

May Update 2021



SWAY Charity Number: 1160139



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

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South Wight Youth Partnership | Charity Registration 1160139

**Since our last Update in March the Team and Trustees have been busy with a variety of tasks and activities. We are keen, as always, to tell you all about these things, as well as things to come.**

As the summer ushers us into a more hopeful and positive time as a nation, so SWAY is looking forward to some exciting opportunities on warmer, longer days. But first, let us take a look back at the last 3 months.

Firstly, the Community Hub has been bubbling away for a couple of years now, but it seems, at long last, that we are coming to a point where some big decisions need making and some real progress seen. Suffice it to say, plans are beginning to take shape and there is hope that it all might come right over the next year. Helping to raise funds for this project, Didi Nicholson and Susannah Seely are currently sailing round the UK and you can follow their progress on [www.seahorse184.com](http://www.seahorse184.com)

Susannah is part of a brilliant team working to make this dream a reality, along with Caroline Frew, Richard Webb, Jo Richards and Andy Dorning. Look out for further news on this project in the months ahead.



Secondly, as we drew near to Easter we were keen to get the young people out and about.

## The Geo-caching Challenge 2021

In the first week of the holiday was a sterner test than last year's Challenge: 20 discs with different Christian symbols were located in some very interesting and remote places all the way from Whitwell to Brook.

Over the week nine teams completed the Challenge and others managed to partially complete it.

The winning team was the Nerds from Niton, aka the Reddecliffs, who completed it in under 3 days!



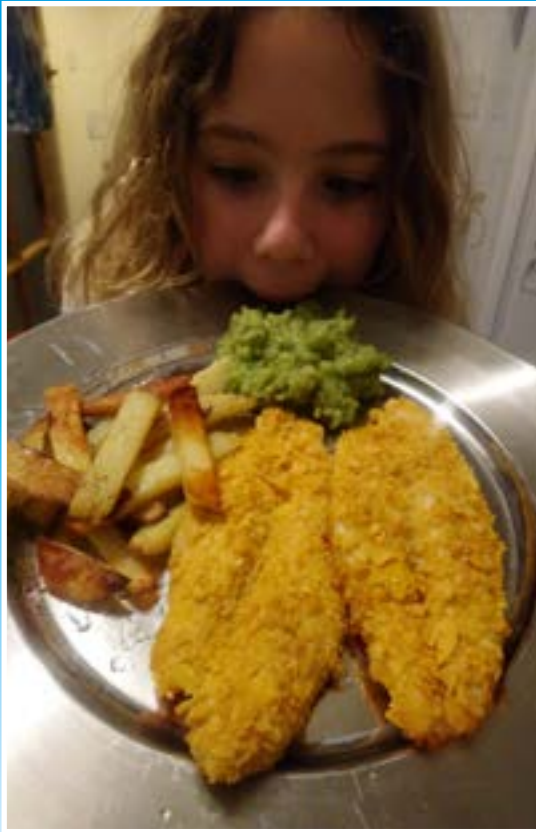


The second week of the holiday was no less busy with 2 kayaking journeys on consecutive days from Corfe, involving 30 young people.



During the first of these the group paddled past 5 seals resting peacefully on the banks, seemingly not too disturbed by our presence. This was an experience that made that trip very special and hopefully obscured the real difficulty the group had in getting back to Corfe against a strong wind.





Thirdly, the Box Project has continued with real success. As many as 20 families have joined on zoom every fortnight to cook, share the fun and produce some highly nourishing food. Jennie Burke (Youth & Families' Worker) is planning an open air one-pot cooking evening at Corfe in the near future, which sounds fun.

Fourthly, our changing team; Kieran Orr joined us for 5 weeks and fitted in really well with the team. Kieran will enter his 3rd year at Moorlands in September. Sadly, he will not be doing his placement with us next year, but it was great to have him working with us and we wish him well for the future. Jack Norridge has been a terrific addition to the team since joining last September, but sadly, we said goodbye to him in April, though we will remain in contact with him, as he and Jocelyn settle into their work in North Africa.

Thanks to your votes we have our own Local Hero, Andy Dorning, who won the Award recently sponsored by Isle of Wight Radio – well deserved and perhaps a reflection of the hard work done by the whole team.



## And so we begin to think about the coming summer.

Corfe Camp is on the weekend of 11th to 13th June. We don't yet know how that will work out, but we look forward to spending some valuable time there with the young people. Those weekends are always rich times of building friendships and exploring faith, and after this long-disrupted time apart we are ready for this camp like never before.

Our summer residential in the Lakes has attracted a good number of young people and we are near full capacity of 20 young people, plus 6 young leaders. We have struggled to find minibuses this year for the trip, but we are grateful that Ryde School has offered us one minibus, so we have only one now to find. We charge the young people £120 for this trip, though the real cost is more like £180. We are very grateful to Sandown Rotary Club who are making a donation towards the cost of this trip, which will help this difference to be bridged. However, there still remains a gap of £45 for each young person going. Therefore, we



asking if some of our supporters would sponsor a young person for this trip to make up this difference. If we can find 20 sponsors to cover the 20 young people who we hope to have in the Lakes, that would be a cause for great celebration and a great help. If you are interested in this idea, please contact Catherine on [swayoffice1@gmail.com](mailto:swayoffice1@gmail.com)

In preparation for this trip we are arranging 3 training mornings for 6 young leaders to enable them to take some responsibility for the younger ones we are taking away. This is a great opportunity for these 6 older young people to learn how to serve and lead.

There will be a number of other activities and meetings over the summer, as the loosening of restrictions allows. We have ideas aplenty and look forward to connecting again in person with young people and families. Please keep us in mind as we seek to bring hope and focus to the young people and families of South Wight.

We have now sent out an advert for a part-time youth worker for September to replace Jack. This is a huge need, to provide Andy with the support he needs to lead and conduct groups. Please pray for this and the other situations mentioned in this Update. Your support and prayers are never taken for granted and always appreciated.

## Feedback

Recently, we conducted a survey amongst parents of young people who are involved in SWAY. It was a thoroughly positive exercise and we include some of the responses below.

“The SWAY activities are a much needed life line for our children. They have provided essential ways to connect with others and have given them lots of different moments to look forward to. The range of activities is excellent creating opportunities for differing personalities and preferences. The many activities are always well organised, prepared and appropriately applied to the different groups and settings. The challenges that SWAY have set the young people have been great and really fun to take part in whilst helping the young people to stretch themselves and try new things. Thanks guys!!”

“The activities and support that SWAY provides, allows my son to develop and build his friendships within his peer group especially with the added restrictions of living in a rural area. It has been a vital tool in my child’s struggle with mental health issues especially with the latest COVID pandemic. There is limited support for young people within our area as public transport is appalling and other groups such as scouts, cadets are not available locally.”

“Without SWAY I don’t think we would be here; the team have been fantastic and cannot fault them. We have had the pleasure as parents to join in and do the activities provided: cooking and crafts. Being a single parent and meeting up with others like myself has been very good. The SWAY team are just brilliant thank you.”

“The SWAY team have been invaluable for our young people since they first began and this has been especially so during the last year with so many lockdowns and the lack of other social interaction. It’s amazing...the fun activities are always so incredibly good for their mental health. The adults are all so supportive and helpful.”

“.....keep up this valuable service we don’t want it to stop.”

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

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