

# KATHERINE LOW SETTLEMENT

Serving the community since 1924 ANNUAL REVIEW 2015/16



# Our Vision, Our principle mission is to Mission and Relieve and prevent podiscrimination Values

At Katherine Low Settlement we are driven by our vision and mission and led by our values.

Our vision is for a society where people fight poverty, tackle injustice, and realise their potential together.

- Relieve and prevent poverty, disadvantage and
- Foster community cohesion
- Promote social inclusion and reduce isolation, increasing health and well-being of those on the margins of the local community
- Consider the needs of all people

We are led by our values of

- Respecting the unique worth of individuals and empowering them to fulfil their potential
- Respecting the right of individuals and communities of interest to make their own choices and enabling them to make informed decisions
- Valuing diversity and difference
- Challenging discrimination in all its forms and promoting equality of opportunity
- Working collaboratively with others
- Providing the best service possible with the resources available
- Providing services to meet immediate needs while undertaking activities to tackle the causes of need
- Minimising impact on the environment and promoting sustainable development



# Who we are and what we do

atherine Low Settlement is a multi-purpose charity that has been serving the communities of Battersea and Wandsworth since 1924. We are dedicated to building stronger communities so that we can enable people to challenge and find ways out of poverty and isolation.

We run a range of our own community projects to support children, young people and their families, older people and newlyarrived refugee communities. We recognise there are many other expert local charities and community groups working with, for example, disabled people and mental health users. We therefore invite them to operate from our premises and so together, as partners, we can meet the diverse needs of the local communities of Wandsworth.

Each week we work with 40+ charities & groups supporting more than 500 people.

Visit www.klsettlement.org.uk



## What is a community?

At KLS we strive to build stronger communities and tackle poverty.

ommunity' is a term used extensively in almost all areas of our lives. Some definitions focus on community as a geographical area; some on a group of people living in a particular place with common characteristics (such as solidarity, commitment, reciprocity, mutuality and trust); and others which looked to community as an area of common life or shared identify and interests. Regardless of a precise academic definition, the sociologist David Brain (2004) points out how communities work together and take collective action, 'people working together with shared understandings and expectations are what provide a place of strong

community'.

## What do we mean by poverty?

overty' is more than just material deprivation but also the ability to fully participate in society. We use Professor Peter Townsend's wider definition of poverty (1979), 'Individuals, families and groups in the population can be said to be in poverty when they lack the resources to obtain the type of diet, participate in the activities and have the living conditions and the amenities which are customary, or at least widely encouraged or approved in the societies to which they belong. Their resources are so seriously below those commanded by the average family that they are in effect excluded from the ordinary living patterns, customs, and activities.

**Below: Nadia** and Fred (to her right) bottom: 3rd & 4th from left, Nadia & Edie; behind them, 5th & 7th from left, Fred and Tom

#### **Edie & Nadia returning to KLS**

Edie and Nadia first came to Katherine Low to the youth club back in 1961. They met two local lads who 'nicked their chips' which was the start of something special... The lads, Tom and Fred, were already members of the KLS youth club, so the girls followed them here and they've never looked back! They came to the club for several years and in 1964 Edie married Tom and Nadia married Fred.

Edie later returned as a helper in the Katherine Low playgroup when her two youngest children were here from 1971 to

Years later they are both back as active members of our elders programme. Initially they joined 'Dance for Life' with the Royal Academy of Dance and have since also become regular attendees at our Contact Club and sewing group, as well as joining us on trips and popping into Lunch Club.

We have yet to persuade Tom and Fred to join them in the dance group, but you never know...



### The Chair's report

#### **Margaret Robson**

very warm welcome to our Annual Review for the year to April 2016 where we summarise the work that has taken place and take a look ahead.

A problem with writing this report in August is that it is a full five months after the twelve months covered but in this year above all others those five months have seen such turbulent events affecting the UK as a whole, that it is difficult to ignore them. Most significant perhaps was the EU Referendum result in June and some of the campaigning and press coverage which influenced this result. The effect on

us here at KLS was to make us feel that our work here was more important than ever; to provide a place where people of all ages from all backgrounds, beliefs and experiences can feel

safe, listened to, valued and respected. We believe that KLS exemplifies what Joe Cox said in her maiden speech as an MP 'We are far more united than the things that divide us'.

We are proud and delighted to report that increasing numbers of people are wishing to come to KLS to use our services, such that many of our groups now have waiting lists and staff are constantly engaged in the task of raising more funds to meet those needs. We are extremely fortunate in having a staff group who personify

individually and collectively the ethos, mission and values of KLS. On behalf of the trustees I wish to thank them all and our many wonderful volunteers for the passion and commitment to their work. Special thanks must go to Aaron who has continued to lead us dynamically onwards and upwards in his constantly cheerful and enthusiastic manner. He has substantially expanded his post, our services and horizons and we are very pleased that we have been able to appoint a new senior post – Head of Community Services who will start in October.

For several years now we have stated our commitment to

improve access to our building, principally

by installing
a lift. In our
present state
of optimism we
have decided
to go further
and improve
substantial parts
of the building. We

now have exciting plans, drawn up by architects who loved our quirky building and rose to the challenge brilliantly after consultation with staff, service users and trustees. There is a long road ahead not least raising substantial funds. I am optimistic that we will ultimately achieve our goal to have a much improved and even more loved Settlement.

Sincere thanks to all our funders – without their support we would simply not exist. We have successfully raised funds from a wide range of sources, large

and small, trusts, organisations both statutory and voluntary and generous individuals; amongst them all, some old friends, some new. We are delighted to continue and strengthen our association with Francis Holland and Thomas's schools through pupils, parents and staff who support us in many ways.

The trustees have the ultimate responsibility for the Settlement and we are very fortunate to have a dedicated Board who give of their time, skills and experience to provide a steady and critical overview of the work and its management. We have again seen some changes and we are delighted to welcome new trustees and to express thanks to those who have retired and those who continue to serve.

Finally, my very sincere thanks to all of you who use our services and support our Settlement and who help to make it the wonderful, friendly and constantly inspiring place it is.

