

THE WOMEN'S COUNCIL (TWC)

TRUSTEES SUMMARY REPORT FOR 2017

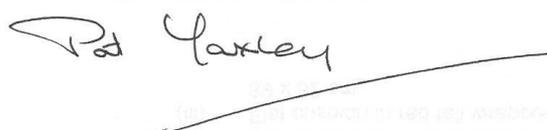
Our cultural and international friendship events for members and friends are always designed at the very least to break even and wherever possible to raise a worthwhile amount of useful funds for our charitable programme. This was certainly the case with our 2017 visits to Spencer House, The Silver Vaults and Kensington Palace; our annual summer tea party at the House of Lords, luncheon at the University Women's Club following our AGM and morning coffee at The RAG, where we were able to show the film *Margarita with a Straw*, depicting the life of a young disabled woman. Events hosted by our Diplomatic Patrons are always very popular and particularly well supported. Such was the Brunch party given by our then Patron for Jordan with splendid company, delicious food, Arabic music and even some dancing. Two special lunches were held in memory of our late President, both of which incidentally added to the amount donated in her memory the year before. Our green-fingered Committee member held her annual plant sale for us and we were fortunate to benefit from two special charity art auctions. We rounded off the year with our usual Christmas Lunch at the Liberal Club

All our efforts continue to focus on supporting training for planners, trainers and practitioners working in Community Disability. This year's annual "Community Initiatives in Inclusion Course" (CII) in English medium was again organized by our partner ADAPT in Mumbai with participants from India, Bhutan, The Tibetan Government in Exile, Nepal, Tajikistan, Mongolia, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. In 2016 the taught phase in Mumbai was extended from 12 – 14 weeks. Having proved helpful in enabling participants to benefit even more fully from the training, this has become a regular feature. The implementation phase back in participants' own places of work remains at 12 weeks, with the students' report of this forming part of the ongoing Evaluation of the training. Over the last 15 years over 250 women from 20 countries have completed this annual CII Course and it is officially recognized to be playing a key role in promoting Inclusion the region. Following a few experimental projects, discussions are underway with ADAPT about developing a programme of in-country CII training workshops led by their trainers but organized by former CII participants from the concerned countries and hosted and funded by national resources

In past years TWC supported similar Inclusive training through regional workshops in Arabic organized by our other partner SETI. Sadly, the situation in the Middle East has prevented this happening recently but there is a new joint attempt to organize an Inclusive training workshop in 2018.

The extra cost of the extended CII training in Mumbai and the post-Brexit loss in the value of sterling stretched our resources in 2017 and is likely to be a challenge in 2018, when we may be called on to increase our commitment of funds to bring about the long awaited Arabic training project. Thus, while making appropriate Reserves for 2018, we will attempt to raise some extra funds to ensure longer term development and support for our training projects as long as they continue to play a recognized role in improving the lives and opportunities of disabled children who are recognized to be one of the most disadvantaged categories of children worldwide.

Finally, we thank our Patrons for their encouragement and generous support, our Committee members for all their work, our Members for their encouragement and support, and our generous individual and other donors including, in particular, the Viking Trust of the Rotary Club of York. We also give special thanks to our Partners ADAPT and SETI and our Honorary Training Adviser, with all of whom we are uniquely privileged to work so closely.



Pat Farley