

Droxford Community Hub Community Interest Company (CIC)

Annual Report June 2022

Who are we?



The company runs a small community hub and café which is in an annex adjacent to St Mary & All Saints Church in Droxford. Its' objective is to;

- secure the establishment of a Community Hub and Café in Droxford and to maintain it and manage it as a centre for activities for the benefit of the inhabitants of Droxford Parish and neighbouring districts without discrimination of age, sex, race, political, religious or other opinion, by associating the statutory authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to provide facilities or activities in the interests of social welfare, for recreation or other leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the lives of the said inhabitants.

The CIC commenced trading on 4th January 2020 and had a challenging start due to the Covid pandemic and the need for hospitality businesses to either close or offer very restricted services for much of 2020 and part of 2021. Restrictions eased and the café commenced trading fully once again in May 2021.

What do we do?

The community hub and café is open five days per week and is now an integral part of village life. A wider range of produce is available for sale including freshly made soup and rolls, quiches, croissants, crumpets as well as delicious cakes all supplied by our amazing cake bakers. Over the past year the following activities have been introduced:

- A meeting point for the retired and home-based carers that reduces the feeling of loneliness and isolation in the community
- A focus for parents with children at the local school and encourages intergenerational activities
- Facilities for local clubs and societies to meet, e.g., floral art club, IT Club, Village Fayre Committee
- Refreshments and toilets for walkers and cyclists on both the South Downs Way and the Meon Valley Trail
- A focal point for historical information about the village and its' inhabitants throughout the centuries and supporting the Heritage exhibition located in the adjacent church of St Mary & All Saints
- Provision of broadband services to ensure universal access to internet-based services and goods
- Support and promote local businesses wherever possible



- *Wilfrid's Wednesdays* – an opportunity for those in the community who feel lonely or isolated including those who may have retired or home based carers to meet for a coffee supported by members of the local Neighbourhood Watch Team
- *Little Beans* – a regular 'coffee and chat' session with young mothers (and fathers to socialise) and let babies and young children meet in a safe environment.
- *Treasure Trails* – discover the history and nature of Droxford through the creation of a treasure trail for children of all ages during holidays and half terms
- *Local Clubs* – Several local clubs and organisations meet on a regular basis including Floral Art Club, IT Club, Neighbourhood Watch etc.
- *Fund raising events for the village* – The hub has supported events to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Services, Friends of Droxford Church, Parochial Church Council, Droxford Annual Fayre and, most recently, raising large sums of money to support the crisis in Ukraine
 - *Broadband* – a more reliable service has been introduced with improved signal and broadband speeds to allow people to access internet services
 - *Supporting volunteering in schools* – We encourage children from local schools who are part of the Duke of Edinburgh's scheme to undertake a portion of their volunteering work in Wilfrid's café.



How do we make it all happen?

The CIC has the most amazing support from the local community. The café and community hub are managed and run by a fantastic team of volunteers and cake bakers who all provide their services (and their delicious cakes, biscuits and quiches) free of charge. Without their continued enthusiasm and support the café and hub would cease to exist. On behalf of the entire Board of the CIC we would like to say a massive **thank you** to everyone who has supported us over the last 12 months and we hope we may count on your support for the coming year and beyond.

Giving back to the community

As a result of the amazing contribution from Board members, café volunteers and bakers we have raised:

£766 - Macmillan Cancer Charity

£2645 - Ukraine through the Disaster Emergency Committee Fund

And finally.....

We are very pleased to announce that we have available **£3500** to provide grants to support local groups and organisations and we invite applications for grants via a very simple form details of which are available on our website (www.wilfrids.org) and copies of the application form are available in the café.