

community projects

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Wagstaff

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Introduction



The Wagstaff Group employs over one hundred individuals spread nationally across nine regional offices. Following on from the success of last year, we have decided to follow a similar format to encourage staff to participate and actively support community-based projects in their local communities. In 2019 we have once again gifted each member of staff a full day's paid leave to volunteer their time to help a charitable based community project or fund-raising event of their choice.

Every member of staff who took advantage of the days volunteering leave last year, spoke positively about their experience whether that be gratitude for the help received, the feeling of accomplishment in the selfless act of helping others or the boost to their self-esteem to tackle something new, outside of their comfort zone.

During 2019 we're happy to report on a new set of fantastic individual achievements as well as group initiatives to help others and raise funds for worthy causes. Not forgetting our continued partnership with the Waste to Wonder who mobilise and deliver unwanted furniture to charities based in the UK and abroad on behalf of our clients.

Once again, this year Wagstaff has enabled its employees to rack up an annual total of 800 hours worth of volunteering and fund raising time across the group which I'm proud to say has been used to make a huge difference to local communities.

I'd like to thank every one of our team for their continued support and eagerness to help others.

Thank you



Daren Miles
Managing Director

Group Community Projects

During 2019 we've had another very busy year with Group Community Projects and the Wagstaff team has once again, really pulled together to achieve some extremely successful events.

We've have found that all of these events have been extremely successful at fundraising and promoting awareness of the charities that we have supported as well as creating a positive team building experience for our employees.

The next few pages illustrate what we have managed to achieve in 2019.

Group Community Projects:

FAST Charity in Sacele, Romania



FAST 40ft Trailer donation

In February 2019 we donated £2,000 to equip the FAST Charity in Sacele, Romania with a 40ft container. The FAST/Waste to Wonder partnership have launched a social enterprise that taps into the skills and expertise of the young people educated through the Zuriel Centre * and provides real-world work experience and employment opportunities by repurposing office furniture, selling to the local business community and expanding the charitable reach to schools throughout the region. The charity purchased a kit building, which has been placed on hard standing and acts as a showroom and workshop. Our donation purchased a 40ft shipping container which is now being used as onsite storage for furniture items that need to be repurposed (for example tuning an L-shaped workstation into a straight desk etc.).

FAST UK FAST WASTE TO WONDER

** The Zuriel Centre is a vocational centre which teaches mechanics,carpentry /joinery, hairdressing, beauty treatments, catering and a range of other skills to young people who have struggled in education. The building is also a bed and breakfast built with funding from the Velux Foundation, the facility provides discounted accommodation for supporters and volunteers as well as a conference/training room.*







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Group Community Projects: Case Study:

Nationwide Building Society's furniture finds a new home in the heart of Transylvania.

Nationwide Building Society's furniture finds a new home in the heart of Transylvania. Re-use and recycle is one of our core services and our partnership with Waste to Wonder over the last 11 years has to be the most impactful initiative that we have. The combination of working with our clients to assist in the removal and re-distribution of their redundant furniture that's providing support to charities and communities is a fantastic synergy.







Nationwide Building Society (NBS) are one of our clients with very strong corporate social responsibility credentials, in 2019 after clearing furniture from the Ramsbury House site in Swindon we invited the team to travel to Sacele in Romania to see where their furniture would end up and meet the team running the charity who manage to turn this furniture into a valued commodity.

The idea was to spend three days in Romania with the NBS team staying at the FAST charity centre, volunteering our skills, seeing where their furniture ends up and learning more about the great work Daniel and Ema do in the area.

FAST is the social enterprise set up by Daniel and Ema Hiristea in 1998.

The charity employs 17 people all aiming to help marginalised children, youth and families through educational, vocational and community development projects.



Over the last 20 years they have managed to build a large vocational centre/hostel (which is where we stayed) with the facilities to teach hairdressing, car mechanics, wood making, welding, catering, cooking and hospitality. It was fantastic to see some of the office furniture that we had donated being re-purposed for bedroom furniture and café and lounge areas!

Our first day was spent documenting various sites, from the yard where the furniture arrives and is stored, where we got to see the container that we donated earlier in the year and the shop where the furniture is sold, to a primary school where we helped to deliver furniture and then onto a new building that Daniel and his team were converting into an educational workshop to teach students skills to earn a living by.



