



WILLIAM WATES  
MEMORIAL TRUST

# NEWS MARCH 2025

**OUR BIGGEST YEAR TO DATE**

**A CLOSER LOOK AT KNIFE CRIME**

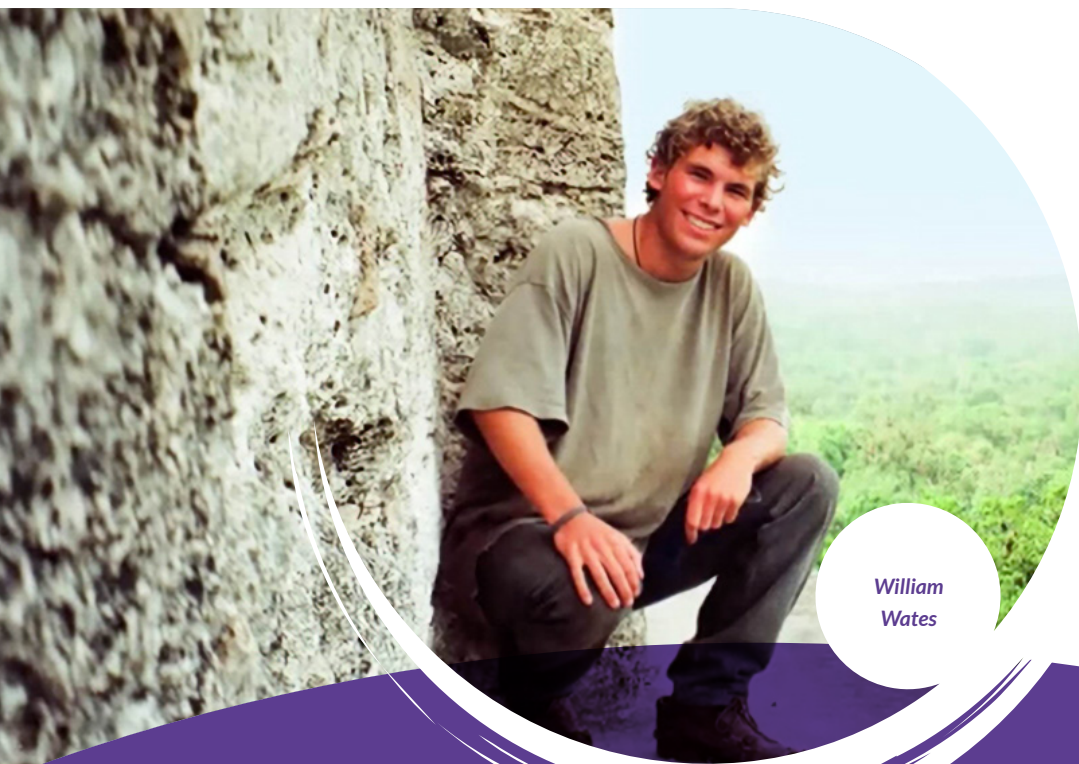
**WHY READING MATTERS**

**LE LOOP REVIEW 2024**



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

Andrew and  
Sarah Wates



## CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

I am glad to have this opportunity to thank all those supporters of WWMT that enable us to make Grants to our selected Charities.

Whether you are a Trustee, part of Le Loop Management or a fundraising cyclist for our event, it is through your efforts that we can provide support to those in greatest need.

2024 has seen demand grow and we have been able to respond with over **£500,000** of commitments this year. You will read in the following pages about a few of the great charities that we have supported, and some examples of their individual beneficiaries.

Thank you

*Andrew*

## KNIFE CRIME IN THE UK: AN URGENT ISSUE

### A CLOSER LOOK AT THE RISING THREATS

Knife crime in the United Kingdom has surged to alarming levels in recent years, becoming a pressing concern for law enforcement, policymakers, and communities alike. The statistics paint a grim picture; according to the Office for National Statistics, there were over 45,000 knife offences recorded in England and Wales in the year ending March 2023. This represents a significant increase from previous years, highlighting a troubling trend that demands immediate attention.

The reasons behind the rise in knife crime are complex and multifaceted. Socioeconomic factors such as poverty, unemployment, and lack of educational opportunities play a significant role. Many young people in deprived areas feel marginalized and turn to gangs for a sense of belonging and protection, often carrying knives as a means of self-defense. The proliferation of social media has also exacerbated the problem, with online disputes quickly escalating into real-world violence.

Efforts to tackle knife crime have been varied. The UK government has implemented several measures, including tougher sentencing for knife-related offences, increased stop-and-search powers for police, and educational programs in schools aimed at deterring young people from carrying knives. Additionally, community initiatives and youth outreach programs have sought to engage at-risk youth and provide alternative pathways away from violence.

