

Hot Off the WIRE!

E-Bulletin - November 2006



Welcome!

Wow! What a year! For the first time in its ten year history, the WIRE changed its Project Manager, made staff redundant due to funds and closed much needed activities because of funding. This bulletin is to update you on our situation, celebrate the successes and big-up some of the funders listed below who have invested into our project and our community. In recent months our new leaflets and our annual review have been complemented with a business plan and an action strategy. Our advisory group has been re-structured to support our current vulnerability and our relationship with Spurgeons has become closer than ever. An old saying has stayed with me for many years, "You cannot change the whole world, but you can change some people's world's somewhere"... Last week I read a letter from a 14 year old lad who attends our BLAZE activity that said: "I just didn't care, what's the point? (in life)...going to BLAZE has helped me realise the bad things I have done and it's not too late to change, so thanks BLAZE, you've changed me." There isn't much more that I can add to that. Cheers for all your ongoing support.

Mark Yates, Project Manager.

Goodbye BEX



After nearly three and a half years of working with The WIRE, Bex, our Youth & Community Worker is moving onto a new adventure, doing something completely different - she's off to a Ski Resort in the French mountains to work in the snow! She leaves a huge gap behind and we wish her all the best. We will really miss her, especially all the children and young people who she has invested so much time and energy in running clubs and activities for.

Funding for the WIRE Project

Since May this year, we have been successful at gaining funding and / or receiving donations from the following organisations: The Rank Foundation; The Body Shop Foundation ; Connexions; CRED; Windlesham House School; Cycle For Youth; St. Margaret's Community Church in Angmering; Revelation Church in Chichester. We have also had many generous one off donations, money from fund raising events and a few others to mention next time.

CRED funds 'Launch Pad' with Arun Community Church



In March 2006, we had to close our two Breakfast Clubs due to funding. The following month, CRED donated £5,000 to go towards setting the clubs up again. With financial support and partnership working from Arun Community Church and Surestart, the breakfast clubs merged into one and had a new base in the splendid Wickbourne Centre, was re-branded as 'Launch Pad' and opened in September 2006.

All the children between 5 and 11 years old who attend are referred for a whole variety of reasons. Having a good breakfast at Launch Pad means the day begins in a less chaotic and more peaceful way. With a good meal inside them, the children focus and concentrate much

better in the class room – and of course the variety of food available means a healthy and nutritious diet is encouraged. The children arrive between 7.30 and 7.45am. The art and craft tables are out for the first period. Breakfast is until 8.20am. Then the children clean their teeth and get ready for school. At 8.30am the 'Walking Bus' of staff take the children to their three different schools.

"I felt sad when Breakfast Club closed at my school. (After they closed) I was late for school. I missed having toast and marmite. I wasn't very happy when I couldn't eat breakfast with (best mate) Shane. Now (it's re-opened) I feel even better because we get crumpets and we do craft now. I've made my own place mat." Tommy aged 9.

"If Launch Pad closed I'd cry for ages. I love to do art and craft. I've made a place mat." Jemma aged 6.

Check out CRED at: <http://www.cred.org.uk/>

Festival of Wick



The 9th Festival of Wick this year was yet again another success. Following a rather difficult year, it was decided that in order for the Festival to survive, we would need to apply for Charitable Status and move the Festival into Independence. To aid this transaction and to smooth over other issues, it was decided that the Festival would operate differently in 2006, with Ark and Teddytots (for under 5's) running their activities from the Wickbourne Centre. We also made better use of Wick Hall with thanks to the great support from the Wick Information Centre. The Flora School site held the main WIRE activities and on the whole it was a brilliant week. Thanks to everyone who helped bring the community alive for that Festival week.

The Festival of Wick 2007 is currently 'on hold'; there is a possibility that Littlehampton Town Council could underwrite the FOW in the future, other alternatives were discussed including groups operating separately, the festival on a smaller scale and spread over a longer period of time. The Festival Co-ordinator's contract ended in September. At present there are no plans for a Festival for 2007 but the summer will still be packed with activities for the community.



Regional Development Manager

After over nine years as Project Manager, Paul's role evolved into Regional Development Manager for Spurgeons Child Care and The Salvation Army. This year, Paul has developed projects in the areas of Oxford, Shoreham and Lancing. He also has a few other development projects bubbling away! Paul is based in the Hub, Westway in Wick where he is kept busy researching, recruiting and planning!

Volunteers!

Lea and David have joined us from Denmark to spend four months working as volunteers with us. The couple have already spent nearly three months working with the team; David is a trainee teacher and has been volunteering at Littlehampton Community School as well as helping with CREW. Lea has been working with Paul Sanderson, Regional Development Manager in the Hub and also with the WIRE's Young Parents group. We also said a sad goodbye to top volunteer [Jose Agrela](#) (holding the tongs in the picture) who returned to Madeira back in September. We miss him at our clubs, his willingness to help, his humour, his smile, and his strong black coffees!



Staff Team

Here is the current team working at least until 31st March 2007. We are working to secure further funding to take some contracts beyond that date:

Mark Yates	Project Manager
Andrew MacKinnon	Finance Manager
Gemma Herbert	Volunteer Co-ordinator
Clare Owen	Young Carers
Jon Jolly	Youth & Community Worker
Al Evans	Family Support Worker
Kath Barrett	Art Attack
Julie Fox	Dance Nation
Julie Fox & Zoe Parvin	Launch Pad
Jenny Power & Laura Cross	After-School Club



...just another normal day for Al Evans!

Current term-time activities:

- Launch Pad, with Surestart and Arun Community Church
- CREW
- Young Parents
- Art Attack
- After School Club, with Flora McDonald School
- Flora Football Club
- 'Bridge' support in Littlehampton Community School
- BLAZE
- Dance Nation