### Strategic Priorities

ollowing our 'Community Wise' research in 2013 the Settlement developed a 3-year strategic plan. The key strategic priorities for 2014 – 2016 are to:

#### **Grow our services**

Improve our community centre

Build stronger communities & campaign

Celebrate our 90th Birthday

o deliver this strategy KLS' business model is to:

Identify and develop services that meet local needs and address KLS's charitable purposes, principally in Battersea, London Borough of Wandsworth.

Open our community centre for other local charities and community groups to rent office space and/or hire rooms to run their own services for the benefit of local residents.

Build stronger communities & campaign by working together with other voluntary and statutory organisations and community networks.

#### Strategic Priority Outcomes

Grow our existing service: Encourage active and independent

Older and vulnerable people living

Reduce isolation and loneliness

Outcomes

Enable older residents to become dynamic and contributing members of the Wandsworth

community

Grow our existing service: Increase in educational

Newly-arrived refugee communities **achievement** 

Increase knowledge of and ability

to navigate UK systems

Improve ability to secure and

sustain employment

Grow a new service: Improve community mental

Supporting people through employment & training health, particularly with refugee

communities

Secure and sustain employment

Attain new and appropriate skills

and qualifications

Improve our Community Centre Ensure 108 Battersea High Street

is a high-quality community

facility

Maintain full occupancy rate for

office hire

**Increase occupancy levels for** 

room hire

Increase access by installing a lift

**Build stronger communities & Contribute to building stronger** 

campaigning organisations and infrastructure

within Battersea

Give a campaigning 'Voice for

Battersea'

Celebrate our 90th Birthday Ensure key members, supporters

and the wider community feel more closely involved with KLS and our 90th birthday

celebrations

Raise the profile of the

Settlement

Raise specific funding to install

a lift

### Achievements in 2015/16

n 2015/16 we continued to **grow our current services** with older people and newly-arrived refugee communities.

Highlights this year include:

#### **Older People**

Katherine Low Settlement has worked with older people since we were established in 1924. We provide, often in partnership, a range of projects and activities for older people including: Health and Wellbeing, Creative Arts, Intergenerational Work, Connecting Neighbours & Active Participation, and Trips and Holidays.

Over the past year we've rejuvenated our older people's programme: we've brought in new staff and volunteers, developed projects that provide the necessary support and care, ramped up our promotional work,

extended our referral network, and increased the number of older people we're working with.

We provide a varied programme of activities, delivering eight weekly groups with an average of 45 members attending each week, and one fortnightly group (The Contact Club), with a further 20 members participating. This year 55 new members were referred and assessed by KLS.

We continued to work with our existing membership of 50 older people. Of the newly referred members, over 80% are now regular attendees at one or more of our weekly activities.

This is alongside the additional programme of activities delivered by our amazing partners.

Our current projects include: an Older People's Lunch Club; social support clubs such as The Contact Club; exercise programmes including yoga, T'ai Chi, line dancing, chair exercises for frail elders (with support from Wandsworth Clinical Commissioning Groupfunded Community Resilience programme), Dance for Life with the Royal Academy of Dance; Gold & Silver Players drama group; arts and craft activities, pottery, sewing and 'IT for the Elderly'.

Our recent partnership projects included: First World War inspired 'Care and Comfort' with the UK's National Archives, 'Are You Sitting Comfortably?' with Battersea Arts Centre, 'Recycled Teenagers' with The Peabody Trust, Lavender Circle, 'Men in Sheds' with Wandsworth Council Public Health team, local residential care home George Potter House, supported transport with Battersea Taxi card and local driver Raymer and her firm Airport Express Cars, and volunteering projects with pupils from Thomas's



**Spread the Warmth**Winter concert

The Alra theatre group invited our elders to an afternoon of entertainment, with carol songs, performances, a fabulous raffle and high tea. It was a truly wonderful afternoon, with 19 of our members joining several other community groups for the occasion.

As part of the event, the Alra students performed 'Silent Night' in

German and two of our members were both absolutely thrilled and immediately started joining in and singing in German.

It was evident that they were 'back in their childhoods,' both coincidently with Swiss-German speaking parents, so they knew every word!

Battersea School and Francis Holland School.

This enables us to achieve the outcomes shown on the right.

We carry out regular focus group discussions, alongside self-assessments, questionnaires and staff observations, to assess the impact of our projects. From our monitoring and evaluation we know that being part of the KLS community has an enormous impact on our member's lives.

#### **Looking ahead**

We have shown that there is a definite need for our older people's services, as all of the older people's projects quickly filled and are now full. We have waiting lists to ensure we provide quality throughout our services. Next year we need, and are seeking, more funding, staff and volunteers to meet the demand.

#### **Outcomes**

#### **Achievements**

Encourage active and independent living

100% make a contribution to the life of KLS' community centre

Reduce isolation and loneliness

95% social contact with other people at least once a week

95% strengthen their informal network with neighbours, befrienders and staff & volunteers from KLS

Improve well-being and prevent ill-health

25 eat affordable home-cooked meal at KLS

50% attend appropriate exercise activities

95% increase their mental stimulation

50% better able to manage own health condition through better information and peer support

Enable older residents to become dynamic and contributing members of the Wandsworth community 5 taking an active part with patient involvement with NHS, Wandsworth Older People's Forum, The Contact Club and other community groups



Care and Comfort in the First World War Stories of everyday humanity and friendship

From November through to March we worked with the National Archives on a thought-provoking & creative project. Alongside a parallel project running in Southall, our elders worked with professional artists & poets remembering the many millions of people who served in the First World War from diverse communities and how they kept in touch with family and friends using letters, gifts and parcels.

The project culminated in a joint visit to the National Archive centre with 17 of our members and the Southall group meeting for the first time, to see an exhibition of everyone's work and watch a film celebrating the project.

On the day, the Archive centre suffered a total power failure and so in true 'blitz spirit' we kept entertained with singing and dancing, ate our lunch in the dark and relied on torch light & team work to find the toilets! Having had our visit cut short, we journeyed back via Richmond Park and stopped off at Pembroke Lodge. Whilst we were all admiring the views, one of our members Molly thought she had identified an entirely new species of plant. She was amazed and delighted by the 'extraordinary and unusual large purple flower.' We were all discussing what on earth it could be, when it got up and walked away and we realised it was a gentleman in a purple woolly hat!





