



Droxford Community Hub Community Interest Company

Annual Report June 2023

Droxford Community Hub CIC (trading as Wilfrid's Café) has gone from strength to strength in the last year and has been building on its main objective:

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 and occupation with the object of improving the lives of the said inhabitants.



Wilfrid's Café is now a thriving centre for Droxford village and the surrounding area. Open on five regular days per week with an additional day on the first Wednesday in the month when it opens to welcome local residents for Wilfrid's Wednesdays with lots of special offers for residents. It remains open to welcome the youngest members of our community with Little Beans in the afternoon.

A regular meeting place for friends to enjoy a speciality coffee or tea and of course, a slice of one of our legendary cakes or as a pit stop for local cyclists or walkers, the Café is also home to the computer club, regular meetings of a number of different local organisations including FODC, DCH Board meetings and other more informal meetings. Further, the Café is now the venue for private dinner parties and events such as our own volunteers' special evening.

Our ability to actively support the local community is also growing. We have worked collaboratively to support Droxford Junior School through Friends of Droxford School, supporting them at their Christmas services and other fundraising events and also to support village hall events by offering discounted drinks for those attending the book sales or the table top sale and a donation to the Christmas Market, all of which raise funds for the village hall.

Through our grants system from our trading surplus last year, we were able to support the Allotments, Friends of Droxford School, the Church, the Scouts, Sing and Tonic, Early Years Pre-school and the Scarecrow Festival.

We opened at Droxford Country Fair for the first time in 2022, serving a range of items and generating further income to contribute to the local community.

We are developing our relationship with the Parish Council through assisting them with the first Droxford Climate Café. We have also supported an initiative to provide a commemorative item to celebrate the King's Coronation, to be given to the children of Droxford village and to be purchased by adults requiring them.

We continue to try to work with the Friends of Droxford Church and with the Parochial Church Council, allowing relationships to steadily grow. We are a designated 'Warm Space'. We also offer hot drinks for those working to clear up the churchyard or for village litter-pickers.

What does the future hold? It is no surprise that we are trying to develop the services we offer to the community and to find ways which we can support local groups. Led by Ali, one particularly exciting development is our Youth Training Programme which will offer an opportunity for a young person aged between 16-18 years to train in the café, working on Saturdays but also in school holidays. This scheme is an amazing opportunity for a young person to gain work experience and also helps us to fill our Saturday slots on the rota.

We are delighted that this year, after paying all our costs to the church and for utilities, we have an amazing trading surplus of £8000 to distribute to the community. Generating such a trading surplus is thanks to a large number of people.

It is thanks to our amazing volunteers and cake bakers; to the team that lead them; to the donors who continue to give to Wilfrid's and to our ever-growing band of customers. I would like to extend our grateful thanks on behalf of Wilfrid's to all of those people who give unstintingly of their time and energy. All your efforts are much appreciated.

Thank you all so much for everything you do.

Margaret Wallace

Chair, DCH