

ANNUAL REVIEW 2022



WILLIAM WATES
MEMORIAL TRUST





The William Wates Memorial Trust exists to celebrate the life of William Wates who was tragically killed when travelling in Central America.

The trust is a grants registered charity set up in 1998 with a mission to help the most disadvantaged young people keep away from a life of crime and violence, and fulfil their potential. This is mainly achieved by supporting charities that engage young people through the mediums of sports, arts and education.

William Wates



CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

2022 saw us gradually coming out of the pandemic. A highlight of the year was the return of our main fundraiser, Le Loop, which raised a fantastic £485,000. With the amazing efforts of our riders and the Le Loop team, the WWMT is able to support some inspiring charities. Our funds remain sorely needed.

As we note in the article on page 4, the Charitable Sector is enduring tough operating conditions, with increasing demand competing for at best, similar funds versus previous years. This is particularly true of the Mental Health sector, where the continued impact of COVID and increases in the cost of living have caused a surge in demand. We support a number of charities where Sport and the Arts are the hook, which attracts young people in the first instance, but very often it is the mental health support and associated services, which deliver the extra value.

This year's review focuses in on the stories of young people, benefiting from the care and skill of the charities we support with our grants. Each is inspiring and uplifting in its own unique way. We hope they give you a sense of how vital our work is and how together we can make a difference for young people.

2023 is going to see us strengthen Trustee's engagement with their particular charities. We expect to support slightly fewer in number, but with larger grants, possibly over a longer time frame. We are starting to see the next generation of family members engage with our work and we look forward to them bringing their energy and perspectives to the Trust.

Towards the end of this Review, we feature Sue Laing, of Boodle Hatfield, who has been a Trustee since 2008. She is stepping down in 2023 and will be succeeded by another Boodle Hatfield Partner, Hayden Bailey. We are deeply appreciative to Sue for her long-term commitment to the WWMT. Hayden will be known to many of you as he has participated in Le Loop. We warmly welcome him.



Andrew and Sarah Wates

Andrew Wates

THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONTEXT

In recent years there has been a noticeable shift in the context within which the Trust operates. In this short article, we highlight some of the challenges the charities we support are facing.

Since the Trust was founded in 1998, our funding support has never been more needed.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN NEED/DEMAND

There has been a significant increase in demand for services and complexity of the needs of young people and their families. In response, charities have had to increase all aspects of their provision and core staffing. One charity we support noted an overall 47% increase in young people and family members supported compared to the previous year.

“ I have seen two charities this month, both of whom told me that I was the 1st funder to visit them in 3 years! I couldn't believe it. Their other funders do it all by paperwork. - Rick Wates

ALONGSIDE INCREASED NUMBERS WE ARE SEEING MORE COMPLEX NEEDS

The proportion of young people seeking support with multiple needs has been growing. Mental health, poor social networks and barriers to education are prevalent themes. More young people are disclosing self-harm, overdose, and suicidal thoughts or attempts. The work our charities do is more demanding and riskier. They have had to invest heavily in training and additional support, such as clinical supervision, alongside reviewing how they deliver/develop services to meet this need. There have also been increased costs associated with high levels of Safeguarding, with charities having to provide tailored training, wellbeing support, supervision and management time/capacity.

INFLATION AND THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS

Coinciding with this upsurge in demand, inflation has increased core costs significantly, with higher-than-expected cost of living increases for staff salaries, and increased expenses to provide key activities for young people. There have also been hikes in premises costs to ensure continued provision of safe, comfortable and functional spaces. Energy bills, insurance, operational activities, and even software licenses in some cases doubling in a year.

Trustee Rick Wates visiting Peckham BMX track with Community Cycleworks and Le Loop riders



GRANT: £29,940 OVER THREE YEARS

Purpose: Supporting 10 young people per year to participate in the Future Leaders Programme.

Trustee Sponsor: Jonny Wates **Location:** Hastings, East Sussex

The Future Leaders programme's coaching-led approach ensures young people are equipped as early in their education as possible, to understand the educational and career choices open to them, the skills, behaviours and aptitude they need to develop and the routes they can take to achieve their goals and to become their best possible selves.

