

Brizen Young People's Centre, November update

The Trustees were pleased to hear that their bid for CIL money to upgrade the kitchen facilities at Brizen was successful and are grateful to the Parish Council for considering our application. We hope to complete the work in February half term and know that it will make a big difference to both our hirers and the young people who attend the youth clubs who really enjoy cooking.

The youth clubs continue to go from strength to strength. The Senior session on a Monday evening consists of a core group of young people, some with additional needs. Six members of this group attended the Peace Camp in Göttingen over the summer which is a huge achievement, given that historically it's been hard to encourage participation in the area. Two members of this group have struggled to find work experience externally but have been given the opportunity in the café that Springbank Community CIC runs at the Ron Smith Pavilion and have really developed their skills and confidence as a result.

The Intermediate session on Friday is by far the largest of the three groups and can usually be found outside on the football pitch and Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). The youth workers have also spent a lot of time with them working on relationships with each other and building respect in order to form a more cohesive group.

The Junior session is perhaps the most 'traditional' of the three, catering to the younger age group. They particularly enjoy coming to youth club and completing homework with the support of the youth workers, who have had to brush up on their maths skills as a result!

Two additional free sessions were held during the October half term, as an extension to the summer project with between 20 and 30 young people attending each day. Springbank Community CIC will also hold some Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) days at Christmas. These will run out of Springbank, but free transport from Brizen will be available to take the young people from this area to the activities. This has worked well in the past and young people and their families have enjoyed the activities. The HAF programme is only available to children and young people who are eligible for free school meals, whereas the Summer and half term projects are open to all. Clearly there is a need for such activities during the school holidays and many of those young people who attend go on to attend the regular youth clubs as a result.