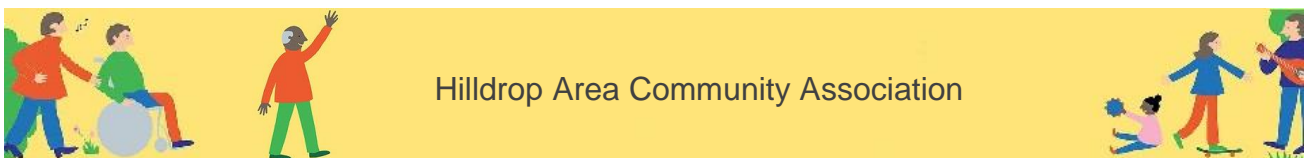




Hilldrop Area Community Association



Annual Report 2021-22



About us

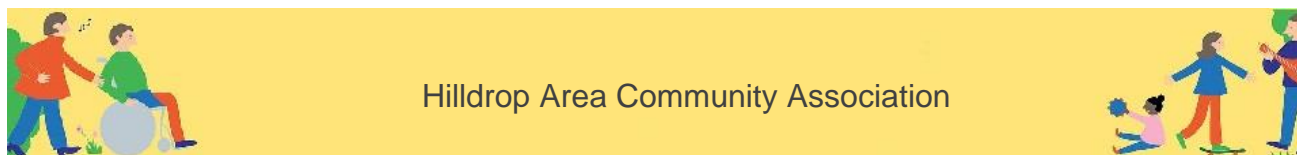
Hilldrop Area Community Association (HACA) is a registered charity that aims to promote opportunities, services and activities that increase the social and economic wellbeing of our diverse community, supporting social cohesion and benefitting all.

Located in the Tufnell Park (formerly St George's) Ward of Islington and based at Hilldrop Community Centre, we are an established multi-purpose community venue, offering a wide programme of activities and services that respond to local interests and needs. We are committed to involving the community in the shaping of our programmes, and work in partnership with a vibrant network of local groups, providers, and statutory services.

Our Association was first formed in 1986 in the wake of rising community turmoil. Local tenants of the surrounding Hilldrop Housing Estate brought together different groups and individuals who took over the management of an estate building that became Hilldrop Community Centre. The first Head of Centre was Bob Drinkwater, whose dedication and commitment saw him hold the post until March 2016 - an amazing 30 years. The strong community base on which we were founded has continued to this day, with staff and trustees all local to the area.

We are committed to:

1. Providing strategic leadership within the local community.
2. Coordinating a coherent and engaging neighbourhood-based offer of services and activities for local residents.
3. Ensuring that local community facilities and assets are utilised to their full potential.
4. Attracting external funding to facilitate the delivery of activities and services specific the local community's needs.



A message from our Head of Centre

Welcome to our 2021-22 Annual Report, where we celebrate our return to full operations for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the pandemic, and despite being unable to run many activities, we remained proactive and responsive to the needs of our community by focusing on providing advice, food & essentials to people in need, and supporting the work of **St George's Mutual Aid**. As 2021 progressed we were able to start planning the gradual return of our everyday services and I'm delighted to say that one year on, the centre is now buzzing again with visitors, community groups and plenty of activity.

It was during the summer term that many of our activities resumed. Our **Arts & Crafts** sessions returned with an outdoor **Knit & Natter** group, where we made woollen decorations for the Cally Road Festival, and during the winter months our **Relish Embellish Café** examined the environmental impact of textile waste and provided practical skills on recycling, upcycling, mending, and remaking. A highlight was the creation of a wall hanging made from waste fabric, reflecting current themes. We also ran a series of online presentations on **quilting**, examining the rich history of this communal craft.



*Elaine Maffrett, Head of Centre
(right), with Geraldine Brennan,
Chair of Trustees*

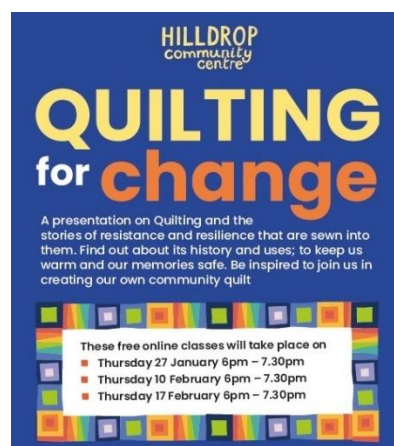
Our Tuesday **Lunch Club** was welcomed back, providing a healthy cooked meal and a space to socialise, share experiences and seek advice. In June 2021 we were able to bring back **hall hire** facilities for family parties and celebrations which provide much needed income to our organisation and scaffolds the core work that we do. We are fortunate to have a lot of outside space, away from main roads. Being able to utilise these spaces, ensuring activities could take place with good ventilation, made it possible for us to move forward from lock down and social distancing restraints.

