

10<sup>th</sup> April, 2019

To Watton Town Council

Report from Watton Thursday Club

My name is Jane Sheldrake and I am the secretary for Watton Thursday Club. I am here to report on how the grant given by Watton Town Council was spent.

Watton Thursday Club was formed 50 years ago this year, its aim to provide a venue where adults with learning disabilities could meet, socialise and take part in various activities such as music, dancing, bingo, crafts and art or just chat to friends. Our members vary in levels of disability and come from Watton and surrounding areas, some along with carers who support them if needed. Numbers vary from month to month and as well as new young members we have older members who have been with us many years. Volunteers also provide support and friendship as well as the activities from month to month. Members contribute by paying a small fee on club nights, buying drinks and crisps and participating in tombolas and raffles. During the year we endeavour to provide a summer outing, a bowls night and at the end of the year the Annual Xmas Party. The numbers attending the last event can be between 70 and 80 including volunteers/carers. The overall cost of this event is over £500 and rising year to year. Because we do not have events where the general public attend we cannot 'rattle a tin' so rely on donations from

individuals, groups and organisations. Last October our Treasurer applied for a grant to help with the cost towards the Xmas Party. The Town Council awarded us £500 towards the costs for which we are very thankful.

The money went towards the following – hiring a venue (Wells Cole at Saham) , a local disco (KSD), for party food (Courtyard Catering, Attleborough), a bar(run by helpers), a minibus and providing a Xmas present for every member.

Our members benefit greatly from coming together for this annual event - it is the highlight of their year and allows them to come together and enjoy themselves and interact with everyone involved with the club over the year. It is also their chance to say thank you. Everyone leaves with a smile on their face. That's priceless.....