Group Community Projects: Case Study:

Nationwide Building Society's furniture finds a new home in the heart of Transylvania.

The NBS team hit the ground running turning their hands to furniture re-purposing, installing tool walls and hanging tools, plus painting, although we think David shouldn't quit his day job just yet as he seemed to have more paint on himself than on the walls!

After lunch Daniel had organised for us to visit a little school in the Roma community, the plan was to drop off some furniture and spend some time with the school kids. I think I can speak for the whole team when I say we were shocked and disturbed by the living conditions within the village, no freshwater or sanitation most of the buildings were dilapidated yet families are trying their best to survive in temperatures that can drop to -15 in the winter which didn't bear thinking about.

I think interacting with the kids at the school was definitely a highlight for me. Before we left we delivered a bed and a table to a woman in the village, she invited us into her house and we all got to witness how basic the living conditions were and how small the space was for the 14 family occupants.

The following day after a hearty breakfast Daniel informed us that he'd arranged for us to visit Andre, a student who had come through the FAST program and was now running his own business making windows and doors in a small local village. What a great opportunity to see a successful student making his way in the world and being able to support his family.



Andre showed us around his workshop and demonstrated his skills on various machines to give us a good understanding of how the doors and windows are constructed, we chatted for a while before wishing him well and returning to the workshop from the day before. I think it really hit home to us just how positive an impact the Waste to Wonder projects are at supporting these communities.

We regrouped at the hostel, said our farewells, stocked up on Romanian pottery and hit the road back to the airport, it was surreal to be driving through beautiful scenery and affluent towns and villages in comparison to what we had all just experienced. Our first hand experience now serves as a tool to help communicate to other companies this part of our Reuse and Recycle service and how the Waste to Wonder initiative could be beneficial to them.



Group Community Projects:

MacMillan Coffee Morning

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

Annual Bake-Off for MacMillian Cancer Research

Once again, our London office got their baking aprons out for the latest Group annual bake-off with a plethora of either shop bought or home baked goodies.

Treats included Mr Kipling's much loved small tarts, homemade lemon cake which the bees took a fancy to, cupcakes, coffee cake, banana cake, Victoria sponge, donuts and the traditional rock cakes.

Our team took turns in looking after the stand throughout the morning and they managed to raise a very respectable £300.

Photos:

Right:
Keren and Tracey manning our outdoor stall

Next page:
Tilly and Steve checking out the goodies on the our showroom finishes bench









Wagstaff

Our People Individual Community Projects

After the success of 2018 we decided we continue to gift each member of staff with a full day's leave to allow them to get out into their local community and volunteer.

We have been overwhelmed by the general enthusiasm in which this day has been received once again it has been fantastic to read about everyone's experiences and achievements.

Photo Credit:
Victoria Lupan from our business development team volunteering at her local garden/vegetable allotment.

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Our People
Individual Community Projects



Alan Smith

Fundraising

Voice for Asian Elephants Society

Animal Welfare

Alan and his wife Samantha became passionate about Elephants after a trip to India where they witnessed the mistreatment of these beautiful creatures. Upset by what they had seen, they set out to raise money to support a charity which was working to protect them. Voice of Asian Elephants Society was founded by Sangita Iyer and works tirelessly to free enslaved elephants from mistreatment. Alan and Samantha decided to raise funds by climbing Mt Snowden and organizing a charity ball. The climb at 1,036m was far from easy but they managed to summit in just over six hours. Raising £2,325.45 the Summer Ball was far easier going but none the less raised £4,800 for this worthy cause.







David Walkind - Regional Director
John Lawrence - Sales

Midlands & SW Regional Office

Volunteers

Surfers against Sewage

River Alne - Lane & River Clean

David and John undertook a lane and river clean; a two mile stretch of the River Alne in Warwickshire. “The water levels were low which assisted us when wading in to remove the rubbish” They collected a wide range of rubbish including shoes, beer cans, crisp packets and all types of plastic. Plastic bags being the worst offender and a huge risk to wild life. The river is in a beautiful area and is home to a wide range of fresh water fish including brown trout. Birds are plentiful too with the river being home to herons, kingfishers, snipe etc…



Ben Jackson
Project Manager

Volunteer

FAST - Sacele (Romania)

Re-distribution of redundant office furniture

As part of a combined effort with representatives from Nationwide Building Society Ben was part of a team to help assist with the re-distribution of redundant furniture from one of Nationwide Building Societies buildings in Swindon. Half a day was spent loading a container with furniture and a further 2½ days were spent in Sacele (Romania) to help redistribute the furniture to schools and homes on behalf of the charity FAST. The trip also formed part of filming for a case study to promote this service that Wagstaff offer to all their clients.