Molly attending our Chair Exercise classes and more

Molly joined our chair exercise class in September having been referred by the neuro department at St John's every Thursday for chair exercise and stays on for our Lunch Club. Molly has developed some great also involved in our weekly sewing as well as coming on various trips.

Molly has stated on many

the exercises as she finds them
help with her mobility issues. We
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ove to Learn

SS was referred to L2L in 2014. She was newly arrived from Afghanistan and only spoke a few basic phrases of English. In Sept 2014, L2L matched a mentor with her who worked with her for 7 months on English and maths before getting a new job. In March 2015, we were able to match a second mentor who helped her with revision skills for GCSE maths.

L2L also provided set texts so she could study at home. In May 2016, SS came back to us because she had been told by a college that she had to pay overseas fees as she had come to the UK on a family reunification visa (so did not appear to have refugee status) to join her father and

she had not yet been in the UK for 3

L2L staff were able to find information which demonstrated that she had the right only to pay home fees and the college has now agreed to accept this. We will disseminate this information to other organisations to ensure that other students are not given misinformation about fees.

study A levels at Kingston College. Feedback from the student states that she felt the support from mentors helped her to pass her exams (particularly maths) - and she would have been excluded from college without L2L casework.

trips SS now has a conditional offer to 75 refugee children have a week for 2

•Amy is very good, kind and very helpful. She has lots of patience and she goes into every detail that I want to know about. Learning with Amy has helped me a lot. I'm more confident taking part in class and asking questions. Plus Amy has helped me understanding exam questions better.9 Mentee

#### **Grow our services Newly-arrived** communities

KLS works with newly-arrived refugee communities in a variety of ways including our Love to Learn team, providing ESOL (English) classes, an FGM Community Champions project, and a Women's Wellbeing Group.

#### **Love to Learn**

The principal way we work with newly-arrived refugee communities is through our Love to Learn team. They provide a range of education services for 200+ children, young people and their families including befriending and mentoring support, advocacy and casework, a homework club, trips and activities. The aim is to increase their education opportunities and rights to learning; confidence; well-being and aspiration. Nine part-time staff are supported by a fantastic team of committed volunteers. They work in partnership with schools, refugee organisations, advice agencies and community groups.

2015/16 has been a positive year. We have over-achieved on most of our outcomes and been able to increase our impact in other areas too.

- Mentoring 58 learning mentoring relationships have been running this year.
  - Clubs and come regularly to our homework clubs (run twice hours). 7 attend weekly GCSE study group. 130 trip places have been

taken by 94 refugee children and 20 children have attended 3-day residentials. 16 children have been on bike workshops and kept bikes (in collaboration with the Bike

 Education advice and advocacy 68 refugee parents have attended our education workshops and 30 have come to weekly ESOL/ education sessions; 31 parents have received education advocacy and 31 have been supported to overcome barriers to accessing education.

Schools

We have worked with 20 teachers from 5 primary schools and 6 secondary schools. 10 teachers have been supported to improve their engagement with refugee families through meetings, workshops and briefings.

Volunteers

97 volunteers currently work with us (58 mentors, 30 club helpers, 4 ESOL teachers, 5 casework/admin volunteers) – all receive training (safeguarding, refugee issues, school systems etc.), gain skills, share good practice and improve employability. We have supported 4 interns from USA and 1 student social worker.

 Partnership work We have increased our partnership work – particularly with CEN (legal advice on school exclusions): **Fairbeats** (ukulele/music classes for our children), Salisbury World (joint teacher training), South London Refugee Association, CARAS, Bike Project, Polka Theatre (free tickets) etc. We have established a relationship with the teacher training programme in Lambeth. We trained 30 newly-qualified teachers from 17 Lambeth schools on refugee issues, and a further 7 teachers from Wandsworth.

Raising awareness/campaigning We have helped establish Wandsworth Welcomes Refugees – a group of local people and groups which support refugees in the borough and welcome more. This has helped us recruit volunteers, raise awareness and increase our lobbying capacity. We are planning events and working to encourage schools to become 'schools of sanctuary'. We obtained additional funding to make a series of short films on refugees accessing rights to education.

All Love to Learn's services are oversubscribed. It is our job to ensure that we are working with families in most need of our support, which in turn makes our work more challenging (and rewarding) as we are supporting those most in need. Due to cuts and reductions to local services it is increasingly difficult to refer

those most in need. Due to cuts and reductions to local services it is increasingly difficult to refer families on. We are aware that some of our families are just not receiving the support they need. This, in part, is why our partnership work is so crucial.

Love to Learn
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I have found it rewarding and inspiring. It's opened my mind to the struggles of immigrant families and therefore helped me to understand better some of the current issues in society today. My mentee is bright and caring. It's been lovely to get to know her and work with her, and see her develop in terms of her education and confidence.

**Mentor** 



#### **Grow our services**

## English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Classes

This academic year (2015/16) we have met the need of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) in Wandsworth by delivering 6 ESOL classes each week (4.5 hours/week for each student) over 3 terms, with 70 adult learners, and a crèche available for each session. This has been predominately funded by City Bridge Trust, with additional support from South Thames College, St Mary's Battersea Church, a superb staff team led by Sally Petch, a Project Advisory Group, and an amazing group of volunteers.

Through our networks we recruited local people in late August. They were initially assessed and divided into three level groups - pre-entry, Entry I/ Entry 2 and Entry 2+/Level I. In light of the large demand (throughout the year we got on average 2.3 enquiries each week to join our ESOL classes), we set criteria for accepting students and expected people to meet at least two of these, with priority given to Wandsworth residents. Our criteria were: Resident in Battersea/Wandsworth; Adult;

Have young children; Pre-entry to Entry 3 level; From a Black or Ethnic Minority community; with priority for refugees and asylum seekers.

