



Annual Report 2018

Background

Wolf Photography has now been trading since 2012. I set the company up in 2002 to sell my photography. By 2006 it became clear that photography was a very important part of my life; as a creative outlet, it was helping me to cope with a then recently diagnosed disability – Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Photography helps me to get out of my home, get some fresh air and to create some art.

By 2012 I knew that I wanted to use the company to deliver services in the community, particularly where those services could help raise awareness of PTSD (and other Mental Health issues) and provide a therapeutic activity through creativity.

I've had upsets along the way with a couple of organisations that have let me down by either changing the terms of an agreed project or those that just want to emulate what my projects do for the purpose of gaining funding. I've avoided further contact with such organisations. If you're seeking public sector funding for a specific aim, you should already have a basic understanding of the issues involved and a relevant delivery plan ... rather than just put in a funding bid to gain a paid post or two, with no real commitment to the people you're supposed to be helping.

Funding

I fund my work in the community through the sale of books, cards and photographic prints (some of which are limited editions. My running costs for a year are approximately £5k a year – there is no money for salaries. Everyone that works for the projects, does so in a voluntary capacity, myself included.

Since being retired on ill health in 2006, the company has made a loss every year but I am hopeful to be able to be in a break even position in the near future owing to the generous sponsorship of LSM Global and private donations by members of the public that support the project.

I removed the 40% commission structure from the art exhibition side of the project last year simply because some people are in more need of the income themselves. Instead I rely upon a voluntary contribution from artists, should they sell any work. One artist, Trevor Peacock, donated a piece of his art to generate £200 for the project this year.

The Projects

Meiyo Karate Club was set up in 2012 after I was contacted by a local business that wanted a Dojo set up by someone that understood the mechanisms of bullying and discrimination, particularly racism. The dojo has had its ups and downs and finally found a secure home in Tesco Bulwell Extra,

compliments of Chris Tilley.

Meiyo Karate Club teaches self-defence. Current numbers are 10 children and 2 adults. We have space for 8 more children and 13 adults. We operate as an independent organisation.

The Dojo now funds itself and is run as a co-operative by the management committee. Instructors are unpaid volunteers.

Karatekas are encouraged to join in with the art group on Friday evenings so that they're exposed to cultural activities for well-rounded personal development ... parents and other family members are also encouraged to attend.

Disabled Artists' Network (DAN) was set up in 2013. Its purpose is to share awareness of disability, mental and physical and to allow artists to share their experiences of using creative activities as a coping mechanism for the difficulties they face in their lives. Non-disabled artists are also included, providing they can show how creativity generates a sense of well-being.

Art and statements are exhibited as a collective and changed every 2 months. The exhibition venue is the Community Space at Tesco Bulwell Extra, Jennison Street, Nottingham NG6 8EQ. The store is open from 7:30am to 11pm on most evenings (except public holidays and Sunday). We're currently on our 9th exhibition in Tesco.

Creatives Night operates in Tesco's community room every Friday evening (except public holidays). It's a place for artists, poets and photographers to get together socially, share ideas and create. It's a good way to have a go at something different in a supportive environment.

The Wolf Photography International Camera Club (WPICC) exhibits in Tesco Bulwell Extra, The Red Lion (Y Llew Coch), Dinas Mawddwy, Machynlleth, North Wales. SY20 9JA and D&D's Café on 8/10 Bagnall Road, Nottingham NG6 0JX. We currently have 58 active members from different countries. Exhibitions are themed and there's a wealth of experience in the club, should you wish to improve your skills with your camera(s). Group posts aren't limited to exhibition themes though and images are only critiqued upon request. The club is on its 10th exhibition and they change every 2 months.

The Wolf International Poetry Exhibition (WIPE) also exhibits at Tesco. There is no theme and poets submit their work to the Facebook group page. Poems are selected and displayed in the group space and are changed over every 2 months.

It's free to join any of the creative groups above. Pop in and say hello. If you're from further away, simply drop me a message on the Wolf Photography Facebook page and let me know which of the groups you'd like to join: <https://www.facebook.com/Wolf.Photographer/>.

The Veterans Support Group is a new initiative in Nottingham. The aims are to provide some comradeship in civvy street and to help support each other through difficulties encountered. There is a sign posting area for advice and assistance in various subjects (welfare, housing, etc). Some of the services mentioned cover the whole nation, geographically speaking.

The group is in its early stages with 13 members. So far 2 breakfast clubs have been set up (Tesco's Café in Bulwell and D&D's Café on 8/10 Bagnall Road NG6 0JX).

One of the requests from group members is to find local employers that will employ Veterans and for face-to-face benefits advice. I'll be looking into this in the New Year.

You can join the group direct if you're a Veteran: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/vsgwp/>. Non-Veterans can follow the progress of the group and any issues raised on: <https://www.facebook.com/wpvsg/>.

I've been networking with our local MP and Councillors on issues that arise. So far one question has gone to Parliament and it's on the issue of Veterans Identity Cards. They were due to be issued in December 2018 but that has now been delayed to an unspecified date.

Combat Stress have stopped supporting many Veterans in the community from older conflicts. Some Veterans feel that they have acted in an underhand fashion by quietly cutting off community support, thereby discharging former patients on the basis that we haven't been in touch. If you've served in any conflict and feel that you would benefit from their services and you've been deserted by them – contact them and lodge a complaint.

Help for Heroes were set up to help Veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. Their publicity campaigns captured the public's attention. However, they never publicly stated that they don't provide for the needs of all Veterans, irrespective of where they served. The public made huge contributions, thinking that all Veterans would be helped.

Internet sources confirming the reason that H4H was set up are becoming scarce:

“Why Help for Heroes is Different

Few charities are fortunate enough to have the vision and dedication of their Founders to draw upon as and when required. None of the achievements to date would have been possible without Bryn and Emma Parry, who Co-Founded the charity in 2007 and set out to 'just do something' to help those wounded in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.”

Source: <http://green-park-jobs.co.uk/h4h/index.php>.

It used to be easier to find details about their original aims.

One thing is clear to me: many Veterans from older conflicts are being swept under the rug. Many of them have PTSD and haven't received any support from the system yet.

Facilitators

These projects couldn't be run without the help of external professionals, the moderators and project facilitators. These people give their time freely and help people in so many ways.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them all: David Edge, Julie Genner, Paul Carruthers, Angie White, Yasmin Hussain, Sue Woollard, Rob Gibson, Trevor Peacock and Andrew Dobbin.

I'd also like to thank all the staff of Tesco Bulwell Extra for their support in the day-to-day running of all the community projects at the store.

Many thanks also to Berwyn Hughes of the Red Lion and Darren and Donna from of D&D's Café for hosting Camera Club exhibitions at their venues.

Keep your eyes open for Camera Club venues in other countries folks. As long as they have a trustworthy postal system – we can make it work!

All that is left to do is for me to wish you a peaceful Christmas Season and a Happy New Year for 2019. I hope that we can spend some time and reach out to those isolated souls that need help ... and my thoughts also go out to the people in other counties whose lives have been ruined by West's desire to secure oil and other resources through unjustified wars.

Sincerely

Villayat 'Wolf' Sunkmanitu
Proprietor – Wolf Photography.