It was at a Ward Partnership meeting that we were made aware of the funding available to 'green up' our surroundings, and we put in a bid to relandscape the old car park on Community Lane, depaving a large part of the space and rewilding it to encourage a 'green corridor' around our centre. This project has gained momentum and a successful bid to the Mayor of London fund – **Grow Back Greener** – has enabled us to deliver a series of workshops to support volunteers in developing this new space as a wildlife garden and plan the resources to sustain it as an ongoing community gardening project.

As always none of our successes and achievements would be possible without the hard work and continued support of our staff, Trustees, volunteers, donors, residents, and service users. All have played an essential part in the successes and achievements of the centre over the past year, keeping us hopeful and inspired for the future.

Elaine Maffrett – Head of Centre





A message from our Chair of Trustees

The aim was very much to get 'back to business' as we progressed through the year 2021-22. Following COVID guidelines and public health advice from Islington Council, we gradually welcomed friends old and new back to the centre over a staged period of time. Staff and volunteers worked hard to create as warm, cheerful, safe, and inclusive an atmosphere as possible throughout the changes, and we continue to be grateful for the work of our core team, in particular our Head of Centre Elaine Maffrett, our Administrator Natasha Harper, our Play Project Manager Iola Isaac, and Deputy Play Project Manager Jahanara Rahman.

It was heartening to sense a renewed buzz about the centre as more of our regular activities returned. It was also important for us to try and organise accessible, COVID-safe activities to encourage local residents who had been shielding to get out and about, so we made good use of our garden spaces during the milder weather by moving some activities outdoors and bringing back outdoor events.

Christmas 2021 was necessarily subdued due to the Omicron variant, but thanks to the community's response to our **Christmas Appeal** we were once again able to provide gifts for local children and essential items for people needing support over the holidays.

The **Hilldrop Gardening Project** volunteers continued to keep our outdoor spaces thriving, and much work went into securing funding for the future transformation of the centre's surroundings and a series of free workshops on environmental themes.

Building on our pandemic-related food support role, we continued our weekly **Food Hub** service, offering meals and food supplies to local residents provided by Food 4 All & The Felix Project, along with supermarket surplus delivered by volunteers Jane Andrews and Claire Wynnck.

We continue to work with St George's Mutual Aid and St George's Church to distribute food where needed. Our Tuesday **Lunch Club** still provides hot lunches in a warm and sociable environment during term time, and our Food Hub Co-ordinator Robin Campbell's tasty zero-waste creations remain very popular.



I'd like to say a big thank you to all the groups that returned during the course of the year, and to the new groups that have joined us, for bringing a new burst of activity to the centre. The creative energy generated by our user groups continues to feed into our community activities and event planning. We always welcome our user groups becoming engaged in the wider life of the centre.

I would like to thank the **Board of Trustees** for their time, expertise, professionalism, and support for me since I became Chair in 2021, especially our Secretary Sarah Martin and outgoing Treasurer Anjit Chaudhuri. Thanks to the recent excellent work by Anjit and our bookkeeper Anita Nightingale, we are in a sound financial position to hand over to our very welcome new Treasurer Glyn Clark, with a clear pathway of recovery from the pandemic-related difficulties.

We are also grateful to our three local **Islington Council** members Tricia Clarke, Satnam Gill and Gulcin Ozdemir for their supportive presence on our board and to Islington Council for the continued funding and expertise without which we would not exist.

I urge everyone reading this report to explore our website, sign up for our newsletter, enjoy our spaces, sample some of our activities or donate to our fundraising campaign. We would love to see you at the centre.

Geraldine Brennan – Chair of Trustees



Claire & Jane with our supermarket surplus delivery. Food Hub donations from The Felix Project and Camden Road Baptist Church. Christmas Appeal presents, and toys donated by ELBA.



Hilldrop Area Community Association



Our Community Space

Our accessible building is a community asset providing free space for residents' meetings, ward panels, public consultations, and events. At the same we offer affordable space for activities, training sessions, private meetings, and parties, all of which provide a vital income stream that enable us to fund new activities and events, improve our facilities, and provide materials and equipment for our projects.

With a large main hall, a small hall, training room, kitchen facilities and ample garden space, for years the centre has been an ideal place for people to meet and get involved in activities. We offer discounted rates to small charities and local interest groups, and welcome organisations and individuals that seek to provide high quality affordable activities that promote health and wellbeing, social activity, and community participation.



During 2020-21 we were prevented from hosting our usual activities by the COVID outbreak, so we instead concentrated on providing food relief and essential items from outside the centre, while utilising the storage space inside for donated stock provided by partner organisations, local charities, and individual members of our community. We worked closely with **St George's Mutual Aid**, who managed deliveries to those who were self-isolating or otherwise unable to get to the centre.



Bringing Back Our Services

We were able to slowly re-introduce **Play Project** services with a limited capacity in order to support families with the most need, including key worker families and those with SEN children. As a vital service the **Kingsley Organisation's** disability support group had already returned in January 2021, but the rest of our activities would have to wait a few more months until all COVID restrictions were finally dropped in June 2021.