One example of this is the Ben Kinsella Trust. A new charity for the WWM. Jonny met their CEO, Patrick Green at the project we are supporting in Finsbury Library in Islington. Patrick was delayed due to media inquiries concerning the recent



Attendees at the Ben Kinsella immersion project

fatal stabbing of 14-year-old Kelyan Bokassa. The Trust was established by Ben's family following his tragic stabbing in 2008 at the age of 16. The library hosts an interactive education centre aimed at altering young people's perceptions of knife crime. The tour unveils powerful storytelling elements, including Ben's life story, immersive experiences with actors, and the stark reality of knife crime. The charity's outstanding team and demonstrated outcomes make their project something that we are delighted to support.

However, despite efforts like these, knife crime continues to pose a significant threat. The impact on victims, families, and communities is devastating, leading to loss of life, serious injuries, and a pervasive sense of fear. Addressing this issue requires a comprehensive approach that involves not only law enforcement but also social services, education providers, and community organisations.

In conclusion, tackling knife crime in the UK is a complex challenge that necessitates a coordinated and sustained effort. By addressing the root causes and providing support and opportunities for young people, it is possible to reduce the incidence of knife-related violence and create safer communities for everyone.

For more detailed information on knife crime statistics and efforts to address the issue, click on the links below:

1. [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) - Crime in England and Wales: Year Ending March 2023](#)
2. [UK Government - Serious Violence Strategy](#)



## THE WILLIAM WATES MEMORIAL TRUST

### 27 YEARS AND COUNTING...

The William Wates Memorial Trust (WWMT) was established to celebrate the life of William Wates (1977-1996).

Much has changed in the charity sector over the last quarter of a century, reflecting shifts in social values and priorities, and a better understanding of how to support those in need. How the sector operates with new technology and better regulation has fostered improved standards of accountability and transparency through systematic reporting of outcomes and differences made, and strategic and financial management. Professional staff who choose the charity sector as their career have made it more productive and are well supported by experienced trustees. Corporate philanthropy has become a mainstay of charity sector income, harnessing the power of businesses to the community engagement of employees and clients.

Perhaps the most significant change has been the way that the sector has come to understand that disadvantage is not defined by one issue. Offending is not just about crime, poor education about lack of intelligence, or unemployment about lack of opportunity. Charitable funders now recognise that people have multiple layered needs and that addressing social disadvantage is less about neat solutions and more about pathways to personal outcomes. Nowhere is this now more apparent than with mental health. Specialist charities have long supported clinical mental health issues. For most people and the young particularly, building a meaningful life requires good mental wellbeing and having the robustness of mind to cope with the demands of modern life and pressures of social media.

WWMT's philanthropic giving has evolved to embrace the broader changes in the charity sector in the 29 years since Will's passing. It reflects the direction taken by many grant makers working with children and young people's mental health. WWMT's grants strategy and record of giving demonstrate this modern relevancy, supporting organisations that promote young people's mental wellbeing, typically by mentoring and equipping them with tools for personal resilience, building self-confidence and self-esteem. Their grants also address the more obvious issues of disadvantage, as social and economic poverty have become more widespread since the COVID years.

*Brian Wheelwright has worked in the charity sector for 33 years and his immense knowledge is invaluable to us. He undertakes a detailed desktop evaluation of each application that looks promising.*



*Rick Wates (on the right) visiting Community Cycleworks*

## OUR PERSONAL APPROACH

### Andrew Wates

Like many small charities, we believe our strength is in the personal engagement of our Trustees in the Charities that we support. Each charity has a trustee Lead which enables us to understand their priorities and help them deliver against them. Every charity gets visited by the lead in advance of a grant approval and most get visited every year throughout their grant period. In addition, every year, three of our charities get to speak to our supporters at events we run, two at Le Loop and one at the annual golf day.

As well as getting assurance that the grant is going to plan, Trustees feel inspired by this engagement, and we hope that the charities themselves will feel that and go the extra mile in achieving their objectives.

Our new policy of supporting fewer charities with more funding over a longer period is the direct result of this experience.

# GRANTS OVERVIEW 2024

## UK GRANTS

## FRANCE GRANTS

## LONDON GRANTS

- Mentoring / Personal development
- Sport
- Personal development
- Literacy
- Disability
- Music / Arts

