

Team Brief

Our members play full part at National Conference



The YMCA National Conference took place in Nottingham again this year, with the theme 'Why Global?'. The event ran from Friday until Sunday afternoon and included a wide range of workshops and activities, each focussing on global issues and youth participation around the world. There was also a keynote address by Johan Vilhelm Eltvik, newly appointed Secretary General of the World Alliance of YMCAs.

The team of volunteers for the event was coordinated by myself and included several residential members from YMCA Derbyshire who helped out in a multitude of areas – including as lighting and sound technicians.

The YAIDS project group also had a slot over the weekend to deliver two workshops

on raising awareness of HIV/AIDS. The group is made up of staff and residents from YMCAs across the Midlands, including from YMCA Derbyshire.

On the final evening we were all treated to a formal dinner at which people got the chance to dress up. After dinner the evening's entertainment was salsa dancing and a disco, which proved to be a great opportunity for the residents and other service users to laugh at the dancing abilities – or otherwise – of some of our not so talented staff!

Marc Stevens

Photos: Residential members Daniel, Mark and Ashley join volunteers from other YMCAs outside the Conference venue and (inset) Daniel plays a starring role behind the sound desk.

Congratulations to Mark and Laura

We are delighted to report that Chesterfield Locality Manager Mark Love's wife Laura gave birth to a baby boy on Monday 9th May. The couple's second child weighed in at a very healthy 7lb 3oz. Mother and baby are doing well. At the time of going to print, the baby's name had yet to be decided.

We all send our best wishes to Mark and Laura at what has also been a difficult time for them as Mark recovers from a recent operation. Get well soon Mark!

A message from the Chief Executive

For a charity such as ours, it can sometimes be difficult to measure success in a truly meaningful way. For a commercial company it is easy because the bottom line is how much profit has been made. For us, the bottom line is not about money but rather about lives being turned round and the potential of young people being realised.

Across each of our services and localities, our team works tirelessly every day to make a difference to the people and communities we serve. Yet we all know that this can sometimes be frustrating, especially when service user members fail to grasp the opportunities we give them or when funding problems restrict what we can do.

However, while end results are very important, I believe that the way in which we go about our work is just as important. Our success should not simply be measured by the numbers of success stories we achieve, or the numbers coming through the doors of our centres, but rather by the consistency of the witness we provide to the value and dignity of young people in our community.

The YMCA movement has always been about more than numbers. From the very beginning it has had a vision for the holistic development of young people in body, mind and spirit. A Christian belief in the God-given dignity of every person is a fundamental component of this and remains so today.

Our services are at the heart of the communities we serve and, as such, the witness we provide is a very powerful one. I know that we are widely respected as a team because of the genuine concern we demonstrate for our service user members.

I would like to congratulate everyone, therefore, for our great success in speaking up for the young and the vulnerable through our actions and our dedication.

Gillian Sewell

Packing a punch: OzBox returns



Marc Stevens and Sarah Boone are among the 25 people taking part in the first OzBox session

Due to popular demand, the OzBox programme has been relaunched at The Campus in partnership with the Derbyshire Constabulary.

OzBox is a boxing-based fitness programme. Combining circuit training and boxing skills, it is designed to improve confidence, discipline and fitness. The aim of the sessions is to engage both with young people in the local community and also with our own residential members to tackle anti-social behaviour.

The Police praised the OzBox sessions when they were held at The Campus last year, saying that they led to complaints about anti-social behaviour in the area dropping by more than half.

Renew Maintenance

Renew Maintenance Ltd, our new social enterprise company, has won its first contract. Starting on 16th May, the company will bring void properties owned by Derby Homes back into a lettable standard. Further business opportunities with social housing providers are now being planned.

Andy Astley has been appointed as Renew's Working Supervisor, and three other team members will be appointed soon.

Local YMCA news

Burton-upon-Trent and District YMCA has opened a new centre for homeless people. 'Reconnect' will provide access to professional support, training, advice and encouragement to homeless people in its new purpose-built facility.

Further north, Sheffield YMCA has merged with Chantry YMCA to form White Flower YMCA. The new organisation will provide 26 services to vulnerable young people across South Yorkshire.

YMCA gangs project is launched

The new Y-HOOD programme for residential members has now been successfully launched at The Campus for Learning and Development.

The programme will consist of several workshops focusing on gang-related topics, such as guns and knives, exit strategies, etc.

