



THE
Y
Centre
2025
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 45 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 180 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, Senior Youth Worker; Freya Oliver Skate Volunteer; Sue Oliver Youth Worker; 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, which become obvious following lockdowns and the damage caused.



Staff and Skaters

The Staff and Volunteers at our charity are our heart and soul. 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 many different roles over the years. They work tirelessly in the background to maintain the strategic efforts to run a top performing Charity. The late Queen gave us the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2022 – 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!



Left, our
Weekend
Manager
Paul Kerry
joins in
everything!



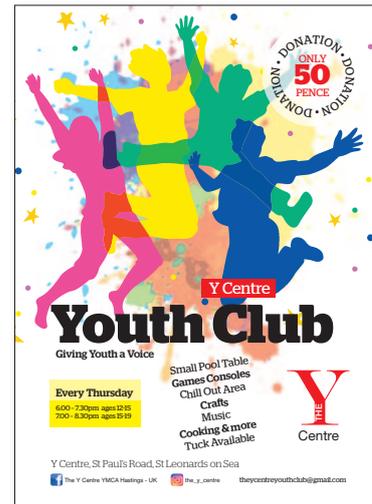
Our Youth Club

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



Learning to cook



Getting funds in



Junior Volunteers



The building itself

Our wonderful building is now over 50 years old and showing signs of ageing. It is loved and maintained

to the best of our abilities (plural) with staff and volunteers helping to maintain its fabric and ethos.

Our Green Room, is host to all our Support Group meetings and get togethers.



The gallery, scene of a thousand meals from our excellent café and viewing gallery for parents during our many sports sessions.



The best sports hall in Hastings and district

Our roof



The roof in particular is in significant need of repair. An entirely new roof costs upwards from £150,000 so we are fundraising towards a new one rather than frequent repairs.



Leaks are sadly not uncommon





Old Town Carnival

Our most recent community collaboration was Hastings' Carnival 2025.

We had teams of volunteers from the community, one of whom donated the old caravan on which the float was built, right down to those who painted, sanded and glittered right up to 10pm each night for 4 weeks!

Old and young took part wherever they could – then a huge number came on the day; some skated, some chaperoned, some remained at the centre - all receiving a pizza feast afterwards.

Everyone enjoyed the day and came back tired and happy. Go to our Facebook page and scroll down to the video at August 11th.

See the link to a video which shows the creation and development of this year's float: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1FNqfAfyLT/>





Late in the year the Old Town Carnival Committee has often given us a small donation. If so, our band of volunteers (and young people under the care of Kim Francis our Youth Worker) will attend with our young people giving 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. The new Government is to carry on this funding for three further years.

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 have additional needs so the staff learning curve was huge!