Hannah Barnicoat-Hill, 17, started Year 13 last Autumn at Ark Alexandra Academy in Hastings. Having started on the Scholars Programme in Year 10, she is one of the first young people to have made the transition to Future Leaders.

The school serves an area of high deprivation. Multi-generational joblessness and low life ambition are commonplace. Hannah credits the Leadership Challenge element of our Programme with giving her the agency and confidence to develop her own ideas.

“ That was a big thing for me for two reasons: as a maths lover, and as a feminist. Girls and women are under-represented in STEM. They constantly see and hear messages that it's not cool to be interested in school, or to pursue things intellectually. So, my idea behind the creation of the Maths Club was to give girls a safe space that encouraged them to embrace their inquisitiveness. I wanted them to feel able to stick their neck out and have a go, even if they were potentially wrong, without the scorn of male peers - something I've witnessed before. It developed into a really supportive community. That's another thing I can say Villiers has done for me: helped me to align my career aspirations and my values.



This is a pivotal year for Hannah: she's has applied to Cambridge, Warwick, Kings and UCL in London. All have a great reputation and appeal for different reasons, but one stands out:

“ Cambridge! My residential at Villiers in Year 10 - going to see Trinity College, doing the Women in Maths programme - made Cambridge feel a lot more tangible than it did before. Villiers helped me understand that not everyone has straight upwards progression. That enabled me to look at life in a more holistic, authentic way - not just academic. Sometimes things happen that are beyond your control. Being able to respond positively to those changes is what matters.

“ Without this programme I would be a lot less aspirational. I think it has made such a big difference it's hard to put into words. The biggest thing is breaking that wall between what I thought I needed to be like to do these things vs the person I actually am - and realising that wall doesn't exist. Realising I don't have to change myself - that I'm good enough - was such a huge thing. Because, at the end of the day, you're a lot more than just exam results.

Future Leaders Programme participants



GRANT: £20,000 OVER TWO YEARS

Trustee Sponsor: Tim Wates Location: Southwark, London

OVERVIEW

'Bike fix Friday' is a regular drop-in bike repair session to support young people and their families from the local area. Using second-hand parts where possible and new parts at low cost, participants get the support of a qualified mechanic to repair and maintain their bikes.

CASE STUDY

This is the story of Holly, a 13-year-old girl from the estate neighbouring our workshop, who came to us with no bike, no mechanic skills and unable to ride a bike but a great interest and enthusiasm for learning about cycling and how to ride. We were approached by one of our community partners last year asking if we could help Holly to build her own bike through our 'Build a Bike' programme.

Community Cycleworks 'Build a Bike' scheme helps to source a second-hand bicycle, usually requiring some refurbishing, fixes it and deconstructs it, ready for a young person to rebuild it alongside one of our mechanics and take it home with them to enjoy and use. Over the course of 4 or 5 sessions Holly learned how to build her bike from scratch, from fixing the brakes to installing the handlebars and cranks, Holly worked alongside Iona (mechanic and Girls Bike 2 lead).

