



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From **5th May 2024** Period start date To **4th May 2025**
Period end date

Charity name: **Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project**

Charity registration number: **1098966**

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The charity's objectives are: <i>To promote the development of the personal, social & educational potential of all young people, between the ages of 11 and 18, and up to 25 years where there are special circumstances, who live in the area encompassed by Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Councils within Oxfordshire; and in particular those who are disadvantaged by adverse socioeconomic conditions.</i></p> <p>Our current work is embedded in the contiguous rural villages of Drayton, Appleford, Milton, Sutton Courtenay, and Steventon (DAMASCUS), and Abingdon which is the villages' neighbouring postal market town. Trustees live within these neighbourhoods and have an understanding of the local needs.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Recognising that 'one size does not fit all', the benefits are delivered through diverse but holistic and empowering approaches to young people within their communities.</p> <p>We have undertaken a number of open access activities starting with <i>Grassroots Street Work</i> by our volunteers and youth workers. This enables us to have a visible presence within the communities and form relationships with young people - particularly those who are vulnerable to substance misuse; at risk of exploitation or disengaged from any form of education, employment or training; or experiencing other personal setbacks. We are able to identify needs early and provide bespoke one-to-one support to safeguard their</p>

		<p>wellbeing. We also ran in-building social drop ins for young people to promote, responsible and respectful peer-to-peer social interactions and empower young people to make informed decisions through issue-based workshops.</p> <p>A key component of our work with young people has been, to engender in them, a positive sense of belonging within the wider communities in which they live, as cohesive communities strengthen young people's support network. This also has an indirect benefit for the lonely and elderly within the communities.</p> <p>We have supported young people in organising several intergenerational events. During the covid lockdown we developed 'doorstep bingo' where the elderly would sit comfortably at their doorstep and young people would lead bingo and other games sessions. This has now become an established feature of our intergenerational work in the summer months. In the autumn/winter months our intergenerational activities have continued indoors.</p> <p>Young people have taken part in community litter picking events, participated in consultations regarding quality of life within their rural communities and also in a consultation in South Abingdon as part of a wider health inequalities studies conducted by Oxfordshire County Council.</p> <p>We believe in a holistic approach in provision of support to young people and to that end work collaboratively with other statutory and voluntary bodies that are also involved in the lives of our young people.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	<p>In planning our activities as described above, the trustees have given due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding what charitable activities the charity should undertake and they are evidenced to show achievement of objectives through data collected and case studies.</p> <p>Staff are inducted in policies and procedures and all activities are risk assessed. Safeguarding is high on our agenda with a constantly reviewed culture of vigilance.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
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Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	Not Applicable – grant making is not a part of our charitable objectives
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	Not Applicable - although we do not make grants, the ultimate outcomes of our work programmes for which we seek funding, are about supporting and strengthening young people's skills and capacities to participate fully in education, employment, training and have a safe, responsible, and fulfilling social life in cohesive communities
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	Volunteers help in the youth drop ins, when required with specific study support and with arts and crafts and music activities. One volunteer coordinates and ensures DBS certificates are up to date.
Other		The trustees use their professional skills and give their time freely to ensure accountability and management of the finances, fund raising and compliance with grant conditions, and all health and safety and safeguarding obligations. We do not have a paid manager or chief executive. In addition to the chairman, treasurer and secretary, the charity also has a trustee who is the designated voluntary Line Manager and is responsible for managing staff and other volunteers and ensuring the day-to-day operational activities are delivered in line with the objects of the charity as well as raising funds for the charity.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>This year, we found recruitment of qualified youth work staff to be a particularly difficult challenge but despite this, the charity was able to continue its work through volunteers in the community, trustee support and external providers who helped deliver some of the projects throughout the year. We thank the community for their support.</p> <p>There were some 130 DAMASCUS sessions delivered across the villages with some 150+ attendances recorded.</p> <p>Young people from DAMASCUS have been actively involved in local community events including Doorstep Bingo, Vicar's Fun Day, Drayton Fete, and litter picks. These activities strengthen connections between generations, promote local pride and give</p>

young people the chance to contribute positively to their villages.



Community Fun Day




Litter picking

Through workshops young people were made aware of the use of alcohol abuse.



Dangers of alcohol workshop

With the support of an arts based grant, young people were given the opportunity to explore new skills in music/podcast creation, working with a specialist to design their own music/podcast based work.

