

67 CENTRE

50 YEARS 1967-2017



Half a century of fun, friendship and community



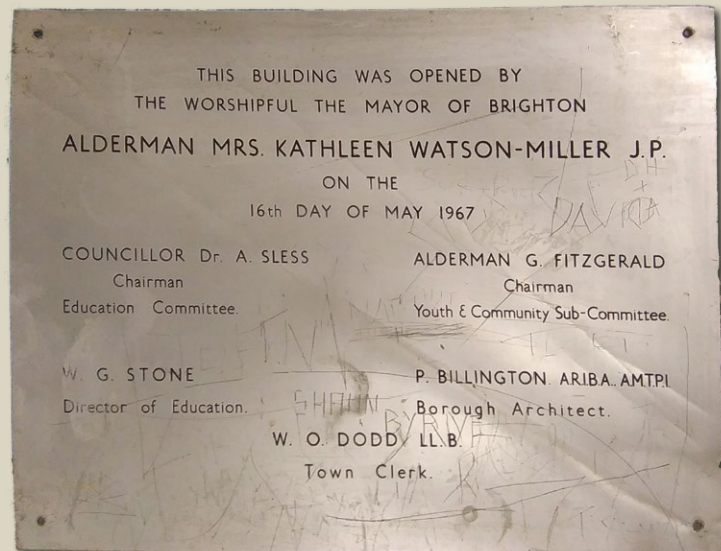
FOREWORD

This booklet celebrates and commemorates 50 years of the beloved 67 Centre. In a time when funding for youth work (and dedicated youth work buildings) is challenged, the 67 Centre represents the commitment of the local authority, Council Officers, local organisations and the community themselves to provide somewhere for young people to belong, be safe, learn and make friendships that can last lifetimes.



This booklet was brought together through the research and dedication of youth work author and historian Sue Shanks (AKA Sue Robertson) and Adam Muirhead, Director of Youth Work for the Trust for Developing Communities, a local community development charity delivering work with young people in Moulsecomb at the time of the 67 Centre's 50th birthday.

With huge thanks to all of the current and former Brighton & Hove City Council Youth Service staff, residents, service providers and everyone who helped us to celebrate the building's birthday on the 30th May 2017.



A fuller history of the building written by Sue Shanks can be found online here... www.bevendeanhistory.org.uk/beyond/moulsecomb_67_centre.html

BEFORE THE 67 CENTRE



Hodshrove Farm - pic taken 5th December 1936

Many thanks to the Regency Society for the use of this picture. You can see the whole of the James Gray archive at regencysociety-jamesgray.com

HISTORY OF THE SITE

Moulsecomb estate is first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, the Hodshrove Farm itself was thought to have been built in the early 1600s and occupied the original space where the 67 Centre now sits. Information on who was living and working on the farm only becomes clearer following the first modern Census of 1841 and clearer still in 1851 when we know that George Filder, aged 57, was the "Farmer of 700 acres employing 10 man and 4 boys".

The Moulsecomb Primary School was built further down the lane in 1929 with much of the rest of the estate being built up at the same sort of time.

By the time the 67 Centre was agreed to be built by Brighton Education Committee's Youth and Community subcommittee on the 10th June 1964 the farm house was derelict and subsequently demolished.



More can be found on the site's history here... www.bevendeanhistory.org.uk/beyond/moulsecomb_hodshrove_farm-1.html

MOULSECOOMB IN THE 60s

The Moulsecomb estate was mostly built through the 1920s, 30s and 40s and the housing was originally erected as 'homes for heroes' returning from the First World War, as well as a way to re-house those living in city centre slums.

By the 1960s this outlying estate was facing challenges that were linked to the poverty in the area, although most people living in Moulsecomb say that there was a 'good sense of community' at the time. Newspaper clippings from the Evening Argus in 1967 talk of how adults were fed up of the local youth causing a nuisance. According to residents, the teenagers were vandals and hooligans; chalking obscenities on people's walls, braking windows and on one occasion they "posted dog excreta through Mrs Russell's letter box"!

