



Youth in the Lead! Woodcraft Folk Appoints 22-year-old as New Chair of Trustees



Caption: Pip Sayers, the new Chair of Trustees at Woodcraft Folk.

When you imagine a trustee of a national charity, you might think of an older generation with many years of professional experience behind them. But Woodcraft Folk are proving this needn't be the case and demonstrating the value, skills and enthusiasm that young people bring in voluntary leadership roles.

Research by Civil Society Media in 2017 found that the average charity trustee was 61 years old. They note that “while it is encouraging that many people beyond normal retirement age are contributing their time as trustees, it is perhaps a little concerning that over 8,000 boards have an average age of over 75 years”.

Woodcraft Folk is bucking that trend and supporting young people to take a lead within the charity. Their board members (known within the organisation as the General Council) range in age from 16 to 52, with an average age of 27. The commitment to being truly youth lead goes even further with the recent appointment of a new, young Chair.

Woodcraft Folk is an educational movement for children and young people which aims to develop self confidence and social action amongst its members. Over 300 groups around



the country meet weekly for a wide range of activities designed to promote equality, friendship, peace and cooperation.

The empowerment of children has always been central to the organisation with young people learning discussion and decision-making skills and taking a lead on the organisation of camps and other events. Their model supports young people to develop the skills and the confidence needed to then step up to leadership roles within the organisation.

Pip Sayers (22), from Bradford, said, “Woodcraft Folk has a rich history of empowering young people and I’m very proud to be leading General Council, a trustee board committed to improving the lives of young people, and a board where over half the members are under 25. You can find excellent examples of youth leadership at all levels of Woodcraft, from local groups to national committees. We are truly a youth lead organisation.”

If you’d like to find out more or get involved, take a look at the organisation’s website at www.woodcraft.org.uk.

---- Ends ----

Notes to Editors:

Civil Society Media research published at:

<https://www.civilsociety.co.uk/voices/who-sits-on-the-typical-trustee-board.html>

The Woodcraft Folk is an educational movement for children and young people, designed to develop self confidence and activity in society, with the aim of building a world based on equality, friendship, peace and cooperation.

Activities are centred on co-operative principles with games including everyone and promoting teamwork. Children are given many opportunities to directly lead and make decisions in the group, supporting each other to create an environment for nurturing self confidence and building strong friendships. The organisation encourages youth to understand and participate in their local, national and international communities, whilst having lots of fun together. A typical group night might include co-operative games, activities exploring current social justice topics, bushcraft skills, arts, crafts and singing.

Woodcraft Folk is a registered charity in England & Wales (1148195) and in Scotland (SC039791). And a Limited Company, registered in England & Wales, Company No. 8133727. www.woodcraft.org.uk

For more information please contact:

Pippa Gardner, Communications Manager, 07422966197, pippa@woodcraft.org.uk