See the case study at;
http://www.wagstaffgroup.co.uk/responsibility/view/the-waste-to-wonder-partnership

Bob Birkinsaw
Sales Director

Fundraising

Wakefield Hospice

Charity Run Challenge

Bob impressively completed The Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge last September with his son’s charity football club ‘Mush United’. “I did this challenge with my son and a group of other guys, all of whom are less than half my age… And they all train and play football regularly!! So double the challenge for me!! It was tough but ultimately rewarding.’

The Yorkshire Three Peaks route is 24.5 miles (39.2km), and includes 1585m (5,200ft) of ascent. Bob and his team raised £800 for the hospice.







Our People
Individual Community Projects



Heather Craig
Customer Service Administrators

Fundraising

The Marine Conservation Society

Animal Welfare

Heather is passionate about conservation and especially tackling the critical issue of plastics in our seas and waterways. Heather spent the day on the beach in Hightown near Liverpool with 40 other volunteers to clean an area of plastic and other man-made waste.



Gareth Morton
Sales

Fundraising

Voice for Asian Elephants Society

Animal Welfare

Gareth had always dreamt of climbing Mt Snowdon it was on his bucket list, so when invited to do so to raise money for the Elephant Society he jumped at the chance. Apparently the conditions were extremely tough….

"We completed the climb yesterday in sub-zero temperatures along a difficult route, on a very windy day" but against all odds he made it! Through this experience Gareth leant how the charity raise money to rescue, rehabilitate and educate the population to discourage the barbaric treatment of elephants in Indian ceremonies and rituals. In total he helped to raise over £2,000.



Daren Miles
Managing Director

Volunteer

FAST Charity - Sacele (Romania)

Re-distribution of redundant office furniture

As managing director Daren must be the busiest person in the company, in 2019 he took the time out to volunteer as part of the Romanian Waste to Wonder (W2W) case study trip to help redistribute Nationwide Building Society's redundant furniture on behalf of the social enterprise FAST.

FAST was set up to help underprivileged people in the Romanian community by teaching skills to students, utilising our clients redundant furniture, gifting it to families and schools who need it and selling it to generate an income. Daren not only helped to re-purpose a new workshop facility but also took the time to learn more about the charity first hand to help promote the scheme back in the UK.

For further information, see link below;
http://www.wagstaffgroup.co.uk/responsibility/view/the-waste-to-wonder-partnership



Richard Store
Sales

Volunteer

Share Horticulture

Horticulture Training Programme

Share Horticulture is a horticultural training program for students who are registered as having a learning difficulty or mental health diagnosis. They work in polytunnels all year round to produce bedding plants, food crops, herbs, plants from bulbs and decorative plants. Richard spent the day in Tooting, south London, where he worked side-by-side with students to complete a range of activities.

"From my time working alongside the students and staff, I can certainly appreciate and understand better the benefits that Share Horticulture brings to those with daily and long term challenges"

Our People
Individual Community Projects

Rob Boak
Interior Designer

Volunteer

Leicestershire County Council

Cleaning up and maintenance of local woodland forest

Rob lives in a village within a National Forest Park, so decided to volunteer his services to Leicestershire County Council to help clear an over grown area within his local woodland. He spent most of the day stacking logs to create new wildlife habitats or chipping them, which was noisy but extremely fun!









Phil Cracknell
Project Manager

Volunteer

St John's CofE VA Primary School

Garden maintenance

Phil spent his volunteering day helping out at St John's C of E voluntary aided primary school. He carried out some tasks to help tidy the storeroom and build a rabbit hutch for the school pets!

Penny & Janine Gentles
Customer Service Administrators

Fundraising

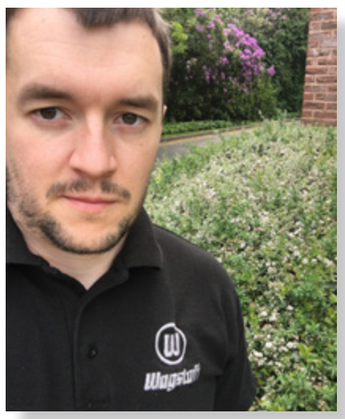
St Catherine's Hospice

Fundraising for charity/hospice

Penny & Janine complete a gruelling 10-mile night walk starting at 10pm and finishing at 1am The 'Moonlight Walk' was in aid of St Catherine's Hospice.

