



# Malpas Young Persons Project

Registered Charity No : 1078000

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 10th MAY 2022**

**ANNUAL REPORT : JANUARY 2020 - MARCH 2022**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

**MYPP is a registered charity which was established as the result of community drive to provide the young people of Malpas and the surrounding area with a youth service which would give them the opportunity to thrive and aspire to be the best that they could be. This service was felt to be particularly important given the rurally isolated nature of Malpas and the lack of accessibility to such facilities for our young people.**

**The project began in 1997 with the creation of a Young Persons Council and following considerable hard work, fundraising and a contribution from the Big Lottery Fund the Centre opened its doors in 2003.**

**The Centre continues to offer a service to local young people and is run by our Board of Trustees and Executive Committee members who are all volunteers.**

**At our previous AGM held on 30th April 2019 two Committee officers agreed to continue in their roles for 2019 and two new officers were appointed. These decisions were unanimously agreed by all Committee members.**

**Sadly, with the arrival of the pandemic, all groups with the exception of Kid Space withdrew from using the Centre in March 2020. Kid Space continued to provide a childcare service to key workers throughout “lockdown” and our Committee supported them in this by not charging rent for several weeks enabling them to provide free childcare at this time.**

**As lockdown restrictions were lifted we followed both Government and the National Youth Agency advice and recommendations and carefully through risk assessment processes and action plans have managed to re-establish our youth sessions safely.**

**We were also successful in a bid to the Covid Community Fund and**

received funding for the purchase of an Electrostatic Sprayer.

This has enabled easy sanitising of all areas.

We have now enabled all our community groups to safely return to using the Centre. These groups include Kid Space; Minerva Arts; Friday Friends and the Speech Therapy service and this has been assisted through groups taking responsibility for sanitising areas after their use, sharing risk assessments and groups feeling confident that the risks of infection were reduced.

To date, we have not felt comfortable allowing one off events eg. childrens parties to take place but hopefully as matters progress we will return to “business as usual”.

The pandemic and “lockdowns” have clearly impacted on our charity greatly in terms of the service we have been able to provide, our income and the plans we had devised over the last two years.

To date we have also been restricted in our ability to fundraise through local events and fairs which have been cancelled.

Our reserves have reduced considerably.

However we have continued to ensure our building is safe and well maintained. We have continued to employ and retain our youth worker and youth support worker for our Wednesday senior sessions. This was greatly assisted through the use of the Government “furlough scheme”.

We have also successfully employed a youth support worker for our Friday junior sessions.

An AGM was planned for 28th April 2020 but sadly due to Covid lockdown this had to be cancelled. Similarly a meeting in 2021 was not held due to Covid restrictions.

Therefore our officers are currently as follows:

**Chairperson - Margo Webb**

**Treasurer - Vacancy**

**Secretary - John Pierson**

**Booking Secretary - Sally Sharp**

The Committee Trustees are currently as follows:

**Carol Dalgliesh**

**Norah O'Donnell**

**John Pierson**

**Sally Sharp**

**Ann Wright**

**Margo Webb**

The Charity Commission information is kept updated with any changes to this information.

**The Centre could not operate without the commitment, hard work and time of our staff and volunteers and this should not be underestimated.**

**I would wish to record formally in this Annual Report my thanks to each and every one of our staff members and volunteers for their contribution to the work of the Centre, particularly during the many difficulties that we have had to deal with during the pandemic.**

**I would particularly wish to thank Ann Wright, our Treasurer who has stood down after many years of supporting our charity.**

**We currently provide two core sessions per week on Wednesday (Senior) and Friday (Junior) evenings. Our intention is to provide a safe and friendly environment where young people can meet and take part in a wide variety of activities. They are able to socialise with other young people and with adults who aspire to provide appropriate role models. We hope that they can build positive relationships and develop the skills and confidence to thrive and become valued members of their community.**

## **2. WEDNESDAY YOUTH GROUP**

**Our senior group provides a service to young people from Year 7 and upwards. The sessions run from 6.30pm - 8.30pm with occasional sessions or outings during school holidays.**

**Given the age and needs of our young people we employ a qualified youth worker for these sessions and in addition a youth support worker. The senior group also has the commitment of one regular volunteer. In our view it has been very important to provide a consistent group of adults to supervise these sessions. This has enabled relationships to develop and the majority of sessions have taken place in a positive and safe environment.**

