



Play & Youth News

Welcome to South Nottingham Play & Youth News!

Clifton Young People's Centre is 1 year old!

In March Clifton Young People's Centre celebrated its first year in a newly refurbished building. The children and young people at Junior Youth and Saturday Play sessions celebrated by making a gigantic cardboard cake with a huge candle, lots of sprinkles and glitter, cake top decorations and some tasty foam letters. The children wanted to design a cake that some of them could jump out during the party, but unfortunately we weren't able to get it finished in time. The cake was used as the first piece of decoration when you came into the party. Children wanted everyone to know what we was celebrating and it was going to be a tasty day!



At Clifton's 1st year celebration party, there were many activities, including a table tennis knock out competition for young people aged 8-13. The tournament was for all regardless of gender or ability and fourteen young people took part in the very competitive tournament. Throughout the competition young people remained friendly to each other, but one young person really stood out. Ella was one of two young females who entered and she played most of the better players even though she thought they were better than her and she was going to lose. Ella played and participated extremely well and her confidence increased as she made her

way through the tournament and as a result she reached the final, where she was narrowly defeated by arguably the best player in the club on the day.

The children and young people that attend the sessions at Clifton were such a help throughout the whole birthday celebration; making decorations, organising the food, helping with the arrangements, clearing things up, tidying etc. One of the things nearly all of them participated in, was the making of the welcome banner, each letter reflected an activity they had taken part in, e.g. hama beads, sewing, beads, buttons, gluing, painting, feathers and the general design and making of it. Hung up outside the building it looked even better than laid on the table during assembly and nearly all the young people looked at it with pride when they came in for the party and passed under it.



Clifton young people get their skates on

Young people aged 10-16 took part in two hours of roller skating fun, when our friends at SkateBase brought their roller disco to us.

For some young people this was their first time on skates and after wrapping them up in elbow pads, knee pads and wrist guards, we watched them transform from wobbling their way around the hall clinging to the walls (and each other) to stay upright to gracefully gliding around the hall unassisted.



Unavoidably, we had a few falls but the young people didn't let this stop them and after tending to a few bumps with ice-packs the young people all carried on mastering the art of balancing on eight wheels. The SkateBase crew members offered our learner skaters lots of tips and guidance to help them.

We had a few seasoned skaters amongst us, who were on a roll and zoomed round the hall (backwards at times) confidently, showing us their tricks and dancing along to all of the anthems being played by DJ Kev. It was very impressive to watch the young people and crew dancing the Macarena on skates.

All in all it was a fantastic, fun evening where young people learnt new skills, gained confidence and overcame obstacles. They improved their agility and co-ordination without realising that they were taking part in two hours of cross-fitness exercise. Many of the young people went on to put their new skating skills to good use later on that month at the #HealthyMe event at Harvey Hadden where roller-skating was voted one of the most enjoyable activities of the day.



Children at Oliver Hind beat their fears...

Over the Easter holidays, children from Oliver Hind play session had the chance to overcome some of their fears around animals.

They had the chance to meet and pet some animals from little chicks to tarantulas and snakes. The company Lion Learners bought many animals into Oliver Hind, so that some of the children could have the opportunity to hold them and learn more information about them and kick start the environment theme that ran running throughout April, May and June in the Thursday sessions.

A couple of the children were really scared about being close to the tarantulas, but with the support of their play and youth worker and the Lion Learner's staff, they overcame this fear and by the end of the session, were able to hold the tarantula in their hands.

Some of the other children gained the experience of holding animals such as Guinea pigs, rabbits, rats, snakes, and a bearded-dragon. They talked about how different animals felt in their hands, as some were soft and others were rough, and about how warm they felt when holding the animals. All of the children

showed care and love for the animals that they had only just met.

The children really enjoyed the day and said that they felt proud that they were able to beat their fears and hold some of the animals that they were originally scared of as well as meet new animals and learn about them.

St George's Day at St Ann's Play Centre

At the St Ann's Play Centre young people celebrated St George's day by playing different games, making swords helmets and armour as well as learning why some people celebrate the day. The children discovered how he was most widely known for slaying dragons(!) and wanted to re-enact the game Dragon Slayer.

Someone was the dragon and the others would have to find the dragon and lock him away in the cave. They played this interactive, fantasy game for most of the session and really enjoyed it because they wanted to continue it on to the following session.

It was great to see children positively interacting with each other and inventing new games, with resources.





Magic water

As we have been learning about our environment in all our centres, children and young people have been given opportunities to discuss and learn how things work in their environment.

In St Ann's Play Centre the children took part in a water experiment where they used water, food colouring and white paper towels to see how water travels. They then used water, food colouring and white cabbage to see again how water travels through the plant. The children learned from this experiment that water has an important role to play in our environment and how it helps our plants grow. The children had lots of fun together doing this and also were able to recognise why we needed water and how it can help keep our environment stay alive and healthy, it was science made fun!

Something sweet or something sour?

Will you take the challenge? Blindfold food tasting.

Children and young people at St Ann's Play Centre were busy cutting up fruits, apples, oranges, lemon, lime and grapes with biscuits and sweets on a plate ready for the blindfold tasting.

All children and young people were very excited to do this activity and those that were playing other games, stopped and came over to see what was happening, wanting to have a go and saying this "Looks like good fun". One young person started to make a list of all people who wanted to take the challenge. The first challenger came forward and took the hot seat, another young person put the blindfold on to cover their eyes.....To left of them was a waste bin to spit out anything they didn't like. Grape with lemon juice and a bit of sherbet....in the mouth it went..."Hhhmmm"...then "errr.. its nasty!" In the bin it went!



The next spoonful was biscuit, sherbet and orange mixed with popping candy.... in the mouth it went. Smiling chomping, "Hhhmm...that was great", said one young person, "Whats next?". Children and young people shouted out what it was and workers said "If you tell them what it is, they will have more scores than you". With shock on their faces, it went so quiet, as they whispered!!!

Children and young people really loved doing this activity; they have requested we do this again. We will do this in the future.



Together we made a stand against CSE

Young people from Russell Youth Club, pledged to make a stand against CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation). They did this by writing on their hands. In the fight against CSE, youth workers discussed issues round CSE and the impact it has on children and young people. Some of the young people were shocked to see how easy it was to get caught up in a world of the unknown

and how social media can play apart in this. Young people learnt about the importance of being self-aware and staying safe. Some stated "It would never happen to me", but after the sessions realise that they could potential put themselves in vulnerable positions by the way they use social media. The work and support will continue with young people to prevent CSE.

Children play using natural materials

Children from St Ann's Play Centre created a chicken, a nest and eggs by using our environment and being creative during Easter half-term .

Using the grounds of the Play Centre, children collected twigs, willow, branches , grass and red berries for the eyes then began to put it together. Some who view this may confuse it with a bird and a couple of children said "*this was so much fun*". It was an activity that got children outside to play using their imagination with natural materials. One child in particular, who normally does not get involved in such activities, helped to collect the materials and then helped to create the nest. It was great to see this child trying some new. This is hopefully the start of using our environment and being creative. As a follow up, children and young people have designed a new project which involves a windmill sculpture.



Watch out for future news!

Shelia Roper Community Centre - Play Session 5-13 yrs - Tuesday 3.30-5.00pm

Harrow Road Community Centre - Junior Youth Session 10-14 yrs Fridays 4.00-6.00pm



We hope you enjoyed reading Play & Youth News!

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