

Update from Calne Wordfest

Ruth Hill

1. Engaging with young people:

Wordfest acknowledges the need to engage with young people in general and especially at this time. At present however, we haven't had the capacity to engage with many young people. Evidence around poverty /literacy and vulnerability is quite good now and the National Literacy Trust has a number of reviews and original research that is worth a look. A lot of our original strategy comes from their research. We know Danielle at the Rise Trust is now implementing youth work and also the community learning team are still active. We'd be very interested to hear their thoughts and feed them into our own work in the community.

2. Computers for adults:

After contacting the company who worked with KGA to provide laptops for pupils during lockdown, we have received 5 donated computers from Computer Company in Westbury who have cleaned the computers up. We will be using these as a pilot, when applicable with our Learn to Read Course. Any larger scale project for the Community as a whole is beyond our capacity.

3. Calne Code Trail:

We have extended the Calne Code trail into Autumn as unfortunately we had some technical difficulties (Alan Hill should be able to update on this.) The standard of story entries was brilliant however and we have extra stories on file which, with a small amount more funding, we could use to run the trail for longer. Some excellent filming from The Little Photo Company means the stories are high quality and we are proud of what we have created.

We have noticed Bremhill have a history trail this weekend that was funded by the board.

Would you be able to put us in touch with them? They seem to have an app so we wondered about links with them to help us develop as we've had technical issues.

It would be good to run them in conjunction if they're up for it. Add a rural walking route to our trail and get more families engaged in the history stuff?

Calne could become known for its digital story trails.

4. Mentoring:

We have considered how we can better support young people like the young volunteer who has helped develop the Code Trail, as that's been a great experience for everyone. We have talked about looking for mentors to give him more experience and work more directly with him. We have also talked about looking for a young person trustee who we could work with to the point they might like to be a trustee or another coordinating role in Wordfest. We are working out how and whether we could support this at the moment.

5. Ongoing projects:

We are currently working to advertise, launch and administer ESF/DEPT ED AND SKILLS funded courses for Reading which will run until 2021.

In addition, we are also working with Corsham Arts Rural Touring to develop external theatre performances in Calne in October 2020.

We also are trying to develop our own policies and procedures as well as improve our social media offerings. We have had some excellent volunteers join us over the past year and we are trying to bed in as a team and create achievable goals with good outcomes.