**The sessions primarily consist of the young people meeting their friends and hanging out in a safe environment. The Centre provides a place to sit and chat and the pool table and table tennis are made good use of.**

**The young people who attend the Centre regularly on a Wednesday evening clearly perceive the Centre as “their place”. We have in the past had some problematic behaviour with this group as had the village generally however a few have moved on and the others are beginning to mature.**

**We are committed to sticking with them and seeing them through to adulthood.**

**The majority of parents are also positive about the Centre and are**

**committed to working with us, responding quickly when we do have difficulties and supporting staff and volunteers. We devised a Code of Conduct in 2018/19 with both young people and their parents signing the agreements and these have assisted our management of behaviours both within and outside of sessions.**

**Our Committee is represented on Malpas Community Safety Action Group which enables positive working relationships between Parish Council, Police and High School regarding any significant Malpas youth issues and assisting a more integrated approach. Unfortunately this group was unable to meet during Covid but hopefully will be re established positively in the near future.**

**The senior session attendance is currently averaging between 12 - 20 young people.**

**A few young people have moved on and a few members have joined. However it would be good to attract further new members given we are now fully staffed and have a regular volunteer. The sessions are mainly positive and the Centre is valued and required.**

**The young people attending would state that there is little to engage them in the village apart from the youth centre. There are several other community groups locally which young people can be involved in but many have costs which are prohibitive and some are not attractive to some young people in terms of uniform, religion, rules and structure.**

**There is definitely a need to continue to engage these young people in more positive behaviours which will benefit the local community and create a win/win situation for all.**

**The senior group are a difficult group to engage in organised activities and as stated previously they prefer to use the Centre to meet friends, chat and have a safe place to socialize. There is a divide between the older and the younger group and this can be challenging at times to manage. Both groups tolerate each other and we continue to work on this area.**

### **3. FRIDAY YOUTH GROUP**

**Our junior group provides a service to young people from Years 4 - 7. The sessions run from 6.00pm - 8.00pm.**

**We have successfully taken forward our plan to employ a youth support worker to take responsibility for these sessions so they are now well established and working well. The sessions are**

supported by volunteers and parents.

These sessions have been extremely popular with the group averaging 30+ young people attending each session.

There are a wide range of activities available. These include sport, art, cookery, indoor and outdoor games, computer games and much more.

Snacks are also provided at a small cost.

Outside space is extremely important for these sessions, allowing young people to run around and burn off energy. We are fortunate in being able to securely shut off the Fire Services car park on Friday evenings and to the additional lighting provided by them. This allows for football and other outside games to be undertaken safely.

Our junior group sessions are also maintained by the very helpful input of a number of young volunteers who have come to us via the Duke of Edinburgh award or who have grown up with the Centre and return to help out

All of our staff and volunteers work very hard in making our junior group a positive experience and that is clearly endorsed by the popularity of the group.

It must also be noted that Covid has impacted greatly on young people's mental health and there is a need to address these concerns with both the senior and junior groups.

#### **4. FUNDING THE SERVICE**

As stated in the introduction the Centre was established through much hard work, fundraising and Big Lottery funding. The building itself is now 19 years old and as such requires considerable input in terms of upkeep and repair.

Costs include maintaining the building and surrounding grounds through cleaning, heating, lighting, gardening, appropriate insurance, repairing the fabric of the building when necessary etc.....

Our top three costs in terms of funding the service during 2021/22 are:

- Maintenance approx £2k
- Payroll approx £7.7k

- Utility bills approx £2.5k
- Insurance approx £2.2k

Clearly given the ongoing rises in fuel costs we will have to consider increasing our rental charges in 2022/23.

All costs are very necessary in providing a safe environment for our young people, and our Trustees/Committee members work tirelessly to ensure that we are able to do so.

It is important to note that the Centre receives NO funding from our local authority, Cheshire West & Chester, Young People's Grant Programme and has received very limited liaison and support regarding the work of the Centre during the last two years. Despite various applications over recent years we have failed to meet their priorities for funding given the needs of more urban areas and the National reduction in Youth Services budget.