		 <p>Music production workshop</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	Not Applicable
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	Not Applicable
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	Not Applicable
Other		Not Applicable

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	On 4th May 2025, the charity held total funds of £163,210.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Trustees place all funds not immediately required in the project's gold account with CAF Bank Limited (CAF Bank Limited is a subsidiary of the Charities Aid Foundation). The trustees have a policy of maintaining a reserve to enable the recruitment and retention of proficient and credible youth workers in the event that no new income is received in the year. Thus, in setting a level of reserve trustees have regard to the stability of employment to staff over at least a one-year period as at the core of our work is building strong and trusting relationships with young people. The trustees are also aware of the elapsed time from applying for a long-term grant to the award of such a grant and the need to ensure that there are sufficient finances to keep the project going in the interim
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	On 4th May 2025, the charity held total funds of £163,210 of which £90,000 are earmarked reserves as described in the reserves policy above.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Not applicable
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	Not applicable
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	Suitable qualified and experienced youth and community workers are important to the difference we make to young people and their communities. As we deliver direct face to face youth work to young people, it of necessity involves anti-social hours. As existing staff gain more experience and move on to more strategic and managerial jobs as part of their career progression, we recruit new staff. However, the local college offering youth and community degrees has shut down its course and recruitment of good staff has become a challenge.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	In 2024-2025, the charity's principle source of funds came from the local town and parish councils (85%) and the rest from donations, gift aid, local fund raising and nominal contributions by young people for specific activities as well as raising funds in conjunction with other trustees.
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Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	Not applicable
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	Financial Risk for the year was minimal.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Unincorporated registered charity
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	All trustees retire from office at the AGM thought may seek re-election. Nominations for the Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Line Manager are invited and elected at the AGM. Additionally, up to four members may be elected at the AGM. The DAMASCUS Parochial Church Council may appoint a trustee.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	The Charity has a Designated Safeguarding Lead. All trustees and other committee members and workers (voluntary and employed) are DBS checked. Trustees have a Safeguarding policy in place and all staff and relevant volunteers receive safeguarding training.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	The Charity employs both qualified and trainee youth workers whose day-to-day work is managed by the voluntary Line manager who is also a trustee and responsible for safeguarding and the induction of new staff and volunteers. Young people make an input into the services through the development of young community leaders. The Charity is affiliated to Oxfordshire Youth through whom the DBS checks are undertaken.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project
Other name the charity uses	ADYP
Registered charity number	1098966

Charity's principal address	Boyden Brook 8 Castle Street Steventon Abingdon OX13 6SR

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Chris Wilding	Chair		Elected at AGM
2	Lucy Dalby	Secretary		Elected at AGM
3	Sally Hoodless	Treasurer		Elected at AGM
4	Roxy Elford	Line Manager		Elected at AGM
5	Simon Murray	Member		Elected at AGM
6	Pervin Shahin	Member		Elected at AGM
7	Anne Whitehead	Member		Elected at AGM
8	Rita Atkinson	Line Manager	Stood down at AGM	
9	Audrey Holloway	Member	Stood down at AGM	
10	Hans Sundin	Treasurer	Stood down at AGM	
11	Pat Napper	Chair	Stood down at AGM	
12	Mark Whittaker	Member	Stood down at AGM	
13	Gareth Noakes	Member	Stood down at AGM	
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
Not Applicable		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
Not Applicable		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	Not Applicable
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	Not Applicable
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	Not Applicable

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Bank	CAF	25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA.

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Not Applicable

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

Not Applicable

Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>C.R. Wilding</i>	<i>S. Hoodless</i>
Full name(s)	Dr Christopher Robert Wilding	Sally Hoodless
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Treasurer
Date	23/2/26	

Income for the period of May 5, 2024 - May 4, 2025	£
<u>Grants</u>	
Abingdon Town Council	12500.00
Drayton Parish Council	4000.00
Sutton Courtenay Parish Council	4000.00
Milton Parish Council	2500.00
Steventon Parish Council	2500.00
Didcot Powerhouse	2500.00
Didcot Powerhouse Lord Lieutenant Match	2500.00
Well Together Grant	5000.00
Total Grants	35500.00
<u>Donations from Individuals, Organisations and Companies</u>	
JDN Clearance	60.00
John Lewis	1000.00
Personal Donations	216.95
Waitrose	1250.00
Damascus PCC	1040.04
Total	3566.99
<u>Other Income</u>	
Interest	2153.69
Youth Club Takings	567.44
Takings Drayton Fete	89.00
Gift Aid	22.05
Refund	10.21
Total	2842.39
Grand Total	41909.38

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES

DR CHRISTOPHER ROBERT WILDING C.R. Wilding 10/12/25 (CHAIR)
 SALLY HOODLESS (TREASURER) S Hoodless 10/12/25

Abingdon Damascus Youth Project
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 05 May 2024 to 04 May 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds	-	-	-	-	-
Voluntary income	39,089.04	-	-	39,089.04	41,218.63
Activities for generating funds	-	-	-	-	-
Investment income	2,153.69	-	-	2,153.69	2,292.57
Incoming resources from charitable activities	656.44	-	-	656.44	725.90
Other incoming resources	10.21	-	-	10.21	-
Total income	41,909.38	-	-	41,909.38	44,237.10
Resources used					
Cost of generating funds	-	-	-	-	-
Cost of generating voluntary income	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs	-	-	-	-	-
Investment management costs	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	26,837.28	-	-	26,837.28	39,060.19
Governance costs	-	-	-	-	-
Other resources used	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	26,837.28	-	-	26,837.28	39,060.19
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	15,072.10	-	-	15,072.10	5,176.91
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in	-	-	-	-	-
Gross transfers between funds - out	-	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	-	-
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	15,072.10	-	-	15,072.10	5,176.91
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	148,138.59	-	-	148,138.59	142,961.68
Total funds carried forward	163,210.69	-	-	163,210.69	148,138.59

