tutors direct and purchase sessions, we plan to host,

- Flower arranging
- I.T
- Arts

Hunter Lodge has worked alongside the active living team, who have offered us 2 free Healthy Eating sessions.

We are building links with West Leigh High School who can offer,

- Holistic Therapy & Stress management
- Crystal Therapy
- Card Making
- Computers for beginners
- Knitting
- Oil Painting & Water Colours

We are currently discussing to see if any members are interested and the courses will run throughout the year.



### Health and Wellbeing

Hunter Lodge has been holding coffee and information afternoons, these have included groups from the NHS, Wigan Council and volunteer agencies. The sessions have been accessed by members and carers and we plan to expand this to hold monthly sessions and include the local community.





### **Personal outcomes**

This year Hunter Lodge has worked closely with members and other agencies to achieve the desired outcomes from service users self assessments, 1 member has been successful in gaining a voluntary post and has reduced his attendance, we are currently working with Wigan Council Voluntary Scheme to achieve his second goal and subsequently cease his attendance for employment. 1 member is working with a community group to become a volunteer at the local coffee morning, talks are underway and hopefully he will commence imminently.

1 member attended following his stroke and has now cancelled his place and play a role in his local community.

1 member attended to build confidence within a group setting, this was achieved and they now no longer attend. Hunter Lodge is continuing to support members to achieve

their desired outcomes from attending the service.

### **Enterprise**

Last year saw the beginning of our enterprise. Making and selling jewellery.

We began initially by utilising staff skills and working together to produce jewellery to sell at the carers event 'A taste of community life'. This proved successful and from producing the jewellery it has sold well. We went on to produce items to be sold at the gift shop in Golborne.



Following the closure of Tunstall House we received a grant from Brighter Boroughs for £500.00 this has enabled the enterprise to grow and we are now producing items which are displayed in our cabinet on site – kindly donated by Tunstall, these are sold to members and carers and people

who use Hunter Lodge to access college or meetings.

We continue to sell items in the gift shop at Golborne and are in the process of working with people who rent the units beside us to display and sell them on our behalf from their business.

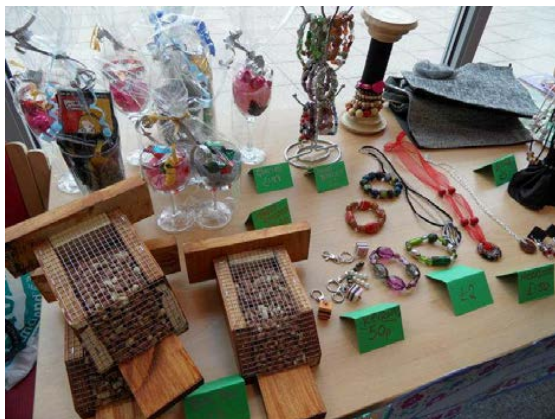
We have started to make bags for life, these are purchased as plain material bags and we decorate and sell them to generate an income, this in the early stages but seems to be doing well.

Grant - £500.00

Materials - £226.24

Sales - £61.00

An promising start in 3 months.



### **Building Community Links**

At Hunter Lodge we are currently looking into allotment spaces and are exploring the opportunity to work with the local community to provide allotments.

We have a large grassed garden area that is not used to its full

potential and isn't accessible due to the weather.

We are exploring the opportunity to gain grants to purchase some equipment and build links with Ground Work to offer some manual labour.

We have been given a contact within the Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust, who can hopefully share our upcoming plans with members of the community who are currently waiting for allotments, we are also making links with the local primary schools to become involved.



## Service Review

Hunter Lodge works to the government agenda and strives to achieve a high quality service, setting and achieving standards and ensuring staff are trained to enable this. We continue to achieve a user lead service and consultations and communications are the key aspects.

### Customer Satisfaction

Annually Hunter Lodge asks all members to complete a questionnaire to monitor the service and ensure we are offering what people want, the questionnaire allows the service to grow, change and develop accordingly.

This year members commented they wanted to be able to join in sessions on alternate days and often don't find out until it is too late. Any groups that are on in the borough are advertised in the Hunter Lodge newsletter and displayed on the notice board.

### Staff Qualifications

Hunter Lodge trains all staff to ensure they are able to meet the demands of the service and work to change enabling us continue to be a high quality user led service able to support people to meet their individual needs.

Job Role	Qualifications Gained	Qualifications Working Towards
Manager	NVQ 3	NVQ 4
Centre Supervisor	NVQ 2,3,4, Leadership & Management	
Development Officer	NVQ 2,3	
1 Development Worker	NVQ 2, 3	
1 Development Worker	NVQ 2,3	
Kitchen Support Worker	NVQ 2 in cleaning & Support Services	

## **Finances**

This year has seen the appointment of the coalition government, with immediate noticeable changes including a drastic reduction in funding for local councils, work is now underway in Wigan to make efficiency savings.

Hunter Lodge is continuing to work to achieve their role in the efficiency savings and budget spending for the year has been on essential items only.

This year members have used amenities funds to continue to deliver courses and purchase items they want, to develop the service and all its users.

Members chose to purchase a mobility scooter at a cost of £2185.00 including a 3 year insurance and service. This enables members to access the community and has proved a positive asset for members.

Due to the governments cuts in funding college has also been effected and members have not been able to access the community courses we once had the option to. This year members have requested to use some of the amenities funds to purchase courses.

We have a flower arranging course planned at £150.00 for 6 weekly sessions.

We have also worked with local community groups to bring in free community courses, we are currently planning an arts group which will be open to the community and Hunter Lodge members.

We have purchased various craft sessions throughout the year in particular Faberge Eggs who just charge for the cost of the items.

We have continued to utilise staffs training and skills to develop I.T and Healthy eating sessions which we have linked to Active living team.

We are looking into horse riding which some members have shown an interest in.

We are continuing to develop our links with West Leigh High School to access the community outreach projects still available.



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