



Bringing Hope and Focus to Youth & Families of South Wight

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www.southwightyouth.org

South Wight Youth Partnership | Charity Registration 1160139

June 2023 SWAY Update

As Summer approaches we are drawn to the outside world, with all its colour and new life around us. This is certainly the case for SWAY, with an exciting and busy time ahead. In this Update you will see some pictures and an account of our recent Corf Camp, hear about our continuing plans for the Hub at Chale, read of our busy summer activities, including our Lakes Residential in August.



But first ...

The Royal Tea Box Project

The plan was to do something special for our older folk over the whole SWAY area to dovetail with the Coronation of King Charles III. We would bake and put together a Royal Tea Box which would include 2 scones baked by the young people themselves, 2 pots of jam, 2 cartons of clotted cream, a specially commissioned poem by Jacob on the Coronation and some information about SWAY.



We identified 50 homes for these Boxes, put the Boxes together on the Thursday before the Coronation and then delivered them the following evening in time for the Coronation itself on the Saturday. The Rev Hugh Wright helped with deliveries in the Ventnor area. Young people were asked to help deliver these Boxes and so 8 young people accompanied various members of SWAY to deliver these tasty box of surprises to their destinations.

The Boxes were gratefully received and below we have included some of the feedback that was received subsequent to the weekend.

“Thank you all for making the Coronation Picnic for me. The scones were delicious and better than mine! The poem was so thoughtful and well written.”

“Thank you to all who gave time and thought to the cooking and presentation of my Royal Tea Box. The scones were lovely, especially with tea, jam and cream. Also, Verdant Crown by Jacob all added to the day – much appreciated.”

“Please convey my most grateful thanks to all the young people of SWAY, who put together the very special Royal Tea Gift Box and gave one to me. The Gift Box was such a lovely





idea and I very much enjoyed a scone (and jam and cream) for tea on two days running. Thank you also for including Jacob's poem. I am very pleased to have a fair copy to keep and treasure. And lastly, thank you for all the work and activities SWAY do with young people and their families. I follow them with prayerful interest. May God continue to bless you all."

Verdant Crown by Jacob Mills

Oh low behold the stately oak, of mottled ancient root, take your mantle in the light with youth of pure shoot.

One of such an ancient line, king amongst the cracking pines, a lord to guard us on our way upon his blessed day.

Take heart in love and hold him dear, divine his reignment made, take shelter in his canopy the comfort of his shade.

Love again past fading morn, from him new affection born, hope rekindled again to flame, upon his coming reign.

Take seed in hand and sow it wide, a wood of many souls, add thy bark to listless yews in hidden, darkened knolls.

From his light may smothered seeds, grow on past the sunken weeds, to have their chance in life to gaze amidst the sun Lords rays.

Take view of him, his mantle fresh, anointed with new growth, let sapling leaves shed away upon his solemn oath.

A crown of herbs in verdancy, his rite to reign a certainty, a band of twisted hazel true inlaid with gems of dew.

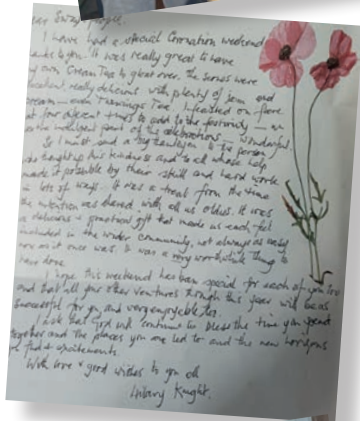
Take heed of truths, in lies to loathe, his wisdom from his house, reared in royal canopy, the fullness of his boughs.

To hold truth as a sacred rite, to keep at bay the coming night, to banish lies born from hate, his godly, lorded fate.

Take sight of him in royal garbs, a crown of brittle bone, may stronger roots entwined with his upon his sacred throne

Let root inlay with elder oak, strength evoked from absent folk, take wisdom from the oak before the ashen bark restored.

Oh low behold the stately oak, the seasons of his span, may a crown of autumn gold wreath this patient man.



“Hi there. I am so glad I agreed to the children’s visit. They were so lovely. I appreciated it so much. Jim would have loved it. Thank you for recommending me.”

“We want to send you our warm thanks for the delicious cream tea you gave us to mark the Coronation of King Charles. The scones were very good and it was a real treat too, to have clotted cream! Thank you too for the poem which made us think hard to follow the clever thinking behind the idea. Also, especially thank you to those of you who gave up time to prepare the boxes and to those who delivered them. Your gift gave us a great pleasure.”

“How very kind of you to bring me the Royal Tea Box yesterday. A much appreciated and thoughtful gift together with the poem by Jacob Mills, who was one of the delivery party. He should be very proud. The members of the delivery party were delightful and it made my day to meet them. Thank you all.”

And one more ... “A huge thank you to SWAY for our Royal cream tea so beautifully presented and delivered!! I’m afraid we haven’t waited for the Coronation and have eaten them!!!” We had phone calls from several others saying thank you too!!

As you can see, it was a very worthwhile effort and maybe we need to think more about how we can keep in mind and action the older ones in our communities.





The Mentoring Group, now known as the River Project

This continues to build confidence and relationship skills for those involved – 2 groups of 4 at St Francis Primary, Ventnor and 1 group at Brighstone Primary. These sessions are designed to support young people who may need support in the transition from Primary School into High School. We use a programme that works around the themes of positive mental health and providing them with the skills and tools they need to help them transition into the next stage of their lives, whether this is with confidence, looking after themselves physically and mentally, looking at positive and negative thoughts, how they can look after themselves and others within a group sessions and once a term they get 1:1 mentoring support from one of the staff team. One young person quoted...



