

4.5 Moulsecoomb Treasures



“I very much value the service. They’re helpful, experienced, efficient and amenable; serving the community. They’re a great friend to our group.”

The group: Moulsecoomb Treasures aims to bring people together in the local community to *‘treasure ourselves, each other and the environment’* through dance and music. The group which started in 2012, was inspired by the local community development worker. They run weekly classes at the local school – break dance for kids and ballroom and Latin dance for adults. Live music accompanies the dancing, with accomplished musicians mentoring younger musicians. There are plans to start a choir and to hold a late summer dance festival.

The situation: Nicolas de Conde, who is a musician himself and has a passion for sharing music and dance, started the group. He had no experience in the administrative and financial requirements of running a community group but realised that these were skills he needed to make the group successful. Although the long term plan of the committee is to register as a charity and make Moulsecoomb Treasures self-financing, Nicolas knew that in the short term they would require funding to get the group going. He was directed to the Resource Centre.

Support received: The Money in Mind project offered him training to keep the group’s accounts, and as Nicolas is partially sighted, they helped him set up an Excel spreadsheet which he is able to use easily. They helped him identify appropriate funders and supported him in making grant applications. After the first year of operation they undertook an Independent Examination of Accounts. The Resource Centre has also helped with the design and printing of leaflets which promote the weekly music and dance activities, at a very reasonable cost.

Benefits: Moulsecoomb Treasures received funding from Moulsecoomb Local Area Team in its first year, and subsequently from the Big Lottery Fund and Sussex Community Foundation. Nicolas believes that the help he received from Money in Mind and the Independent Examination of Accounts has enabled him to make good funding applications which have been successful, and contributed to the confidence of the group.