



**THE**  
**Y**  
Centre  
**2024**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

Hastings &  
Rother YMCA



**Hitting the mark**



Charity Number 305243

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT IS

“Hastings & Rother YMCA seeks to provide a welcoming and safe environment for children and young people in our community, accepting all in order to encourage self-worth and personal development of each individual through quality support and provision of imaginative affordable services”



Judith Monk BEM, current Chair of the Board of Trustees, and 42 years a volunteer at the Y Centre

The Governance of the Charity is handled by six long serving Board Members who between them have racked up over 160 years of service to this YMCA since its inception!

**Governance**



## Our Building

Our building is of early 1970s construction and needs continual updating and renewing to maintain the fabric and keep pace with the wear and tear of being open 7 days a week and 360 days a year from 7.30am to 9pm!



## Hastings & Rother YMCA **'The Y Centre'**

**Kim Francis, Weekday  
Manager; Freya Oliver  
Skate Volunteer;  
Sue Oliver; and  
Jack Davies Weekend  
Staff Member**

The Y Centre, as it's popularly known, has around 1,000 visitors a week. Visitors come in all ages and for many different reasons. Our award winning nursery, provided by private company Jigsaw Nurseries, brings many parents across the threshold.



People come to enjoy the wide range of activities provided, supported by our many volunteers. We have youth programmes which include the Youth Club, opened by the Mayor in 2020 which has up to 50 youngsters a week involved. This started after the pandemic, driven by the need for more safe places for young people to meet, having become obvious following lockdowns and the damage caused.



# Staff and Skaters

The Staff and Volunteers at our charity are the heart and soul of it. From the Trustees at the top of the organisation to the newest and youngest Junior Volunteer we are a family. Like all families we are imperfect but when the odds are against any one of us the bond is strong!

The Trustees between them have volunteered around 180 years of service to the Charity within different roles over the years. They work tirelessly in the background to maintain the strategic efforts to run a top performing Charity. The awarding by our late Queen of her Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2022 was a testament to this.

The Staff all have pivotal roles and exceed their performances every time.

Our Junior Volunteer programme is quite unique locally and they start their journey at 14. This programme ends at 18 when they can apply for a staff vacancy if one is available.

We encourage them into part time work with specific training to help them build CVs, while they volunteer. We positively encourage education and help with extra assistance where required so they can, if able, go on to college and university.

Our senior volunteers are a highly valued and bring exceptional skills to the mix.

These are our people!



Ramp skating



Skater



Jack Davies,  
Volunteer  
Graduate  
now staff



Gus Howard  
Evening Duty Officer



Left, our  
Weekend  
Manager  
Paul Kerry  
joins in  
everything!



A typical skate

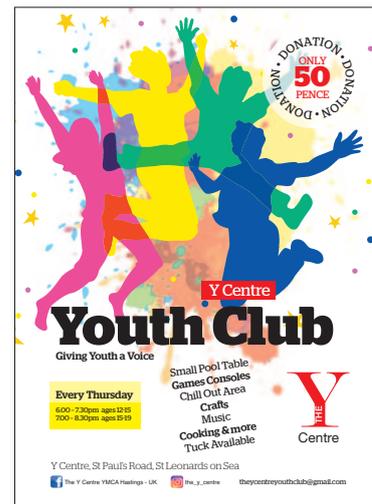
# Our Youth Club

Our Youth Club was restarted after Covid lockdowns ended when we saw the devastating effect this had on young people in our community.

We started small under a new Youth Worker, Kim Francis. She now has anything up to 50 attending each week. We are having to clear our carpentry workshop to create expansion room!

Some of the young people are part of our Junior Volunteer programme. Starting at 14 years of age they join in with assisting in all areas of our work from children's school holiday clubs to roller skate sessions, parties and preparing for events. In return we ensure they have quality, certified training in first aid, food hygiene, safeguarding, customer service and anything else we can get! The Volunteers stay until 18 and if we have any paid roles available, they are guaranteed an interview. We also supply references for work, college, university and support them through any difficulties in their secondary education.

We are very proud supporters of all young people!





Getting Christmas ready



Youth Club outing



A treat for the volunteers



Getting funds in



Junior Volunteers

Our first Prom not Prom came about because we were receiving sad news that local teens were being excluded from attending their own school Prom for a variety of reasons; some because their behaviour throughout the year wasn't on point, others because their attendance wasn't over 98%. Then there was the question of cost; tickets costing up to £50, the dress or suit, the transport.

We felt for these young people and decided to put on a Prom not Prom for anyone who couldn't attend their own! The Y Centre sourced free dresses, suits, shoes, balloons and food. We dressed our hall and cooked! We had enquiries and attenders from as far away as Kent! This is now an established offer.