Working alongside local charity Enthusiasm and the local police gangs unit, we also hope to offer further training which could



Participants during a workshop session

lead to job opportunities.

The project will end with a three day residential in Cumbria, helping to reinforce what the participants have learnt over the six-week programme.



The Chesterfield team had a busy Easter Monday as they attended Chesterfield FC's match against Bury to take a collection for the locality's Members' Fund. About £200 was raised, which will make a real difference to needy service users.

In the photo above, Spireites team mascot Chester the Field Mouse poses with Tenancy Support Workers Helen Abbott and Julie Marshall together with Carrienne Hadfield's daughters Cherry and Mollie and Helen's children Nicole and Luke. Carrienne herself, Teresa Christie and Wendy Lewis also helped with the collection, as did a number of other family members, friends and supporters.

The Hospitality Service



Team member Maureen Durham with local beat officer PC Gareth Larreta during the Campus community coffee morning last month

With the sun shining over the past few months it has been an exciting time for the Campus Hospitality Service.

The coffee morning and personalised Easter egg promotion were a success, and now we have the 'Spring Sizzler promotion' for you to enjoy.

During these difficult times economically there has been a reduction in the number of room hires, although every cloud has a silver lining and the drop has given us the opportunity to generate relationships with new customers such as Affinity Sutton, NCORE and Social Enterprise East Midlands.

Rachel Bradley

Learning and Development

Our teacher training programme is now half way through its first 12 week course and is proving to be very successful, with 14 learners studying for their City & Guilds Award in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTLLS). The next programme starts on 19th May and already has only a couple of places left.

The qualification provides an entry point and introduction for those new to teaching and training and constitutes a 'steppingstone' to further qualifications.

PTLLS courses will run throughout the year and we would encourage anyone who is interested to apply early. At the moment it is run from the Campus but we will soon be offering the course at our Ilkeston centre and also launching a City & Guilds Introduction to Trainer Skills course – more details to follow.

Anyone interested in joining our PTLLS programme should phone 01332 364128 or email learning@ymcaderbyshire.org.uk for more information and a booking form.

Julia Hodder

Children's & Young People's Services



A Y-Play participant enjoying a farm visit

The Easter Y-Play Playscheme went well with the children having a great time participating in Easter themed activities and visiting White Post Farm, Bluebells Farm and Pickford's House museum in Derby.

At the farms the children had the opportunity to feed and hold various animals. At Bluebells dairy they enjoyed an Easter quiz trail around the fields and woods followed by a delicious home-made ice cream!

During the second week we celebrated the Royal Wedding by making crowns, commemorative mugs and plates and by designing a wedding cake. We came to Y-Play dressed in red, white and blue, decorated the rooms with bunting and flags and the children enjoyed a party lunch and Royal themed games.

Amy Allen

Marketing and Communications

Well done to those who spotted that the website has undergone a significant design change recently, with wider pages, revised headers and new links on each page. There is also a new page specifically for our residential members.

The website will have an important part to play in our new fundraising drive – Project 165 – and these changes will ensure that it is ready to be put to this use effectively.

Dominic Baster

Members celebrate Royal Wedding in style



The Royal Wedding of Prince William to Catherine Middleton on 29th April was marked in style by YMCA Derbyshire members.

Residents and staff members, together with visitors from ECHG Housing Association, were treated to a Royal banquet complete with flags and other patriotic decorations (see photo above).

Meanwhile, volunteers and members of staff served up a treat for the residents of Handside Court as everyone got into the spirit of the occasion (see photo, right). Well done to all those who made these celebrations happen.



Mayor of Derby supports fundraising drive



Mayor of Derby Cllr Amar Nath attending the Royal Opening of The Campus last November

The Mayor of Derby, Cllr Amar Nath, has lent his support to our new fundraising drive – Project 165.

In his message of support, the Mayor said: “The YMCA has been serving the community in Derby tirelessly for nearly 165 years, and it is continuing this great tradition today through the many vital services it provides to young people and others.

“YMCA Derbyshire’s vision is to help young people to overcome the barriers many of them encounter and so empower them to fulfil their potential. I wholeheartedly endorse this vital work which makes such a difference to so many local people who need encouragement and support to make a fresh start. YMCA Derbyshire is definitely worthy of support as it looks towards the next chapter in its long history of service.”

Reflection of the month

Lord, teach me to be generous.

Teach me to serve you
as you deserve;

to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labour and not to ask for reward,
save that of knowing
that I do your will.

Ignatius of Loyola
(1491–1556)