People felt so strongly at the time that residents were threatening to form vigilante groups to roam the estate and 'sort out' the young trouble makers. As Mr Donald Robinson said at the time, "A few good thrashings would soon sort the hooliganism. If I caught any of them I wouldn't hesitate myself".



BEFORE THE 67 CENTRE

THE WIDER YOUTH WORK WORLD AT THAT TIME

In 1960 the Conservative government of the day became worried about the youth. Delinquency, and the violent behaviour of mods and rockers had been exercising people's minds, national service was finishing, what were those young people who didn't go to university to do with themselves? It was decided to set up a committee of the great and good to come up with recommendations, the appointed chair was Lady Albemarle. Other members included renowned academic Richard Hoggart.

THE DECISION TO BUILD

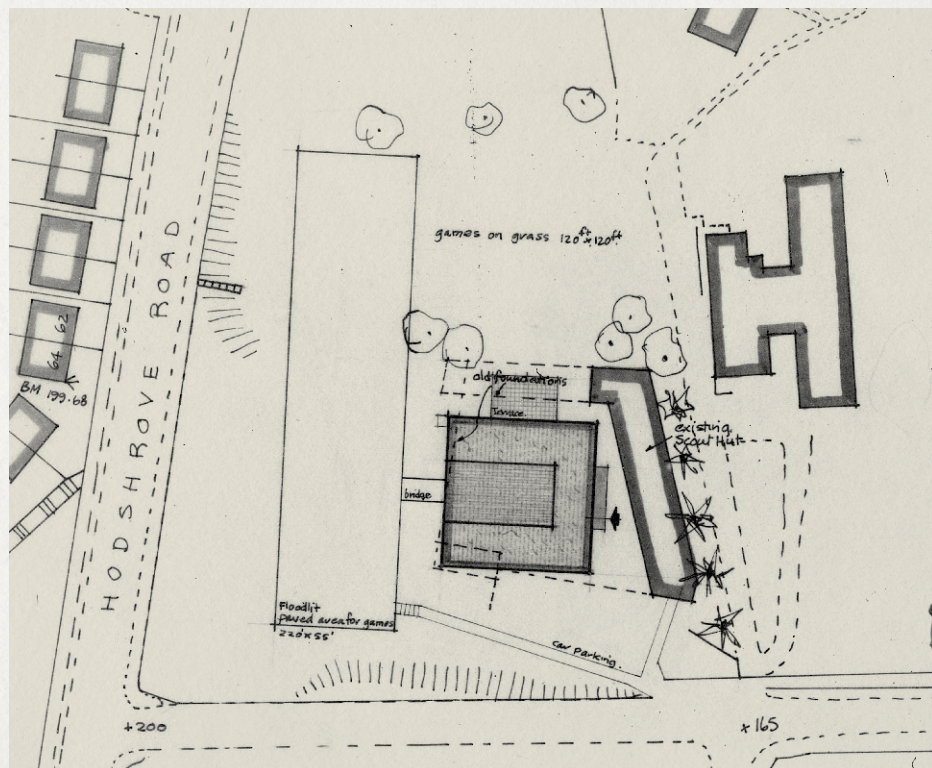
The resulting 'Albemarle report' led to the building of new youth centres all over the country, the one in Haywards Heath is even called 'the Albemarle centre'. The Ministry of Education authorised the spending of £4 million on youth service building projects throughout the country during 1962-63 and the Youth and Community subcommittee of the Brighton Education Committee decided on 10th June 1964 to build a new youth centre in Moulsecoomb.

The centre, designed by borough architect Mr Percy Billington, was subjected to so many hold-ups that Moulsecoomb youth

workers thought it would not be built in their lifetime. Finally building work started in March 1966, but all the delays caused a 10% increase in the cost. The final price of building the centre was £33,000.

