



Bringing Hope and Focus to Youth & Families of South Wight

email:swayoffice1@gmail.com

www.southwightyouth.org

South Wight Youth Partnership | Charity Registration 1160139

SWAY Update – June 2022

The world seems a very different place than it was at the beginning of the year. The challenge of Covid 19 has receded somewhat for most of us, but that has been replaced in the news with the awful events in the Ukraine and the rising cost of living for so many in our country. These are challenging days for our world and for our country. We are mindful of the impact of all this on our young people and our families in the South Wight.



As we enter the summer, SWAY faces a balance of opportunities and challenges that are bringing to focus our minds and concentrations like never before. In this Update we will seek to tell of the last few months since the last Update, outline the plans for the summer and help you understand the choices and options opening out for us in the months ahead. In it all, we are trusting in a God who leads us step by step. And it goes without saying, that we value and count on your support in this vital work.



The Box Project finished in March with an excellent evening's cooking with one of our parent's leading and demonstrating the cooking. This was a big encouragement for the group for a parent to lead this last evening.



It has been a hugely successful sequence of evenings that has brought together over the winter families and young people in healthy cooking and a sense of community over zoom. The Project will re-commence in the Autumn with more menus and more ideas for healthy eating.

Corf Camp

In May we returned to Corf camp for our first camp in 3 years. Strangely, it was nearly all girls, on account of a Rugby 7's tournament and a two-week half term for the Free School. Nevertheless, we had an excellent time, with some innovative raft building, some fun on the kayaks ('get Andy with the sea weed' game), great food courtesy of Pete T, singing round the campfire and a rousing morning at Newtown Church. It turns out girls are just as competitive when it comes to 'capture the flag' as the boys.



Royal Geo-caching and a Royal visit

The Royal Geo-caching over the Platinum Jubilee weekend was a lot of fun.



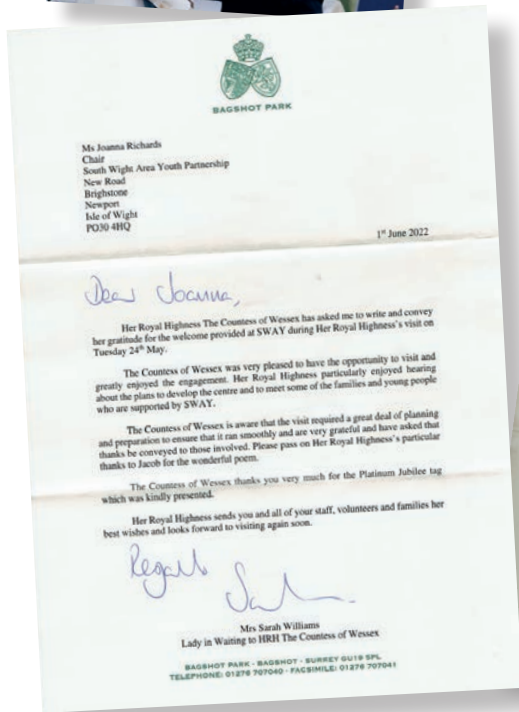
Although some who would have done the challenge were otherwise engaged with Jubilee celebrations in the area, the challenge was taken up by a good number and the worthy winners were the Colman family from Newport. The comment from Theo (6) and Darcie (9) was that "it was a bit hilly in places!"

It certainly was hilly and was perhaps our most challenging geo-cache so far.

Then we come to our Royal Visit on May 24th. HRH the Countess of Wessex came to Chale to see our plans for the Community Hub and hear about our wider work in the South Wight. This was a stellar event for us. Seven of our young people and a family representative came along to meet the Countess and tell of their involvement with SWAY. Ruby told of the fun she had



with the cooking, Alfie spoke about the groups he is involved in, Archie, Alanna and Phoebe of their excitement about going to the Lakes in the summer ('do the DofE', encouraged the Countess), Olivia told of her plans to volunteer with SWAY next year in her gap year and Jacob recited his poem 'Majesty' to the Countess. She seemed particularly moved by this. She also seemed very interested in all we were doing and planning. Judging by a letter we received from her office, she was fully supportive of our work and has promised to open the Hub when it is built.



