



Stretford Children's Theatre

2015 / 2016

Annual Report

Year end 31.8.16

Stretford Children's Theatre

Stretford Public Hall

Chester Road

Stretford

Manchester

M32 0LG

Email: stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com

Website: www.stretfordchildrenstheatre.org.uk



**AN ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE DRAMA GROUP FOR LOCAL CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 4 AND ABOVE.
~ INCLUSIVE ~ FUN ~ CREATIVE ~**

Stretford Children's Theatre was originally founded in 1945 by Bertram H. Holland and was embedded in the community for more than 35 years. It ceased to exist in the early 1980's, but was re-formed in 2015 by a small group of local people, and takes place at one of its original venues, Stretford Public Hall.

We are a small community group, with a volunteer committee, and drama sessions delivered by professional theatre practitioners, specialists at working with different age groups.

Stretford Children's Theatre, which also includes Stretford Youth Theatre, is committed to providing affordable quality drama experiences for local children and young people, aged 4 upwards.

Our main aims are to:

- increase the levels of creative opportunity in our community;
- provide positive, fun and challenging group activities;
- offer group support in order to increase individual resilience;
- provide exciting and inspiring opportunities for otherwise marginalised individuals and groups to use the arts to explore subjects that matter to them;
- encourage self-development [confidence, independence, informal learning, emotional health and well-being, communication] through participation in a fun and creative experience in a challenging yet safe environment;
- promote an understanding of the significance of the arts in our shared cultural heritage;
- work together with residents, community users, local authorities, voluntary and other organisations to continuously improve the area.

We currently run during term time on Thursdays at Stretford Public Hall at the following times:

Reception aged children from 4-5pm

Children in Years 1&2 from 5-6pm

Children in Years 3-6 from 5.30-6.30pm

Children in Years 7-11 from 6-7pm



We think we meet our aims at every session we deliver and hope that everyone feels the same. If you feel differently please speak to the any member of the Executive Committee and highlight any concerns you may have.

We are a constituted community group and as such we are governed by our Constitution and the property of the group / charity is held by the trustees [committee members] of the group. If you wish for a copy of the Constitution which details more information about our group's governance and rules please ask any of the executive committee who can give it to you or you can look on our website.

Our registered address is: Stretford Public Hall, Chester Road, Stretford, M32 0LG

Our Bank details are: Natwest, Trafford Park, Third Avenue, Trafford Park, Manchester, M17 1NW

- General Account Name: Stretford Children's Theatre
- General Account Number: 56057687 Sort Code: 010881
- Savings Account Name: Stretford Children's Theatre
- Savings Account Number:, 56057695 Savings Sort Code: 010881

We have had no serious accidents or incidents this year – thankfully!

Our public liability insurance is held with Markel Insurance and our certificate for this can be seen on our website.

All our drama practitioners have DBS checks and follow our child protection policy. All our policies can be found on our website.

We conduct risk assessments for each group, and venue we visit to ensure every child's safety.

If you are able to support us any further, through donations, volunteering your time or offering specific skills that might be useful, please do get in touch via email at stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com or get in touch through our Facebook page (Stretford Children's Theatre), or speak to any of the committee, volunteers, or leaders.



Group Structure 2016/2017

Our Executive Committee / Trustees are:

Susan Hall	- Chairperson
Kirsty Thomas	- Treasurer
Laura Riley	- Secretary
Alice Penny	- Infant group, Section Leader
Jenni Blott	- Junior group, Section Leader
Rosarie Walsh	- Stretford Youth Theatre, Section Leader
Shelly Quinton-Hulme	- Trustee
Janice Rendel	- Trustee
Ali Dunican	- Trustee

If you need to contact any of the executive committee please email: stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com stating who you would like the email to go to.

Cheque Signatories are: Kirsty Thomas; Shelly Quinton-Hulme; Janice Rendel, Susan Hall



Proposed Group Structure 2017/2018

Our Executive Committee / Trustees are:

Ali Dunican	- Chairperson
Kirsty Thomas	- Treasurer
Laura Riley	- Secretary
Alice Penny	- Infant group, Section Leader
Jenni Blott	- Junior group, Section Leader
Rosarie Walsh	- Stretford Youth Theatre, Section Leader
Shelly Quinton-Hulme	- Trustee
Janice Rendel	- Trustee
Tina Liddle	- Trustee

If you need to contact any of the executive committee please email: stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com stating who you would like the email to go to.

