



Bulwell Community  
**toy library**

Annual Report 2009/10





“While we try to teach our children all about life, our children teach us what life is all about”

Angela Schwindt

# Chair's report 2009/10

It may be tempting fate to say this, but despite the recession and the fact that each year lately starts with an anxious wait to hear the outcome of funding applications, we continue to develop and expand our services to local families.

There is no doubt that funding organisations have recognised the quality of what we do and respect our community based approach. We are particularly grateful to the Tudor Trust who not only agreed to our request to support us for a fourth year but decided themselves to extend it for a fifth in order to help us to find alternative ways of raising income for our Toy Library sessions.

Still, we can't just hope that we are able to continue to find enough grant aid year after year.

Which is why we have decided that we owe it to our members and users to take steps to find other ways to bring in the money we need to keep our services running. The coming year is going to see some big changes as we work hard at developing schemes like the Mobile Creche that we will charge a fee for in order to help to pay for our usual services.

This will mean that our staff and volunteers will be working harder than ever, without them we wouldn't be where we are. Thank you to them all for their commitment and enthusiasm.

**Emma Buckland**

Chairperson



# The next thirty years?

Last year we were “growing in to our new shape,” looking at how we’ve changed over the last thirty years. Delivering new services, employing more staff, supporting more local families and forming new partnerships.

This year we continue to develop, but we also face new challenges, opportunities and choices that could define our future.

The ‘economic downturn,’ public spending cuts, the prospects for small charities and voluntary organisations like ours are not good, many will not survive. Those that are dependent on local authority funding are particularly vulnerable. The City Council Children’s Services have already reduced our grant aid from £140,000 to £61,500 over the last 3 years. We have survived and even expanded by raising another £140,000 from other funders!

However this is not something that we can hope to do for much longer. Charitable Trusts are facing reduced income as well and there are only so many that we can appeal to.

This year our Trustees have decided that we should start to look at other ways to raise some of the money that we need. One way that more and more groups are doing this is to charge for some services that are aimed at organisations and individuals that can pay for them. This means becoming a Social Enterprise, an organisation that combines its free services with some more commercial work from which the profits are used to fund the charitable work.

This is why we have set up our Mobile Creche Service and have advertised the hire of Toy Packs to schools, nurseries and childminders. It is also why we have reluctantly started to make a small charge to attend our Play and Lend sessions. On its own this is not enough but it is a start, we are looking very hard at a range of other options with the help of funding from a national government programme called Communitybuilders. We were one of only 300 groups out of 3,000 applicants to be accepted on this scheme. This may lead to further investment to help us to become a Social Enterprise through which we intend to become more self reliant.



# Services

## Targeted Services

Some families that we work with are referred to us by other agencies for specific support and help. This is usually because the child has speech or language delay, often it is the Health Visitor that notices this and asks us to get involved.

Our Language Through Toys and Play project has been running for over 10 years and is very well known and respected by other agencies such as the Health Service. When we receive a referral a specialist worker visits the family at home regularly and works with the whole family to improve the child's development through play and interaction. By working intensively until the child starts school or full time nursery we aim to make sure that they are not behind other children in their language skills. This in turn improves their chance to benefit from education.

This project has recently been extended by an award of funding from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation. The Family Link project is aimed at working in the same way with babies and children under 2 years. Our intention is to intervene earlier and help the family to prevent problems later on by encouraging playful interaction from birth onwards.

One of the keys to the success of these targeted projects is that we can support vulnerable and isolated families to attend our Family Play sessions, meet other parents and join supportive community networks. This also helps the child with language by including them in social play activities with other children.

## Services for all

Our Family Play and Lend sessions for families with pre school children are the heart of the Toy Library. They have been running in Bulwell for over 30 years and are hugely well known and used. At the moment we run 7 sessions each week across Bulwell and in areas such as Bestwood, Basford and Top Valley. One of these is our Baby Play group, aimed at new parents with children under one year and not yet walking.

As they were all that time ago, each of our weekly sessions are within pram pushing distance of the community we are aiming to support. We offer a range of toys for loan, a carefully thought out range of activities for the children and an opportunity for adults to meet, talk and support each other. We pride ourselves on making each session welcoming and supportive to every family that turns up.