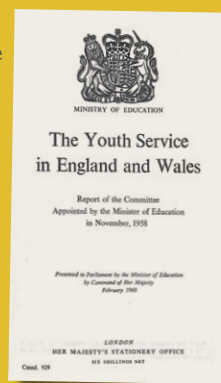


Diana Keppel, Countess of Albemarle



THE DESIGN OF THE 67 CENTRE

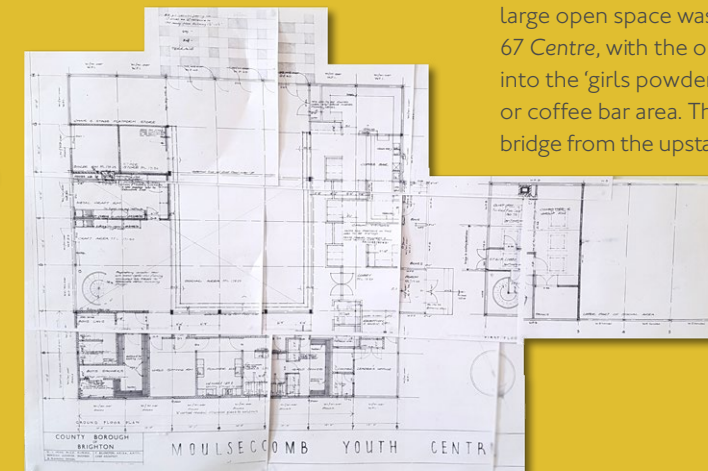
The Albemarle Report itself gave good direction as to how 'modern' youth centres should be designed and had a solid grasp at the time of what young people's needs were; "The Youth Service needs to take account of the worthy desire young people have for a bright and gay background". It called for "good decorations in good colours, modern appearance, a coffee bar rather than a canteen, [...] games rooms and small rooms where self-programming groups can meet".



There was a lot of concern at the time about young people who were 'unattached' to existing youth provision and about what these unattached youth were doing with their spare time. These new youth club buildings were to be innovative, attractive

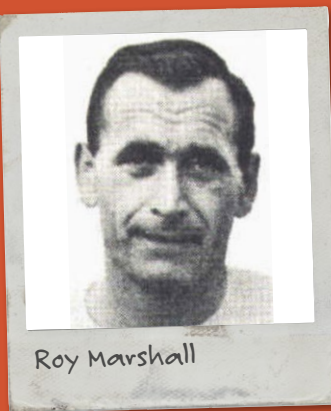
and full of all the things young people would want so that they would see these buildings as places they would choose to be.

Young people were also generally considered to be quite self-conscious and they had a need to 'see and be seen' so a large open space was considered for the 67 Centre, with the option to break away into the 'girls powder room', 'quiet room' or coffee bar area. The original plans had a bridge from the upstairs to the sports courts.



THE PEOPLE

With an acknowledgement that over the years, scores of workers and volunteers would have passed through the doors of the 67 Centre, it has not been possible to speak to everyone. They all have our (and Moulsecomb's) esteemed gratitude, even if they aren't mentioned here.



Roy Marshall

Centre Manager 1968-2000

Roy was trained as a youth worker at the National College in Leicester which was set up to train the workers that were needed for the new youth centres being built across the country. He had been a goalkeeper with Brighton and Hove Albion and brought his love of football into his youth work. He is remembered very fondly by local lad Roger, who described him as a "lovely, lovely man". Roger wanted to try for goalkeeper and Roy trained

him. Roy put his heart and soul into his work, he was "a gentleman who never stood any nonsense". Roy was very thorough in everything he did. By all accounts Roy kept a 'tight ship' at the 67 Centre and ran things very much his way. He also coordinated youth work across the district which included clubs at Coldean and Bevendean which meant he was not in the club every night. The centre was activity based – table tennis, snooker, pool, football and kayaking was organised and also trips away. There was a coffee bar run by Frank and Gladys Briggs. Roy was well respected by two generations of family, "Your dad used to do that, I banned your dad and it worked!"

Roy was incredibly committed he travelled over from Hove daily. He respected people who questioned and argued even when he didn't agree with them.

Roy passed away just 2 years after he stopped working at the Centre.



