



**SUPPORTING THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THAME**

## **Annual Report**

**Thame Youth Projects Group – now known as**

**Thame Youth Projects Group (CIO) Registered No.1187553**

Well what a year, there has been so many good things it hard to know where to start.

I feel I should begin with the amazing volunteers. A massive thank you to all those who make everything we do fun engaging, safe and legal and possible.

In July we held our first “thank you event” for the volunteers. It was a great evening, certificates were handed out, photos taken, food consumed, and a great time was had by all.

We said goodbye to Barbara Thompson our faithful secretary who has been with us since the beginning in 2013 and hello to Gordon Taylor as the Secretary. He already volunteers weekly at the café’s and sits on the committee so thank you for taking on another role.

One of the biggest changes was saying goodbye to Nick Francis in July 2019 who has been with us as the Youth Café Manager since 2014. We are incredibly grateful for all his hard work and passion for young people which allowed us to become the successful youth café we are today. Thank you also to Barley Hill Church for donating so much of his time and in the later years allowing us to buy in hours.

September 2019 saw us take on our first employee, James Edney. Having secured funding from Thame Town Council and other sources we employed a full-time youth worker. This has been a big change for us moving forward. It has allowed to go grow the vision for the work with young people in Thame. In addition to the youth cafes we have run an all-day Youth Café on Academic review day, supported the local school and for the first time (thanks to funding from Oxfordshire County Council) we ran an all-day activity day in the February school break. This was a great success which we will look to repeat.

A massive part of the vision is providing a venue for the young people of Thame. There has been a lot of hard work in pursuing this over the last few months and the next year will see great progress in this area.

In the last financial year, we have migrated from a Charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This saw us have a new logo, make changes to the committee structure, bring in new Trustees and members to allow us to develop in line with the changing needs of the charity.

Thame is a very supportive community for the work we do with young people and we are grateful for the backing from such local charities as Thame Belles making us their charity for the year and helping us with fundraising cake sales, Thame Roundtable and Lions with their annual Santa sleigh rides. We are very grateful to Thame community for their ongoing backing.



## SUPPORTING THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THAME

### Youth Worker James Edney

I started part way through the year in September 2019. This report will outline the work that has been carried out between the months for September 2019 and March 2020.

### Young Leader

Throughout the period from September '19 – March '20, 3 young people have acted as young leaders. 2 of these opted not to continue due to not being able to commit the time necessary for personal reasons whilst one has continued and has started using the time with us as part of their D of E.

### School Work

Small group runs during lunchtime. Identified group of young people who do not engage well at school. Positive relationships developed with the individuals. Young people beginning to open up. Began visiting 6<sup>th</sup> Form one lunchtime. Started engaging with small group. Lead to development of sports club.

### Holiday Activities

In December, a group of 3 young people were taken to the ice rink in Oxford for a midnight session just for young people from across the county organised by a partner organisation.

In the February half term, 78 young people attend the activity day. They enjoyed a vast array of activities including crafts, workshops, gaming & a film. The day ran for 11 hours with something for the young people to do throughout.

### Outreach/detached

Establishing team which required identifying volunteers and upskilling them, yet to be implemented. Sourced funding for resources for a Pop-Up Café

### Youth Cafe.

Both Youth Cafés saw a steady increase in numbers.

The Lower Café averaged 47.01 young people a session between September and December 2019. This grew to 49.11 per session between January and March 2020. An increase of 4.467% over the 7-month period. Figures for each week during those periods can be found in Appendix A at the end of this document.

The Upper Café averaged 5.86 young people a session between September and December 2019. This grew to 8.78 per session between January and March 2020. An increase of 49.791% over the 7-month period. Figures for each week during those periods can be found in Appendix A at the end of this document.



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During the half term of February 2020, a full day of activities was planned. Leading up to this, the young people were verbally consulted about what they would like to do during the day.

On the day itself, the young people were asked which of the potential new logos designs and colours they preferred. The new logo is strongly impacted by the results from that day.

### March 2020

As a result of the pandemic, all of our face to face activities ceased. We responded to this promptly, starting online sessions, the first of which was March 26<sup>th</sup>2020, 3 days after the lockdown was announced. Part of our desire from social media was to continue to offer support to our young people and act as a signpost to organisations who were continuing to work through the pandemic and offering advice on coping with mental ill-health whilst being unable to leave the house.

### Conclusion

The work carried out from September until the lockdown in March saw a progressive and healthy growth. The charity's provisions in the town saw a healthy growth, with the youth café numbers increasing, work and relationship with the school being developed. Going forward we hope to re-start the Youth Café as and when permitted by Government rules, implementing Outreach and detached work when again permitted.

Thank you again to everyone who made all of this possible, a fantastic year and we look forward to what the next year will bring

Linda Newton

Chairman