In 2006 we extended our work to include provision for children aged 5-13 years. We now operate an after school and holiday project for 3 sessions each week on Crabtree Farm Estate and an outdoor Play project on a local park for 4 sessions each week including Saturdays. This has increased our support to local families as their children grow up and explore their own independence. We offer open access play provision within the neighbourhoods that the children live in and aim to support them in making choices and learning through play. We also include outdoor, natural and adventurous activities in the choices that we offer because these are so important to promote healthy lifestyles as well as an appreciation of our surroundings and relationship with nature.

# What difference do we make?

## LTTTP

“The project approach enables parents to continue positive interactions with their children long after the worker completes their work.”

**Children’s Centre Manager**

---

This project “would serve well as a model for similar initiatives across the city.”

**Play Service Manager**

---

“The Speech and Language Therapy Service view the Language Through Toys and Play project as a valuable service.”

**Speech and Language Therapy Services**

---

“The benefits to both health and education of this project are not only desirable but essential.”

**Infants School Head Teacher**

---

“My child has come on with speech a lot and it has given them confidence to speak a lot more.”

**Parent**

---

“My son has picked up and learnt so much with Lorraine coming. I’m so pleased with the big improvement my son has learnt. He has enjoyed it so much, he never wants the session to end.”

**Parent**

---

“With 5 children having someone come to the house has been great, no finding someone to baby sit or dragging 5 children to appointments, even if some children are at school it’s finding time in between school runs.”

**Parent**



## Family Play and Lend Sessions

“Your play groups gave me a chance to become part of the local community and meet other parents and share experiences.”

**Parent**

---

“I find these sessions extremely valuable both for my son’s development as well as my own understanding of fatherhood.”

**Parent**

---

“I borrow 2 toys a week, it helps with learning new things. My child loves to come to the toy library because she likes to play with new friends and learns to interact with other children.”

**Parent**

---

“The large range of creative activities at the Toy Library gives me lots of ideas to use at home.”

**Childminder**

---

“In the current economic climate, and with the environment at the foreground of our minds, Toy Library’s are not only an essential economic, eco-friendly initiative, they are also a friendly community scheme which help parents in many ways.”

**Parent**

---

“I like it because my child can play with toys that I cannot afford.”

**Parent**



## Over Fives Play Sessions

"It's really good fun and there's new stuff to do."

**Child**

---

"Always things to do and make."

**Child**

---

"It's good and playful and we enjoy the staff."

**Child**

---

"Can go out feeling safe always something to do."

**Child**

---

"Fun when I'm bored, got a park and activities and my parents know I'm safe."

**Child**

---

"I get to make things and cooking and other kids there."

**Child**

---

"Wouldn't be allowed out so would be in my bedroom if I didn't come here."

**Child**

---

"Lots of things to do and it's fun."

**Child**



# Numbers

Facts and figures from the year 2009 -2010:



- 303 families with a total of 431 children under 5 regularly came to the 234 Family Play sessions that we ran.
- 755 school aged children regularly came to the 308 after school and holiday play sessions that we ran (which included Saturdays).
- We supported 52 families whose children have speech and language delay.
- On average we work with 370 people each week.
- We provided opportunities for 22 volunteers, 8 employees.
- Training placements for 7 young people.
- 14 local people manage and run the project.



## Who's who?

We began as a group of volunteers without any paid workers and are still run by local people who make up our Board of Trustees. Thank you to them all for their commitment and support:

Chairperson	Katie Terry (to 12th March 2010) Emma Buckland (from 12th March 2010)
Secretary	Sarah Martin
Treasurer	Angela Jacklin (to 16th April 2010) Claire Leeming (from 16th April 2010)
Amanda Wilson	
Diana Woodward	
Julie Pinot De Moira	
Wendy Short	
Kerry Williams	
Leanne Edmiston	
Craig Woodward	
Loretta Brown	
Stephanie Quinn	

Staff of the Toy Library are its most valuable resource. It is their loyalty and commitment to the mission of the organisation that have enabled it to thrive and stay in touch with the community of Bulwell.