Time out in a quiet space



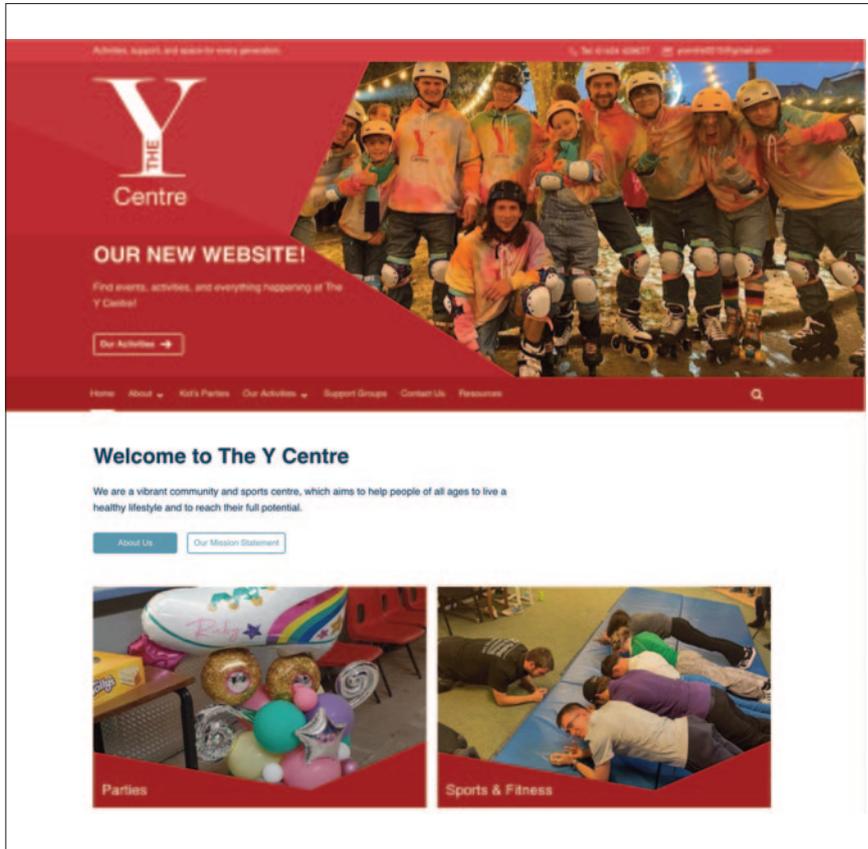
Ruby with spots



Time out in a quiet space

Getting ready to disco

Our new website



Information updated daily



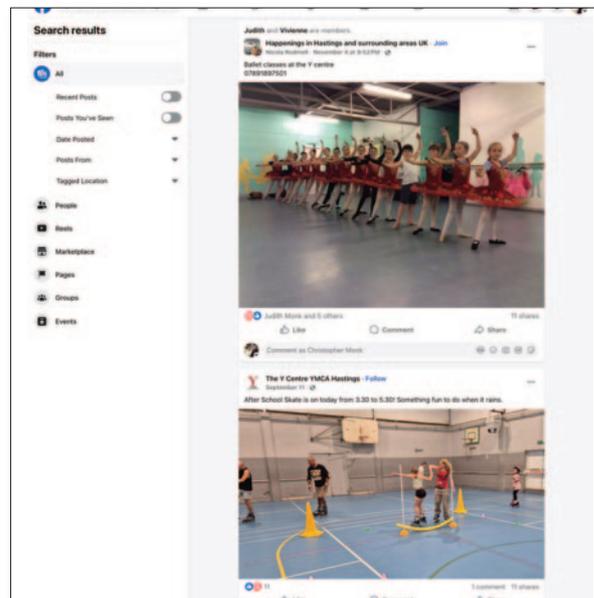
Book everything online

Brand new this year is our updated website; ycentrehastings.org.uk This was a monumental piece of work that involved staff, volunteers, young people and our customers and was eventually launched mid year. Give it a visit!

Most of our daily contact is through our Facebook page which is also very popular!



The Y Centre YMCA Hastings - UK



Ycentrehastings.org.uk



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:

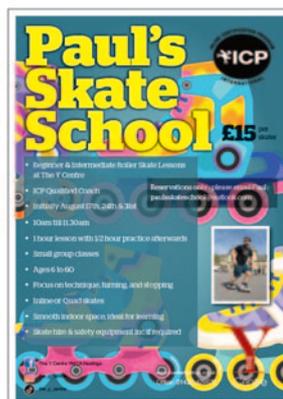
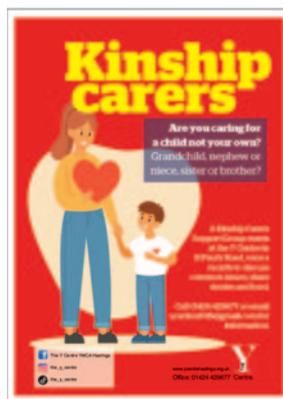
Hi, I have been attending your roller discos on and off for perhaps 18 months or longer.

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 in Los Angeles in 2028 – 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

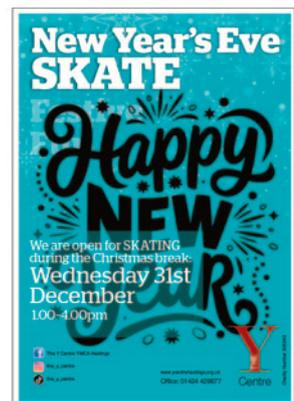
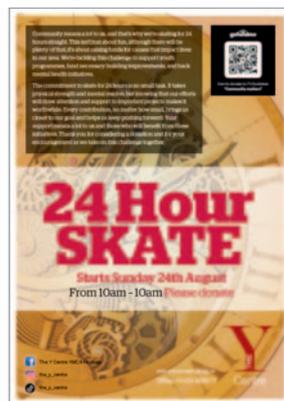
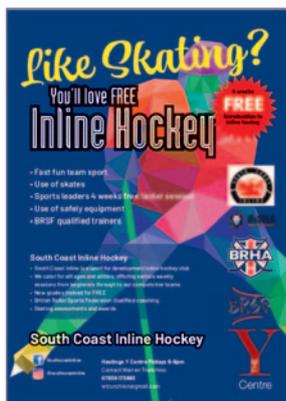
Hi there, Just wanted to drop a quick message to give you some feedback... Our skate-loving boys came to the Y on both Sat and Sun for the first time, they couldn't get enough! Mainly because everyone was so friendly and the place really has a great feel about it.