# Prom not Prom



Arriving in style





**PROM**  
*not*  
**PROM**

Date: 21/07/2024  
Time: 6:00 - 10:00 PM  
Ticket Price: £15 per person  
Spaces: 75

Prom Not Prom is a unique event designed to provide an inclusive prom experience for those of you who may not have the opportunity to attend your school prom or who are home-educated. Our goal is to create a memorable evening that will celebrate your achievements and milestones in a fun, safe, and inclusive environment. There will be a buffet-style meal available included in the price and soft drinks will be available to purchase.

We also have a small number of dresses available to borrow for those who may not have one or are not able to buy one. Please contact us for more information.  
Applicants must submit a form to acquire a ticket.

  The Y Centre YMCA Hastings  
 the\_y\_centre [www.promnotprom.org.uk](http://www.promnotprom.org.uk)  
 the\_y\_centre Office: 01 424 42877 





# Old Town Carnival

The Hastings Old Town Carnival is one of the fabulous events that happens here every year. We love to join in and the Giant Boot goes too, often dressed up in different ways to match the theme of that year. Our skaters love to get out and show off the skills they practise at the Y Centre. The crowds gasp with surprise when they see a skater jump over three or four others lying in the road or see them doing different jumps and tricks.





Later in the year the Old Town Carnival Committee will often give us a small donation and our band of volunteers (and young people under the care of Kim Francis our Youth Worker) will attend with our young people give speeches of thanks.





Ready for HAF



A hot meal every day

# HAF Healthy Activity & Food

The last Government sponsored a fund aimed at providing healthy activities and wholesome meals to children in receipt of free school meals or those with additional needs.

They only funded the three main school holidays; Easter, Summer and Christmas. We have just completed the final funded year – unless the new Government carries on funding.

A few years ago, after the first one we realised that the need was colossal! We began taking just 30 children a day and then had to increase this to 40! We also started fundraising to cover the half term holidays too. This is still difficult to keep up so any donations are welcomed.

Parents told us it helped them keep their jobs and that their children came home happy and tired!

Our staff also went home tired! Around 50% of the children had additional needs so the staff learning curve was huge!





Time out in a quiet space



Ruby with spots



Time out in a quiet space

Getting ready to disco

An email from 02 November 2024 22:31: our local \*amazing\* YMCA VL

Good evening,

Tonight, we attended the most amazing skate party at our local YMCA. It was really packed, with treats for all, well led with games, supervision, tuition and encouragement.

We attend this centre at least twice a week, as our children learn artistic rolling skating, dance, roller stunts and we also do an adult ballet class there.

We wanted you to know how much we love spending our time at the centre and also how amazing the staff that run the centre are, and how flexible they are with what the children want to do with their time there.

They are always so friendly, helpful, welcoming and positive, week after week.

A lot of the children that attend live in deprived areas of the town – at the centre they are supported to make the most of their abilities and encouraged to develop their skills.

Our own children have certainly grown in confidence since attending the sessions at the YMCA. We spend a number of hours there every week and thoroughly enjoy our time even when just waiting or watching the kids do their activities; we always get a good cuppa and a friendly face.

We would be more than happy to talk to you about this further but we wanted you to know how inspirational the staff at YMCA St Paul's Road (Hastings / St Leonards) are and how much we value everything they are doing there. We feel they should be considered for an award of some sort.

Please could you let us know how we could nominate them for this?

Best regards



# The Giant Skate



The giant skate was made in our workshop by volunteer and tree surgeon Dan Gould. He modelled it on his grandfather's skates which he is wearing next to the boot in the photo. Dan his, wife Hayley and their children are all part of our wonderful volunteer team without whom we could not manage!

An email from 15/07/2024, 20:32:

I just wanted to say thank you so much for having Christchurch skate with you this week (Monday and Wednesday).

The children absolutely loved their sessions (so did the adults to be fair!) and your staff were incredible and so friendly with everyone.

Hope to arrange another visit soon.

*Best wishes*

An email from Sunday, 13 May 2024:

Hi, I have been attending your roller discos on and off for perhaps 18 months or longer.

I have two six year old girls and I feel now is the time to congratulate you on your staff, so often the only feedback you get from things is negative but I have always had good experiences and one guy in particular is always really good, helping my girls jump the little pole and generally being supportive.

If only I had asked his name...!

Anyway, thanks for a good and reasonably priced afternoon/evening and long may it continue!



Jamie, one of our part-time staffers and a graduate of our volunteer programme has been selected to skate for England in the Roller Derby at the next Olympics - he is also coaching the UK Junior Team - we are very proud of him!

An email from 2 November 2024 22:31: our local \*amazing\* YMCA VL

January 22nd 2024

Hi there,

Just wanted to drop a quick message to give you some feedback...

Our skate-loving boys came to the Y on both Sat and Sun for the first time, they couldn't get enough! Mainly because everyone was so friendly and the place really has a great feel about it.