Majesty by Jacob Mills

*As the Elden Oak rises, so in strength shall she
As long as thy tempest roll so shall it be
The moon and sun in their constant flight, will shine upon her day and night
Her crowning, blessed, majesty.*

*As sure as dawn turns to dusk, so shall she reign
As constant as the western wind, her rule shall be ordained
Her stirring soul, her patient care, her reign that fears no compare
Her steadfast rule, maintained.*

*To all those she inspires, rise up with newfound might
To all those she emboldened, don't ever lose your fight
Her lasting grit, her inspiring word, all around her voice is heard
Her reign, her own, by rite.*

*As Diamonds glimmer in the earth, her crown shall glimmer more
As precious stones glow in dells, her jewels shall show no flaw
The radiant gems, the vibrant hues, arrayed in gold an artist muse.*

*For her all hearts shall thaw
For all that she has done, we celebrate it now
For all that she will ever do we take a solemn vow
So on this day her Jubilee we dance and cheer
and sing with glee and take the knee to bow.*

The Community Hub

The Hub Project Team (Susannah, Caroline and Richard) have been beaver away with fundraising for the Hub since our launch at Northcourt in April. We invited a range of people to that launch and a number of folk gave presentations about SWAY and the vision for the Hub, each of whom gave a strong endorsement of the work and it's importance. We had some excellent feedback on our presentations there. The Hub Project Team have also been busy with plans for the Hub, the result of which is that we now have around a third of what we need to build (£100000) and are working on securing the remainder with a view to building next year sometime. There is still some way to go, but we are seeing progress towards this vision becoming reality.

To Ventnor and beyond

The other area that has taken up much of our time and energy over the last 6 months has been the idea of extending our work to Ventnor – Ventnor is, after all, very much a part of the South Wight geographically. After some very positive conversations with church leaders in Ventnor and the Town council, we are now in the position of moving forward in this plan in partnership with Ventnor. With some funding from the Police Commissioners and the Ventnor Church community, we are advertising for a full-time youth worker for the Ventnor area for this September. The idea is that the post would work across the area, but have a primary focus on the Ventnor area. Prayers for this are greatly appreciated.

SWAY already works with some young people and families in the Ventnor area, so this is not totally new ground. We must remember that the PO38 area includes Whitwell, Wroxall, Chale and Lowtherville too. This is an enormous challenge for SWAY financially, as well as practically, but we believe this is the road we are being led to take. The funding secured so far suggests this is the right way forward. Furthermore, the needs and opportunities in Ventnor are significant, duly recognised by the Police grant. Therefore, we need to find the right person for this role in time for September.

Volunteers

We need more volunteers across the area – volunteers for groups, events and mentoring – it's as simple as that. With a growing range and scope of work, we are in real need of reliable and committed volunteers who can give us some of their time to cover the workload. Have you got a couple of hours each month that you can spare us to help in the work? We would be happy to talk to anyone who is interested in volunteering with us for the coming year, whatever your experience.

Having made this plea for volunteers, it has been inspiring to see our young people volunteering at various events: the Jubilee weekend events, Shorwell midsummer fair and Open gardens in Niton.



The summer

There is a Summer Activity programme being prepared with an exciting package of activities for young people, that will be over 4 or 5 days and should be fun. The programme will be up on the website for bookings soon.

Then as August beckons, so does our trip to the Lakes. We are looking forward to our largest group yet for this trip – 28 young people. We have just secured our second minibus to get us up there, for which we are profoundly grateful. We have received some offers of sponsoring a young person for the Lakes, but would be very pleased to receive one or two more, if anyone is still thinking about it. It is £60 to sponsor a young person to go to the Lakes. Let Catherine know if you are interested.

Families' Worker

Jennie Burke, as reported in the last Update, retires at the end of June and we wish her well in her retirement. We are delighted to report that we have appointed a replacement for Jennie – more on that in the next Update. We are excited about this appointment, which will commence at some point over the summer.

Funding

Life has been very full on for our team of Andy, Jennie, Jacob and Catherine over the last few months. Trustees have been busy with all the plans and opportunities facing us. Looking to the next year, we are aware that some of our grant funding has come to an end, which leaves us with a considerable gap in our core funding. We are very grateful for all the generous support we have received from so many over a number of years. Regular giving to SWAY helps in planning and we are grateful to everyone who gives regularly. But the simple fact is that we need more regular giving to sustain our work and meet the growing demand for SWAY. If you would like to support us on a regular basis and haven't done so yet or would like to adjust your giving, then please get in touch through the form on the back or contact Catherine on ***swayoffice1@gmail.com*** and she will be happy to talk with you about it.

Whilst our opportunities have never been larger, our challenges have similarly never been bigger. Appreciating all your support so far, we look forward to further support to get this work done, young people motivated and inspired and families helped and resourced for their own challenges.

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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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.

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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