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 BEM
(Chair)



Wes Jefferies
(Vice Chair)



Shirley Hazelden
(President)



Shirley Hawke
(Treasurer)



Vivienne Bond



Chris Monk

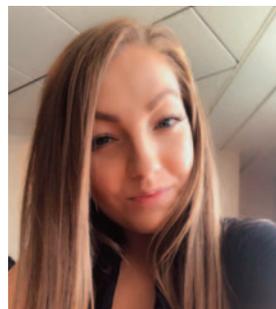
Staff



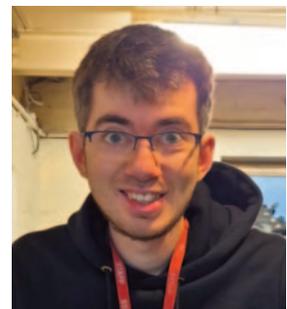
Kim Francis
(Senior Youth Worker)



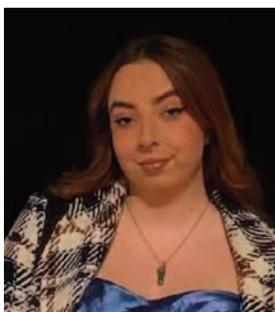
Paul Kerry
(Weekend Manager)



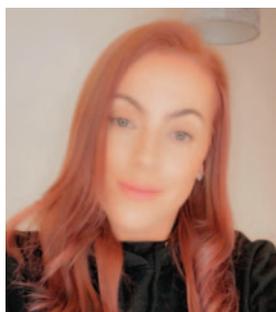
Yolanda Rumball
(Admin and Finance)



Jack Davies
(Team Member)



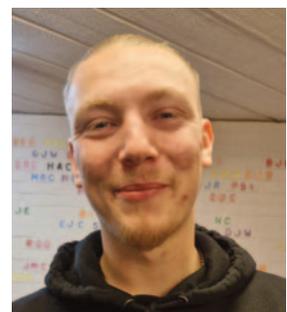
Jessie Francis
(Bank Staff)



Ella Fermor
(Hygiene Technician)



Sue Oliver
(Team Member)



Gus Howard
(Team Member)

Some of our valued volunteers



Alfie



Archie



Ben



Charlie



Dawn



Erin



Freya



Immie



Jodie



Josh



Kayley



Mackenzie



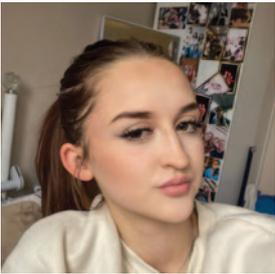
Ollie



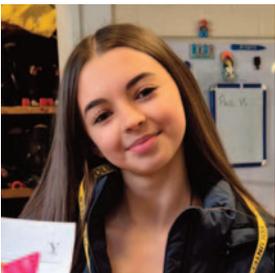
Rosie



Ruby



Sammy



Sophie

Hastings & Rother YMCA (the Y Centre)

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted fund £	2024 Total funds £
Income and Endowments from		
Donations and legacies	68,249	24,571
Other trading activities	161,276	176,668
Bank interest receivable	740	1,108
Other income	3,559	3,251
Total	233,824	205,598
Expenditure on:		
Charitable Activity	(179,995)	(182,312)
Total	(179,995)	(182,312)
Net income	53,829	23,286
Reconciliation of funds:		
Total funds brought forward	259,149	235,863
Total funds carried forward	312,978	259,149

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

Grateful thanks to all our funders

We are also very grateful to our following funders for the year. You truly do make a huge difference in helping a community in need.

Many smaller funds were also gratefully received.

- National Lottery Awards for All
- East Sussex County Council Skills Fund
- YMCA England
- Neighbourly –
- Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust
- Lions Club
- HM Government Dept for Education HAF
- Old Town Carnival

TOTAL 69,575



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Chair Judith Monk BEM



The Y Centre YMCA Hastings - UK



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