



## **Bringing Hope and Focus to Youth & Families of South Wight**

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**[www.southwightyouth.org](http://www.southwightyouth.org)**

South Wight Youth Partnership | Charity Registration 1160139

# SWAY April 2022 Update

It is now nearly 5 months since our last Update, which is most unusual for us.

We like to keep you all informed as to what SWAY is doing. We aim for 3 Updates a year; in February, May and October and an Annual Review in September. On this occasion our timing has been under pressure and hopefully you will see why in this Update. There have been a number of changes since November, which we will explain here.



## Jacob Mills

In the last Update it was recorded that Jacob had won the first Roy Bromley Volunteers Award. In January, Jacob started as our new part-time trainee youth worker. He has made a good start in his time supporting Andy in a number of groups and events, though he has recently had to have some time off for a long-planned operation. He should be fit and raring to go by the time you read this Update. We look forward to seeing Jacob develop in confidence and effectiveness over the coming months. He is keen to learn and grow in his understanding of youth work. It is very encouraging to see one of our own to be inspired enough to step up to working with us as a youth worker.



## The Box closes for the summer

The Box Project has recently finished for the time being after 19 successful Friday evenings of cooking for upto 20 families. Don't worry, it will be re-starting again in the Autumn, when the nights draw in. SWAY attracted even more funding than was recorded in November for this innovative and very worthwhile series of evenings. Relationships have been built, skills learnt and families fed some excellent meals during dark winter evenings. There have been many positive effects of this project and we are grateful to Jennie for spearheading it so well. The Box Project has been a roaring success and it is envisaged it will begin again later this year.





# The Community Hub

The planning group for the Community Hub have been busy over these last 5 months. Planning permission for the Hub was granted in early March, a launch for the fundraising was held at Northcourt Manor in mid-March. Grants are being applied for and conversations are being held with potential funders to bring this vision into reality. There is a JustGiving page open for local funding for the Hub, which is printed below. We are pressing on in faith that this is the right move for SWAY. It may take a while to build the funds to reach our £300k target but we are moving in the right direction.

For more information and ways you could support the development of the Community Hub please visit our website to see the latest leaflet and design.

[www.southwightyouth.org](http://www.southwightyouth.org)



# The Summer Residential

We opened bookings for our summer residential to the Lakes in late February and within a few days all 28 places had been booked up! We are busy planning a full schedule for the time there and look forward to a great time in that glorious part of the world. We would again ask for some help with the costings of places for the young people. We have lifted the cost of a place to £140 this year, but that does not cover the full cost for each place of £200. If you would be willing to support or sponsor a young person to go to the Lake District, with the difference of £60, we would be very grateful. Simply let Catherine know and use the form on the back of this Update. We received a lot of positive support for this last year and the young people had an amazing time.



# Youth and Families' Worker

We will be very sorry to see Jennie Burke retire from her role as Youth & Families' Worker at the end of June. Jennie has been with us since June 2017 and made an enormous difference to the work. Many families have benefited in big, life-changing ways by her commitment and compassion for them. We shall miss her valuable impact, incredible energy and relentless drive when she retires. We are actively seeking a replacement. Hers are big shoes to fill, but we look forward to this next chapter.

We have asked Jennie to give us her perspective on being SWAY's Youth & Families' Worker for 5 years. We obviously wish her much joy, rest and blessing on her retirement, but hope we shall still see lots of her in the months and years ahead.

## Jennie Burke

It has been such a privilege to work with SWAY in supporting families over the past 5 years. I have watched and listened to so many parents facing difficult dilemmas and decisions and have been inspired by their resilience to find ways to overcome their problems.

I have experienced great joy and sadness, laughter and tears, often overwhelmed with the way I've been welcomed into people's lives and homes. It has been a job of such variety, each week never the same as the last. I've attended meetings at schools, sat on Children's Services case reviews, IOW Council Early Help commissioning meetings, Court cases, benefit reviews and applications, appointments at dentists, doctors and hospital to name a few, but mostly I've been a listening ear with a cup of tea in hand!

My weekly team meeting with other SWAY staff has been an invaluable support for me. Often, I would be commandeered by Andy to 'volunteer' to help at activities, which I've thoroughly enjoyed. The 'Zoom cooking' or The Box Project has been the highlight of the past year. I have had such pleasure watching our young people and families especially in the last session, confidently cooking without much instruction. I hope this continues and that SWAY continues to invest in the much-needed support for the families of the South Wight.

I will miss you all.



# Coming up

In May we have two big events, of which we are excited.

Firstly, there is our Corf Camp on 20th – 22nd May. This is the first camp since 2019 and we are very excited for this weekend. These weekends are always action packed, full of good food, good fun and lively fellowship. We will be descending on Newtown Anglican Church again on the Sunday morning – for a celebration, always a highlight of the weekend. Filling that beautiful building with young people and singing is a great occasion.

Secondly, to coincide with the Platinum celebration of the Queen's 75th reign, we are devising a special Royal Geo-caching Challenge over the days of the celebration – Thursday 26th to Sunday 29th May. This will be a lot of fun as we set clues with a royal flavour over the whole area. There may well be a right royal prize or two for those teams who finish first. Expect twists and decoys along the way. We aim to make it great fun and to get young people (and their families) out into the beautiful South Wight area. Watch for details on our website.

So, no time to mention this time – we continue to support young people through our youth groups, our 14+ group through visits to Harbour Church in Gunwharf, our 1-1 mentoring support and our one-off events like bowling and disc golf during February half term ..... but we have been busy, always counting on a God who guides and inspires us to offer hope and focus to the youth and families of South Wight. Thank you once again for your support and your prayers. Keep 'em coming!



**Here are two ways to give to The Sway Community Hub - the link to the JustGiving page and a standing order for a one-off gift**

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/swaycommunityhub> (or use the barcode)



Just fill in this form and return to:

Post: **The Exchange, New Road, Brighstone. PO30 4BB**

Email: **swayoffice1@gmail.com**

My details are:

First Name ..... Surname .....

Home Address .....

..... Postcode .....

SWAY can increase your donation by 25% at no cost to you by ticking here.

☐

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I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donation I make in the future or have in the past 4 years to SWAY. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less income tax and/or Capital Gains tax than the amount of Giftaid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature ..... Date .....

Please notify SWAY if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay income at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Giftaid donations on your self-assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your Tax code.

## Standing order mandate

To the manager (your bank Name) .....

Bank Address .....

Sort Code ..... / ..... / ..... Account number .....

Account in the name of .....

Please pay to: **South Wight Area Youth Partnership (SWAY)**

Account no: **81783211** Sort Code: **40-34-26**

The sum of: £2 ☐ £5 ☐ £10 ☐ £20 ☐ Other .....