“I’ve learnt more in these sessions than in PSHE lessons”

They have also had the opportunity to go on trips, we have been to Pizza Hut, Marwell Zoo and Skates.



We are hoping to build on this great start next year and plans are already underway as to how we fund and build this into our schedule.



Weird Christians and Youth Groups

The youth groups in Niton (Rock Solid and Roots) continue to thrive. These groups are usually a lot of fun and full of energy. Rock Solid recently had a session on what is it that makes Christians weird. The group came out with 'they dunk babies', which led to a discussion around baptisms and how this is done in different churches and denominations.



The SWAY team are working in collaboration with Ventnor town council youth work in order to provide a youth club for young people age 9-15yrs. This group enjoy playing games, running around outside, doing activity sheets and enjoy a fun basketball session. The workers provide equipment and activities for the young people and a safe space and listening ear to any young person who comes along.



The Brighstone/Shorwell group is still struggling to get off the ground.

Reaching out to Families with Lynne

"Chat, Craft and Cake continues in Chale and has grown a little by word of mouth. We continue to limit advertising as such as we are limited by space and the lack of facilities (toilet and running water). But it has been enjoyed by those who have come and we have made an assortment of crafty

things, some of which have been organised activities and some which the children have initiated, for example glitter balloons and slime, embossing, clay, peg creations and sea glass/drift wood art.

We have been able to run a drop-in lunchtime gardening club at Niton school with thanks to some keen volunteers (Julie Cox, Anthony Truckell and Nicola Fradgley). This has been well attended with some enthusiastic young gardeners. There was a lot of work to do to prepare the beds for planting, but we are getting there and hope to have some produce to show at Chale Show.

I continue to work alongside a few of our families, supporting them in their unique and sometimes challenging situations, building relationships and hopefully encouraging them that they are not alone in their struggles.”

Lynne does some very valuable and focused work for which we are very grateful and impressed by.



Corf Camp adventures

No better place to spend a sunny weekend in June than Corf Camp with a bunch of fine young people, racing Flintstone Carts, splashing paint onto white sheets, kayaking up to Shalfleet, singing round a bright campfire, playing volleyball, eating pancakes and numerous other activities?

17 young people joined the SWAY team for the weekend for our annual Camp at Corf. 7 young leaders helped set up camp on the Friday evening, the remainder joining us on Saturday morning, along with a few family groups. The sweltering heat on Saturday was replaced by distant thunder and lightning and a lot of rain overnight and into Sunday morning.

We enjoyed a celebration service at the beautiful Church of the Holy Spirit at Newtown on Sunday morning, before packing up and going home after a final drink at Corf. This was a weekend well spent and thoroughly enjoyed.

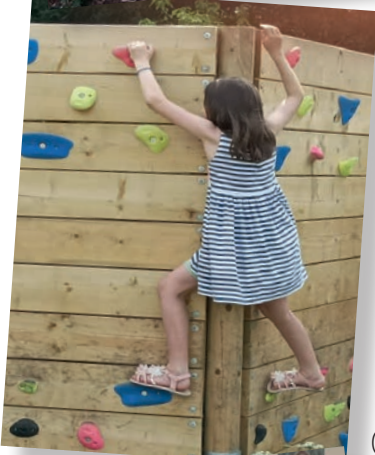




Hub trials and traverses

Progress with the Hub is slow and beset with difficulties, but we are making progress. New Plans are being drawn up that will take into account some of the restrictions and obstacles (such as drains and underground pipework) we have met along the way. We have good hope that this will result in something very exciting for Chale and the area, and of course for SWAY, as a base and centre of the work.

Crucially it will be on land that we own, which is a great advantage. Most of our present funding is still in place, though there is still a gap to be filled.



Summer fun

Looking towards the summer holidays, we have a number of local activities for young people lined up and which will be booked up before long I suspect. These include BBQs, Disc Golf at the Garlic Farm, Crazy Golf, a trip to Chessington, some Crabbing on the shores and a Photo Burst. All good fun and a chance to get together and build relationships for the young people.



Of course, our major event of the summer is our Residential in the Lakes. We have a nearly full set of bookings for this,

Costs for activity providers have, along with everything else it seems, rocketed. We are asking more from the young people this year, but still have a gap between what it costs us and what we

charge the young people. I know we have done this before and we are grateful for all previous support offered, but we would ask for some of you to sponsor a young person once again to go to the Lakes, which is a fantastic opportunity for them. We are asking £180 from the young people, whereas it costs us somewhere in the region of £250 per young person. We would be enormously grateful for any sponsorship for a young person of £65 to cover this gap. If this is something you think you could do please contact Catherine on swayoffice1@gmail.com or 07880951243 Many thanks in anticipation.

Trainee Student

Beyond the summer we have the exciting prospect of having, once more, a student at Moorlands College, doing their placement with us while studying for a Degree in Youth Work. Olivia, our Gap Year for this year, has decided to apply for this course. We are very excited by this and look forward in anticipation to see the journey which Olivia is about to make with us.

Olivia writes: “I have recently applied to Moorlands college to study Applied Theology (Youth and Community Work). This is a flexible learning course meaning I can be placed with SWAY and do most of my studying on the island. I will go to the College for three block weeks throughout the year. I am excited to be able to work with SWAY over the next three years as I study.”



As you can see, from pictures, feedback and word, SWAY are hard at work to give hope and focus to many young people and families in the area. Please keep praying, supporting and rooting for us, in whatever way you can. It is, as always, much appreciated.

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)



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