

## Litchborough Youth Club Report - May 2019

The Litchborough Youth Club, run by Youth Inspired, is a monthly 90-minute youth club for young people aged between 10 -16 years. The club generally runs on the second Tuesday of the month throughout the year, and we are keen to ensure some consistency for the young people by securing these dates for upcoming clubs. The club is staffed by youth workers with a range of skills and experience and funded by Litchborough Parish Council.

I am pleased to report that we have begun to see an increase in numbers as the nights are drawing out; we now have a core group of 5 who we hope will be able to raise awareness around the village and lead to a snowball effect in the number of young people attending.

We are aware that numbers were low during the winter months but having spoken to parents and the young people it is evident that this is due to parents being uncomfortable with young people walking to the club in the dark. Whilst we understand that this is a concern, we feel that the club is a great asset to the young people and we would like to encourage parents to accompany their children to and from the club, so that they can benefit from the activities and independent space offered.

The provision of a youth club within the village is a great asset for the young people, who have told us that they value the opportunity to socialise with their peers, engage in projects and activities, be active and have a safe space away from home. Upon discussion of the topics and activities for future clubs the young people have expressed an interest in spending some time each month talking about a nominated topic, such as online safety, community engagement and healthy eating. As this was suggested by the young people we will be integrating this in to our planning for the upcoming clubs with immediate effect. Additionally, the young people would like to purchase some additional equipment, such as table football or table tennis, which can be used every week.

As with many of our Youth Inspired youth clubs, the young people particularly enjoy cooking during our sessions and so far this year we have created pancake 'art' (using different coloured batters on a hot plate create shapes and pictures) and made Easter nests. We will be continuing with cooking activities with a focus on introducing some healthy snack ideas and simple meals.

During the April club the young people enjoyed being able to play football and tag outside, as well as the firm favourite of hide and seek. Although we recognise this can be noisy for some residents (and we do ask the young people to be respectful of the people living around the village hall), it is also joyous to see the young people socialising together regardless of attending different schools and being physically active. We then made Easter nests and discussed ideas for upcoming clubs and also the plan for a family quiz night.

We are keen to organise a 'family quiz night' where families within the village are invited to come along and enjoy a fun evening together. This will serve a dual purpose of also increasing awareness and interest in the youth club, and allowing parents to meet the staff and ask any questions they may have so we can address any concerns. The young people have suggested topics for the quiz, as well as proposing we have a buffet (including a crowd-pleasing pork pie!) and a prize for all attendees so that no one feels left out. This shows a level of conscientiousness in the young people of Litchborough which should be commended.

Should you have any questions or suggestions for the youth club, or ideas for community projects that we may be a part of then please do not hesitate to contact Jenny Evans ([jenny@cypn.org](mailto:jenny@cypn.org)).

Many thanks,

Alice George

Lead Youth Worker for Litchborough Youth Club