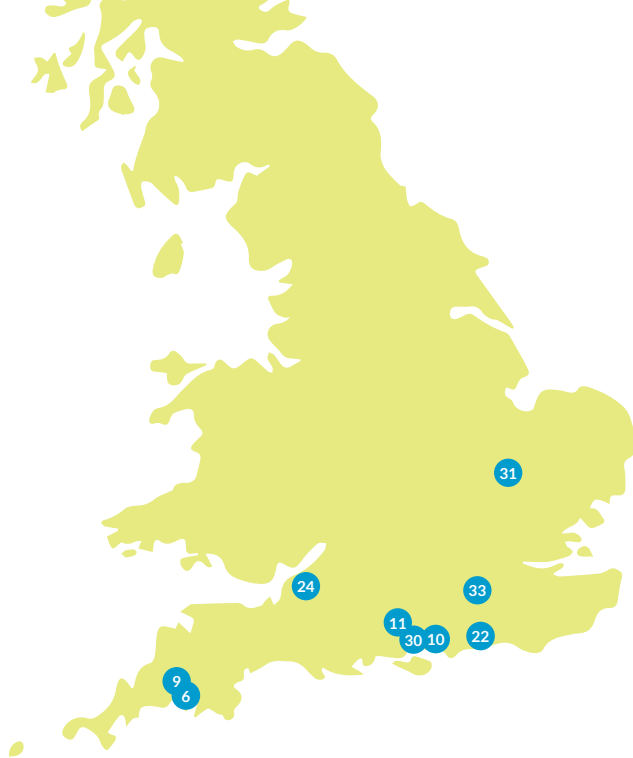
On completion we were made aware that Holly had never ridden a bike due to lack of access and so Iona set about teaching her riding skills, from balance biking with no pedals, to gradually gaining confidence. Holly could ride fairly confidently after 4 or 5 sessions and then was able to join our 'Girls Bike 2' project alongside other girls and friends from the estate.



Holly on the move with mentor Iona

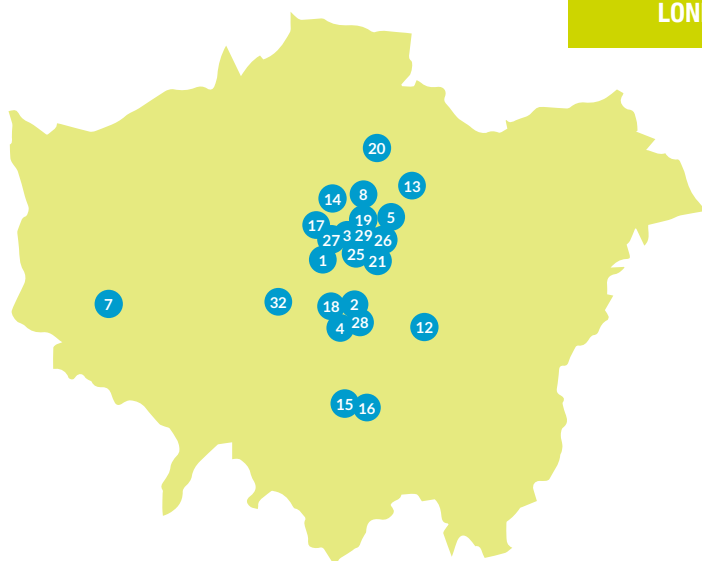
In September last year, Holly was able to join our Bike packing weekend and ride confidently offroad through the New Forest with the rest of the group. She even did a ford crossing with encouragement from the mentors and friends. Holly said, 'Riding in the forest offroad, and seeing the animals (cows and horses to name a few) was so much fun and was really amazing'. It has been so fantastic to see Holly's progress into a confident bike rider, clearly loving riding the bike and relishing the opportunities to ride in the future and the freedom it provides.

GRANTS OVERVIEW



UK GRANTS, 2022

LONDON GRANTS, 2022



	ORGANISATION	AREA	GRANT
1	Abram Wilson Foundation for Creative Arts	London	£35,000
2	Community Cycleworks CIC	London	£20,000
3	Coram's Fields	London	£28,000
4	Football Beyond Borders	London	£74,815
5	Hackney Quest	London	£30,000
6	Horizons	Plymouth	£2,000
7	Hounslow Action for Youth	London	£22,000
8	Interlinkx cic	London	£27,000
9	Livewire Youth Project	Cornwall	£2,000
10	Motiv8 South Ltd	Portsmouth	£9,500
11	Oarsome Chance	Southampton	£27,100
12	Onwards and Upwards	London	£20,000
13	Organiclea CIC	London	£27,000
14	Our Time	London	£27,600
15	Palace for Life	London	£90,000
16	Reaching Higher	London	£24,000
17	Scene & Heard	London	£2,000
18	School Ground Sounds	London	£19,500
19	School of Hard Knocks	London	£28,000
20	Sister System	London	£28,000
21	SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets	London	£29,271
22	Spear Brighton Trust	Surrey	£10,000
23	Sport dans la Ville	France	£10,000
24	STAR Scheme (part of Chew Valley RFC)	Bristol	£2,000
25	Street Doctors	London	£75,000
26	Streets of Growth	London	£27,000
27	Teens & Toddlers (Trading as Power2)	London	£27,000
28	The Baytree Centre	London	£30,000
29	The Kids Network	London	£24,000
30	Tonic Music For Mental Health	Portsmouth	£2,500
31	Villiers Park Educational Trust	Hastings	£29,940
32	West London Zone	London	£50,000
33	YMCA East Surrey	Surrey	£27,000

