

Community

# Youth Centre

Ludgershall

Interim Report April 2019

The Community Youth Centre in Ludgershall has been opened by the Trustees in September 2018 after extensive repairs and renovations following a 4 year closure.

The Buzz Action Foundation have taken on the role of Local Youth Facilitators and are developing a youth programme for the Centre.

The Centre has 2 outdoor activity areas, 1 indoor activity area and a large social area

The Centre is equipped with quality equipment including Pool Tables, Table Footballs, a kitchen, some musical keyboards, an Xbox 360, a small monitor/TV (we do not watch TV), a karaoke machine, a variety of board games. We also have regular use of a Tumble Track, Circus Equipment and other musical instruments, including keyboards, guitar and a Yamaha Drum Kit.

During the first 6 months we have:

**Recruited and inducted 5 volunteers** with ongoing training in youth work.

**Established a Youth Club** for 12 to 14 year olds on a **Tuesday night**.

Terressa Slater will be taking over the leadership of this club from May 14<sup>th</sup> with Emma Burton. We shall continue to provide full support. This will become a 13 to 15yrs old club in September.

**Established a Youth Circus** for all ages on a **Wednesday Evening**

**Established a Youth Club** for 9 to 11 year olds on a **Thursday night**. Jonathan will be running this with 2 sessions from September for school years 5 &6, and yrs. 7 & 8.

Youth Clubs are not childcare. We have a duty of care but we are not mollycoddling young people. If a child is not ready to make their own way to or from the youth clubs, they are probably not ready to join a youth club. A youth club is part of the growing up process. The young people are expected to behave in a more self-reliant and socially able way. Youth Workers will help them on that path, so the most junior youth club will have a much more protective environment, which will help prepare them for life in secondary school and other social environments. However, youth workers will intervene for safeguarding and welfare reasons, they will not dictate or spoon feed the activities. If ten youngsters say they want to sit in a chair and be bored, the youth workers will not force them out of the chairs, they will encourage them. I am pleased to say that our activities are diverse and challenging, young people join in and participate willingly.

We organised the following **low price activities** during school holidays:

**Performance Magic Workshop for Children**

**Circus Activity Workshop for Children**

A “Chillax” relaxed activity day using all of the equipment from mid-day until 9pm over Easter. With a flexible programme and a hot noodles tea all for just £4. This activity included a walk to the castle, guest instructors from other youth projects.

**3 Saturday Activity Afternoons.**

**7 Organised trips to** Basingstoke, Milton Keynes, St Georges Day Salisbury, Moors Valley Country Park, Old Sarum and Durnford Manor walk, Tidworth Festival of Learning.

Over 60 young people regularly (at least twice a month) attend the youth centre.

**Residential Activities**

There will be 2 week long summer activities Easton Farm Park in Suffolk and Purbeck Valley Folk Festival in Swanage. These are low cost activities, very family orientated and young people can bring their families or attend without them.

## **Going Forward:**

**More Activities**

Youth Club for vulnerable young people and additional needs

Friday Night Premium Youth Nights.

Volunteers

Storage

During this summer there will be more trips and activities based at the Youth Centre. We have approached several bodies including the Department for Education to offer ourselves as providers and hope we shall get funding for this provision. We hope to have some discos to raise fund and see the centre used properly in the next few months.

**Vulnerable Youth** There is an identified need for a youth club aimed at the more vulnerable young people. Like the Element Café in Amesbury, this needs a higher adult to child ratio. We are still building a volunteer base and we are adopting an integrated volunteer strategy to help keep the existing clubs operating smoothly. From September I shall begin work on this project.

### **Friday Night Open Access**

We would like to get to the point where we have a trained youth and culture around the centre so we can have a drop in Youth Café style night on Fridays. All visitors will register and pay an entrance fee but it will be like a social club rather than a youth club. We are probably a year or so away from this but it is something we should aim for.

## **Volunteers**

We are DBS checking and inducting all our volunteers. We currently have 5 adult home grown volunteers supported occasionally by 5 volunteers from Amesbury. This enables an uninterrupted provision. We need at least another 10 volunteers who can come and provide adult presence. This will take time but we think we have high quality in the volunteers working at the centre.

## **Storage**

We have learned a lot about using the space. In order to provide high quality activities without losing a lot of space we need a storage solution. We hope to see a large container/shed type container on the grounds in the next few months so we have equipment on hand and stored safely. We also need store some furniture which is often used but is also often in the way. This will enable us to maximise the indoor activity space.

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