This resulted in:

- 70 students of 25 nationalities started at some point during the year.
- Students had one tutorial each term and an Individual Learning
- Tutors regularly consulted students on the content of the course and Schemes of Work were always works in progress adjusted according to need and evaluation by students.
- An end of year course evaluation was undertaken and will be used to inform next year's programme.
- 39 students completed the City Bridge Trust funded course (out of 50 starting) and, of those who left, at least four are planning to come back again next year, for example, when their medical treatment is over or their baby is over four months.
- 36 students achieved a nationally recognised certificate with examining body NOCN (National Open College Network).
- 25 new staff and volunteers

delivered our ESOL programme.

This is the first year that KLS has offered such a comprehensive ESOL offer for the local community. There were obvious teething problems, such as recruiting and settling in a whole new staff and volunteer team, the process of becoming an accredited exam centre and the exam process itself, but we have learnt a lot as an

organisation (year 2 will be a lot easier).

We've met

ESOL (English) classes at KLS

Sally Petch
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our outcomes, **www.klsettlement.org.uk** demonstrated

the need for a crèche to make it possible for women with young children to study, involved our students in other KLS services, and shown there is real demand for ESOL in the community. We look forward to building on this in 2016/17.

I'm sure I have improved. I don't need my husband to speak for me anymore.'



#### Adar, ESOL student and crèche volunteer

Adar came to live in Battersea in 1997 as a refugee, escaping the Somali civil war. She raised her five children and supported her family. 'When I came to London the first time I was very scared. I was frightened of going out and getting lost, as I can't speak English I couldn't ask for help. I was embarrassed. So I didn't go out much'.

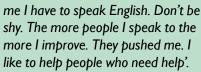
Three years ago she started attending our ESOL class, led by volunteers, as it was then. She 'learnt a lot of things' in that first year and was supported into South Thames College in 2014. That initial year in College 'was fantastic'. 'My first teacher was very good'. However in her second year her mother fell sick and she had to drop out to care for her. 'I was very upset by having

to stop college,' as she knew that she had to learn English to fulfil her dream of working. 'I was stuck at home and unhappy... I tried to pick up an English book or watch a YouTube English class but I was so busy.'

Throughout this time KLS' Love to Learn team had been supporting Adar's children with their own education. When her mother recovered Adar returned to our ESOL classes. By this time we had secured funding from City Bridge Trust, to offer a far more comprehensive ESOL provision. Adar now attends two classes a week and says 'my English is improving. It's fantastic.'

Sally, KLS' ESOL Co-ordinator, asked Adar if she would like to volunteer in the ESOL crèche on days she is not studying. She jumped

at the chance. 'Sally asked ME! I was very scared, as I have never worked before. But I love children when they are young. I like helping them. My children said to



Adar dreams about her future. 'In the future when I speak well and write well I would like to work in a crèche, praise God. I don't know how long it will take to learn English, but I have to learn. This is number 1. I will learn English. I will.'





#### KLS' ESOL trip to Kew Gardens

Imagine walking through the woods in the spring, with wild flowers waving through long, green grasses, and carpets of daisies stretching to right and left, enjoying the warm sunshine, far from the sound and sight of cars and lorries in Falcon Road, and you are imagining an actual day out which the ESOL students and their very young

children, and KLS staff, enjoyed in early May 2016.

After a short train ride several people remarked not just on the beauty but on the peace and quiet of the Gardens: the loudest noise was the birdsong, and our own conversations as we walked slowly, enjoying the spring flowers. We enjoyed our picnic lunches watching the wild water birds with their chicks, which provided much amusement for the children.

All too soon, we were back in Battersea, in time to collect the older children from school, but having had just a glimpse of a beautiful and peaceful part of London which many said they would never have known existed. Our thanks to the team (staff, volunteers and funders) for organising this trip, and to Kew Gardens for their generosity with their community tickets.

#### **Grow our services**

## FGM Community Champions and Women's Wellbeing Group

uilding on our successful FGM Community Champions programme, which continued throughout the year (to train health professionals and work with affected communities, funded by Wandsworth Council), we secured additional funding from ROSA, the UK fund for women and girls, to set up an FGM Survivors Support Group.

In January 2016 we formed a regular weekly group, meeting every Tuesday morning in the 'R&E Community Centre', run by the Elays Network, based on the Patmore Estate, in the most deprived area of Battersea. We supported the session by providing a regular crèche for children under four, and by providing refreshments and lunch at midday. The 23 women were mainly Somali, with one Sudanese and a Gambian participant, and all had suffered genital mutilation as children.

From the outset however, it was evident that the women (between 12 and 17 women attended each session) were not at all keen to dwell on their FGM situation and would never describe themselves as 'survivors'. We discussed specific issues, such as their health, wellbeing, relationships, sex lives and childbirth and how these had been affected by their FGM. They are all very strongly committed to eliminating the practice of

FGM both in the UK and in their countries of origin and would never dream of practising FGM on their daughters.

As requested by them they all wanted to use the group for a Women's Wellbeing programme. We managed to link up with Wandsworth Council Sports department who arranged a very lively female Italian fitness instructor to run a weekly 'Keep fit' session. The women, who are in the main overweight (most have had large families over a short space of time) and not very fit, were enthusiastic but slightly embarrassed doing the first session. After three weeks however they were very keen and relaxed and came in with very sporty trainers and felt comfortable about taking off several layers of clothing. Obviously we had created a very safe, women-only situation. The women have now become much fitter, exercise between sessions and 'power walk' at every opportunity.

Before each session we had discussions on different health and social topics. Diet was a constant theme and for one session we bought in two diabetes specialists from the local Public Health team, who came to consult the women on Somali diet issues as a way to improve the 'Desmond' diabetes health education module which they run in the borough.

This was a really interesting, mutually beneficial session. Several of our families are affected by diabetes. The discussion about symptoms of childhood diabetes, which can often mean that very young girls need to pee more than normal, was particularly interesting. We realised that Teachers and Early Years professionals might mistake this for reasons for concern regarding FGM. We have since raised this issue with the safeguarding GP Lead for the borough and the colleague responsible for training Health Visitors, School Nurses etc. Both professionals also felt it would be helpful to bear this in mind.