The amounts shown are the total grants awarded to each charity, sometimes over more than one year

GRANT: £28,000 OVER THREE YEARS

Trustee Sponsor: Jonny Wates Location: Bloomsbury, London

CASE STUDY

Ronnie Linskey, also known as Ronzo, is a 17-year-old up and coming rapper from Camden. In 2019, he was referred to Coram's Fields by a local friend. At the time, Ronnie was shy and socially isolated due to his involvement in local gangs.

Ronnie was in need of mentorship and support to recognise and develop his musical abilities as well as improve his social skills with other young people.

Coram's Fields provided weekly music sessions for him, led by our music tutor, Blandy. Blandy quickly became his mentor, recognising Ronnie's potential and working with him to improve his skills and build relationships.



Evening music sessions at the youth centre

Within a few sessions, Ronnie's potential began to shine through. He was writing lyrics over instrumentals every day and attending every session available to him. His confidence and social skills improved, and he was no longer involved in criminal or anti-social behaviour.

In the summer of 2022, Ronnie released a few exclusive tracks that gained over 100,000 streams on Spotify and started to grow a fanbase for his music in over 40 countries around the world.

He has since signed to BBAUDIO Artist Management and signed a distribution deal with Ditto Music Label. He has also performed at Wireless, Reading Festival and is preparing for another Wireless show along with an exclusive mixtape due to be released in spring 2023.

Ronnie frequently comes back to the youth centre to assist and help his peers achieve the same level and serves as a key member in the music studio as a person of inspiration and advice for young people. Over the 2 years Ronzo has managed to attain 40+ Million streams collectively and is still growing rapidly.

Free music sessions can have a significant impact on young people, particularly those who are involved in street gangs and are shy to express themselves in other settings. Through mentorship and professional support, Ronnie was able to develop his musical abilities and social skills, leading to a successful career in the music industry.

Trustee Jonny Wates visiting Coram's Fields with Le Loop riders



GRANT: £9,500 FOR 1 YEAR

Trustee Sponsor: Rick Wates Location: Havant, Hampshire

OVERVIEW BY RICK WATES

Havant Rugby Club had a problem with young people committing acts of anti-social behaviour on their grounds. Instead of building their fences higher they invited the young people in and asked Motiv8, a Havant based life-chances charity, to run a bi-weekly youth club using the clubhouse facilities. What a great response! We have now committed to supporting Motiv8 for a further 3 years. The hubs, drop-ins and support work that our grant largely supports enables Motiv8 to continue regular, consistent trusted relationships with young people and families who really need them.

CALLUM'S STORY

Callum used to hang around outside the hub when it first started, reluctant to come in. After a few conversations with our highly trained support workers, he expressed how he struggled to trust adults. He was often left at home alone and felt lonely and neglected.

The boys were praised for coming to the hub for safety and not confronting the strangers. This information was shared with the police to ensure the safety of Callum and his friends. The first few hub sessions with Callum were difficult because he pushed boundaries and found it challenging to respect the rules. We knew we had to build on the relationship with Callum through engaging activities including cooking, gaming, team building and other group projects. This slowly helped to build his confidence in us. As Callum began to respect hub rules, the environment became a friendly, fun and pleasant space for all. Over the last few months Callum has become a very positive influence for his friends and peers. They now look up to him and trust him.

“ Despite all of the concerns, Callum’s progress and behaviour within the hub is amazing and the positive influence he has over others is fantastic. In addition to this he is beginning to trust our support workers and rely on them in times of need.