St Catherine's provide specialist care and support to people with life-shortening illnesses.





Dan Tipton
Finance Account Manager

Volunteer

St Catherine's Hospice

Garden maintenance

Dan worked on the grounds at St Catherine's Hospice again this year. The hospice does amazing things for people and their families who are in need of end of life treatment. "The first time I went they described it as a place where people go to live not die, which is something that has stuck with me and makes me want to go back every year to help out" Dan has spent the past 6 years volunteering at St Catherine's and this year he worked on plants, trees and bushes which needed trimming plus leaf raking to keep the grounds looking their best.

Big Bright Future Trust
Waste to Wonder Initiatives



Wagstaff interiors group have partnered with the Big Bright Future Trust and used the Waste to Wonder initiative for eleven years now. Together we provide an environmental and corporate responsible solution for the management of redundant office furniture. All of our customers have the opportunity to support charities and schools worldwide as well as protect their local environment. We are delighted with our ongoing relationship and how successful the projects have been that we have jointly completed, on behalf of our clients.

See our latest case study on page 8.

Click link below to view our case study video;

Nationwide Building Society Waste to Wonder Romanian Case Study

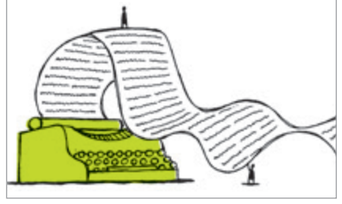
- http://wagstaffgroup.co.uk/video/view/W2W-romanian-case-study

In six easy steps we will explain the benefits of our partnership with Waste to Wonder

1: Wagstaff introduces customer to W2W representative



2: W2W conducts a survey



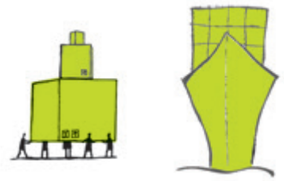
3: W2W process manager processes items to be sent to W2W warehouses





4: Items received at W2W warehouse

5: Items re-distributed to projects locally and internationally



6: Reports; Case Study, Public Relations, Carbon Saving



We invite your company to step into a simple, seamless and secure process currently endorsed by over 145 blue chip companies. Waste to Wonder™ support a wide range of respected and established charitable organisations including the UNEP, UNESCO, World ORT, Shelter, Mercy in Action and The Terrence Higgins Trust.

It really is a win-win-win situation. Our clients can put unwanted furniture to good use in the community; environmentally they save it from landfill and save themselves money by doing so.

Targets & Goals
Future Projects

We have had a fantastic year in 2019 and we're very much looking forward to trying to achieve more in 2020 as a business and as a company which aims to take its ethical and community driven projects even further. In 2019 every member of staff was gifted a full days leave in order for them to go out and volunteer. Giving them the ability to feel good about themselves and selflessly support one of hundreds of amazing causes and charities that rely on volunteers everyday. Giving the team (for the 3rd year in a row) a full day has been a huge success it allows individuals the time to really get stuck into a project and feel like they have actually made a difference. Once again we will honour the days volunteering leave for 2020 and hope that we can encourage more members of staff to take up a position with a charity for the day, to have our best year ever.

For 2020 as part of our group projects, we aim to actively organise or take part in one event every month to help local or national charities or community organisations. Not only do we realise what a great difference we can make we also bring our team together, enjoying shared, positive experiences, which can only be good thing for our employees and for our business.

We've had our best ever year with Waste to Wonder (unwanted furniture & equipment re-distribution) and we are determined to keep this momentum running into 2020 as we continue to seek out as many Waste to Wonder opportunities as possible with our existing and new clients. Educating them with the facts and benefits of completing a redistribution project both for their business and for the much-needed support they could potentially offer.

As ever we are very proud of our team here at Wagstaff and I would like to thank everyone for their efforts with their chosen community and charitable projects. I feel, as a company we have made a tremendously positive impact this year and I'm very much looking forward to continuing and improving on this fantastic effort in 2020.

Warm Regards

Daren Miles
Managing Director

Wagstaff

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