	ORGANISATION	GRANT	AREA
1	Coram's Field	20,000	London
2	EMERGE Advocacy	40,000	Surrey
3	Motiv8	10,000	Hampshire
4	Only Connect	15,000	London
5	Oxford Hub	10,000	Oxford
6	Power2 Teens & Toddlers	8,000	London
7	Reaching Higher	6,000	London
8	Regenerate	25,000	London
9	Sister System	9,000	London
10	Sutton Volunteer Centre	42,706	Surrey
11	The Baytree Centre	10,000	London
12	The Eikon Charity	9,500	Surrey
13	The Kids Network	6,000	London
14	Villiers Park Trust	9,980	Cambridge
15	Community Cycleworks	9,981	Kent
16	Onwards & Upwards	25,000	London
17	QPR in the Community	10,000	London
18	Queens Crescent Community Assoc	10,000	London
19	School of Hard Knocks	9,000	London
20	Society Links	9,757	London
21	Sport dans la Ville	15,000	France
22	STAR Scheme	23,000	Bristol
23	Future Frontiers	25,000	London
24	Hounslow Action for Youth	5,000	Middlesex
25	Organiclea	8,000	London
26	Street Doctors	25,000	London
27	Chapter One	20,000	London
28	Children's Book Project	10,000	London
29	Children's Literacy Charity	15,000	London
30	THINK18	11,087	West Sussex
31	The Nucleo Project	20,000	London

The amounts shown are the total grants awarded to each charity in this financial year

## BUILDING RESILIENCE

Those of you who saw the Knife crime documentary presented by Idris Elba ([Available on BBC iPlayer](#)) will be aware that lack of early intervention for at risk young people can lead to exclusion from school and a much higher likelihood of a life of crime. That is why WWMT is a long term supporter of the Youth Adventure Trust (YAT). YAT is a west country based charity where they believe that vulnerable young people should be given the opportunity to fulfil their potential and be able to lead positive lives in the future. Their aim is to inspire young people to build resilience, develop confidence and self esteem, learn valuable life skills and achieve their full potential. They do this through the combination of an effective, long-term outdoor adventure programme and one-to-one support. The hurdles these young people face in their everyday lives can often seem overwhelming, but YAT gives them a real chance to change, helping them to believe they can have an influence on their own future. They equip them with the inner strength to overcome their challenges, enabling them to develop confidence, independence and the ability to flourish despite difficulties.

The WWMT has supported their Youth Adventure Programme to the tune of £104,000 since 2016 and we have facilitated further support from the Wates Foundation as well. The Youth Adventure Trust has been using outdoor adventure to inspire young lives for 30 years. Since they began, they have helped 1,960 vulnerable young people aged 11-16. In the past 30 years YAT have run 11,114 hours of activity on their Youth Adventure Programme, which means they have delivered 428,000 hours of activity participation – the equivalent of 39 hours a day, every day for 30 years.

Jessica is just one of the many beneficiaries who have been empowered by YAT:

“ Even now if there’s something I’m scared or worried about I just think of my time on YAT and think, I could do that, why can’t I do this? I just think that all the time and it’s really changed my life.



## WHY MENTORING MATTERS

Mentoring young children in the UK is crucial for several reasons. Early intervention can prevent at-risk youth from veering into a life of crime, as highlighted in numerous studies. For example, the Big Brothers Big Sisters program has shown that mentored youth are less likely to engage in risky behaviours and more likely to achieve academic success. By providing guidance, support, and positive role models, mentoring helps young people develop resilience, confidence, and essential life skills. Mentoring promotes informed decision-making, accountability, and a sense of self-worth, enabling young individuals to overcome challenges and thrive. Ultimately, it fosters a safer, more inclusive society by guiding children towards positive futures.

This year, 14 out of 31 projects we supported had a mentoring as a major component.



Team Alitex

## LE LOOP 2024: A RIDE TO REMEMBER

By Kate Norris - Charity and Communications, Le Loop.

### RIDERS, FUNDRAISING & MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Le Loop 2024 was an unforgettable adventure, with riders tackling the full Tour de France route—or selected stages—while raising an incredible **£530,443** for the **William Wates Memorial Trust**. It wasn't just about the miles; it was about making a real difference.

### CYCLING HIGHLIGHTS: THE HIGHS, THE LOWS & EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

The journey began in **blazing hot Florence**, where riders faced a 205 km stage with 3,600 meters of climbing. Not exactly a gentle warm-up! From there, the route wound its way out of Italy and into the Alps, where the legendary **Galibier** put riders to the test with its monster climb, lingering snow, and ever-changing weather. Some descended in sunshine, others in hail!

Burgundy brought smoother roads, rolling countryside, and (finally) some sunshine. But then came **Stage 9**, preceded by biblical downpours that brought trees down onto the chemins blancs (agricultural unpaved roads) that were the 'fun feature' of this stage, turning them from chalky gravel into a muddy quagmire. Riders slipped, slid, and somehow powered through, proving that perseverance (and maybe a little bit of stubbornness) goes a long way.

And finally, via the Massif Central and the Pyrenees to the Alps - huge hot stages that brought us to the final stage in Nice rather than Paris this year (due to the Olympics) but it made for a very fun change.