Towards the end of the ten weeks it was clear that the Keep Fit was very popular and they were keen to continue. As we had enabled Wandsworth Council's sports team to meet one of their 'target' groups we were able to negotiate for the Keep Fit class to continue. We will further develop this Women's Wellbeing Group in 2016/17.





Battersea Christmas Market

On 5th December 2015 we hosted Battersea Christmas Market with 44 local businesses trading, several hundred local people visiting, one fantastic Santa and his six elves giving presents to more than 60 families, three local choirs singing and a partridge in a pear tree!

These events are always a great opportunity for local people to get together, celebrate the local community here in Battersea, in this case strengthen the local economy, and celebrate Christmas.

A special thank you goes to Aspire Estate Agents, without whom we would not have been able to run this event; as well as AS Watson Group;

Michael Mapp (The Studio) – nice photos; all the businesses who traded and donated to our raffle; everyone who attended and took part in some way in making it such a special day; the Mayor of Wandsworth (Cllr Nicola Nardelli), Jane Ellison (our local MP) and other local councillors who showed their love as part of #SmallBusinessSaturday; Maeve Black who designed and built, with help from Olly at the Handsome Group, our amazing Grotto (not just the best in Battersea, but the best in the land!); and finally to Anita Richards and the team who organised such a fabulous event here's to next year.

#### **Improve our community** centre

uring 2015/16 we continued our efforts to improve our Community Centre at 108 Battersea High Street to ensure it is a highquality community facility for local residents and community groups. It is important that we invest in developing the facilities, and the asset which we own, for the benefit of the local community.

We recognise that there are many other experts working in the community, and that

KLS cannot do

everything. We therefore



diverse needs of the local communities of Wandsworth. This involves renting office space, and renting activity rooms so they can provide activities and services. We also offer pro-bono business consultancy support to develop the organisational infrastructure of other local charities and social

enterprises on issues such as governance, strategy, fundraising, HR, and needs analysis and user research. If you'd like some help then please do get in touch.

#### Improve our community centre

#### Office Space

During 2015/16 our rented office space was fully occupied. It is important that we host other charities and help social businesses to flourish, as office space is hard to find and at a premium in Battersea. Each has been handpicked and they are actively encouraged to cross-pollinate and collaborate with each other. The fruits of which further enrich the local community.

#### Our Tenants in 2015/16 included:

- Baked Bean Theatre Company
- Childcare & Business Consultancy Services (CBC Services)
- Fuelbanks and Families
- Lightbox Theatre Company
- South West London Law

#### Centre

- Wandsworth Citizens Advice Bureau
- Well Kneaded Pizza Company

We also said goodbye to South West London Law Centre, who moved up to a new building in Falcon Road: and Wandsworth Citizens Advice Bureau, who moved to Battersea Library on Lavender Hill. We loved having both and are pleased to see them move on to bigger and better things.

We'd like to make a special mention of Jennie Barton, CAB's lively office manager, who after an unexpected and short illness passed away on 13th April 2015. She was a highly valued member of staff and will be greatly missed.

The ex-Sure Start centre on our site is now used as a nursery called The Railway Children Nursery and Play Group. It is run by our charity partner, CBC Services. The Railway Children is a 24 place nursery for 2 – 5year olds that offers morning sessions during term time.

### HIRE A ROOM AT KLS!

Hire our space whatever the occasion be that birthdays, conferences, meetings, training, rehearsals or parties. We can accommodate small and large groups up to 80 people, in one of our 5 rooms to hire.

We're open 7 days a week and are easy to reach with good transport links. We have catering, wifi & IT facilities, equipment galore and

disabled access – for one-off bookings, weekly classes, long-term bookings – all are welcome. We are the perfect venue to hire for all type of events and meetings, so please get in touch, as we're here to help.

Tracy Frostick 020 7223 2845 tracy@klsettlement.org.uk



#### Railway Children Nursery and Play Group

Frances Ditroia 020 7101 2033 info@cbcservices.org.uk www.cbcservices.org.uk The Railway Children is a 24 place nursery for 2 – 5 year olds that offers morning sessions, 9.30am – 12.30pm, Monday to Friday (term time). The nursery operates in a building at the back of KLS. It has two large main rooms, a disabled toilet and nappy changing area, children's toilets, a kitchen, utility room and an enclosed outdoor play area.

We follow the Early Years
Foundation stage and work with
the OFSTED welfare requirements.
All children have an allocated
key-person who is responsible for
monitoring each child's learning and
development through observations,
assessments and completing a
learning journey. The children learn
in an interesting, fun and happy
learning environment

Our highlights over the last year have been welcoming new children and watching them learn, develop and make new friends, and working with the families to support and signpost them to relevant groups and activities.

We've also worked with Thomas's Battersea School. We had many students coming in throughout the summer to volunteer, help out and gain experience in the nursery. Our children went on some visits to Thomas's nursery school to see their unhatched eggs in the incubator and then the hatched chicks.

We were delighted that our children 'graduated' from the Railway Children. They all wore a gown and board hat and received a graduation certificate. We followed this with a party! All the families attended and were so proud and happy.



Messy Arts4Kids Kasia Racjan messyart4kids@gmail.com www.messyart4kids.com

Hi there! I'm Kasia and I have been teaching art in Battersea for 7 Years. Every lesson with Messy Art4Kids involves sensory play, science, nature or other topics that interest and inspire children. It isn't just painting or drawing. At Messy Art4Kids we aim to enhance learning art through play, stimulate children's imagination and creativity, practice listening skills, encourage confidence and develop the ability to socialise.

It's great to see the children finish each class with a smile on their face, proudly showing their artwork to their parents. The classes are full of fun activities so the children not only

get great art projects but they also have lots of fun with their friends, play and be VERY, VERY messy!!

I'm glad I found Katherine Low Settlement. They kindly adopted me into their lovely team and gave me an opportunity to expand. The number of children is growing and from September 2016 I will run more classes thanks to KLS.

I adore the hedgehog!
You are so clever! Max is loving it!

Pippa, mum of Max

#### Improve our community centre

#### **Room Hire for Activities**

We have worked hard to increase occupancy levels (we're currently about 75% full), for the rooms we make available for other charities and community groups to deliver their own activities and services from 108 Battersea High Street.

