

The Octagon Community Hub Report for Willingham Parish Council May 2024

The first objective of the Octagon Community Hub is to offer a warm and friendly welcome to **all** residents living in the locality. We have found that a significant number of our attendees come to the Hub because they have particular needs: they are lonely and seek companionship, or they have recently been bereaved, or they are elderly, or have medical issues, such as early onset dementia, or they have had a stroke etc and sometimes a combination of these. Often their carers bring them because the carer is in need of social companionship. Others come because they have recently moved to the village and need to meet other villagers and make new friends. Conversational and language support has also been offered to those who have English as their second language.

Our second objective is to provide **free** refreshments throughout the time they spend with us. With the support of your generous grant we have been able to offer a more substantial and nutritious lunch than just a cup-of-soup sachet. Each week we now provide fresh home-made vegetable soups with buttered toast, beans on toast etc as well as tea, coffee and biscuits. This is very much appreciated (and enjoyed!) by everyone.

We regularly welcome 18- 20 attendees each Monday. Some people come every week; while others come when they can or need a place where they feel safe and secure and comfortable. We continue to liaise with Cambridgeshire ACRE and often welcome linked agencies to the Hub.

To date, we have used approximately half of the grant awarded to us in November 2023. We very much hope that you will favourably consider the Octagon Community Hub for another grant in October 2024.
Thank you.