

BENET AND SUTTON CHARITY

Registered charity number: 254590

The Benet and Sutton Charity is a small Wroughton charity that seeks to provide financial assistance to young people who may struggle with the cost of further education or training for employment.

History

The charity was set up in 1969 to amalgamate five historical charities, whose aims were basically the same. Of these, the charities of Elizabeth Benet and Thomas Sutton were the most important.

- In 1743 Elizabeth Benet of Salthrop founded a charity to help girls from the ancient parish of Wroughton entering domestic service. A board recording this benefaction still hangs on the wall of Wroughton and Wichelstowe parish church.
- Thomas Sutton (d. 1611), was the founder of the London Charterhouse and lord of Elcombe Manor just outside Wroughton. With three other persons he bequeathed small sums to provide an apprenticing charity for Wroughton boys.

Grant making

The charity makes small financial grants (currently £300 per individual) to young people to help with the cost of further education or training for employment.

Young people need to meet the following criteria to be eligible for financial assistance:

- Must be under 25 years of age.
- Must be resident in the parish of Wroughton **or** have completed their final year of secondary education in the parish of Wroughton (Note: The Ridgeway School and Sixth Form College and The Deanery CE Academy are both within the parish of Wroughton).
- There is some economic or financial difficulty in the applicant's or applicant's family's circumstances (this is interpreted flexibly, there is no means testing etc.)

Applications are welcomed for help with expenses incurred by further education or training, such as textbooks, tools, uniforms, safety equipment, fees and travelling expenses.

Applications are made by completing a short form and submitting this to the trustees.

In previous years the charity has made grants for:

- A Ridgeway School pupil taking an Art and Design BTEC course at Swindon College to help with equipment and fares for course trips.
- Stationery and textbooks.
- Help to fund a Royal School of Arts Vehicle Design course for a young graduate from Wroughton.
- Travel and accommodation expenses for a drama student to take part in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.
- Money towards the purchase of a laptop to help with learning and presentation of work.

Governance

The original five charities were managed under the auspices of the Parish Church. However, the combined charity is now overseen by Wroughton Parish Council, whose role is to ensure that the purpose of the charity continues and is managed by suitable trustees.

The scheme of the charity states that:

- The trustee body should consist of at least five people, appointed by Wroughton Parish Council.
- That each appointment is for four years from the date of the Parish Council meeting at which they were appointed.
- That the people appointed may be, but need not be, a member of the Parish Council.

The trustees should meet at least twice a year. Quorum is achieved when three trustees are present at the meeting.