

# Chair's Annual Report

Sept 2024 - Aug 2025

## Overview

*Welcome to our review of the year, and a huge thank you to Anna Atherton who stepped down as Chair in July to become a new Mum!*

*We have had a busy year over the last 12 months, and we have continued to run 2 sessions per month across the September - July school year.*

*Unfortunately we have seen a decrease in the number of Young Carers attending our sessions throughout the year, and we are working hard with a number of agencies that are able to refer into the group and we are targeting an increase to nearer to 20 regular attendees.*

*On a positive note, and with the increase in fundraising income and some fabulous new supporters, we have been able to run a diverse set of sessions including art classes, creative chef, pop dance and even a book fair! We will continue to offer sessions that are both educational and fun in the coming year - including a trip to the Houses of Parliament hosted by the Stevenage MP, Kevin Bonavia.*

*Our financials are in good shape overall, we are current with our charity commission reporting and we are continuing to review our policies and processes to ensure good governance.*

*We have been fortunate to have Claire Hipwell join us as Group Leader this year and bring some exciting creative ideas to the operation of the group. A thank you to Anji Archer who left us as Group Leader, but continues to support us as a volunteer.*

*We also welcomed a new young trustee, Lotti Bucher, to the committee, and we're excited for her input and ideas from a lived- experience perspective!*

*A huge thank you to everyone who has supported Young Carers' Crew in some capacity this year! We are definitely looking ahead with pride and optimism having been honoured to be selected as one of the Stevenage Mayor's chosen charities for 2025/6, and a move to our new home of St Nicholas Community Centre, a safer and more flexible space for the group.*

*Peter Hopkins, Chair of Trustees*



## Group Operation

During the year, we said goodbye to Anji Archer as Group Leader ( and the good news is that Anji has continued to support as a volunteer), and welcomed Claire Hipwell into the role!

In total, we have had 181 young carers attend our 19 sessions this year, including our Whipsnade Summer Trip, and Panto Trip to the Gordon Craig.

The sessions have been supported by our core group of 11 dedicated volunteers, donating over 125 hours of volunteering between them - thank you!

## Activities

Both Anji, and now Claire have been especially creative in identifying sessions that will engage, educate and inspire our young carers!

From creative play to creative chefs, art sessions, a book fair and an energetic evening of pop dance, we have aimed to provide a variety of activities the young carers can enjoy

The pictures below tell something of the story of the year:

<p>Art Session April 2025</p> 	<p>Hampson Park Apr 2025</p> 
<p>Book Fair Jun 2025</p>	<p>Popdance Jul 2025</p>



## Community / Funding News

We have been active in the community this year! Events we have attended include the St Nicholas Christmas Tree Festival, GoVolHerts Volunteer Fairs in Hitchin and Stevenage.

We have also been supported at various events by individuals and businesses raising funds for us, including Jim Callaghan at the Boston Marathon and Stevenage 10K, Herts Loves and Bec ByB at various local craft and art fairs and pampering events.

One of our investments this year has been to purchase a new table cloth and flags for our event stand to really help people find us.

We received fantastic donations from Variety Express and Stevenage Striders of £3000 each, which makes a huge difference to us in the operation of the charity to cover some of our running costs, and we have a structured fundraising approach to applying for funds from Stevenage Borough Council and other agencies for project based activities, such as the Summer Trip.

We also successfully applied for Gift Aid registration during the course of this year which opens up the option for individual donors to uplift their gift.

Looking forward to the coming year we are delighted and honoured to be selected by Stevenage Mayor, Cllr Nazmin Chowdhury, as one of her chosen charities for her mayoral year 2025/26. There are several fundraising events planned which will make a huge difference to us this year.



We are also seeking funding to enable us to overhaul and update our website, which is so critical for many grant applications, and also to make it easier for individuals to donate.



