



With and for our young people

September / October 2020

Our new normal...



Like everyone our organisation was affected by the pandemic with key volunteers (Sue & Jenn) stepping up to help run Royal Wootton Bassett Helpers (the local COVID-19 support group). Our young people were also doing all they could to support their community from home, by building food boxes, sourcing donations and creating messages of hope for those isolating. So, we paused meetings over the spring/summer, whilst we found our feet again.



Our link to RWB Helpers remains and they are reaching out to families who maybe struggling to purchase uniform. We now include both RWB Helpers and the Richard Jones Foundation leaflets in our uniform packs.

Welcome to Bassett – Free Second-Hand Uniform (All RWB schools)

We launched our uniform scheme in the middle of the lock down to ensure that any families and young people in need of school uniform, were supported. Our scheme is open to anyone wishing to use it, so those wanting to support the environment are as welcome as those with limited finances.

To date the amazing work of our volunteers has resulted in:

- 1117 items being donated
- 259 items being given out
- 55 loads of washing (in just 1 month)
- 49 items mended
- And most importantly 66 families helped!



This would not have been possible without the amazing work of Zach, Gary and Frances whose dedication enabled the scheme to start and continue through the crisis. Thank you!

As life settled a little, we were able to return to holding meetings this September. We are now meeting online with new policies in place to safeguard our young people. We're also exploring how we can connect in more ways with local young people using digital platforms.

Junior Champions (Committee) – Young People

Two more young people have joined our Junior Committee this Autumn. We are pleased to welcome Junior Treasurer Katie, and Jasmine who attended for the first time this month. Our Junior Champions are, and will continue to, prepare minutes; attend our meetings; attend Town Council meetings; learn about our organisation and put together their own initiatives.

Youth Groups

Like all organisations our youth groups have had to work hard to continue.

Swindon and Bassett Sea Cadets are now working together to ensure they have all the right team members to provide groups for both areas. All involved are working hard to make sure that their new spaces will be delivered soon. It just goes to show, in the pandemic, dedicated key volunteers from both groups found new ways to ensure our young people continue to have access to the support and opportunities the Sea Cadets can offer. Thank you!

Out of The Can has maintained support for its existing members via online meetings, to continue doing all they can for our LGBTQ+ young people.

Unfortunately, CMAS could not survive the crisis, but thankfully a great response from the Rise Trust has meant that two of the CMAS youth workers were hired and a COVID Safe Youth Outreach was not only in place but actively engaging with Bassett's young people by the start of September.

Our thanks to both the Rise Trust, Cllr Allison Bucknell and Jane Vaughan for their quick and effective responses at that time, which paved the way for agreement to be sought from Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council to continue to fund and provide.

Thank You

The Royal Wootton Bassett Local Youth Network would like to offer its thanks to the following who have provided great support: Jewson, Co-op Funeral Care (Inc Maslin's), Awdry Bailey Douglas, Co-op Food Lyneham, Wiltshire Council, The RISE Trust Children's Centre, Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council, the Royal Wootton Bassett Shed, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Royal Wootton Bassett Academy, GreenSquare Group, St Bartholomew's & All Saints Church, Launch2Learning, WBLETs, the Pétanque Club, Bassett in Bloom, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service, Royal Wootton Bassett Community Cinema, Wiltshire Police, the Rotary Club, PQA, the RWB Environmental Group, Hook & District WI, the U3A and Box & Seal.