



November  
Update 2022



## Bringing hope and focus to Youth & Families of South Wight

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South Wight Youth Partnership | Charity Registration 1160139

# SWAY Update November 2022

The year has begun with a new team, some new challenges and a new resolve to serve the young people and families of South Wight. There is much to share in this edition of our Update. Below you will read short introductions from Marie Willis (our new full-time Youth Worker), Lynne Stotesbury (our new part-time Youth and Families' Support Worker) and Olivia Stemmet (our new Gap Year Worker). This is a very exciting new era for SWAY and we have high hopes for the year with this team, including Andy, our Lead Youth Worker, Catherine, our Administrator and our wider group of volunteers and Trustees.

The recent inclusion of Ventnor into our area presents SWAY with fresh challenges and fresh opportunities. This has prompted us to look to you again for your prayers and support.



## The Hub

We have now appointed an Architect, who will spearhead the process of gaining building regs, find the right people to build the Hub and the general oversight to see it through to completion, which we hope will be later next year. Funding is going really well, but costs have risen since our first plans and so we still have a little way to go. However, our Project Management Group is confident we can see this through to completion. They are busy with the many tasks involved in such a project and deserve our thanks and appreciation. We are also looking ahead to finding the funding for a Hub manager for the first two years of its life.

## The Mentoring Project

We have secured funding for a mentoring project (River Project) for twelve Year 6 young people from our three primary schools – Brighstone, Niton and St Francis in Ventnor. This scheme aims to help these young children gain confidence, build relationships and help in their transition to High School next summer. Referrals are in place with a programme set up to help and support these youngsters; we have begun to meet with them already. We now look forward to seeing this important group of young people thrive and joining in with our SWAY activities, such as Corf Camp and the Lakes residential.

## The 14+ Group

This is such an important group and we are aware of the challenges that this age group face as they approach crucial exams and all the bewildering choices set before them. We want to bring this group together and give them an identity and hope for their futures. We have funding for these young people too and we want to spend it wisely in developing friendships and exploring faith, in places like Harbour Church. We have got off to a good start, with 19 young people enjoying pizza together recently and meeting Marie and Olivia. Next stop, Skates and Sweet Charlies in Newport.



## The Box Project

We are looking for further funding for this project to re-commence after its successful run of last winter. We will let you know as and when this initiative starts up again.



## The Chale Cake, Craft and Chat Project

Lynne has begun an Craft afternoon (4.30-6.30) at the Hut in Chale Green with the aim of gathering young people and families together to do some crafts in the Hut, whilst enjoying some cake and a chat. We are conscious that we have not been very active in the village in the last couple of years and Lynne has a passion for re-commencing this connection as we approach the building of the Hub. This group is envisaging re-painting the Hut very shortly to give it a fresh look.

## Youth Groups

Rock Solid and Roots are thriving well in Niton, with numbers of both groups reaching the dizzy heights of 40 young people some weeks. There is a mixed plan for Friday nights that includes the 14+ group, a Brighstone/Shorwell group and



YFC Catalyst. We are endeavouring to join in with and build a youth night in Ventnor too. There is not a shortage of work to be done in the area with the groups, it is more a matter of finding the time for each group.

### **The Lakes' Awards Evening**

We had a very successful Awards evening attended by around 65 people, including young people, where we enjoyed an action-packed film of the trip, gave out some awards to various young people and shared what a great time we had way back in August. If you log onto the website you can see the film and more photos. We were privileged to have Kay Marriott, the High Sheriff, there for the evening, who presented Olivia Stemmet with the Roy Bromley Volunteer of the Year Award.

### **Fund Raising**

We appreciate the regular financial support the community gives our charity. There have been several fundraiser events to note of late. Thanks to all who took part in an October tea party walk; Claire Critchison led about 40 people around the Niton countryside and raised £226. The Langley Park Girls' School band and choir concert raised £420 in donations for SWAY. This was a fun evening performance held at St Andrew's Church, Chale: with pizza and refreshments for the young people afterwards.