Kemi Oluayemi

Former Centre Manager

In 2000 Kemi took the post of full time Youth Worker at the 67 Centre after Roy Marshall retired. She had qualified as a Youth worker in Leicester. Her background was in youth work on estates so she was thrilled to obtain the 67 post. It was open 4 nights a week. The Junior club at that time was attracting large numbers, there were always queues to get in. The senior club was open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Kemi also worked at Moulsecomb Junior School to help with transition to secondary school. The club used to put on sessions skate boarding, girls and boys football and sessions on hot topics, such as cultural identity, healthy relationships and wellbeing. Kemi always felt she needed to stand up for the young people who were labelled

'the naughty kids' at community meetings. Residentials enabled building relationships with young people; the memories of these were very valuable to young people and staff. There were always boundaries – not just a place to hang out. By the late 2000s, the provision was reduced to just two nights, Monday and Tuesday and age was enforced at 13 plus. It was difficult to enforce ages, as young people were accustomed to socialising across age ranges.

In the 2010s The Trust for Developing Communities (a local youth and community work charity) were delivering youth work from the building more and more, in partnership with the Council. There was a Bike project on Tuesday afternoons and a young



women's group in the evening, Wednesday was a club for the visually impaired, Thursdays an open-access youth club.

The changing role of Council-employed youth workers saw them become focused on targeted, one-to-one work utilising youth work skills but not really doing 'youth work'. In the past, the workers were very much part of the community and the building was at its centre. Before Kemi was moved on she was embedded in the community as a full-time

Centre Manager. Kemi told us that Youth work is "difficult to fight for as the change it makes is not always visible". "Places to hang out are important for young people, with workers who will challenge young people's opinions, against their peers if needed".



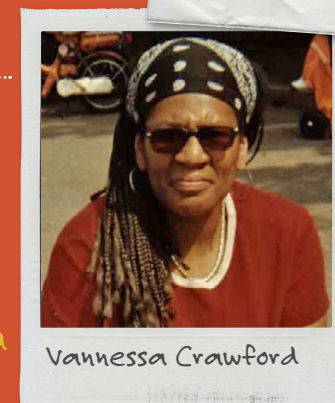
Caroline Vitta



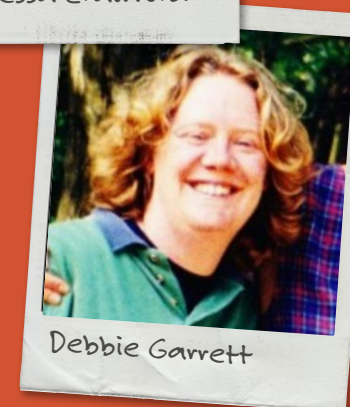
Kim Wells

OTHER WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS

- Chris Parfitt
- Lynne Maddox
- Kim Breaks
- Julia Box
- Kim Wells
- Sue Feighery
- Vanessa Crawford
- Debbie Garrett
- Peter Trenholme
- Graham Hill
- Rosalind Turner
- Kate Lackenby
- Geoff Court
- Caroline Vitta
- Tim Cotter
- Tracie James
- Stephen Atkins



Vanessa Crawford



Debbie Garrett

THE STORIES



Formed in 1977, the Piranhas used to rehearse in the upstairs room at the centre before going on to national fame with their ska song 'Tom Hark'. The Brighton band were formed of frontman "Boring" Bob Grover, Guitarist Johnny Helmer, Bassist Reginald Frederick Hornsbury, Saxophonist Zoot Alors (real name Phil Collis) and Drummer Dick Slexia (real name Richard Adland), famed for playing drums with plastic fish on their 1980 Top of the Pops appearance.



There was a fire in 1992 when a stolen car was driven into the centre. Thankfully no one was hurt and the centre was completely rebuilt to the original spec. ▶



Back Row L - R - Tony Edgar, Chris Burstow, Dave Sorrell, Nigel Burstow, Roger Dobson, John Clarke, Graham Baker.
Front Row L - R - Vic Baker, A.N. Other, Mick Mansell, Bobby Gearing, "Nobby" Clarke, Ray Clark, Jim Hargie.

▶ The 67 Centre had its own football team formed in 1973 that continued well into the 80s. The greatest accolade was playing and beating Whitehawk FC in a cup match on the 12th November 1983 to the surprise of most people!