Project Manager	Steve Parkinson
Finance and Resources	Jenny Forde
Play Coordinator	Sue Brentnall
Language Through Toys and Play Manager	Lorraine Stevenson
Neighbourhood Playworker	Jane Byrne
Session Leader	Sara Taylor
Inclusion Playworker	Helen Robertson
School Link Playworker	Nick Morris
Assistant Playworker	Sardia Skelton (Future Jobs Fund)
Assistant Playworker	Alison Carpenter (Future Jobs Fund)
Assistant Childcare Worker	Kyle Couling (Future Jobs Fund)
Assistant Admin & Resources Worker	Vince Summerly (Future Jobs Fund)



# Partnerships

We are a small organisation that truly strives to provide and support the best possible services for local families. In order to do this we know that it is vital that we work together with other agencies and service providers. In doing so we can both add value to what is achieved as well as advocate for local people and influence the quality and suitability of services generally.

We are represented at, and the Project Manager is currently the Chair of, the Bulwell Children's Centre Board and the Bulwell Extended Schools Steering Group. We are also the community sector lead for Play and founder member of the Bulwell Play Partnership. We are key voluntary sector members of the Nottingham City Play Partnership.

## Thanks to our Funders

Once again thank you to the organisations that have shown their belief in us by providing funds needed to support our work:

- Nottingham City Council
- The Tudor Trust
- NHS Nottingham City
- The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation
- Lloyds TSB Foundation
- Big Lottery
- Nottinghamshire Community Foundation
- Education Action Zone
- Porticus UK
- Garfield Weston Foundation



Bulwell Community Toy Library Limited  
Statement of financial activities  
(incorporating the income and expenditure  
account) for the year ended 31 March 2009

<b>2008</b>			<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2009 Total Funds</b>
<b>£</b>		<b>Note</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
171180	Grants & donations	<b>2</b>	42094	180555	222649
12050	Sales & fees		22100	-	22100
736	Bank interest		579	-	579
25153	Transfer in		-	-	-
<b>209119</b>	<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>64773</b>	<b>180555</b>	<b>245328</b>

<b>Resources expended</b>					
136385	Wages, NI & pension		22983	129987	152970
115	Payroll service		180	-	180
903	Staff expenses		18	423	441
1045	Staff training		314	49	363
-	Supervision		-	-	-
351	Recruitment		-	-	-
467	Volunteer expenses		318	37	355
3328	Rent & services		1547	2603	4150
731	Session costs		642	29	671
3495	Premises maintenance & utilities		2991	1987	4978
821	Cleaning		494	455	949
1685	Insurance		2357	155	2512
2789	Telephone, postage & stationery		2302	1046	3348
396	Printing, publicity & promotions		718	560	1278
534	Creche costs		79	-	79
4940	Equipment, repairs & renewals		1079	1133	2212
3618	Events & activities		856	582	1438
96	Toys		381	3517	3898

<b>2008</b>		<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2009 Total Funds</b>
£	Note	£	£	£
<b>Resources expended (cont)</b>				
1626	Van costs	1209	249	1458
221	Hospitality & refreshments	75	-	75
262	AGM & trustees expenses	150	-	150
3773	Legal & professional	653	146	799
-	Materials	208	2537	2745
-	Publication, subscriptions & affiliations	103	-	103
352	Depreciation	340	-	340
	<b>3</b>			
<b>167933</b>	<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>39997</b>	<b>145495</b>	<b>185492</b>
<b>41186</b>	<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>24776</b>	<b>35060</b>	<b>59836</b>
-	Total funds brought forward 33686	7500	41186	
<b>41186</b>	<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>58462</b>	<b>42560</b>	<b>101022</b>





“Children will not remember you for the material things you provided but for the feeling that you cherished them”

Richard L. Evans



Telephone - 0115 975 3898  
Email - [admin@toy-library.co.uk](mailto:admin@toy-library.co.uk)  
Visit - [www.toy-library.co.uk](http://www.toy-library.co.uk)

Bulwell Community Toy Library  
Chris Firth Cottages, Norwich Gardens  
Bulwell, Nottingham, NG6 8GG

Registered charity No.1117739 / Company No. 5687000

