



A new youth project steps forward



It was a shock to the young people in Ennesettle, Whitleigh and St Budeaux when Barefoot, the organisation that provided most of their clubs and activities, announced it was closing at the end of March. The charity had been working with young people across these communities since 2013. Last year it supported more than 500 young people; putting on something for young people to go to every single night of the week. In March it was announced it was to close and to close abruptly.

The two youth workers employed by Barefoot, Jon and Carly, were as shocked as the young people. They knew how much the young people relied on Barefoot, not just for the activities but the regularity, the security and support. As Jon says it was important to ensure that all this, wasn't lost:

"It was horrendous. It was so quick and there was no money available to end it appropriately and many of the young people were really upset."

Jon and Carly moved quickly working with the City Council and POP Ideas to set up a Community Interest Company called Connecting Youth. With an application now lodged at Companies House, the two former Barefoot youth workers are optimistic that they can get the necessary funding to ensure much of the youth work continues. Meanwhile, there remains a skeleton provision with Carly's dance classes and 'street-based work' engaging with young people, hanging around the streets, because there is nowhere for them to go.

As Connecting Youth takes shape there are already opportunities with the project running the dog show and the dancers performing at Ennesettle's, King's Coronation Carnival (organised with £5,000 from the POP Collective Fund). Meanwhile, work is underway through the CIC to bring young people into the city-wide initiative Belong In Plymouth. Ten young people have committed to train as Community Researchers after which they will carry out one-to-one interviews with members of their communities, capturing recipients' thoughts and feelings about loneliness and social isolation. Without Barefoot and its investment over the last ten years, it is possible that these young people might not have felt motivated or confident enough to do this and this is something of which the charity - and all those who have worked with it - can be truly proud. Now it's time to support Connecting Youth as it steps into the significant impression left by Barefoot.

For more information on Connecting Youth contact Jon at jondingle.cyuk@gmail.com

Young People - Our Best Hope for The Future



left to right:

Jon Dingle with Harriet Russell, Laci Colgan, Gracie Russell, Alanha Mason, Isla Keeley, Tegan Hilton, Charley Drew

There are more than a hundred POP member projects supporting children and young people across the city. From Scouts and Brownies to sports clubs and wellbeing workshops with a veritable rainbow of projects in between they are all investing, not just in our young people, but in our communities. The commitment and dedication of those involved to sustain these projects and support our children is to be commended and, as a city, we should be extremely grateful to everyone involved. Building resilience in our young people, fostering positive relationships and providing much-needed support is an investment for all of us as families, as communities and as a city.

Pick of the POPs: examples of some of POP's members' initiatives:

The Tree Project using yoga and mindfulness to support children and young people's health and wellbeing. Jeremiah's Journey offers help for young people dealing with bereavement. The Football Boot Bank - the circular economy of football boots. Sailing Tectona giving opportunities for disadvantage young people to get out on

the water. And Creative Curiosity South West providing experiences for all YP from toddlers to teenagers particularly those from the neurodivergent community.

As a city we are also fortunate that the local authority has retained its youth service with a youth club in Efford and full-time youth workers in Efford, Honicknowle and Southway. What's remarkable in Efford, is that there are teenagers going to the same youth club in the same building as their parents did more than twenty years before them. One of the youth workers, John Davies, says the work they do benefits the whole community:

"Over the years Efford has had a bad reputation, there's been trouble with the young people and there have been issues but, the reality is that, without the youth club, there is nothing for them to do and nowhere for them to go. Some weeks we're seeing between 40 and 50 young people and for many of them it's the only place where they can talk and where they have someone to listen."

Thursday evenings are the most popular night of the week when between 30 and 40 young people come from all over Plymouth. It's a great place to hang out, not least, because there's always something going on... whether that's karaoke; coding; online gaming or playing football with players from Plymouth Argyle's Community Trust.

Professional footballers from Argyle are leading on the Premier League KICKS programme for young people in thirteen different locations every week. On Thursday evenings there are six sessions, including Efford's Youth Club & Plympton's Rees Centre.

Plymouth Street Games provides sessions for young people from the age of five to twenty five, free-of-charge or at low cost with particular emphasis on encouraging 'youth leadership'. From boxing in Chaddlewood to cricket in Honicknowle: basketball in Eggbuckland to dance in Stonehouse there is a session taking place somewhere in the city with a focus on fun, enjoyment and social interaction on any night of the week.

Young People wanted to spend £1000



We believe young people hold the future in their hands and have amazing energy and ideas to create a positive future. But almost all funding is designed for adults which we think is unfair. That's why we've designed this unique fund - Ideas into Action - to give £1000 to groups of young people over the age of 16 who want to 'do good' in their communities. We won't ask for forms, budgets or receipts - just that you spend it wisely. Visit :

plymouthoctopus.org/ideas-into-action

4 Me and My Friends



Efford youth club hosts three different age-related clubs for young people from all over the city on the autistic spectrum called 4 Me and My Friends. A government-funded project jointly run by the Plymouth Youth Service, City College, Routeways and Friends & Families, it is now in its second year introducing the young people to a range of employment opportunities. So far they've visited Poole Farm (farming & education); Horizons (sailing); Blue Sound Diving (diving & photography) and the National Marine Aquarium (marine biology).

POP Outreach

We'll be at Chaddlewood Farm Community Centre on Monday the 22nd of May. 10.00 - 1.00 come and meet the team and find out how POP can support your community.

Free online events from  POP ideas Register at BIT.LY/POPIDEASEVENTS

Proving Your Impact
Friday 19 May

Learn to make the most of your impact data to attract more funding, support and publicity.

Plan On a Page
Tuesday 30 May

Plan for the future and better convey your message with a 1-page template.

Simplifying Your Social Media
Tuesday 6 June

Improve your understanding of social media and save time and effort on its delivery.