Motiv8 Senior Support Worker

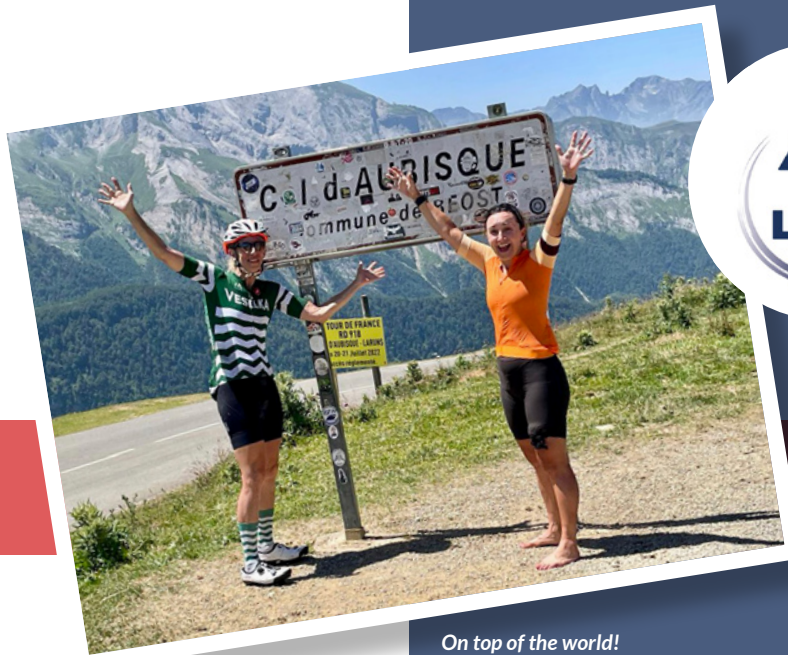
“ He hadn’t grown up in the best circumstances and a lot of the people that should have been there for him, hadn’t been. I felt saddened by his story.

Motiv8 Senior Support Worker

After building a relationship with Motiv8 staff, he began to enjoy Hub and the friendships he was making. Just before Christmas Callum brought a couple new friends to the youth hub. They arrived an hour early and appeared anxious... it was later discovered that some strangers were following and harassing them in a car. The hub meant they had a safe place to go to where they were happy and secure.

Callum with his Motiv8 mentor





On top of the world!

2022 REVIEW

By Kate Norris

After 3 years and 2 missed tours (thanks to 'you know what'), 2022 was our much-longed-for return to normal. But there's not much normal about a Copenhagen Grand Depart! It was an excited troop of riders who arrived in Denmark for stage 1's gentle spin around this beautiful cycling city, where bikes rule the road. After 4 stages in Denmark, we headed to Dunkirk in Northern France where we were joined by Ben (and mentor Ollie) from Youth Adventure Trust – one of the youngsters benefiting from WWMT grant support. He is now the proud record holder of the furthest distance even ridden by a charity visitor on tour (118 hilly kms). Chapeau Ben. Ben and Ollie both spoke to the group and gave us the inspiration needed before tackling the infamous cobbles of stage 5.

We were also joined here by Team Alitex – regular visitors to Le Loop headed up by Tom Hall – they came to ride 2 stages on our 'Tour de France Adventure' Loop. Fortunately, dry conditions meant that this challenging stage was manageable, with the usual poignant reminders of the first and second world wars. Massive hats-off to the Alitex riders who are not all mad-keen roadies, but always pull it off with aplomb as well as raising huge funds for WWMT.

On to the Alps where we were joined by a new influx of riders with fresh legs to tackle a gnarly 3 stages of enormous distances and ascents in what proved to be hot hot hot temperatures. We were also joined by the brilliant Daley from Chew Valley Rugby's STAR Scheme. Between him and his mentor, Christian, the group was left in no doubt of just how big an impact their fundraising will have on young lives like Daley's. In Christian's now-immortal words: "What you are doing here, today, by riding your bikes and raising funds, is creating more Daleys in the world". Inspiring words for the eve of the Alpine stages.