### ALITEX: TEAM SPIRIT IN ACTION

The **Alitex team** took on Stages 6 and 7 together, proving that cycling is just as much about camaraderie as it is about endurance. With riders of all abilities supporting each other, they embodied what makes Le Loop special—encouragement, teamwork, and a few well-earned post-ride beers.

**CHARITY VISITOR - TRISTAN: YOUNG TALENT, BIG DETERMINATION**

Tristan, from **Football Beyond Borders**, wasn't just along for the ride—he smashed **130 km of Stage 6**, showing resilience and heart well beyond his years. His determination was a reminder of why Le Loop exists: to inspire and uplift the next generation.

**CHARITY VISITOR - BEATRICE: THE DEFINITION OF GRIT**

Then there was Beatrice, a rugby player from Manchester's **STAR Scheme**, who had barely ridden a bike before this experience. That didn't stop her from taking on **Stage 16**, even after a few falls. Each time, she got back up, pushed forward, and inspired everyone around her. When not riding, she was lifting spirits at feed stops and sharing her dreams of becoming a **physiotherapist**—a future that Le Loop helps make possible.



**THE HEART OF LE LOOP: RIDERS & CREW**

What makes Le Loop so special? **The people**. The riders, whether seasoned Loopers or first-timers, cheered each other on, and shared both the pain and the joy of riding the tour together.

And the **crew**—absolute legends. From keeping bikes in working order to making sure every rider was fuelled and motivated, they worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Their dedication ensured that we got every rider home, no matter how tough the day.

**A HUGE THANK YOU!**

To the **riders** who pushed through every climb, the **staff** who made it all possible, the **supporters** who followed the journey from afar, and the **donors** who made a real impact—thank you. Together, you've not only completed an incredible ride but also changed lives through the William Wates Memorial Trust.

See you next year? Vive Le Tour.

*K. Davis.*

Final stage in Nice for the first time





## LITERACY PROJECTS IN LONDON FOR KIDS

### BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

In the bustling city of London, literacy projects for children have emerged as a cornerstone for shaping the next generation. These initiatives are pivotal in nurturing young minds, fostering a love for reading, and providing essential skills for future success.

The importance of literacy projects cannot be overstated. Literacy is the bedrock of education, and early exposure to reading and writing significantly impacts a child's academic performance and self-esteem. Children who develop strong literacy skills are more likely to excel in school and beyond, opening doors to opportunities that might otherwise remain closed. As Dr. Seuss wisely said,

**“ The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.**

Statistics underline the critical nature of these programs. In London, it is estimated that one in four children leaves primary school unable to read proficiently. This concerning figure underscores the necessity for targeted literacy initiatives. Programs such as the National Literacy Trust's Young Readers Programme have shown remarkable success, with 80% of participating children reporting increased enjoyment of reading and improved reading skills.

Moreover, literacy projects serve as a lifeline for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. By providing access to books, tutoring, and supportive environments, these programs help bridge the educational gap and promote equality. Investing in literacy for children is investing in a brighter, more inclusive future for London.

The William Wates Memorial Trust supports three literacy charities.



### Children's Literacy Charity

£55,000 over three years

They have three programmes, to which they provide expert tutors to support reading fluency, comprehension, confidence and passion for reading and stories. They hold workshops with families to promote reinforcement of progress through reading at home. 73% of their participants closed the reading age gap completely.

- *Reading Lab : A 10 week 'catch up programme*
- *Literacy Lab : Supporting Schools*
- *Story Lab : Small group storytelling sessions*



### Chapter One

£60,000 over three years

Chapter One pair 5–8-year-old children who need reading support with a corporate volunteer for a full academic year. The pair enjoy a weekly 30-minute online reading session, via the secure, bespoke Chapter One reading platform. All the stories and literacy activities are fun and engaging, and focus on fluency, comprehension and reading for pleasure.



### Children's Book Project

£30,000 over three years

The CBP seeks to tackle 'book poverty' and give every child the opportunity to own their own books. They work with women's groups, children's centres, prisons and schools to gift gently used books to children nationwide. In 2024 they gifted over 350,000 books to children, the majority of which were provided by families happy to find new homes for the books their children had grown out of.

## ABOUT THE WILLIAM WATES MEMORIAL TRUST

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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, Alison Franks, and Brian Wheelwright.

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

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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.



**ADDRESS:** Wates House, Station Approach,  
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**WEB:** [www.wwmt.org](http://www.wwmt.org) (Charity number: 1011213)



**FACEBOOK:** [williamwatesmemorialtrust](https://www.facebook.com/williamwatesmemorialtrust)



**INSTAGRAM:** [wwmt\\_charity](https://www.instagram.com/wwmt_charity)



WILLIAM WATES  
MEMORIAL TRUST



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*Printed on recycled paper.*

*Front cover image:*

*Le Loop rider on Col du Noyer (thank you Joolze Dymond for the photo!)*