Christmas Tree Festival December 2024



Variety Express Oct 2024



Stevenage Volunteer Fair Jul 2025



Stevenage Striders Sep 2025

# Challenges

Whilst we have made huge strides forward in our fundraising capabilities and financial and governance controls, together with the provision of a wider range of activities for the Young Carers, we have seen a steady decline in group numbers during the year.

We've averaged around 10 young carers per session, and we would look to lift that nearer to 20 as an ideal number

We are working with a number of agencies to increase the referrals into the group, and as I write this (end Oct) we have seven new referrals in progress.

We have some fabulous and committed volunteers who help out with the group sessions, and we'd like to add one or two more people to provide more flexibility in running the sessions.

Similarly, we would ideally like a trustee committee of 6 (currently 4) to ensure we can efficiently spread the work across the group.

We are active on the GoVolHerts website, and local social media groups to attract more people to support the charity as a volunteer.

It continues to be a challenge to secure grant funding in a competitive environment, and we will need to think of a process to diversify our income streams, especially sound individual giving.

# Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following individuals and organisations who have supported our charity throughout the past year:

Big Spirit  
Fairview Road Residents Association  
Follett Trust  
Herts Loves  
Icklefest  
Rotary Grange  
Stevenage Borough Council  
Stevenage Striders  
Variety Express

Jim Callaghan  
A.Dyster  
Mr and Mrs Hipwell

Katie Hounsome  
Phoebe Hounsome

And all our JustGiving and anonymous donors.

Further thanks go to our group leaders Claire Hipwell and Anji Archer, and our volunteers:

Anna  
Gill  
Helen  
Jane S  
Janette B  
Jo B  
Kalpna  
Lotti  
Maja  
Mallackey  
Nevine  
Peter  
Sarah  
Teresa

## Committee members

No members of the board will be standing down.

Members wishing to remain on the committee are as follows:

- Lotti Bucher
- Teresa Callaghan
- Peter Hopkins
- Helen Rowe

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[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]



[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Number	Date	Account	Amount	Subcateg	Memo	
0	7/1/2025	20-05-738	-2.9	Bill Payme	CC+H ROWE YCCEXPNSNOV2024 BBP	
0	7/1/2025	20-05-738	-70.23	Bill Payme	MISS A J ARCHER YCCEXPNSDEC2024 BBP	
0	7/1/2025	20-05-738	-293.55	Bill Payme	MISS A J ARCHER YCC SALARY DEC2024 BB	
0	8/1/2025	20-05-738	-288	Bill Payme	EVERYONE ACTIVE AD 10JAN PANTO YCC/2 BBP	
0	8/1/2025	20-05-738	450	Counter C	THE FOLLETT TRUST FOLLETT TRUST BGC	
0	10/1/2025	20-05-738	400	Counter C	ROTAR C.TRUS Stv Grange Rotary BGC	
0	13/1/2025	20-05-738	145.95	Counter C	JUSTGIVING 4230424 YOUNG CARE BG	
0	16/1/2025	20-05-738	9.75	Counter C	CHARITIES TRUST CP10189 BGC	
0	16/1/2025	20-05-738	300	Counter C	STEVENAGE BC BACS BGC	
0	16/1/2025	20-05-738	13	Funds Tra	ARCHER A J SUBS FT	
0	20/1/2025	20-05-738	-100	Bill Payme	NORTH HERTFORDSHIR INV6719SFGDGCOURSE BB	
0	20/1/2025	20-05-738	-134.5	Bill Payme	PRESTIGE TRAVELS YCC TX INV 308 NOV BB	
0	20/1/2025	20-05-738	-108.3	Bill Payme	PRESTIGE TRAVELS YCC TX INV 303 OCT BB	
0	20/1/2025	20-05-738	-173.3	Bill Payme	PRESTIGE TRAVELS YCC TX INV 313 DEC BB	
0	20/1/2025	20-05-738	-57.6	Bill Payme	BOXALL TAXIS YCC DEC 2024 BBP	
0	20/1/2025	20-05-738	-43.8	Bill Payme	PIN GREEN COMMUNIT YCCHALLHIREDEC2024 BB	