By this time, we were once more able to accept weekend bookings from families who had been unable to gather over the previous year. Children's birthday parties and other events once more filled the calendar, and we're grateful to those who chose to use the centre again after such a long closure. We were also able to host a day of creative family workshops with **Little Angel Theatre** in preparation for their production of *The Wishing Tree*.

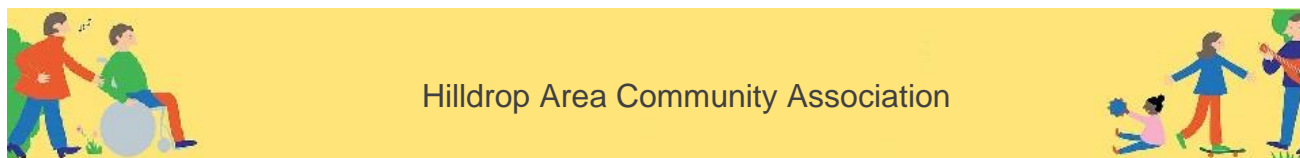
By July 2021, our Play Project and **Stay and Play** Services had fully resumed, and we welcomed back **Little Kickers** and their under 5's football sessions. Support groups like **Alcoholics Anonymous** Islington were able to return to full capacity and our **Gardening** sessions resumed in earnest.

Celebration and Thanks

That month we held our **Summer Fair**, our first for two years. We made the most of our delightful garden space to put on an outdoor event as a way to thank the community for their kindness and support over the previous year. Although it was a smaller event than usual it was a joy to see so many in attendance making friends, enjoying musical performances, browsing stalls, and of course sampling delicious food cooked up by Food Hub Co-ordinator Robin and our volunteers!



September saw the return of sit-down-lunches offered by our **Food Hub**, a new term of **Sewing and Craft** activities, the **Artistic Takeover**, and our **Bengali** women's weekly social and study sessions. By October we'd welcomed back the **Humpty Dumpty Singalong** for under 5's, our **Ukulele** group, and **North London Cares**, who hosted COVID-safe outdoor social events for elders in the community.



Our **Annual General Meeting** was held in November via Zoom and coincided with the launch of our 2021 **Christmas Appeal**. Again, thanks to the tremendous kindness of those who donated money and goods, including a generous donation of new toys from the **East London Business Alliance (ELBA)**, we were once more able to give Christmas presents to children from all our services, plus food, essential items and gifts for their families, and other individuals in need.

New Activities

More events followed in 2022 including '**A Common Thread**', an open social event organised by **St George's Mutual Aid** that linked with our sewing and craft project and included a presentation on quilting from Elaine. We also hosted an outdoor **bake sale** in March to help raise money for Ukrainian refugees, which also included a workshop on food foraging



In January we welcomed the wonderful **Camden Harmony Singers** to the centre. It had been a long time since we'd been able to introduce a new activity and we were delighted to have an established local community choir join us. Alongside our Ukulele players they have since performed at our own events and their numbers have grown.

Bright Futures

Everybody needs a little help sometimes. If you're feeling worried about your child or would like to make a change in your life, we're here for you and your family.

Some ways we can help

We can:

- offer advice and guidance for parenting or family conflict
- help with your child's education and learning
- Help yours and your children's health and wellbeing
- Support and advise with training, employment and benefits
- Help you connect with support in your local community

Get involved

Your feedback and input is really important to us. Get involved by:

- Becoming a Bright Futures Parent Champion
- Telling us your ideas to design and deliver our services
- Help gather family feedback

Find out more

Call our helpline on **020 7527 4343** from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday or email early.help@islington.gov.uk



Follow us on Twitter!
[@IsEarlyHelp](https://twitter.com/IsEarlyHelp)

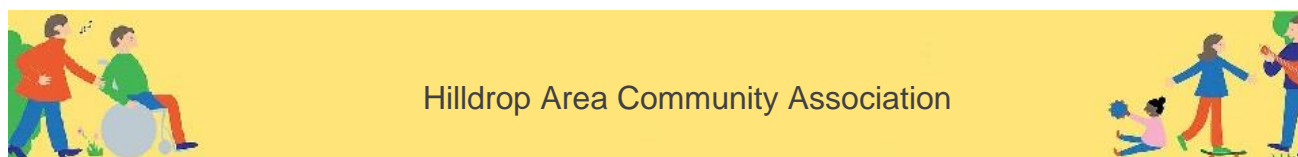


Like us on Facebook!
fb.com/IsEarlyHelp



ISLINGTON

We were also able to bring an important new service into the centre, provided by Islington's **Bright Futures** team. Led by Glen Billey, the service gives 121 support and advice for families with children aged 5-19 years and links them with services and activities designed to improve outcomes for children and young people.



