



WMUK's history, culture and values

Mike Peel, 13 July 2013



History

- WMUK version 1:
 - 14 Feb 2006: WMUK v1 founded “Wiki Educational Resources Ltd”
 - Was unable to open a bank account, or accept members.
 - (Dec 2007 - I joined the wikimediauk-l mailing list)
 - 28 Aug 2008: Announcement that WER was winding up
 - Reboot started...



History

- WMUK version 2:
 - First board elected 2 Sept 2008 to sort out the Articles and take things forward
 - Key driver was Wikimania bid for Oxford in 2010
 - WMUK incorporated 5 Nov 2008
 - First AGM - 26 Apr 2009, Manchester



History

- Charity status:
 - Initially applied to HMRC in 2009. Was rejected.
 - After receiving a £5k grant from the WMF, was able to apply to the Charities Commission
 - Lengthy discussion with CC, contracted John Byrne to help liaise with them, working with our lawyers (Stone King)
 - After much time and expenditure, convinced CC that we were charitable (public utility) in Nov 2011



History

- Fundraising:
 - Initial £5k grant from WMF in 2009
 - Participated in 2009-10 fundraiser, raised ~£94k
 - Participated in 2010-11 fundraiser, raised ~£550k
 - Participated in 2011-12 fundraiser, raised ~£870k (+ gift aid!)
 - Have not been able to participate in any fundraisers since then.



History

- Staff:
 - Hired first staff member in Sept 2010 part-time for the period of the fundraiser.
 - Took same approach in Aug 2011. Richard S. hired.
 - Hired a Chief Exec in Aug-Oct 2011, Jon Davies ultimately hired.
 - 2011-12, initial staff team hired.
 - 2012-13, latest three staff. Also growth of WiR positions.



History

- Milestone projects:
 - First real project was 'Wiki Takes Museums' at V&A in 2009 (followed up by 'Britain Loves Wikipedia' in 2010)
 - First Wikipedian in Residence, Liam Wyatt at British Museum
 - First editathon, at the British Library (albeit not quite as first envisaged)



Culture and values

- Since WMUK was formed, openness and transparency have been key attributes.
- “Those of us elected have been handed a clear mandate to turn WMUK into an open, transparent and democratic charity as soon as conceivably possible”
- Tom Holden, 30 Sept '08
- The approach of hiring staff was taken in order to support volunteer activities.
- “staff should only do things that volunteers either cannot do or do not want to do” (vol. policy)



Culture and values

- Vision
 - Free knowledge for all
- Mission
 - Wikimedia UK's mission is to help people and organisations build and preserve open knowledge to share and use freely.



Culture and values

- Values
 - To value the contribution of volunteers
 - To encourage, involve and engage volunteers
 - To recognise that the contribution of volunteers is central to the activity of the organisation
 - To be transparent and open
 - To promote the value of free and open licences
 - To have respectful and professional working relationships internally and externally
 - To promote an open approach to learning and knowledge