Cheque Signatories are proposed to change to: Kirsty Thomas; Shelly Quinton-Hulme; Janice Rendel and Laura Riley



Chairperson's Annual Report 2016 – 2017

Written by Shelly Quinton-Hulme on behalf of Susan Hall

This has been an amazing first year for this group. We have successfully formed a committee, raised funds to stage sessions and delivered an amazing programme of sessions.

“I don't know if you know how valuable this is to my daughter - she is not a natural joiner-inner - yet comes home alight / buzzing- thank you.” Parent of current participant 2016

We are no bigger than we appear to be, and in many ways, we are building Stretford Children's Theatre together, responding to your and your children's' needs and wishes. We would like to sustain and grow Stretford Children's Theatre, but we need to ask for your help in doing so.

The membership and fees we charge don't cover the cost of running the sessions. So, for the last 12 months, we have been applying for a range of grants from relevant local funders, and have been successful in securing small grants from Forever Manchester and Adactus Housing Trust. We will continue to do this.

The main costs are paying the drama practioners, the rent for the hall and our insurances. We actively want to keep the prices low so that as many children and young people who want to take part can do so.

So, we just wanted to ask you to bear with us, as we continue to find our feet and try out different ways of delivering the ambition of the group.

Stretford is a very diverse community in terms of socio-economic backgrounds, class, religion, and ethnicity, and has undergone significant changes in its demographic over the last decade. In the half-mile radius of Stretford Public Hall, the level of total deprivation is in the lowest 30% in the country; and the estate directly opposite is in the 10% most deprived lower super output area in England. Crime is in the worst 15% nationally; and income, health, and education attainment are all significantly below national average.

A survey carried out by Friends of Stretford Public Hall in 2014, confirmed local opinion that there is a distinct lack of public spaces in Stretford that might make up the 'heart' of the town centre, with the loss of local shops, little night-time economy and a sense that Stretford is becoming a 'ghost town'. 88% of respondents



said that 'the town didn't have enough facilities for those living in the area', and that 'there is a massive demand for more community activities, especially for young people'. There is an urgent need for activities for children and young people that increase independence and well being, contributing to strengthening the future of our local community and place making. We are helping to address this.

We want to grow SCT and embed it as a significant community constituent, enabling increased membership and a more extensive offer. We want to offer high quality, accessible drama and music sessions to local children, young people and adults, focussing on those who are most vulnerable or marginalised.

We want to continue to provide drama sessions for a range of ages; and would like to provide a musical aspect to our work by creating a children's choir. Each group (drama and/or music) will work towards a yearly performance at the hall. This gives participants a sense of purpose, working as a team, opportunities for problem-solving, and builds confidence through public speaking and performance. It also connects the performers with the wider community, offering a positive view of local children, young people and adults in the community. We apply methods that allow each group to have artistic control over the performance topics, giving them ownership of the work.

Longer-term, we aim to include non formal qualifications such as SEPE (Supporting Employment and Personal Effectiveness) which is an entry level Edexcel certified qualification enabling people to develop transferable soft skills needed for employment and The Arts Award supporting anyone aged up to 25 to grow as artists and arts leaders, inspiring them to connect with and take part in the wider arts world (www.artsaward.org.uk).

STRETFORD CHILDREN'S THEATRE: a fledgling community group with big ideas, that needs your support



By having a coordinated and cooperative ethos it will allow us to provide high quality community groups/productions/concerts for all to enjoy and will cover all ages and abilities.

It would be great to have you on board to make this happen - it's a very exciting time for the group as we start our journey to reclaim the good name that Stretford Children's Theatre had in the past.



Treasurers Report and Annual Accounts - 2015/2016

Period between 06/01/2016 - 31/08/2016 (operating dates to year end)

Income

	Actual £
Class Income	£ 1,074.00
Donations	£ 37.48
Grants	£ 2,232.46

Cost

	Actual £
Leaders Cost	£ 1,970.00
Group Expenditure	£ 479.74
Rent	£ 160.00
Insurance	£ 172.46

Total Income -£ 3,343.94

Total Costs £ 2,782.20

Surplus as at 31/08 £ 561.74

Grants were received from:

£1,000 – Trafford Housing Trust

£500 – Adactus Housing Association

Stretford Youth Trust