

# Projects Activities Events

At

Clifton Youth Centre



Heather Baxendale 2003

## **CLIFTON YOUTH CENTRE**

### **A summary of projects, events and activities to May 2003**

During February 2002 the Youth Centre was subjected to an arson attack. The kitchen was completely gutted and the rest of the building internally was badly affected including work done by young people. The building eventually re-opened in October 2002 with limited resources and equipment donated or loaned by colleagues within other centres whilst insurance negotiations were taking place. During the period of closure the team of youth workers had been maintaining contact and building on previously developed relationships with young people in the area.

Since reopening, it has been encouraging to see new young people coming to the centre as well as returnees. There is a good mix of gender and age range from 11 to 18 years. There have been various opportunities available for young people to participate as outlined below. These have included discussions and debate about topical subjects, addressing issues relating to young people, their needs, concerns and self-development using various mediums with elements of fun and enjoyment built in. There have also been discussions relating to the accessibility of information for young people and how it is presented.

The junior night for 11-13 year olds has proved very popular. There is also a large group of 15+ years young people, male and female. A group of 17+ years young men whose previous anti-social behaviour has caused concern in the past have also re-engaged with the centre.

### **Topical Projects:**

Collages of newspaper articles were put together to highlight issues and initiate discussion and debate relating to asylum seekers and gun culture. This was as a result of challenging negative comments made by young people with regard to these issues.

**Big Breakfast:** This was a very enjoyable 'fun' event that took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2003. Young people participated in a planned and negotiated event to raise money for 'Comic Relief' through walking between Clifton, Deans and the Height Youth Centres. At each centre items of breakfast food were consumed which culminated in a cooked breakfast at their starting point.

The young people who took part were presented with a certificate from the Mayor at a joint ceremony held in Bridgewater Youth Centre during April 2003.

**Bike Links Project:** Initially the Project Leader from this organisation came to a youth centre session to explain the details of a proposed project within the centre. This was attended by a mixed age and gender group. This opportunity was enthusiastically received by male members of the junior group. As a result, the project took place during 'twilight' hours between 4.30 and 6.30 p.m. on a weekly basis for seven weeks. The sessions were funded by Swinton Community Committee, lead by the Bikelinks project leader and supported by a qualified male youth worker.. They were attended on a regular basis by a group of young men aged 13+ .Now there has been an initial element of interest it is hoped that a further project can be take place. It is also possible that this project could be incorporated within a Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

A separate report has been prepared for this project.

**Art Activities:**

### Murals and signs

The youth centre murals and signs are now awaiting external display.

Young people have also expressed an interest in submitting ideas for a logo and design for a new membership card.

Prior to the fire young people had designed their own displays in a graffiti style which had been transferred to the internal walls of the centre. These were destroyed during the fire and the sealant used on the walls as a result mean they cannot be repeated in this format. However interest has been shown with regard to designing a board in this manner within the centre.

During its closure the building did not suffer from negative graffiti. However this had recently became a problem but has now been removed and

arrangements are in hand for the murals to be displayed. A project using young people's ideas for 'artistic' graffiti designs outside of the centre and/or the skatepark has been discussed. The latest unwelcome contributions were from external sources not using the centre.

### Photo Project – Swinton Youth Calendar

Young people from Clifton Youth Centre, Girls Group and the 'C' Project took part in a photo project involving positive illustrations of the area. This was a joint Swinton Project involving the Poets and Valley areas as well as Clifton. The photos submitted from the Clifton Groups included pictures of swans, birds, ducks, fishermen at the Dam, the community playpark, nursery and young people having fun. Copies of this calendar have been distributed.

Discussions have since taken place with the centre manager and community project workers regarding the production of a future calendar specific to Clifton.

### Posters

Young people have also been involved in doing posters advertising events, activities, notices and the coffee bar.

### T-shirts/Glass Bottles

Young people have had a very enjoyable time designing and painting customised t-shirts and glass bottles. .

### Personal Care

A project involving two beauticians attending three sessions engaged in work with young people evolved into mixed gender debates.

Some very interesting issues have arisen out of the discussions during these two activities including relationships, teenage pregnancy, personal respect and self-confidence, further education and employment, drugs, violence, responsibilities and consequences.

It is envisaged that this initial identification be linked into future project work and personnel development programmes relating to self-esteem, confidence, relationships and awareness of others. This through the process of negotiation with young people and their committed participation.

### Youthbank - Salford Quays Event

A group of 17 young people expressed an interest in attending this event held at Salford Quays of the 1<sup>st</sup> June. On this date 17 young people were waiting with completed consent forms for the mini bus to collect and transport them! They joined in all the activities on offer with great enthusiasm.

A selection of photos illustrating young people's participation in the foregoing projects are attached.

A display board has also been compiled illustrating the projects, activities and discussions within and external to the youth centre.

## **Skatepark Facility**

During the Easter holidays there was an opportunity for young people attending the centre to become involved in training sessions with equipment provision. The activity was supported by staff from the youth service and sports development. This was very popular and enjoyable which is illustrated in the photos included at the end of this report.

The skatepark was officially opened on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2003. It was attended by a wide range of people including elected members, Clifton Initiative, young people from local and surrounding areas, community residents, youth centre staff team and an exiting display of skateboard and bike stunts were performed. There was a buffet catering for approximately 100 people provided within the youth centre. A selection of photos are included with this report and Groundwork also have a CD of photos, a copy of which has been sent to the youth centre.

## Future Events

Currently there are activities being planned by a group of young people with support from the youth work team. They are go-carting, night walk and bar-b-que, leading to a camping/residential over a longer period of time. These are being undertaken with the understanding from young people of the need for their involvement, negotiation, commitment within the planning process as well as enjoyment of the activity.

## Future Plans -

Areas of work or issues arising for future programme planning have been identified through staff team evaluation of our work with young people as being -

- Young people's personal care and safety
- Respect for themselves and each other
- Awareness of others
- Relationships
- Personal development, self esteem/confidence building
- Social and life skills
- Career and further education information
- Awareness of taking responsibility for actions

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- Consequences of negative action and behaviour

It is planned to continue maximising the use and involvement of centre for community and young people aged 16+ related activities.

For instance -

- providing a base for Clifton Young Women's Club
- Taster learning sessions - Lifelong Learning week May 03 (involving community residents and 16+ youth club members)
- Parent and Toddler Group
- Community sports leader award in association with sports development
- Identify if interest in taking above initiatives further including a personal development programme with potential for an education motor project or Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Continued liaison with community events and projects
- Base for meetings to be held for e.g. Clifton Initiative, Salford City Council Youth Information Day.

Comic



Relief









