



WATTON COMMUNITY CENTRE (CHARLOTTE HARVEY TRUST)  
REPORT TO ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2023

The Charlotte Harvey Trust is the charity responsible for running the Community Centre on Harvey Street.

Over the past 4 years, much effort has been put into improving the facilities, and finding grants to enable the Centre to offer more support to the Community. Watton Community Centre has once again become a busy and more active hub within the Community.

**Groups regularly using the Community Centre during 2022-23 include:**

Brownies  
Parent and Toddler Group  
2 Youth Clubs (Benjamin Foundation)  
Yoga  
Chair Yoga  
Slimming World  
Watton Ladies Group  
Sewing Group  
Saracens  
Kick Boxing  
Short Mat Bowls

**Other Groups using Community Centre during the year during 2022-23 include:**

Young Carers (Norfolk)  
HM Prison & Probation Service Dog Training Scheme  
Cup O Tea  
Norfolk Clubhouse  
Men's Pit Stop Group  
Board Game Group

**Other Activities during the year 2022-23 include:**

Queen's Jubilee Picnic.  
Uniform Sale  
Plants Sale.  
Dog Show

**Projects undertaken during the year 2022-23**

**Butterfly Garden** - Funding from Greening Norfolk. Gardening by Brownies.

**Defibrillator** - Funding via TESCO Blue Tokens and support from charity London Hearts

**Food Hub** - funding from Nourishing Norfolk, Breckland Council, Watton Town Council. Support from Lead Sponsor Belvoir Estate/Letting Agency, Nourishing Norfolk Network and other local donors.

**Warm Spaces** - funding from NCF

**Toilets Refurbishment** (to begin shortly) - funding from Norfolk Infrastructure Fund, NCF/Inspiring Communities and Watton Town Council

**Butterfly Garden**

The aim of the project was to improve the wildlife value and biodiversity of the Centre field by creating an area rich in flowering plants, shrubs and trees. The project was implemented with help from the Brownies who are regular users of the Hall and any other users are welcome to be involved.

The 'patch' is 15m x 4m and was laid out in February 2023. The area was stripped of turf and fenced on 3 sides, the stripped turf was used to create a bank on the fourth side, which will itself be valuable to insects and other invertebrates.

In March the Brownies helped to plant up the area with a mix of flowering shrubs and perennials including: Buddleia, Ceanothus, Cotoneaster, Lavender, Foxglove and Thistle. Then in April the bare ground was seeded with a general Wildflower mix. More shrubs and trees can be added if needed.

During the summer the Brownies will create and install a 'bug hotel' within the area and 2 small 'bug boxes' have been installed on the adjacent shed.

Two water butts have been installed and during the summer the Brownies will monitor the area and make sure that the plants are kept watered when needed.

The project has also funded the installation of a compost bin for the garden which can also be used for any green waste from the Watton Food Hub.

### **Defibrillator Project**

The Charlotte Harvey Trust run the Watton Community Centre and were keen to provide access to a Defibrillator not only for their users but for the wider community. The Centre is positioned away from the Centre of town and will provide a defib that is available 24/7 to anyone in the local area where there wasn't previously one available.

The project was implemented with support from the charity 'London Hearts' who provided the AED and cabinet at a reduced price as part of their own mission. The CHT applied to the Tesco Community Grant as this seemed to be an extremely good 'fit' and we were thrilled to be awarded £1500 after the blue tokens were counted.

We then just needed to order the AED and get it professionally installed on the building. It has been registered with 'The Circuit' so that it will be available to anyone who calls '999' in an emergency.

The CHT will be responsible for the on-going management of the AED with regular checks and replacement of batteries, pads etc. when required.

Since it was installed in October 2022 the defib has been picked up 6 times by the Emergency Services.

In February the Community Centre field was used by the Air Ambulance to attend an emergency in the Town

### **Food Hub**

Watton Food Hub was officially launched on 16th March, although we had been operating for a few weeks prior to this. The Launch was attended by Watton Town Mayor, Officers from Nourishing Norfolk and Breckland District Council. Representatives from Belvoir, Lead Sponsor were also welcomed to the Launch.

Watton Food Hub is very pleased to be supporting the people of the local community. We see our role as "bridging the gap" between what is needed, and what can be afforded. We currently have 140 members and have had over 400 transactions since our opening. We offer a range of basic store cupboard essentials at reduced prices and have had positive feedback from our members. Stock is provided from a number of sources, including donations from the public, donations from the Nourishing Norfolk networks, and goods purchased by the Hub. Current opening times are Tuesday 12.30-2.30pm and Thursday 9.30-12.00. We are looking to open additional sessions in the coming months.

We also have the ability to offer a **Warm Spaces** facility on days when the Food Hub is open.

### **Toilets Refurbishment**

Thanks to funding from a number of sources, we have been able to arrange for a much needed Toilet Refurbishment programme. This should begin in the next few weeks.

**The Trustee and Management Committee would like to thank all the funding agencies, donors, sponsors and volunteers who have done so much to make this a successful year. We also thank all those who use the Centre, for their continued involvement in this Community resource.**