

Upper Eden Youth Work Project

Appleby Heritage Centre, Station Road, Appleby, Cumbria, CA16 6UL

Slum Survivor—Yvette's Summer Project

Last year Soul Survivor launched a project called 'Slum Survivor', which is aimed at raising awareness of the issues and the problems facing young people and adults alike who live in slums around the world.

Its vision is to teach young people in Britain that although life can be hard for us all they are always two sides to every story. Millions of families face the harsh reality of waking up every day to poverty, very little food, disease and being violently moved from slum to slum. It is a massive problem in our world- but one we hardly ever hear about.

After coming back from Soul Survivor, a young person and I really felt



that God was laying on our hearts to use this project to raise awareness of these issues. We also thought it would be a good opportunity to give back to our own community of Appleby.



The tag line for Slum Survivor is 'live for a weekend the way billions live a life time', and that's just what we did. Around 15- 20 young people took part in an action-packed weekend of fun, along with challenging and demanding activities. Saturday included a free car wash for members of the local churches, building the slums and protecting them from 'government officials' who wanted to knock them down, collecting safe drinking water, and much more. We had lots of

fun, but also learned a lot for example, we were not allowed any luxuries such as mobile phones, and we lived on a basic food rations for the day.

On Sunday we assembled at the Sands Methodist Church and shared a presentation about our experience. All the young people took part in the service in some way, and they did very well. We provided free water and rice cakes at the end of their service- or a hot drink and a biscuit for a small donation to Tearfund.

The young people and I would like to say a massive thank you to all who got involved and gave their time to make the weekend happen.



By Yvette Longson

Kirkby Stephen Summer Barbecue—DJ's Summer Project



On Saturday 22nd August in Kirkby Stephen the first ever free community BBQ was held in the grounds of the parish church in the centre of the village. The event was run by the Upper Eden Youth Work Project and Kirkby Stephen Churches Together. Both partners have joined together on a project to help develop and move forward the churches in the area and to work with the whole community providing facilities and clubs for young people to explore the Christian faith and to help develop the youth culture in our area.

I was really excited to have the opportunity to organise this event as a chance for the community to join together by spending an afternoon of fun and free food to help show in a little way the generosity and love that God has for our community. As a fully committed Christian, one thing I've learned in my relationship with God is that he wants us to be kind and considerate and loving to each other because that's how he is with us. If I can show God's love by simply giving the community a free sausage, then I'm going to do it. A free sausage or burger can't even be compared to the gift God gave us through sending us His only son Jesus to die on a cross so we can live with Him in heaven for eternity if we choose to accept His gift.



During the whole afternoon there was a number of free activities for all age groups and families to enjoy; including a bouncy castle, gladiator duel, sumo suits, face painting, frisbee golf and a live local worship band playing music throughout the day.



Throughout the afternoon there was a great family and community atmosphere, and many families and visitors stayed around for the whole afternoon while young people enjoying going on the gladiator duel and sumo suits.

Comments were made from a number of people who attended, saying what a great idea it was and asking if it will run on an annual basis.

It was a great encouragement to me, knowing that people of Kirkby Stephen really enjoyed the afternoon so much that they want it to happen every year.

By DJ Beecham

Scattergate Intergenerational Project



In partnership with Cumbria Constabulary, Scattergate Intergenerational Project started at the end of November. Young people from the estate and the older residents from Rampkin house (a supported housing scheme for the elderly) have joined together to swap skills and life experiences.

We have so far enjoyed a Christmas craft evening and ten pin bowling, and we are looking forward to learning more from each other over the coming months.

This project is running weekly until Easter, involving many different organisations for example, Cumbria Drugs and Alcohol Advisory Service will be coming to teach us all about how to stay safe and learn about the pressure young people face in this area. One of the aims of the project is to reduce anti-social behaviour and the perception of anti-social behaviour, whilst building links between teenage generations and the elderly on the Scattergate Housing Estate.



A highlight so far has been the ten pin bowling trip to Carlisle.

7 young people and 10 residents attended and had lots of fun working together as a team.

By Yvette Longson

Let your Light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

Sports Night



A brand new fun, exciting, and energetic project has kicked off in November. The project runs on a Tuesday evening, 6-7pm, at Kirkby Stephen Grammar School astroturf pitch, and is for ages 11+. Since the sports night project started we have had up to 18 young people attending, and numbers are increasing each week.

I had the idea of running a sports night for two reasons. I wanted to help young people improve their health, skills and abilities by getting more exercise and taking part in various sporting activities. The project also allows the opportunity for young people to ask questions and explore the Christian faith and other religious views in an informal way. Through this project I want to help our young people to see and understand the Christian faith through the testimony of well known sports men and women telling their story. Also we will be looking at how we train to be the best we can be and how we need to keep fit and train ourselves in being the best example of a Christian.



The sports night project has just been awarded funding of £800 to help pay for new sporting equipment to use in our sessions. Each school term we will be focusing on one or two sporting activities. All the activities that we will do have been chosen by our young people by discussing their interests in sport. Some of those activities include football, golf, basketball, and tennis.

By D J Beecham

My appeal to you is for your continued support in prayer for the youth work in the area, and also if you are interested in getting involved in the sports night or any other clubs or projects, then please do get in touch with me. Without your help and support, these projects wouldn't be able to run.

***Yvette Longson—Tel 07964149927 or
email yvette.longson@niscu.org.uk
Appleby, Kirkby Thore, Crosby Ravensworth and local villages***

***DJ Beecham—Tel 07964149849 or
email dj.beecham@niscu.org.uk
Kirkby Stephen, Brough, Orton, Tebay and local villages***



Alternatively both workers can be contacted at the office

Upper Eden Youth Work Project, Appleby Heritage Centre, Appleby, Cumbria, CA16 6UL