Number	Date	Account	Amount	Subcategory	Memo
0	12/24/2024	20-05-738	9.75	Counter C	CHARITIES TRUST CP10189 BGC
0	12/23/2024	20-05-738	29.13	Counter C	JUSTGIVING 4217592 YOUNG CARE BG
0	12/16/2024	20-05-738	100.47	Counter C	JUSTGIVING 4198759 YOUNG CARE BG
0	12/13/2024	20-05-738	-159.25	Debit	NORTH HERTSCOLLEGE ON 12 DEC BDC
0	12/12/2024	20-05-738	-100	Debit	NORTH HERTSCOLLEGE ON 11 DEC BDC
0	12/9/2024	20-05-738	-57.6	Bill Payme	BOXALL TAXIS YCC NOV2024 BBP
0	12/9/2024	20-05-738	-43.8	Bill Payme	PIN GREEN COMMUNIT YCCHALLHIRENOV2024 BB
0	12/9/2024	20-05-738	-4.74	Bill Payme	MISS A J ARCHER YCCEXPNSNOV2024 BBP
0	12/9/2024	20-05-738	-347.63	Bill Payme	MISS A J ARCHER YCC SALARY NOV2024 BB
0	12/3/2024	20-05-738	-188.5	Bill Payme	PRESTIGE TRAVELS YCC TAXIS SEP BBP
0	12/2/2024	20-05-738	19.02	Counter C	JUSTGIVING 4155798 YOUNG CARE BG



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Number	Date	Account	Amount	Subcateg	Memo	
0	10/1/2024	20-05-738	29.13	Counter C	JUSTGIVING 4056154 YOUNG CARE BG	
0	10/1/2024	20-05-738	-43.8	Bill Payme	PIN GREEN COMMUNIT YCCHALLHIRESEP2024 BB	
0	10/1/2024	20-05-738	-3.7	Bill Payme	MISS A J ARCHER YCCEXPNS SEP2024 BBP	
0	10/1/2024	20-05-738	-424.88	Bill Payme	MISS A J ARCHER YCC SALARY SEP2024 BB	
0	10/14/2024	20-05-738	-86.4	Bill Payme	BOXALL TAXIS YCC SEP2024 BBP	
0	10/14/2024	20-05-738	55.33	Counter C	JUSTGIVING 4080166 YOUNG CARE BG	
0	10/14/2024	20-05-738	3.93	Counter C	ETSY IRELAND UNLIM etsy BGC	
0	10/16/2024	20-05-738	9.75	Counter C	CHARITIES TRUST CP10189 BGC	
0	10/30/2024	20-05-738	600	Counter C	MARTIN BOURNE MartinandSue BGC	
0	10/30/2024	20-05-738	550	Transfer	SKIPTON BUILDING * 168355*DONATN SKI* TF	
0	10/31/2024	20-05-738	10	Funds Tra	ROWE CC + H SUBS ES+DAI FT	
0	10/31/2024	20-05-738	1150	Counter C	STEVENAGE BC BACS BGC	

Number	Date	Account	Amount	Subcateg	Memo	
0	9/13/2024	20-05-73	-364.9	Debit	TICKETS 109112442 ON 12 SEP BDC	
0	9/16/2024	20-05-73	500	Funds Tra	SEAL P ICKLEFEST FT	
0	9/17/2024	20-05-73	67.77	Counter C	JUSTGIVING 4023961 YOUNG CARE BG	
0	9/23/2024	20-05-73	-547.25	Bill Payme	ANNA ATHERTON YCCEXPSEP COACHTRIP BB	
0	9/27/2024	20-05-73	-123.6	Bill Payme	MISS A J ARCHER YCC SALARY AUG2024 BB	
0	9/30/2024	20-05-73	16	Funds Tra	ARCHER A J SUBS ESMEE LEXI FT	