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Abingdon Damascus Youth Project

Balance Sheet (Summary)

	As at 04/05/2025	As at 04/05/2024
Fixed assets		
	-	-
Current assets		
Cash At Bank And In Hand	163,210.69	148,138.59
	163,210.69	148,138.59
Liabilities		
	-	-
Net current assets less current liabilities	163,210.69	148,138.59
Total assets less current liabilities	163,210.69	148,138.59
Liabilities		
	-	-
Total net assets less liabilities	163,210.69	148,138.59
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General Funds	163,210.69	148,138.59
Designated		
Restricted		
Endowment		
Fund Totals	163,210.69	148,138.59

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Abingdon Damascus Youth Project

Analysis of Receipts and Payments Selected period: 05 May 2024 to 04 May 2025

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Receipts						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
0101 - Gift aid giving	30.85	-	-	-	30.85	34.22
0850 - Grants/donations Received	39,058.19	-	-	-	39,058.19	41,184.41
0853 - Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-
0854 - Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-
0901 - Subscriptions	-	-	-	-	-	-
1021 - Interest	60.89	-	-	-	60.89	1,022.22
1022 - Interest Gold Account	2,092.80	-	-	-	2,092.80	1,270.35
Incoming resources from generated funds Totals	41,242.73	-	-	-	41,242.73	43,511.20
Incoming resources from charitable activities						
0851 - Takings - Youth Clubs	567.44	-	-	-	567.44	725.90
0852 - Takings - Fund raising	89.00	-	-	-	89.00	-
Incoming resources from charitable activities Totals	656.44	-	-	-	656.44	725.90
Other incoming resources						
9999 - Refunds	10.21	-	-	-	10.21	-
Other incoming resources Totals	10.21	-	-	-	10.21	-
Receipts Grand Totals	41,909.38	-	-	-	41,909.38	44,237.10
Payments						
Cost of generating funds						
Cost of generating funds Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities						
1200 - Salaries and employment costs for YWs	19,075.47	-	-	-	19,075.47	33,795.21
1201 - Staff Training	35.00	-	-	-	35.00	103.15
1202 - Mobile phone costs for Youth Worker(s)	-	-	-	-	-	-
1203 - Staff entertainment	115.63	-	-	-	115.63	184.80
1204 - Youth worker expenses	186.57	-	-	-	186.57	-
1209 - Salaries	-	-	-	-	-	-
1210 - Income Tax	-	-	-	-	-	-
1211 - National Insurance contribution	-	-	-	-	-	-
1212 - Pension contribution	-	-	-	-	-	-
1213 - Payroll Fee	-	-	-	-	-	-
1214 - Management Fee	-	-	-	-	-	-
1300 - Hall hire	2,179.00	-	-	-	2,179.00	1,227.00
1301 - Project activities for young people	-	-	-	-	-	-
1302 - Refreshments	-	-	-	-	-	-
1500 - Insurance & affiliation fees	729.54	-	-	-	729.54	710.02
1501 - Administrative expenses	2,734.90	-	-	-	2,734.90	1,441.46

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
1502 - CRB/DBS costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
1504 - IT and Software costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
1600 - Travel & Transport	-	-	-	-	-	-
1602 - Accommodation	-	-	-	-	-	-
1700 - Young People Training	-	-	-	-	-	1,000.00
1701 - Training materials	-	-	-	-	-	-
1702 - Materials and Activities	1,781.17	-	-	-	1,781.17	598.55
1703 - Community Activities	-	-	-	-	-	-
1800 - Recruitment costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
2000 - Bank charges	-	-	-	-	-	-
2300 - Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities Totals	26,837.28	-	-	-	26,837.28	39,060.19
Governance costs						
Governance costs Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other resources used						
Other resources used Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments Grand Totals	26,837.28	-	-	-	26,837.28	39,060.19

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES
 DR CHRISTOPHER ROBERT WILDING C.R. Wilding 10/12/25 (CHAIR)
 SALLY HOODLESS (TREASURER) S Hoodless 10/12/25

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ABINGDON DAMASCUS
YOUTH PROJECT**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 4th of May 2025 set out on the above signed pages.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the examiner:

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43 (2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is the responsibility of the Independent Examiner to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 43 (3) of the 1993 Act)
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners year (under section 43 (7)(b) of the 1993 Act)
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of the examiner's report

My examination was carried out in the accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosure in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement:

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention;

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act: and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Date:

26 September 2025

Name:

NICHOLAS DUNTON

Address:

44A High Street, Sutton Courtenay,
Abingdon OX14 4AP

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2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Date: 26 September 2025

Name: NICHOLAS DUNTON

Address: 44A High Street, Sutton Courtenay,
Abingdon OX14 4AP