Hilldrop Area Community Association

We welcomed back the **Olokoro Community Group** in March for their monthly social gathering for the Nigerian community and said a sad goodbye to members of the **Mountain of Fire Ministry**, led by Pastor Victor Olayebo, who relocated their services after many years at the centre. Victor remains on our Board of Trustees, and we'd like to thank both him and his church members for their kind support and donations.

Moving Forward

As things gradually returned to normal, we decided to look into improving our administrative systems and identified a need for long-term professional IT support. As a small centre, much had hitherto been done 'in-house,' but with services continuing to grow, we looked to our colleagues in the **Octopus Community Network** for recommendations.



Our sister organisation **Elizabeth House Community Centre** had been working with IT professionals **People's Place Community Partnerships (PPCP)** since 2018, partnering on the hugely successful 21st Century Skills (21CS) project, a flexible training and work experience programme supporting young people into IT careers.



*21CS trainee Andre working in the
Hilldrop office*

It was important for us to work with a company that understood the needs of grassroots voluntary and community organisations and PPCP fitted the bill perfectly.

Since coming on board, they've transformed our operations and we're grateful not only to Director Gary Richeford and Senior Engineer Lewis Hughes for their comprehensive support, but to our fantastic 21CS trainees Andre, Sammy and Aarafat who've been providing essential onsite assistance from the off.

We welcomed new staff to the centre including Play Workers Sharon Davies and Charley Hewitt, and Centre Warden Celine Nodinot. We also said farewell to staff who have moved on to greater things, including our Stay & Play Co-ordinator Rani Bibi, and Play Workers Lance Symister and Emilio Reyes. We thank them all for their amazing hard work and wish them the very best for the future.





Ann Mbachu

On a sadder note, it was with enormous sorrow that we learned of the passing of our much-loved friend and colleague Ann Mbachu in November 2021. Ann had a long association with the centre, as a play worker, volunteer, fundraiser, and founder of our long-running **Ukulele** group.

She cared deeply for the community she was at the heart of, and in February her family, friends and colleagues came together at the centre to share happy memories and celebrate her inspirational life. The warmth, wit, and energy she brought to the centre and all those who knew her will be deeply missed.

By the end of March 2022, it felt as if we were finally over the disruption caused by the pandemic. Much had been learned over the two years since March 2020, and in the process the bonds built with our community, partners and supporters have become stronger than ever. It is because of that crucial community connection, the support of our funders, and the dedicated work of our staff, Trustees, and volunteers that we're able to face the future with confidence and a renewed sense of energy and purpose.

Natasha Harper – Centre Administrator



Head of Centre Elaine Maffrett receiving a Mayor's Civic Award in April 2021 in recognition of developing the Food Hub service at Hilldrop.



Hilldrop Area Community Association



The Food Hub

The Food Hub is Hilddrop's food sharing project that includes a weekly **Lunch Club** and tailored food distribution services to meet the needs of our community. During 2021-22 we ran a free surplus food stall outside the centre in response to the continued financial pressures faced by our residents in the aftermath of the COVID pandemic.

Alongside supermarket surplus and regular donations from the Felix Project, we continued to receive generous donations of food items from the public, and local community groups who reached out to us, including Camden Road Baptist Church who kindly donated food collected as part of their harvest festival in September 2021.

The Lunch Club

Hilddrop's **Lunch Club** is a drop-in service where guests can relax, make friends, and share a healthy cooked dinner together. As one of our **Food Hub** services it runs alongside our general food distribution activities and work with St George's Mutual Aid.

During the COVID restrictions we switched to providing a take-away only service, but after they were relaxed in June 2021 we brought back the sit-down service, making use of the good weather and our garden to allow people to eat together outside.

Since then, the Lunch Club has been going strong and we regularly see new faces joining us on a Tuesday for a sit-down meal. The foods we use come from various sources, including fresh foods donated by the Felix Project, surplus supermarket items from M&S that would otherwise be disposed of, and items donated by the public.



Food Hub Co-ordinator Robin Campbell with kitchen volunteer Marcellus. Lunch options and the surplus food stall.



Thanks to additional cash donations we're able to purchase the right ingredients to go with the different items we receive each week and create a tasty menu, including meat-free and allergy-free options.

The Lunch Club runs during term-time only, as during the school holidays our building is full with children attending our Holiday Play Scheme. The food preparation doesn't stop though, as we're committed to providing at least two hearty cooked lunches a week for the children to enjoy.

We had some brilliant donations through the course of the year, from whole legs of lamb to Jerusalem artichokes, and we made good use of the wide array of herbs planted in the centre grounds by our gardening volunteers. We have lots to choose from including chives, rosemary, mint, and coriander.

Over the year we made over 600 meals for local residents, visitors, and schoolchildren to enjoy together at Hilddrop, and we were delighted to receive a Food Hygiene Rating of 4 after our inspection in March 2022.