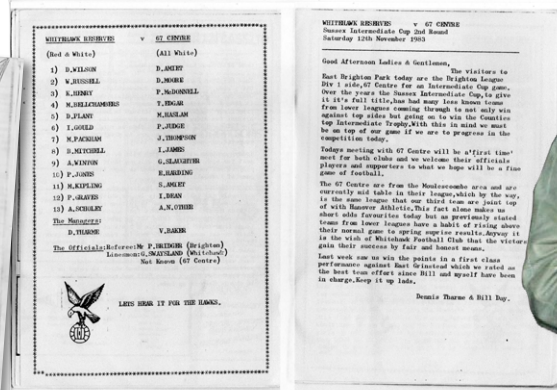
Teenage joyriders' night of destruction

TEENAGE joyriders sparked a blaze which wrecked part of a community centre early this morning. Flames destroyed a Scout hut and the front of the 67 Centre in Modsgrove Road, Moulsecoomb, Brighton, at 2am.

The joyriders set fire to a Fiat Regatta which they left between the two buildings, near Moulsecoomb Infants School. As the blaze spread rapidly, equipment worth more than £20,000, including 12 tents, 12 canoes and a marquee, was destroyed. Centre committee member Dave Barnard called the fire an act of mindless vandalism and destruction. He said: "This is a terrible shame. This is one of the few areas on the estate where young people can have activities. Householders raised the alarm after spotting flames coming from the Scout hut, an 18th century brick-built barn with a tin roof. Today, the burned-out wreck of the car was still standing outside the building. Forensic experts investigated the scene and fears the building could collapse at any time. Schoolchildren arriving at the nearby school were in tears this morning as they saw the destruction to the building, which was once used as a school canteen. Group Scout leader Michael Lawrence said: "The fire caused extensive damage. The building is a complete write-off. The loss of our search and rescue equipment must be worth £6,000 alone."



Wrecked by fire: Police examine the burned-out car for clues



▶ A club used to run for young people with mixed abilities called PHAB (Physically handicapped and Able Bodied) club in the 1970s. They used to play games, hang out and go on trips to Chessingtons, London and have a week's holiday each summer near Arundel. Mary Funnell used to attend between 1970 and 1979 and remembers

some folk singers coming in one time to perform. The lyrics of one song stay with her to this day: "I can still remember the renditions of "Piddling Pete" the dog who could not control himself, and a great rendition all round when the chorus came "He piddled on the sofa, he piddled on the door and when you thought he'd finished, he piddled on the floor!"



▶ In the making of this history project several hundred photos and even some old VHS tapes have been digitised for posterity!



Did you know the 67 Centre used to have its own newsletter called the 'Chronicles of the 67'?

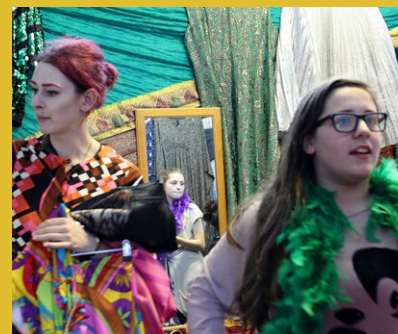


THE 50th BIRTHDAY PARTY

Knowing that the 50th birthday of the centre was approaching, the Trust for Developing Communities (TDC) applied to the Lottery Celebrate funding programme so that they could support two things. One was the research and production of this booklet, the other was a huge birthday party for the building which took place on the 30th May 2017.

Over 100 people joined the party with many former workers and attendees coming along to share their stories and old photos. In the build-up, a Facebook page was started where scans of all the old pictures that were found in storage are now shared (and a couple of videos too).

Local businesses and community groups got involved on the day including the Bevy community pub, Gladrags costume hire shop, Retrobution Gaming who provided old-school games consoles for us to play on, The Moulsecomb Treasures dance crew, Mr Children's Disco providing music for us all and the Frying Squad who laid on some of the most excellent fish and chips!