In terms of our funding efforts for 2021/22 it is helpful to record the following information:

- Malpas Parish Council Grant £1,500
- Richard Alport foundation Grant £1,500
- Personal donations of £250 have been gratefully received
- Each young person is charged £1 entrance fee on both Wednesday and Friday sessions. In addition there is a small profit from our snack bar.
- We have promoted the use of our building in order to enhance our funds. We continue to charge £15 per hour and have a wide range of groups using our building. These include Kid Space, Minerva Arts, Friday Friends, Children's Speech Therapy Service, Opal, Malpas Community Minibus training and childrens birthday parties.

Room Hire has therefore returned £7.5k to the centre's income in 21/22.

As you will note fundraising for MYPP continues to be a very necessary, busy and time consuming job for all those involved with our service.

It is worth noting that we were recently successful in our funding application to the Co-op Community Fund. This scheme runs for one year through to October 2022. At this stage it is unclear how much funding this will bring in as it depends on how many customers choose us as their "cause".

## **5. DEVELOPMENTS FOR 2022**

**As a charity we have recently hit a “bump in the road” in terms of the recruitment of trustees and volunteers. This brings the sustainability of our charity into question and it is imperative that we recruit new members who are prepared to get involved, take on tasks and that we move forward positively.**

**The project currently relies on a small group of ageing volunteers (5) a few of whom give up much of their time to manage the building, volunteer and fulfill Trustee/Committee member roles for our small charity.**

**Sadly we have recently lost our treasurer and this has impacted on the workload of others. There is an urgent need for our Management Committee to expand with a better balance of age and gender in our members.**

**The charity is not sustainable without the recruitment of new trustees and we are vigorously pursuing this currently.**

**The impact of Covid on the ability of some volunteers, given health risks to help within youth sessions made the need for recruitment of new volunteers even more crucial last year. Fortunately we were able to recruit a few volunteers and both sessions are now manageable in terms of adult/child ratio.**

### **1. THE RECRUITMENT OF TRUSTEES AND VOLUNTEERS REMAINS A KEY FOCUS FOR OUR COMMITTEE IN 2022.**

**The pandemic has impacted greatly on our small charity. Our finances have been hit hard given our ability to rent our building or to fundraise in the local community.**

**Our reserves have reduced considerably given the continuation of outgoings but a reduction in our income.**

**The provision of small grants has been vital to our survival.**

**In addition we have considerable concerns regarding the current and future increase in fuel costs and the implications for our budget. Given this there is a need to review our rental charges in the forthcoming financial year.**

### **2. REVIEW CENTRE’S CURRENT RENTAL CHARGES**

### **3. PROACTIVELY PURSUE FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES AND GRANT APPLICATIONS**

**As commented upon previously we would wish to attract new members to both our youth sessions. There is a need to ensure that the local community is aware of what's on offer at the centre and is able to influence change in approach if that's what's required. Prior to Covid we did review our website and Facebook pages but given the many changes there is probably a need to review and make sure we are getting our communication right.**

#### **4. REVIEW AND UPDATE CURRENT WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGES**

#### **5. ESTABLISH PROCESS FOR ATTRACTING NEW YOUTH MEMBERS**

**The Centre has experienced some significant difficulties with vandalism around the building in the past. We do have CCTV but it would be helpful if our system could be reviewed and possibly updated.**

#### **6. REVIEW AND UPDATE IF NECESSARY CCTV SYSTEM**

### **6. CONCLUSION**

**As you will note from the content of this report it has been a strange, busy but I think reasonably productive couple years for those involved in the Malpas Young Persons Project.**

**It is significant that as a charity (many have not) we have survived through Covid and continue to meet our primary purpose.**

**As stated previously the Centre would have been unable to continue without the support of a small group of volunteers who are very committed to providing a resource for the young people of Malpas and the surrounding areas.**

**I would wish to record my thanks once again to those individuals for the time and energy that they give to the Centre, ensuring that Malpas Young Persons Project continues to provide a place for young people to attend, enjoy and thrive. A particular thank you to Ann Wright who has given many years of service to the project.**

**The forthcoming year continues to set some big challenges but with the ongoing support of our trustees, young people, parents,**



**volunteers, staff and of course our local community I hope we will be able to rise to the challenge and achieve all of our goals. Particularly re establishing our small charity sustainable into the future.**

**Margo Webb  
Chairperson  
Malpas Young Persons Project**