

Newsletter Issue 1 September 2019

This is the first issue of a newsletter to let people know what is going on within Haxby and Wigginton Youth and Community Association whose main activities take place at Oaken Grove Community Centre. The newsletters will generally be limited to a single A4 sheet and will be issued at regular intervals and especially when items need to be brought to the attention of members and other interested parties. It will be sent to members and users. Where possible this will be by email with copies also available at the Community Centre. It would be appreciated if we could find a volunteer to place copies on the Notice Boards in Haxby and Wigginton.

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on Tuesday 3rd September and was attended by 10 members and 1 local councillor. Proxy cards were completed by 6 members who could not attend. Membership is open to individuals or organisations that have an interest in the wellbeing of the Association. Anyone interested in becoming a member can obtain a membership form from the office at Oaken Grove Community Centre or can request one by sending an email to the address above.

After 2 years as Chair of the Trustees and a further 2 years as a trustee Martin Crosby resigned as a trustee due to personal commitments. He was wished well and thanked for his support of the organisation. Unfortunately this leaves us with no one filling the role of Chair. Jim Harrison, our treasurer, has agreed to Chair meetings of the Association and trustee meetings but we have an urgent need to find someone who will be our regular contact with other organisations and the local Councils. Like many voluntary organisations, especially those without a national or emotive appeal, we struggle to find suitable people to be trustees. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in being a trustee please contact the office who will arrange for someone to explain what is involved.

After 6 years leading our youth provision, Ellie Tillotson has decided to concentrate on her other interests and will gradually reduce her involvement with the Association, finally leaving us in April next year. The Association, and all the young people she has been involved with, will miss her dynamic leadership of our youth activities and owe a considerable gratitude to her. Alysha Smith has started her role as the Youth Admin Coordinator for the Community Ties Youth Provision at the Association. She is from Canada but has lived on and off in the UK over the past 6 years, completing her Master's degree in History at the University of York in 2014. We'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Alysha to the team.

As part of our fundraising activities we held a sale at St Crux in York and raised £683 towards the cost of running Oaken Grove Centre. Thanks go to all who helped in any way. Many of you will be aware of the essential work required to the heating system which was needed to help ensure the building can be kept warm during next winter. The Association is responsible for maintaining the building and has to fund this work. Whilst we are reasonably successful in getting grants for Youth work, those for property maintenance are much more difficult to obtain.

We have just received a grant to buy six chairs with arms for users of the Centre who find it difficult to stand up without the additional support these chairs will provide.

In future issues we intend to cover the activities run by the Centre and the help we need to ensure that these can continue into the future. We will also hope to give those regular users who wish to do so, the opportunity to describe what they do, and the kind of people they wish to attract to their activities.