Temperatures continued to soar as the Tour reached the Pyrenees making those classic climbs such as Col de Peguere ("How I got up the Mur de Pégùère in this heat I will never know!"), Col d'Aspin and finally Hautacam tougher than ever, leaving our riders hot, shattered but happy. Epic days!

Despite 26 riders getting covid during the tour and having to leave early, 164 cyclists completed their challenge with spirit and courage. Whilst we're gutted for those who had to leave early (for anyone wondering, 20 of them are returning to ride 2023 and a couple more are waiting until 2024), we are sincerely grateful



Kate Norris and Sarah Perry of Le Loop

to our volunteer Tour doctors for the extra work they did preparing for and overseeing a "covid Tour". Alongside the other event staff, they work harder than any of us realise to make sure the event is safe and enjoyable – and we'd like to take this opportunity to offer a special thank you for their enormous contribution in 2022.

Bravo to all our fantastic Loopers. What an incredible achievement! And to top it all, we are beyond delighted to be able to announce that this has been a stellar year for fundraising. The 2022 tour has raised an astonishing £485,320 for the William Wates Memorial Trust. This is already being distributed in grants to charities like Youth Adventure Trust and Chew Valley Rugby's STAR scheme.

A huge thank you to each and every one of you who took part, worked in our support crew and donated to our riders. It takes a team to make this work – or perhaps we can say a family? What an incredible achievement.

Memories for life



TRUSTEE FOCUS SUE LAING

After 15 years of service and support, our Independent Trustee, Sue Laing is stepping down. Here she shares some memories of her time working with the Trust.

I became an independent trustee in January 2008 and so have served on the board for 15 years. What has always impressed me is the focus and dedication of the family trustees who put huge efforts into selecting which charities to support and monitoring their progress. Targeting young people through initiatives relating to sport, art and education to engage more widely with and develop them is even more relevant today than it was when I first became a trustee. Working with WWMT has always been not only rewarding but also fun. I can immediately think of examples:

The Tour de Force (now Le Loop) in which I persuaded Hayden Bailey to participate in 2010. Hayden was an associate solicitor at the time and being leant on by a partner to "have a go" was clearly unfair, but he was wonderfully enthusiastic, and I am delighted that he is now going to succeed me as a trustee. My husband and I went to help celebrate the final stage in Paris that year, but I am rather ashamed to say neither of us actually got on our bikes!

The football tournament at the Chelsea ground in 2018, where Boodle Hatfield fielded a team that memory suggests lost fairly convincingly, but which was an event that all participants and spectators thoroughly enjoyed.

Visiting Livewire, one of the charities that WWMT supports which is based in Saltash, almost underneath the Tamar bridge. The premises started as the Saltash boys club in 1957 but more recently Pete Townsend of the Who donated a state-of-the-art music studio for 5–25-year-olds. So, the core delivery mechanism is music but, through that, the charity tries to tackle the mental health and well-being of participants, something that is badly needed in an area like Plymouth where there are enormously long social services waiting lists. It is run on the ground by Andy, a former para, a real force of nature and whose enthusiasm and dedication was enormous.

I hope that WWMT can continue to help young people for many more years and wish it every success.



ABOUT THE WILLIAM WATES MEMORIAL TRUST

The mission of the WWMT is to support the very best charities engaged in helping disadvantaged and vulnerable young people to fulfil their potential.

The Trustees are Will's parents, Sarah and Andrew Wates, his brothers, Tim, Jonny, Rick and Monty, along with Hayden Bailey, who is an independent Trustee. They are aided by Duncan Straughen, Jane Lowe and Alison Franks.

Each charity has a Trustee lead, or sponsor, who holds the relationship from start to finish.

WWMT has minimal direct costs, which means most funds raised go to the charities.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The trust relies on donations to be able to support the charities.

If you know of a charity that fits our criteria or would like to know more about how to support our work, please get in touch.

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WILLIAM WATES
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Front cover image:

Emily and Gareth from Le Loop with Daley and Christian, our charity riders from the Star Scheme