We have worked regularly

in 2015/16 with the partners shown below.

There were also an increased number of one-off bookings from local charities, community groups and residents to a point where we recruited a Caretaker to offer more support over the weekend.



#### **Act Too / Baked Bean Theatre** Company

Alzheimer's Society 'Bluebell Café'

**Battersea Parenting Group with** Wandsworth CCG

**Battersea Spanish** 

**BDK Church** 

**Big Local SWII: Building Futures** 

Buna Kazoku Karate Club

**Caterpillar Music** 

Church of the Restoration/Battle Axe Scorpion Kickboxing ministry

**City of God International** 

Cobra fit

**Cranio Sacral Society** 

**Drink Driver Education** 

**EACH Counselling & Support** 

**Elays Network School** 

**English For Action** 

**Exploration Society** 

**Hartbeeps** 

Jehevoh Jireh Pentecostal Apostolic Assembly

Karate with WOW Mums

**Latin Ballroom** 

**Lightbox Theatre Company** 

**Line Dancing with Geoffrey Evans** 

**Messy Art4Kids** 

Notre Dame de France catechism classes

Pilates/Yoga with Steff Lasheva

**RCCG Church** 

**Royal Academy of Dance: Dance for** Life project

Sociable Paws with Battersea Cats & **Dogs Home** 

**Sound Minds: Community Choir** 

Sound Minds: Mama Low's Kitchen

South London T'ai Chi

**South West London Law Centre** 

**SW London Power Yoga** 

**The Contact Club** 

The Redeemed Christian Church of God/Beautiful Gate Battersea

**WOW Mums** 

Yoga with Jenny Delenta



#### **Build stronger communities and campaigning**

e continued our community building and campaigning work. This involves building relationships, networking, contributing to community initiatives, supporting other charities and community groups, collaborative work with other agencies, and bringing different peoples and communities together. We have focused principally on:

- Battersea Community Forum
- Big Local SWII: 'Building Futures' development group
- Link Up Battersea
- Older People's Forum and Network
- Refugee and Migrants Advisory Group
- Wandsworth Clinical Commissioning Group Patient Participation & Involvement
- Wandsworth Healthwatch, supported development of new

cross-sector post: Voluntary Sector/CCG Commissioning Worker

 Wandsworth Welcomes Refugees

This work brings about stronger organisations and infrastructure within Battersea, and gives a campaigning 'Voice for Battersea', which together build a stronger, more supportive and cohesive local community.



wandsworthwelcomesrefugees @gmail.com www.facebook.com/ wandsworthwelcomesrefugees twitter.com/WWRefugees

### Wandsworth Welcomes Refugees

Katherine Low Settlement is a co-founder of Wandsworth Welcomes Refugees

On Saturday 26th March 2016 more than 50 local residents, charities, community groups, faith groups and campaigners got together at Battersea Arts Centre to launch a new support network 'Wandsworth Welcomes Refugees'.

Our aims are to:

- Be ready to welcome Syrian refugees
- Share information about ways in which people can support refugees and asylum seekers here in Wandsworth and abroad
- Speak with our local MPs and Councillors to welcome refugees
- Challenge negative stereotypes and images with positive stories Join us!

Health & Happiness Fair

### Build stronger communities and campaigning Community Events

In March 2016 Katherine Low
Settlement co-hosted an ambitious
and highly successful Community
Health & Happiness Fair, for mind,
body and soul, in the heart of
Battersea. The event offered a range
of physical and mental health checks
and activities, targeting people
mainly from Black and Minority
Ethnic communities in Wandsworth.

We had a moving poetry session performed by young Somali women, which expressed powerfully their feelings about their identity and challenges of living in an alien

culture. Most of our Women's Wellbeing Group took part in the day helping on our FGM stall and cooking food for the event. We had a Native American sharing ancestral stories; face painting; mountains of food (including a whole table overflowing with food and a recipe book prepared by our ESOL students); a smoothie fitness bike; and more... More than 600 people (and counting a large number of children!) attended during the day and a wide range (17+) of voluntary and statutory health and advice organisations participated.

### **Battersea Question Time**

On 14 April 2015 more than 170 local Battersea residents attended Battersea Question Time at York Gardens Community Centre. It was an evening of politics all about Battersea, co-hosted by Katherine Low Settlement and the Battersea Society.

To use Battersea's motto, this political hustings was 'not for me, not for you, but for us'; and it was in this spirit that the five parliamentary candidates: Jane Ellison (Con.), Lois David (Green), Will Martindale (Lab.), Luke Taylor (LibDem.) and Chris Howe (UKIP), standing for the constituency seat of Battersea, Balham and Wandsworth, started the event. They each had three minutes to make their case for

election and then fielded questions from the floor, Twitter and those submitted in advance.

Housing issues dominated the first half of the evening, such as social housing, inequality, lack of houses being built, right to buy, affordability, housing benefit, the bedroom tax, private renting, landlords, and the regeneration of Nine Elms and Winstanley Estate. Other questions covered crime and young people, healthy eating, isolation, welfare cuts, the EU and NHS reforms.

The audience was lively indeed, putting pertinent questions to the panel, who on the most part answered them directly and succinctly. It was great to see democracy in action, as someone

mentioned afterwards. The event was all about local people, from all walks of life, coming together to debate the issues that affect them most, and giving a steer to Battersea's next MP about what they want them to focus on over the course of the next Parliament.

A big thanks to Wandsworth Radio, and Tony Hersey from KLS. It was their first ever external live broadcast so we were making history. Thanks also to Jenny Sheridan and Carol Rahn from the Battersea Society and Anita Richards and Aaron Barbour from KLS for organising Battersea Question Time.

Postscript: Congratulations to Jane Ellison who was reelected as our local MP on 7 May 2015.



### Volunteering

meet naw poorloand

annah Green volunteers with our older people's team. 'I help some of the older people to get to KLS on a Thursday morning ready for chair exercises. I originally volunteered to try and give a little back to the community but I enjoy being involved even more than I could have imagined. KLS is an incredible

place to meet new people and the diversity of the stories you can hear just from sitting in the reception area is extraordinary.'

