

Report to Willingham Parish Council

May 2022

Update

Back in September 2021, we were absolutely delighted to be able to open our doors again to the young people of Willingham and the surrounding villages. Providing a weekly youth club has always been our main goal, so it was fantastic to get this back up and running again on a Wednesday night. We had so many young people attending during the first few weeks that space became a real issue; we have never been more grateful to be positioned right next to the park, which acted as a valuable spillover space, though as the nights drew in, lighting became a major concern. After two weeks open, we decided to split our cohort of young people into two groups, to combat the space issue. However, unfortunately, after only one more week open, Connections Bus Project - who provide our youth workers - were faced with staff illness which forced us to close our doors again. Fortunately, after this rocky start, we were able to open up again in February 2021, with each group of young people attending on alternate weeks to ensure there was sufficient space, especially given the dark nights of early spring, making the park inaccessible after the first half an hour. We had 6 fantastic sessions this term, with young people engaging in conversations with our youth workers about everything from consent to vandalism. We have had such great feedback from our young people this term and it is so heartwarming to see how important youth club is to them.

We are incredibly grateful to Willingham Parish Council for funding youth club this year, without your support we would not be able to provide this vital service, and to WBST for providing a grant to purchase a nintendo switch and interactive, multiplayer games, which have been greatly enjoyed by all our young people. Once again, due to the pandemic, fundraising has been a struggle this year, though thanks to the income provided by renting the space out to JSPC dance school we should be able to continue to maintain the building to a high standard. We have also successfully rented out the space for various birthday parties and conference events, providing valuable income.

Engaging volunteers has been a real challenge this year, mostly due to the pandemic. We are advertising extensively for volunteers so would welcome anyone who wishes to come along and help on a Wednesday night. We are immensely grateful to our Chair, Jack Stinton, for attending youth club sessions in place of having volunteers available, and also to Caroline Stoneham for volunteering.

The accounts for the year end 31st July 2021 are attached in Appendix 1.

Future Plans

The Youth Trust building will continue to be rented out to JS Performance Collective for use as a teaching and learning space, providing us with much needed income. We will also continue to advertise the space for birthday parties and conferences/meeting hire.

Willingham Youth Trust

We will be attending Fen Edge Festival this year on the 25th and 26th of June, and will be running a BBQ to raise funds for future projects, such as the arts project we intend to run with one of our youth workers, who is an accomplished graffiti artist. We hope to be able to create some graffiti art pieces with our young people to decorate the walls of the Youth Trust, allowing our young people to claim ownership over their space. We are also hoping to be involved in the village Jubilee celebrations, and will be talking to our young people about how they would like to be involved.

We are also planning to arrange some events in collaboration with Northstowe Youth, who have just set up their own youth club on a Wednesday afternoon.

Youth Centre Board: Directors / Trustees/ Volunteers

Jack Stinton – Chair, Director

Vicky Richards – Secretary, Director

Frances Watts – Treasurer

Max Turvill – Trustee, Director

Bonnie Twiss – Trustee

Caroline Stoneham, Volunteer

Sarah Clarke

Wally Groves

Melissa Setchell

Willingham Youth Trust

Appendix 1. WYT accounts year end 31st July 2021

Willingham Youth Trust
Income and Expenditure Account
For the year ended 31 July 2021

		2021	2020
		£	£
Income	Coding Club	-	410
	Donations	112	4,780
	Grants	-	1,200
	Hall Hire	2,780	728
	Halloween Disco	-	2,098
	Pop up Cafe	-	268
		<u>2,892</u>	<u>9,484</u>
Cost of Charitable Activities	Connexions Bus Workers	-	(5,239)
	Fundraising Costs - Halloween Disco	-	(1,447)
	<u>-</u>	<u>(6,686)</u>	
	<u>2,892</u>	<u>2,798</u>	
Expenses	Advertising and Website	(112)	(112)
	Cleaning	(1,111)	(1,500)
	Insurance	(544)	(532)
	Licences	109	(94)
	Postage	(3)	-
	Repairs and maintenance	(631)	(1,850)
	Software and Computer Expenses	(258)	(238)
	Subscriptions	(132)	(328)
	Sundry	(31)	(13)
	Telephone and fax	(396)	(384)
	<u>(3,108)</u>	<u>(5,052)</u>	
Net loss		<u>(216)</u>	<u>(2,253)</u>