

REPORT 2015



BATTERSEA SUMMER SCHEME

A principal project of the Battersea Crime Prevention Panel, and has been organising trips, outings and activities for under-privileged young people since 1992, especially those living in the poorer and most disadvantaged areas in Battersea and Balham.





Report on activities that took place during the summer of 2015.

We are so grateful to everyone who helped make this dynamic programme possible.



FIVE A SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT There isn't the demand for this as there once was, so we decided not to run it for this year and put the funds into football during Sport in the Park

SPORT IN THE PARK held in Battersea Park during the first week of August, was one of our most successful, with a record attendance of 600 young people per day. We were thrilled to welcome Cllr Nicola Nardelli, Mayor of Wandsworth, Jane Ellison MP for Battersea, as well as some of our sponsors curious to see how their funding was being utilised.

As well as the Police Cadets to help us, we had a brilliant group of young volunteers who looked terribly professional in their volunteer t-shirts. The t-shirts were kindly provided by a private donor and printed for us by Caius House. A big Thank you to all!



The long list of sporting activities include Archery and an assault course both run by Challenger Troop, Athletics, - Street Athletics joined us once again - non-contact boxing by Carney's Community with George recruiting for this worthwhile project. Airhedz's circus skills and trapeze returned, as did John with his climbing wall. We included Karate, tag rugby, table tennis, and tennis, we also ran a mini football tournament for girls and boys teams on the Friday.

We had a broad range of workshops which included several different types of dance and music run by specialist instructors. A new one for us was instruction and demonstration for Cheer leading and African drumming. The much loved Garg attended with his array of exotic animals; Arts and Crafts with Face-painting were again run *completely* by volunteers. Our wonderful aerosol artist returned (last year we sold one of her pictures at our annual fundraising Ball), a fun crazy golf course and an inflatable demolition zone game, all of which were very popular. The high ropes course was again assisted by volunteers from the Fire Brigade, enabling us to afford this extremely challenging activity.



The Fire Brigade also brought their appliances and gave fire safety talks. Other workshops were run by the Alzheimer Society, Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, Family Information Service, Solutions 4 Health, St Georges Health Care and Street Doctors returned giving general medical advice including emergency resuscitation techniques. To top the list we also ran a Smoothy Bike producing healthy and nutritious fruit drinks for the young to enjoy making and drinking!

RESIDENTIAL COURSES Demand for these Courses was again very high and we had fantastic sponsorship from corporate donors. Staffing was difficult due to dramatic changes within the Council's youth services. Uptake by the young was mostly enthusiastic; leaving home is a *big* challenge in itself, but the Staff see real benefits for those who do participate and they consider these courses a very valuable resource.

There were five two-night stay residential courses to Bewl Water in East Sussex for boys and girls from across the borough. The mix of young is really beneficial in breaking down territorial attitudes and encourages friendships. The accommodation is a chalet like building with all facilities on site. Whilst there, they take part in various water based activities as well as rock climbing, mountain biking and other outdoor challenges. Some quotes from those taking part:-



"BSS organised a residential to Bewl Water and staff from TRC and the 14 young people attending had the time of their lives. They all came back having engaged in canoeing sailing and other water based activities, clamouring to do more residentials – so thank you BSS. All in all it was a very positive weekend; the young people thoroughly enjoyed themselves. For most this was their first such experience and most wanted to know if they can go again next year."

Another small group from TRC went for two nights in Brighton to prepare activities for a larger group who joined them for a fun action packed day out.

We again supported Providence House with trips to Shallowford Farm, a group of older girls for an overnight stay in Box Hill, as well as a sailing trip to Guernsey and back; a huge adventure. Their sailing quotes *"I'm not going sailing again!" "At least I've done it – once." "Wow! What an amazing experience!" "You know, I think I will remember this for ever."*



Future Skills at St Mark's also went sailing and although they had recruitment issues the small group who did go had an extraordinary experience. This is their quote *"KC had a great time and the growth in his confidence was huge. JW learned to overcome his negative attitude and also gained some independence. They experienced building relationships with people completely different from themselves, and learnt to accept each other's differences. In the evenings, many hours of cards were played, which was a great bonding time and also allowed the young people to have fun away from technology and all the pressures and negative effects that being tied to your phone can have."*

Two separate groups from KLS also went away; one to Stubbers for an activity packed few days; the other to Thistledown Farm to discover rural life and the joys of sleeping under canvas!



DAY TRIPS Again we managed to pay for **all** transport costs and subsidised the entry fees by a significant percentage. Nearly 2,000 day places were booked to some 20 different venues. The clubs had some new and interesting venues they wanted to visit, as well as those tried and tested. These included Adventure Island, Arena Pursuits, Butlins, Cuckmere Bikes, Guildford Spectrum and various trips to coastal resorts. As per last summer, they also went to a climbing wall venue and skied and snowboarded at the Snow Centre amongst other exciting venues.

This is a quote from TRC, one of the youth clubs we supported:

"All the trips and outings supported by BSS gave the young people a summer they will never forget. They were an invaluable part of our planning and delivery and without BSS involvement the trips could not have happened, most notably the 3 day residential to Bewl water."

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Cactus Kitchens – We had an amazing opportunity this year to be offered a series of cooking classes at this prestigious venue - The Michel Roux Jr Cookery School and the venue for Saturday Kitchen hosted by James Martin. They had instruction from the butcher supplying the meat, knife skills, silver service, as well as the cooking classes. Added to which work experience days are being offered to some, which could possibly lead to an apprenticeship. This was an opportunity which we hope to continue and would like to develop.



Street Games on your Doorstep held 1st April 2015 in York Gardens, primarily organised by Providence House combined with Sports Development and other community organisations

SW11 Festival another community family fun/sports day held on 27th June At both these events we provided 1st aid cover and through Thomas's school medals for the football tournaments.



Wandsworth Active Day, Saturday 18th July in King Georges Park. Wandsworth Borough Council's Sports Development invited us to take part and promote ourselves at their annual Wandsworth Active Day. It was a well-attended day full of all types of sporting activities We were able to hand out numerous leaflets to those present, made good contacts and recruited some new activities to take part in own Sport in the Park.



Autumn Half Term This was the first time we have sent a group away during half term. A group from BEIT went to Liverpool to stay in an YHA hostel with a jam packed agenda: to meet and play football against a local youth club, a tour of Anfield Stadium, attend a Liverpool football match, visit the Slavery Museum and a talk by the Anthony Walker Foundation which promotes racial harmony through Sport, Music, and Education -

[\(http://www.anthonwalkerfoundation.com/\)](http://www.anthonwalkerfoundation.com/).

We also successfully sent a bus load for the day to Ramsgate to visit the Spitefire & Hurricane Museum and the Tunnels, for a bit of World War 2 history, followed by some fun on the beach.

THANK YOU

Our very grateful thanks go to all the Charities, local businesses and individuals who generously donated the much needed funds for all the activities listed, as well as our wonderful team of volunteers. They help with the preparation and delivery of some 6,000 begging letters to the local community; they also support us during our sports events and with any other job required.

And finally a thank you to the Police Cadets who helped once again with a bucket collection at the Friends of Battersea Square's Carol Service in early December 2015. All funds raised will go towards providing activities during our summer programme specifically for the young people at the Katherine Low Settlement, as per last year.