Robin Campbell - Food Hub Co-ordinator



The Hilldrop Play Project

Our Play Project service delivers a thriving **After School Club** for 39 weeks of the year and a school **Holiday Playscheme** for 9 weeks of the year. Open to children aged between 4 and 11 years, we provide affordable childcare options with a full range of fun and stimulating activities run by our qualified, friendly, and experienced staff.

Despite the disruption caused by the COVID pandemic during the 2020-21 year, with new safety measures in place we were still able to deliver a scaled-down Holiday Playscheme service from summer 2020 onwards, and while we had to pause the service on occasion due to staff self-isolating, we kept our After School Club open for as much as possible during the autumn, spring, and summer terms.

By summer 2021 both services were back to full capacity, and we were delighted to pass our long-awaited OFSTED inspection in August with all targets successfully met. With support from Islington Council, we were also able to offer a limited number of free places to children with additional educational needs and children from families experiencing financial difficulties

Our Play Project is diverse and inclusive. Catering to all abilities and welcoming children from various walks of life, we encourage every individual child to reach their full potential. Activities are child led, allowing for individual independence and expression whilst building numerous skills.

During the Easter and summer holidays we often organise field trips: from visits to parks, museums, and other places of interest, to activities like bowling and swimming. While restrictions were still in place options were limited, but I'm glad to say that the children were able to enjoy a very special trip to see the Wonderville Magic & Illusion Show at the Palace Theatre last summer, which was hugely enjoyed by all.



Once again, our staff team adapted admirably to the challenges brought by the year, and I'd like to thank them all for their hard work. Although we were sad to say goodbye to Lance and Emilio, we were very fortunate in recruiting some fantastic new Play Workers to the setting, including permanent staff Sharon Davies and Charley Hewitt, who bring a high level of experience and insight into our team. I'd also like to thank temporary Play Workers Emma Clarke and Chloe Watson for their invaluable support over the year.

Iola Isaac – Play Project Manager



Under 5's Provision

Our **Stay & Play** service returned in 2021 and continues to provide a space for families with young children to play, learn and try out new toys and games in a relaxed and sociable environment. We also have a **Toy Library** through which parents can borrow a variety of toys and books for up to two weeks. The service runs on Monday and Wednesday mornings during term times and is free, though we do encourage a small donation from parents to help with providing materials.

We also try to support parents by signposting them to early help services, and we hosted two special advice sessions with **Bright Start's** Speech & Language Therapy team for parents to help identify any speech, language and communication needs in their young children.

Other under 5's activities also returned during 2021 including football skills training provided by the **Little Kickers** franchise, and the **Humpty Dumpty Singalong** with Deborah Brodie, a gentle singing session for parents with babies and toddlers using musical instruments, puppets, and toys.



Stay & Play activities, Little Kickers, and Deborah Brodie from the Humpty Dumpty Singalong.



The Artistic Takeover

The **Artistic Takeover** is an ongoing creative arts project for young people delivered by **Cut Moose**. These free collaborative workshops explore a variety of different mediums including visual arts, model making, storytelling and performing. Originally funded by **Islington Council** and the **Cripplegate Foundation**, workshops ran during 2019-20 until the first COVID lockdown, then from late April to July 2020 workshops were conducted online on multiple platforms. Whilst restrictions and funding limitations meant that further workshops had to be suspended, an online presence was kept throughout, and plans were made to begin a new series of workshops in 2021 with funding from **Islington Giving**.

In August 2021 we launched **A Better Future**, a free-to-enter video making competition for young creatives aged 10 to 12, and 13 to 16 years. The entries were judged by professional filmmakers from Film London and arts agency Lux, and winning entries were screened at the Camden New Town Festival 2021.

By September we'd returned to delivering a weekly workshop at Hildrop, and participants collaborated on a variety of projects. With funding from the **Ragdoll Foundation** this included the production of an interactive digital map of the local area which followed the children's explorative walks, and used QR codes to mark places of interest and link them with videos of their own creation.



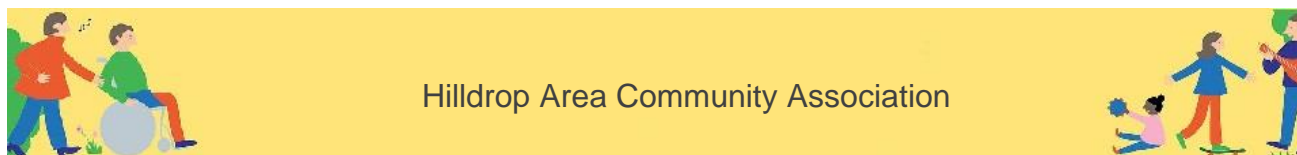
Video competition winners at The Camden New Town Festival 2021



Our workshops continue on Wednesdays during term-time. We now have a core group of five 11 to 13-year-old's who come together to chat about life, share ideas, play, create art and practice drama. They created a short film to enter another video-making competition in summer 2022, and the group is now concentrating on a short sketch of their own authorship. In the future we plan to continue to run and expand our weekly group and, when funding allows, to continue to helicopter into other local youth groups to offer the experience across the locality.

