

Report to Willingham Parish Council

May 2024

Update

This year has been both a successful year for the Willingham Youth Trust and a real challenge for the charity. The youth club has continued to run with Connections Bus Project and this service continues to be an invaluable service to the young people of the village. Connections Bus Project provide three youth workers coming along once a week (during term time) to deliver our popular club. The trustees are incredibly grateful for the youth workers and Alan (head of Connections Bus Project) for their continued support and their drive to help increase engagement with the youth club and generating new ideas to keep the engagement as high as possible. The young people have engaged in numerous different focused activities as well as the usual range of activities such as table tennis, video games, pool & arts and crafts.

The challenges over the past year include the stepping down of our secretary Victoria Richards and two of our regular volunteers Belinda and Mark Shelley. We would like to thank Victoria for her amazing support during her time as our secretary and for helping to rebuild the charity after the challenges of COVID. We would also like to thank Mark and Belinda for always stepping in to help, both at events and at the youth club, during their time as volunteers. They always took the extra time with the young people and also spent time repairing some of our old equipment. These three departures from the charity have left us with a real challenge, with a limited number of both trustees and volunteers. The current trustees are working hard to find new members, so if you are interested in joining or want to find out more about what is involved, please email us at enquiries@willinghamyouthtrust.org

We are still at a place where we are having to split our youth club year groups, with one week being solely for Year 7's and then the following week for Years 8 & 9, with the maximum being 20 young people per session, due to space restrictions. This is extremely limiting, as we have interest from a huge number of young people but just can't offer the space to them yet. We are working with Connections Bus Project to find solutions to open up our sessions to as many young people as possible.

We are incredibly grateful to Willingham Parish Council for funding youth club again this year, as without their ongoing support we would not be able to provide this vital service. We also continue to have the dance school, JSDC, providing some regular income, along with Sunflowers Care Ltd on a monthly basis. We also continue to offer the space for children's parties and have had several across the year.

As mentioned earlier, engaging volunteers continues to be our main focus and priority for the stability and future successes of the charity. Jack will shortly be required to step down as Chair of the charity, so having new volunteers and members that are interested in taking on more of the administration and running of the charity is key to the continued success of this vital service. Jack would like to thank the current trustees Bonnie Twiss & Frances Watts, and our volunteers Caroline Stoneham, Loraine Foley, Belinda and Mark Shelley and Paul Knighton for their support this year.

The accounts for the year end 31st July 2023 are attached in Appendix 1.

Future Plans

Willingham Youth Trust

We will continue to run a weekly youth club for years 7-9 on a Wednesday evening, and are hopeful that more volunteers will come forward as we continue to advertise. We will also look further into options for expanding the scope of youth club, whether by increasing the space available or the number of days the centre is open. We would welcome any help or advice the residents of Willingham are able to provide.

The Youth Trust building will continue to be rented out to Jack Stinton Dance Company and Sunflowers Care Ltd for use as a teaching and learning space. We will also continue to advertise the space for birthday parties and conferences/meeting hire.

In the coming year, the charity will lose this income from the hall rental, as the Parish Council have chosen to not renew the charity's lease agreement. This is something the Youth Trust trustees are currently working to mitigate, and after 10 years of managing the building we look forward to working with the Parish Council as we move forward to this next phase of the Willingham Youth Trust.

Youth Centre Board: Directors / Trustees/ Volunteers

Jack Stinton – Chair, Director

Frances Watts – Treasurer

Bonnie Twiss – Secretary

Caroline Stoneham - Volunteer

Loraine Foley - Volunteer

Paul Knighton - Volunteer

Willingham Youth Trust

Appendix 1. WYT accounts year end 31st July 2023

Willingham Youth Trust - Balance Sheet As at 31 July 2023

			2023		2022
			£		£
Customers				460	
Debtors	Prepayments	470		412	
		470		412	
Bank	Current Account	9,407		18,588	
	Deposit Account	10,011			
	Petty Cash	100		100	
		19,518		18,688	
			19,987		19,560
Creditors	Accruals	1,152			
	Sundry	(445)		(445)	
			(1,597)		(445)
Net assets			18,391		19,116
			£		£
Profit & Loss Account	Brought forward - General	19,116		18,074	
	Net Surplus(loss)	(725)		1,042	
	CFC Grant - Restricted Fund			-	
			18,391		19,116
Total Funds			18,391		19,116

Willingham Youth Trust

Willingham Youth Trust - Income and Expenditure Account From the Year Ended 31 July 2023

			2023		2022
			£		£
Income	Donations			900	
	Fen Edge Festival			1,716	
	Grants	6,912		6,000	
	Hall Hire	1,903		205	
		11			
			8,826		8,821
Cost of Charitable Acti	Connections Bus worker	6,876		(3,261)	
	Fen Edge Festival	100		(960)	
	Purchases	56			
			(7,033)		(4,221)
			1,793		4,601
Expenses	Advertising & website	(346)		(141)	
	Bank charges	-		(35)	
	Cleaning	-		(295)	
	Equipment expensed	(507)		(789)	
	Insurance	(568)		(516)	
	Licenses	-		(261)	
	Postage	-		-	
	Repairs and maintenance	(254)		(343)	
	Software and computer expenses	(265)		(265)	
	Staff training and welfare	-		(58)	
	Stationary and printing	-		(12)	
	Subscriptions	(15)		(111)	
	Sundry	(86)		(280)	
	Telephone & fax	(475)		(432)	
	Travel and subsistence	(2)		(20)	
			(2,518)		(3,559)
Net Surplus/(loss)			(725)		1,042