Interested volunteers & charities should email: linkupbattersea@gmail.com or visit www.linkup-battersea.org

#### Link Up Battersea

Linking professional volunteers with local charites

A new local initiative – Link Up Battersea – has just been launched and is looking for new volunteers and charities to get involved.

Link Up Battersea brings together individuals who are willing to share their professional skills by volunteering with local Battersea based charities, community groups and social enterprises, which desperately need these skills to make a real difference to their work in the local community.

The volunteers come from a diverse group; some are retired or semi-retired, others are working professionals or professionals currently out of the workforce. The skills needed are wide-ranging and include finance, legal, marketing, HR, video production, interior design, project management, photography and writing...to name just a few.

There are a range of flexible

Link Up projects available with different time commitments. Each project is tailored to the volunteer's and the charity's needs and has a clear start and end date.

Volunteering is a win-win experience. It is good for the volunteer and the local community.

Link Up Battersea was founded in 2015 under the umbrella of Katherine Low Settlement.

# BATTERSEA

#### Link Up Battersea volunteer

Ide is part of the Link Up Battersea Executive Team. Here are her reflections on what it is to be a volunteer:

National Volunteer's Week — an 'awareness week' that recognises volunteers around the UK — has made me stop and think about my own volunteer efforts. I am a (regular) volunteer, motivated, I think, more by selfishness, rather than selflessness. I like to be busy, and try different things (there is nothing like a good 'project'

whatever it is — sitting in Court, being on a committee, helping on a stall, baking a cake — leading or being lead, long term, short term, or even for a few hours!), to add to the juggle. That it might contribute to doing some 'good' has tended to be a happy consequence.

In May, Link Up Battersea attended a 'Give and Gain' event that gave me pause for thought. Held locally at a community centre on the Doddington Estate, sponsored by Business in the Community, the room was full of people dedicating some, or a lot, of their time to make other people's lives a bit, or a whole lot better. Local 'everyday people', running small, local organisations who aren't on the radio discussing Brexit, or making headlines in newspapers. Instead, they are

working very hard to empower local children and adults by giving them access to opportunities and life experiences, which many of us take for granted. Some of these impressive organisations have signed on with Link Up Battersea already, and we hope that more will do so over time.

Link Up volunteers can offer so much to these organisations by providing them with skills that they need to improve their services and positively affect people's lives in the community. Whatever your motivation, please take look at our projects and get involved!

### Director's Report

#### **Aaron Barbour**

'To grow you must tend to it' Japanese Proverb

e've continued to grow over the last year as we've been carefully and deliberately tending to the needs of the local communities here in Battersea and Wandsworth. We've reached a point where all of our services are now full. We've had to set up waiting lists to ensure quality and meet expectations. We're not playing a numbers game at KLS – that would be easy – to cram in as many people as possible. But for what end? We're a charity (not a sausage factory) that focuses on developing strong, trusted relationships with local people, and our partners, so that we can co-produce high-quality services. Quality is all important. Saying that, we can serve more people but need to so in a considered way, carefully tending to the growth of our services, meeting the rising needs in the community.

Following our 3-year strategy we've secured funding to expand our work. This year, for example, we've been able to offer a comprehensive ESOL (English classes) programme for 70 adult learners (tripling in size our number of learners), supported

by a crèche for their children. Of those who sat an exam, 98% passed at least one NOCN module in reading, writing, listening and speaking. The word has gone around about the quality of the teaching and pastoral support to a point where we were receiving on average 2.3 enquiries each week to join our classes, such is the demand. We are planning to expand our ESOL classes further from September 2016.

We've substantially grown our programme with Older People — doubling in size the numbers of older people joining at least one of our II activities be that Lunch Club, chair exercises, sewing group, the Gold & Silver players drama group and more. It's been a delight to get to know some of our new members and see the difference we're making — a rediscovered sense of purpose and new friendships — in their lives.

Our Love to Learn project which supports the educational needs of refugee families continues to be oversubscribed such is the quality of their work. We've had a few staff changes this year but the team has rallied together and continues to operate at a high level, supporting 200 families day in, day out.

We've been testing the waters with the development of a new

women's mental health and wellbeing project, following our successful FGM Community Champions programme over the last two years. We've also raised partial funding towards establishing a new In-Work and Out-of-Poverty programme. We hope to secure the remainder this year and start the work.

We also secured funding to establish a new senior post – Head of Community Services - who will start in Autumn 2016 to work alongside and support our projects to further grow and expand. This will free up some of my time to devote to raising the capital needed to renovate our community centre. We've worked with 51Architecture this year to produce some amazing new plans that will give 108 Battersea High Street a much needed overhaul and importantly increase access for so many of our members. I look forward to sharing these plans, developing a new 3-year strategy, and working with you over the coming year, so that together we can continue to tend to the development of KLS and the local community.



### Thank you

e would like to thank all of you who get involved with our services. We trust that we are providing the support and services you need. Please let us know how we can improve.

We would like to thank our **staff**. Your tireless energy, commitment and passion ensures that we have the best services for local people. Thank you. Please keep up the excellent work.

We would like to thank our **volunteers**. You are the lifeblood of the Settlement. Without you we would not be able to operate to the extent that we do.

We would like to thank all of our funders - large and small, longstanding and new supporters. Thank you so much. We really appreciate the financial support you give to our work. We receive the majority of our income from generous grants and contracts, and would like to thank in particular: Battersea Crime Prevention Panel, BBC Children in Need, Big Lottery Fund, Christ College Cambridge, City Bridge Trust, Dunhill Medical Trust, Feathers Association, Paul Hamlyn Foundation with Battersea Arts Centre, ROSA Fund, Sir Walter St. John's Educational Trust, the Tudor Trust, Wandsworth Borough Council, Wandsworth Clinical Commissioning Group with Age UK Wandsworth, the Wates Foundation, and some

generous anonymous donors, to all of whom we are extremely grateful.

We would also like to thank Francis Holland School and Thomas's Battersea School for their continued support.