Though we promote the workshops locally, many of our participants came to the project via word-of-mouth recommendations. We warmly welcome new members and encourage people to let friends and family know about this unique project.

Helen Ainsworth & Irene Ros – Cut Moose



The Hilldrop Peace Garden

Our community garden & raised beds are the combined work of many volunteers who've given their time over the years. Led by Elaine Maffrett and Trustee Sarah Martin, they have been regularly tending to our outside spaces on Thursday afternoons, creating a peaceful oasis in a densely urban area.

April 2021 to March 2022 was the year the grip of the pandemic seemed to gradually loosen somewhat, with the vaccine programme in place and more people returning to normal activities. Yet things were far from 'back to normal' of course. Some of us felt quietly anxious, some of us felt newly hopeful, and some of us just swung backwards and forwards between the two poles.

At such a time the gardening group was really helpful. Those of us who could take part made the most of having a peaceful and rewarding activity to share in the relative safety of the outdoors. Working in the open gave a lift to our spirits, even if the sky was grey.

Aside from the personal wellbeing aspect, we were motivated to keep the garden looking as healthy, diverse, and welcoming as possible. The budget was limited, so we took special pleasure in homing our 'rescue' plants brought to the centre by local volunteers Jane and Claire. These came from M&S stock that would otherwise have been disposed of, but we re-planted many and saw them thrive. It's amazing what a bit of TLC will do for a drooping plant, especially when it's eased out of its cramped little pot and given its special place in our garden. Who says plants don't have feelings?



Activities at the centre were still limited, but the Kingsley Organisation's disability support group and Play Project services resumed during the year, often with doors wide open to the garden for ventilation. The flow between inside and outside became even more important as we would chat with the members of the project as we weeded.

A bird feeder was donated by Brian, one of our friends from the disability support group, which motivated further development of the wildlife friendly side of the garden. We found the best place for the bird feeder (away from pigeons!) and left autumn leaves as a mulch in preparation for a fruiting hedge. Learning as we went, we avoided cutting back too hard in the autumn to provide shelter over the colder winter months.

Meanwhile some of our faithful volunteers who'd been with us from the beginning had to move on due to other commitments, including in some cases paid work. We wish them all the best for the future and thank them for the wonderful contribution they've made.

New volunteers have joined us since then of course, all with their own skills and enthusiasms, and we continue to work together as an evolving team - and there is always room for more! By the end of spring, we were successfully applying for grants to continue our work into 2022-23, which included Grow Back Greener funding from the Mayor of London and Thames Water to transform the unused area of the Community Lane car park into a wildlife garden. An optimistic end to an unpredictable year!

Sarah Martin – Trustee & Garden Project Co-ordinator



Current Activities & Services at Hilldrop

The Food Hub: Tuesday Lunch Club & Socials

Tuesdays from 10 - 2pm in the Small Hall (term-time only).

Tea & coffee from 10am. Lunch served after 12pm. Free.

Enquiries: elaine@hilldrop.org.uk.

Sewing and Craft drop-in

Tuesdays from 10.30am to 12.30pm in the Small Hall (term-time only). Free

Enquiries: elaine@hilldrop.org.uk

Easy Exercise

Monthly Tuesdays (term-time) from 1.30pm to 2.30pm in the Small Hall. Free

2022 Dates: 13th September, 11th October, 15th November, 13th December

Enquiries: elaine@hilldrop.org.uk

Gardening

Thursday afternoons from 12 - 3pm (term-time only). Free.

Enquiries: elaine@hilldrop.org.uk

Ukulele practice

Fridays from 12.30-2.30pm in the Main Hall (term-time only). £1 - £2 contribution.

Enquiries: office@hilldrop.org.uk

Choir practice with The Camden Harmony Singers

Wednesdays 6.30 - 8.30pm in the Main Hall (term-time only). Fees apply – please check dates and prices at www.camdenharmonysingers.com.

Enquiries: info@camdenharmonysingers.com

Over 65's social groups with North London Cares

Social groups take place at Hilldrop on an ad-hoc basis in the Main Hall.

Contact NLC directly for dates and times.

