**Swaythling Neighbourhood Centre**

**Chair’s Report 2015 – 2016**

Thank you all for coming to this year’s Annual General Meeting.

The Trustees have updated the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy and the Equality and Diversity Policy. We are currently working on putting together a business plan to progress us towards asset transfer. We have been negotiating the new lease through our solicitor, this is turning out to be a slow process but we have little choice as the Council Solicitor will not meet with us directly. We have had several meetings with the Council to look at possible ways forward with the Asset Transfer, one was with the University who would still like us to consider partnering with them, although this was discussed and agreed that it would be a last resort.

A new caretaker has been appointed – Kate. We are very happy with her work and welcome her to our team.

MacDonald’s restaurant team have come to the centre and given the outside space a makeover. The team have done a fantastic job and everyone appreciates the improvements. Rosemary has since came along to one of our committee meetings and plans to return with the team to undertake some of the indoor decorating.

Celebrate funding – celebrating 25 years of volunteering at the centre. We have successfully bid for £4238 to hold 3 celebration events. The first is a party for all our volunteers and their family or friends. The second is a Centre Open Day and the third is to develop the summer fair to make it even better.

We have started running Pop up shops and so far have held two. These are going well and we will keep them going for the time being.

The Activities and Volunteers Committee will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of each month and volunteers and residents are welcome to come along or get involved.

The Committee have organised a wide range of events and groups including; Bingo, Over 50’s Group, Lunch & Laughs Club, Christmas Fete, Christmas Carol Concert, Summer Fair, Jumble Sales, and the new pop up shops.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers for all the roles they take on at the centre that give their time and enthusiasm running and maintaining the Centre. I hope they can all make the Volunteer Celebration Day on the 27th May 2017.

Gloria Ball

Chairperson Swaythling Neighbourhood Centre