**The New Team** So, here are the three new workers, in their own words. ....

**Marie Willis**

*Hey! I'm Marie, I am the new youth worker for SWAY and joined the team in September 2022. I am also new to the Island and have moved from Bournemouth, for this exciting new adventure. I bring with me 20 years of youth work experience, working in many different environments; schools, churches, camps, mobile bus projects and youth work projects. I enjoy getting alongside young people and building positive relationships, supporting, mentoring and encouraging young people to reach their full potential, as well as providing fun activities for young people to enjoy.*

*I have a Christian faith, which is at the heart of who I am. I love to dance and sing and have been training in dance since I was 3 years old, so I can make some 'Strictly' shapes on the dance floor. I*

*am also super creative and you can always find me with a project or two on the go, making crochet projects, cross stitch, jigsaws or Lego building. I'm always making something.*

*I am looking forward to getting to know the young people, seeing them develop as they try new things, get involved in activities and find out more about who they are and the potential they can reach as well as exploring the Island.*



**Olivia Stemmet**

*I am Olivia and I am doing a gap year with SWAY. I live in Ventnor. I enjoy art and listening to music. I have just finished studying 'A' Levels at Brockenhurst College and I decided to take a gap year and gain experience in working with young people. I was part of SWAY as a young person for about five years, so I have seen the work they do and the impact it has in different communities. This has encouraged me to choose to have a gap year with SWAY, as it is a great opportunity to be a part of the work that they do across different areas.*

*In this coming year I will be helping out with youth groups and any projects or activities that I am asked to be involved in. I am hoping to help SWAY and the young people as much as possible over the year. Next year, I am going to Exeter University to study Geography.*

**Lynne Stotesbury**

*I'm Lynne, I've lived on the IOW all my life, I have a 19 year-old son, 2 cats, 5 hens, a cockerel*

*and a duck!!! We have recently moved home to a house with incredible views, so we are feeling very blessed, although it is not without its challenges. Before starting to work with SWAY, I had been working as a Teaching Assistant in a primary school for about 11 years, alongside which I trained to be a counsellor at Waverley Abbey College in Farnham. I love learning, both through life experience and reading/training, walking, gardening and making things.*

*I have been working with SWAY now since the beginning of August. It has felt like a steep learning curve for me in lots of ways. I think mainly managing my time fairly independently is taking a bit of adjusting to, as I had previously been working in a school, where working hours and timings are very inflexible and it's very clear when you're working and when you're not!! Working with SWAY is very different.*

*I've filled my time with a mixture of meetings, training courses and visiting the families who were previously supported by Jennie. We've since had several new referrals, whom we will be contacting in the near future. It feels like a real privilege and blessing to be invited into these people's lives, to love and support them, but also a big responsibility, and occasionally a challenge. Recently, at the Safeguarding Conference, the organisers had asked young people from the Island Learning Centre what would help them the most. The response was very interesting: having a consistent trusted person they could go to was most wanted. So often in situations where families/young people need extra support, people come in for 6 weeks, then move on or hand over to another service, so there's no real opportunity to build good healing relationships. With SWAY I hope to be able to facilitate this longer, more healing process.*

## **The Website**

Do look at our website for further details of activities and events:  
[www.southwightyouth.org](http://www.southwightyouth.org)

## **Coming Up .....**

Stars of Wonder at Brighstone on 11th December – a chance for the young people to shine with a few older stars!

Carol Singing in Niton and Brighstone

The Hub pressing forward and taking shape

A Brighstone after-school group for Years 5 and 6

A varied Friday night menu for the older young people

Your support, interest and prayers are, as ever, always appreciated.

The SWAY Team

## Here are two ways to give to SWAY.

1 for the Community hub through the JustGiving page as below.

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

2 for the regular work of SWAY through a one off or regular gift through the form below.



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: £5 ☐ £10 ☐ £20 ☐ £50 ☐ Other .....