Enquiries: andy.naylor@northlondoncares.org.uk, or call 020 7118 3838

Bengali Women's Group

Tuesdays 10am-12.30pm in the Main Hall, and Saturdays 10am – 12.30pm in the Small Hall (term-time only). Enquiries about joining this private group should be made to:

office@hilldrop.org.uk

Alcoholics Anonymous

Sundays 12pm - 1.30pm, Small Hall. Enquiries: office@hilldrop.org.uk

National helpline 0800 9177 650



Kingsley Organisation – Chain Reaction in Town (disability support group)

Mondays, Thursdays & Fridays 10am-3pm, Small Hall. Enquiries about joining this private group should be made to: antonio@kingsleyorganisation.org.uk

Olokoro Community Group

Private members-only gathering for the local Nigerian community that takes place on the last Sunday of each month from 6 – 9pm on the Main Hall. Enquiries: office@hilldrop.org.uk

Children's Activities

Stay & Play (term-time only)

Mondays & Wednesdays from 9.45 – 11.15am in the Main Hall (term-time only). Free (£1 donation encouraged). Enquiries: office@hilldrop.org.uk

Under 5's football with Little Kickers

Thursdays from 9-11am in the Main Hall (or local MUGA court during school holidays). Fees apply. Enquiries: nclondond@littlekickers.co.uk, or call 0203 983 1990

The Humpty Dumpty Singalong (sessions for parents with 0–3-year-olds)

Fridays from 11 - 11.45am in the Main Hall (term-time only). Fees apply. Enquiries: thehumptydumptysingalong@hotmail.com

Artistic Takeover (term-time only)

Wednesdays from 4.30pm to 6pm in the Small Hall (term-time only). Free. Parental consent required. Enquiries and registration: info@cutmoose.com

The Play Project: After School Club

Monday to Friday from 3.45pm-6pm, term-time in the Main Hall. Fees apply. Full details available at www.hilldrop.org.uk/play-project. Enquiries and registration: iola@hilldrop.org.uk, or call 0207 700 1871

The Play Project: Holiday Play Scheme

Monday to Friday from 8.15am – 5.30pm in the Main Hall (half term, Easter, and summer holidays only). Fees Apply. Full details available at www.hilldrop.org.uk/play-project. Enquiries and registration: iola@hilldrop.org.uk, or call 0207 700 1871

Bright Futures Early Help Service (for families with children aged 5 – 19 years)

Advice sessions by appointment on Wednesday afternoons from 2pm - 3.45pm in the Training Room. Enquiries: early.help@islington.gov.uk, or call 020 7527 4343



FINANCE

An overview from our Treasurer

When we set the budget for the 2021-22 financial year, the sense of relief that we'd pulled through the first year of the pandemic was tempered by uncertainty about how we would recover once everything started to open up, and the knowledge that emergency funding would be much more limited. Prudence is always called for in budgeting, but at the same time, we didn't want to cut any services before it was clear which way the wind was blowing. Because of this, we actually set a budget for the worst case scenario, one in which we may have been forced to use up almost all our reserves over the 12 months, allowing up to six months to track the recovery before taking any big decisions.

There was a confidence however that the wonderful team we have here would ensure that once the centre was open, we'd get people back through the doors and funders supporting our projects. In the end, the relatively small loss of under £4k essentially reflects the fact that hall rental (both for regular groups and one-off events) could not really get going until we reached step 3 of the Government's roadmap out of lockdown.

As ever, I would like to thank Islington Council for their financial support through Voluntary & Community Sector funding, and further grants to support the Food Hub and other specific activities and events. My thanks also to the dedicated staff at the Council for their assistance, and our local Councillors for their ongoing support. Finally I'd like to thank our Finance Officer Anita Nightingale for managing our bookkeeping, and Andrews Tete-Donkor from Glandys for preparing our final accounts again with great efficiency.

On a personal note, it has been a pleasure to be part of the Trustee committee for the last six years, and to see the centre go from strength to strength. As outgoing Treasurer there could not be a better time to move on, safe in the knowledge that the staff, volunteers and Trustees form a group that will keep the centre and its services moving forwards, and I look forward to coming back from time to time to see everyone.

Anjit Chaudhuri - Treasurer

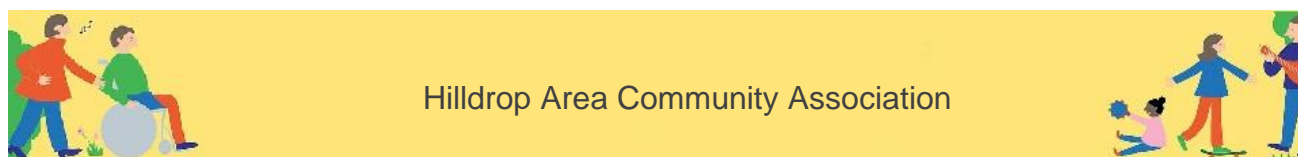
Finance Report Summary

The total income generated for the period ending March 2022 was £185,678.00. This is comparable to March 2021 where total income was £185,103.00.

The total expenditure for the period ending March 2022 was £189,412.00 as compared with the total expenditure for 2021, which was £169,142.00. The net loss for the year was £3,734.00.

General reserves at 31st March 2022: £52,955.00.

Anita Nightingale – Finance Officer



FINANCE

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

I carried out an examination in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charities Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. The examination also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the Managers and Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken provided as much evidence as would be required in an audit and, consequently an opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view", and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, despite the negative impact of the covid-19 pandemic on the general UK economy, no matters have come to my attention that are materially significant.