Thanks so much for making them feel so welcome, we'll of course be back, please feedback the same to your team.

*Rebecca*

An email:

"We absolutely love this place! I used to bring my eldest to the Thursday after school skate 10+ years ago, but when we moved it went off my radar : I'm so glad we found it again ❤️ We have been coming to the Sunday afternoon skate for a few months now and the staff are so brilliant with my children (one has learning difficulties) and encourage them to push themselves and try new things, but never too much that it puts them off. I also signed them up to the Holiday club and although my daughter mainly just read her book, my son has really enjoyed all the activities on offer and tried so many things...he's fallen asleep on the sofa after each session he's that tired 😴 They also attend the youth club each week, and enjoy the bit of freedom and independence this offers them. All the staff are so welcoming and friendly, they actually make us feel welcome and cared for, rather than just another customer I'm so glad we stepped back through those doors ❤️ "

## Trustees



**Judith Monk** (Chair)



**Wes Jefferies**  
(Vice Chair)



**Shirley Hazelden**  
(President)



**Shirley Hawke**  
(Treasurer)



**Vivienne Bond**



**Chris Monk**

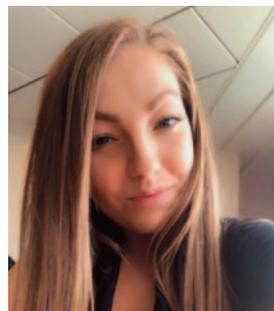
## Staff



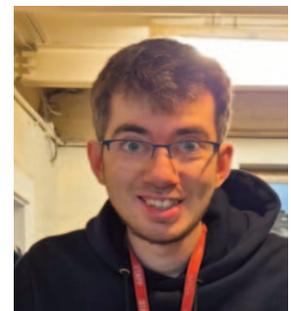
**Kim Francis**  
(Youth Worker)



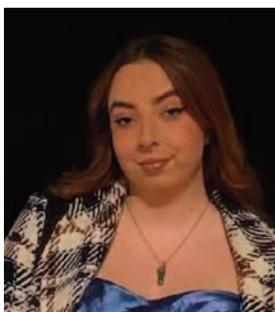
**Paul Kerry**  
(Weekend Manager)



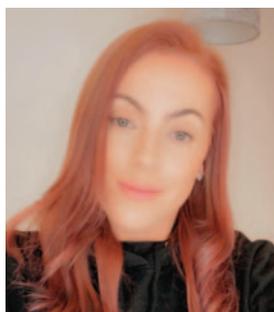
**Yolanda Rumball**  
(Admin)



**Jack Davies**  
(Team Member)



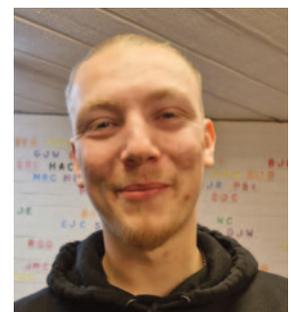
**Jessie Francis**  
(Bank Staff)



**Ella Fermor**  
(Hygiene Technician)



**Sue Oliver**  
(Team Member)



**Gus Howard**  
(Team Member)

# Some of our valued volunteers



**Alfie**



**Ben**



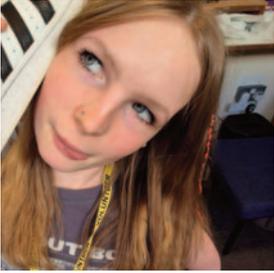
**Charlie**



**Dawn**



**Erin**



**Immie**



**Freya**



**Jodie**



**Kayley**



**Mackenzie**



**Rosie**



**Ruby**



**Sammy**



**Sophie**

# Hastings & Rother YMCA (the Y Centre)

## Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted fund £	2023 Total funds £
<b>Income and Endowments from</b>		
Donations and legacies	24,571	34,720
Other trading activities	176,668	157,640
Investments		
Bank interest receivable	1,108	11
Other income	3,251	4,669
<b>Total</b>	<b>205,598</b>	<b>197,040</b>

### Expenditure on Charitable Activities

Activities	(182,312)	(167,524)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(182,312)</b>	<b>(167,524)</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>		
	<b>23,286</b>	<b>29,516</b>

### Reconciliation of Funds

Total funds brought forward	235,863	206,347
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>259,149</b>	<b>235,863</b>

As audited by the accountancy firm Knight Accountants, St Leonards on Sea

### Grateful thanks to all our funders,

*In addition to the many smaller donors too numerous to list:*

- Groundwork UK S.E
- Lions Club
- Chalk Cliff Foundation
- The Dept for Education HAF funding
- Good Food ESCC



#### The Y Centre

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**Chair** Judith Monk



The Y Centre YMCA Hastings - UK



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