See more on our Facebook page...
www.facebook.com/67is50

YOUTH WORK TODAY

Austerity Britain post-2008 has wreaked havoc with funding for youth work. Without the hard and fast facts about what impact youth work has had (it's not like you sit an exam at the end of club to demonstrate what you learnt!), other priorities emerged for Brighton & Hove City Council's strained budgets. Kemi was eventually moved into the Integrated Team for Families and full-time youth work at the 67 Centre finished.

In April 2016 the Local Authority ceased delivering youth clubs from the 67 Centre and the Monday and Tuesday clubs shut down, remaining workers use the office space but mainly support young people 1-2-1 around focussed issues. The Council still pay for some youth work in the city but this money goes to local charities. The Brighton & Hove City Council Youth Service officially ceased to exist in 2017, with any remaining workers (including Youth Arts Team and Duke of Edinburgh workers) transferred to a new 'Youth Participation Team'.

Clubs still are run at the 67 Centre by the Trust for Developing Communities (TDC) along with their partners. The TDC are a local community development and youth work charity whose sessions at the centre,



The 67 Centre Bike Club

alongside events, include weekly bike clubs, young women's work, a club for disabled young people and an open access youth club that still attracts good numbers.



The Black History event in October 2017



THE FUTURE OF THE 67 CENTRE

The 67 Centre is sadly nearing the end of its useful life and in 2018 plans are being developed that would see a new 'hub' of community services built that would see the 67 Centre demolished to make way for new builds. Whilst this would represent the end of an era, we remain happy and proud to have had this fantastic building for all these years and been part of its impact on the community of Moulsecoomb.

Who knows, perhaps there will be an opportunity to build a brand new youth centre, fit for the next 50 years!



Thanks to the kind donation of the skills and time of the team at 3PLUSVR www.3plusvr.com we have been able to capture a 3D scan of the 67 Centre as it was in 2017 that will be hosted for posterity online. To have a virtual look around, please scan this QR code or visit this link: my.matterport.com/show/?m=1m2KsyLdJd2



QUOTES

The Centre was a chance for us kids to be kids, freer than we could normally be, but still completely safe. I have very fond memories.

Baroness Moulsecoomb
Jenny Jones

It was what went on inside, and young people feeling valued with their own space, that is how it made the difference, and how it became a special place for so many young people over the years.

Rosalind Turner
Youth Service Senior Manager

I believe this authority can be proud of its youth. And the youth can be proud of the authority for providing a centre like this.

Alderman Fitzgerald
Chair of the youth and Community sub-committee (1966)

The 67 centre will always hold a special place in my heart as 33 years ago i met the then boy that would become and is still my husband Adam, we have been married for 24 years and have 3 beautiful children of our own and a foster daughter also 6 grand babies.

Sarah
Former attendee



THANKS

Sue Shanks
Researcher and co-author

Adam Muirhead
Researcher and co-author

John Phillips and the Bevendean
History Project

Kim Wells, Debbie Garrett, Dawn Gibson, Sue Feighery – who all helped in the planning of the party.

Interviewees, including: **Baroness Moulsecoomb, Jenny Jones, Green peer, Chris Parfitt and Stuart Johnson**

CLr Mo Marsh
Mayor of Brighton & Hove during the birthday year

All those who helped with the event, including: The Bevy community pub, Gladrags community costume hire, The Frying Squad fish and chips, Mr Children's Disco, Gaming Retrobuton, The Moulsecoomb Treasures, The Youth Team at the Trust for Developing Communities, The Brighton & Hove City Council's Youth Service, ward Councillors Daniel Yates, Mo Marsh and Anne Meadows.

The Co-production, Research and Youth and Community Work conference, hosted by The Professional Association of Lecturers in Youth and Community conference in Glasgow, January 2017 for receiving a presentation on the research into the history of the 67 Centre.

The Lottery Celebrate programme, who made the research, the event and this document a possibility through their donation of £7,125.

Jon Callard for the design of this booklet – jmcallard@gmail.com

Regency Society for the use of their picture from the James Gray archive at regencysociety-jamesgray.com

Thanks to Gill Lauanders at 3PLUSVR for the 3D scan of the centre.





67 CENTRE'S
50th BIRTHDAY PARTY

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