In my opinion the financial statements:

- (1) give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and its profit [loss] for the year then ended have been properly prepared in accordance with SORP FRS 102 as adopted by the Charities Commission and Section 130 of the Charities Act 2011 and
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Andrews Tete-Donkor, MBA, ACIE

Glandy & Co (Accountants), 43 ECKINGTON HOUSE London. N15 6SH

6th July 2022

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Cyclical Maintenance Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
INCOME					
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds</i>					
Grants and other donations	52869		96127	148996	110776
Other income	26608		10074	36682	74327
<i>Incoming resources from charitable activities</i>					
Income from services provided				0	0
	79477		106201	185678	185103
EXPENDITURE					
<i>Cost of generating funds</i>					
Fundraising and project development					
<i>Charitable activities</i>	89408		100004	189412	169162
	89408		100004	189412	169162
Net Income/ (Expenditure)	-9931		6197	-3734	15941
Transfer between funds					
Other Recognised Gains/ (Losses)					
Realised gain on investment					
Net Movement in Funds	-9931		6197	-3734	15941
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Balance Brought Forward 31Mar 2021	56689		0	56689	40748
Balance Carried Forward 1st April 2022	46758		6197	52955	56689



We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Hilldrop Staff, Volunteers and Trustees who have all contributed to developing the centre and organisation, enabling it to flourish.

Staff

Elaine Maffrett – Head of Centre

Robin Campbell – Food Hub

Coordinator

Natasha Harper – Centre Administrator

Anita Nightingale – Finance Officer

Rani Bibi – Stay & Play Co-ordinator

Arifa Choudhury – Under Fives Worker

Nasrina Ahad – Under Fives Worker

Celine Nodinot – Centre Warden

Sandra Florez – Centre Cleaner

Iola Isaac – Play Project Manager

Jahanara Rahman – Deputy Play Manager

Mick Carroll – Play Worker

Amy Marciano – Play Worker

Emilio Reyes – Play Worker

Sharon Davies – Play Worker

Charley Hewitt – Play Worker

Emma Clarke – Play Worker

Chloe Watson – Play Worker

Volunteers

A big thank you to all our volunteers at the centre but a special mention to the following:

Edith Reyes

Thomas Coyle

Karen Dube

Marcellus Whyte

Alfred Maher

Josie Lees

Yasmin O'Grady

Trustees

Geraldine Brennan (Chair)

Sarah Martin (Secretary)

Anjit Chaudhuri (Treasurer)

Stephen Moorby

Marissa Campbell

Victor Olayebo

Brian Bench

Charlene Braithwaite

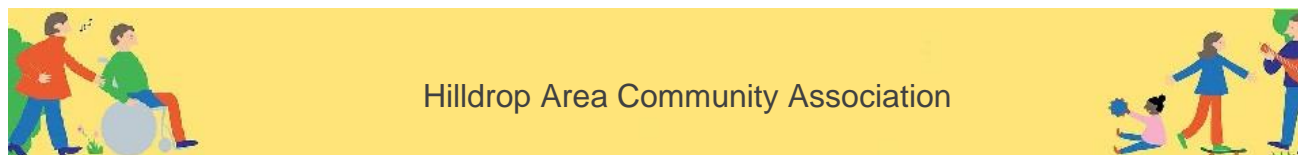
Petronella Carter

Glyn Clark (from Jan 2022)

Cllr Satnam Gill (Co-opted)

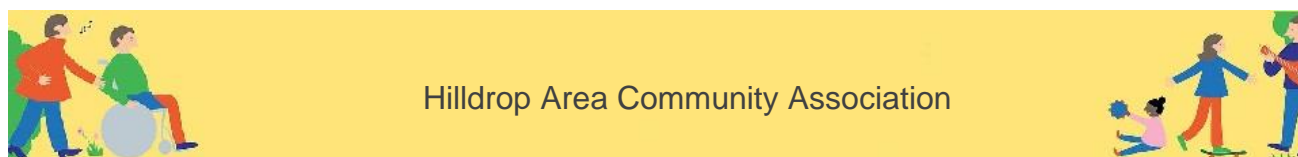
Cllr Tricia Clarke (Co-opted)

Cllr Gulcin Ozdemir (Co-opted)



And finally, we'd like to thank the many individuals and organisations that supported us over the year. It is thanks to the generosity and dedication of our donors, partners, funders, local businesses, and other supporters that we've been able to help so many people.

Thank you for making St George's Ward a community to be proud of!



Hilldrop Area Community Association

Hilldrop Community Centre

Community Lane

Hilldrop Road

London

N7 0JE

Tel: 0207 607 9453

office@hilldrop.org.uk

www.hilldrop.org.uk

Registered Charity number 1164597

Ofsted setting number 2503947



Hilldrop Area Community Association