In addition to our own work and services the Katherine Low Settlement also invites other organisations and community groups to operate out of our premises (either to offer their own services or to run their back office) – so together we can meet the diverse needs of the local communities of the London Borough of Wandsworth. We would like to thank all our **partners** and look forward to working with you for many years to come.

#### An unexpected surprise: a legacy from a Will

I had a surprise
yesterday – a
call out of the
blue from Jon
Dunkelman to
say that his mother
(Margaret) and father

(Freddie) had bequeathed a legacy to KLS in their Will. Freddie died in 2010 at the ripe old age of 90 and Margaret died last May aged 91.

Why us? Well they both lived in Battersea back in 1940s, knew about the work we did with the local community, and wanted to leave us something from their estate. Here's what I've found out about them.

They started Dunkelman & Son (known later throughout the trade as DASCO 'the shoe care specialists'), in a small workshop in Battersea in 1946. Initially making

ice hockey sticks. Freddie was a professional ice hockey player at that time and went on to represent England at the 1948 St Moritz Winter Olympic Games. The team finished fifth in the tournament. He also played for the Harringay Greyhounds. He subsequently set up a sports shop in Falcon Road.

In 1950 he spotted an opportunity for the company to take its first step into shoe care. By the late 50s this had become Dunkelman's core business. For many years Freddie was a prominent member of the Battersea Rotary Club. In 1969 Freddie was instrumental in moving the business from London into a new purpose built factory and warehouse in Desborough, Northants, where they are based today.

Leaving a gift in your Will

to Katherine Low Settlement does make a lasting difference to the people and communities we work with in Battersea and Wandsworth. So when you make or update your Will, please consider including a legacy to KLS. Alternatively, you can make a gift by adding a codicil to your existing Will

We are grateful for every gift we receive, no matter how big or small. Your gift ensures your legacy will live on into the future, supporting more children, families and older people in Battersea. So a very big thank you to Margaret and Freddie Dunkelman for your generous support.

To find out more about leaving a legacy please contact Aaron on 020 7223 2845 aaron@klsettlement.org.uk or simply drop into KLS.

## We need your help

t takes commitment, passion, hard work and money to run Katherine Low Settlement effectively. If we had more of each of these we could do more to support local people and the communities of Battersea. That's why we need your help. You could, for example, make a donation, volunteer your time and skills, introduce us to new friends and supporters, organise a community event, undertake a sponsored fun run, leave a legacy in your will and more.

Any support you give to KLS, no matter how small or large, is always much appreciated.

Aaron Barbour
020 7223 2845
aaron@klsettlement.org.uk
or just drop by and visit us
in Battersea High Street.
To make a donation please
visit www.charitycheckout.
co.uk/1081248/donate



# Financial Summary 2015/16

atherine Low Settlement's Annual Report & Accounts 2015/16 is available to download at www.klsettlement.org.uk

Income	2015/16	2014/15
Donations	£33,145	£74,974
Generated Funds	£11,029	£8,614
Grants	£279,302	£236,252
Rent & Room Hire	£147,832	£143,812
Bank interest	£379	£262
TOTAL	£471,687	£463,914
Expenditure		
Governance costs	£3,360	£3,000
Occupancy costs	£100,984	£105,519
Staff costs	£296,597	£250,570
Sundry costs	£3,839	£6,204
Welfare & Outgoings costs	£55,625	£43,321
TOTAL	£460,405	£408,614

### Plans for the future

his year we have reached a point where our services are all full, and we have had to set up waiting lists to ensure we are delivering high-quality services. This coming year focuses on growth and development.

We're delighted that Battersea Power Station Foundation have funded a new senior post 'Head of Community Services', who will start in Autumn 2016. They will support the development of our existing services, as well as set up new ones, particularly a women's mental health support project and an in-work poverty project.

The campaigning work we do arises from the issues our users/ members encounter, for example, the benefit cap and housing. We will continue our campaigning work, particularly through our support of Wandsworth Welcomes Refugees, which is a new network we've helped to establish that will provide practical support to refugees and lobby government to welcome more refugees into Wandsworth and the UK.

During autumn 2016 our
Board of Trustees and Senior
Management Team will develop
a new 3-year strategy for KLS
that will start in 2017. We look
forward to co-producing
this with our
users/members,
supporters, local
residents and the communities of
Wandsworth.

During 15/16 we continued to discuss plans for increasing accessibility within our Community Centre. As a result we decided to develop a more comprehensive strategy and plan to improve the whole building. In spring 2016 we commissioned 51Architecture

to develop a 10-year Master Development Plan for 108 Battersea High Street. The building is in urgent need of an overhaul to the facilities and significant improvements for access, making it fit for the needs of the 21st century. We will have to undertake a significant capital fundraising programme in 2017.

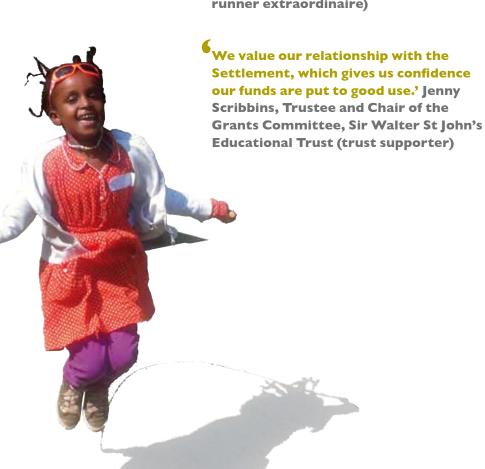
Finally, we look forward to working alongside many more local people and community organisations in Battersea and Wandsworth over the coming year, so that we continue to build stronger communities and enable people to challenge and find ways out of poverty and isolation.

Since 1975 I have made an annual donation.
All good wishes to you and the Settlement.'
Anthony Bradbury (long term individual supporter)

I support KLS because they wholeheartedly support the people in this part of London who do not have many of the advantages others take for granted.' Peter Wintgens (long term individual supporter)

I'm a big supporter of KLS and look forward to continue working with them.' Mark Howell, Director, Aspire Estate Agents (corporate supporter)

I chose to run and fundraise for Katherine Low Settlement because I know what brilliant work they do.' Lizzie Poulton (volunteer and fundraiser runner extraordinaire)





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