



Issue 1

Muirhouse Youth Development Group Summer Newsletter 2015



Sneak preview of what's inside:

Boat Building

Boat building and meeting
the Duchess of Cornwall!

6

Youth Work Games 2015

Our annual youth work
games at Loch Tay!

7

What a summer it has been!

So it has been a very busy, exciting, educational and fun summer this year! Over 300 young people and many skilled volunteers got involved and participated within our summer programme. This included various activities, projects, trips away and our usual evening hubs. This newsletter aims to celebrate some of the many things that have taken place, have been achieved and most of all, have been great fun!

'Thanks to everyone involved!' MYDG.

**Leadership Academy @ Craig Tara**

Leadership Academy Residential

A group of 14 young people and staff from MYDG went on a 3-day residential at Craigtara haven holiday park. The young people were able to bond as a group through swimming, go karting, beach fire making, laser quest and enjoyed the entertainment that was on offer from the staff at Craigtara.

Everyone worked well together and the young people came away from the weekend with good memories. We are all looking forward to the next activity on the agenda!

**Caledonian Challenge Volunteers**

Caledonian Challenge

The northern Lights project of MYDG took a group of 9 volunteers to the Caledonian Challenge finish line where they cheered, gave out medals and assisted walkers after their 54 mile challenge. The young people did really well to get everyone enthusiastic and get involved with other volunteers to work as part of a team. This group will go on to do first aid and sports coaching qualifications to work towards MYDG's youth Work games 2015. Well done to those that came along!



Young people who performed at the Hidden Doors festival



My Adventure outdoor activities

MYDG and My Adventure have been working together this summer to deliver outdoor educational opportunities with young people from North Edinburgh.

Mountain bike trip: The above picture was our latest outdoor activity where young people practiced their mountain bike skills on our man made tracks at gypsy brae to cycling (racing) all the way to Cramond waterfall. We are now looking forward to our next outdoor adventure!

Hidden Doors Festival

MYDG have been working in partnership with Tinderbox and Dance Ihayami in the weekend hubs and the Thursday evening arts hub. Young people learned about Indian culture through dancing, drums, costume and henna with dance Ihayami. With Tinderbox, young people were able to make music through drums, singing, guitar and rhythm. Both groups worked hard and were able to showcase their talents to a packed out crowd at the hidden doors festival in June. The young people did really well and enjoyed performing, watch this space for our super stars!

Camas

At Camas everyone completed the John Muir award and took part in lots of outdoor activities including coast earring, kayaking, climbing, camping and fishing.

They also took part in daily chores, which included gardening and feeding chickens.

For some young people it was the first time being on a ferry.

Luckily they spotted a pod of dolphins swimming right next to them!



Hopscotch

A group of ten young people under 12 years of age from MYDG spent 4 nights away at hopscotch. The young people enjoyed playing in the grounds of hopscotch, which has a play park, football goals, table tennis, trampoline and loads of other games but this was just for their spare time! Each day they spent the day doing different activities such as going to the sea life sanctuary in Oban. We also spent a day at the beach, had a walk to glen finning to see the train from the Harry Potter movie which got the young people very excited about. To top off a great week the young people went horse riding. It was the first time for most of them and they all really enjoyed it with most of them saying it was the highlight of their week!



My Space Community Garden project in partnership with local people, Link Up Muirhouse and North Edinburgh Arts

The My Space project involves local young people in having ownership over a space in their local community. So far they have been involved in activities such as building a bench, installing a pond and maintaining the garden. They will continue to make plans and design the whole thing from beginning to end. In the end, they will gain knowledge & have more respect & enthusiasm for the space, nature & the environment in general.

The My Space project is also helping to engage the wider community in gardening, woodwork projects and quite simply a tranquil spot to go if people want to relax, chill out, have their lunch/picnic or if we ever get any nice weather; sunbathe! It can also be used from professionals or workers in the area to have meetings or lunch breaks. This will help with the maintenance of the garden, as people will do a few things while they are there.

Throughout the My Space project, there have been relationships built between the young people and other members of the community, which will help with any future use of the garden whilst breaking down intergenerational issues.

MYDG will continue to use the space for any new projects they run & the space could also be used as an outdoor venue for other projects so people will continue to use it for all kinds of things. This garden will be a great place for people to go & grow with it, learning about nature & building skills and relationships and it will be especially beneficial when people need to get some "space".

Some of the things we are currently growing:

- 1 Potatoes
- 2 Edible plants/flowers
- 3 Strawberries



Boat Building

On a freezing day last August, a wee group from MYDG headed over to Fife to pick up some flat sheets of wood, with strange shapes carved onto them. Back at base, the group set about cutting these shapes out and painstakingly piecing them together, bit-by-bit. Working 2 afternoons a week, our flat bits of wood were planed, glued, sanded and bent.

After months of hard, thankless graft and repeating the same tasks week after week, the group began to bring the flat sheets of wood to life and 11 months later, successfully complete a magnificent, full size traditional Scottish rowing boat.

At 7metres long and 2 metres wide, this project needed a big space and we were really lucky to get the use of the garage at Craigroyston Community High School as our workshop and 'dry dock'. We were also able to work on the project in school time. That freed the group up to get some practice in and get out rowing.

The group completed the boat on the very last day of term and took it down to Portobello, where it was given the Royal seal of approval by none other than The Duchess of Cornwall – wife of Prince Charles!



Youth Work Games 2015

Muirhouse Youth Development Group's (MYDG) fourth annual youth work games took place this year on 14th & 15th July bringing teams of young people, staff and volunteers from across North Edinburgh and Aberfeldy to compete in the decathlon event at the headquarters of Wildfox events, by the banks of Loch Tay. This event brings together youth organisations who may not necessarily work together on a regular basis, to show teamwork, companionship and friendship through the events and social interactions. Creating opportunities for young people to get involved in sport and exercise in a unique but inclusive way.

This year was the biggest yet with 13 teams in attendance competing for the sought after youth work games trophy. The ten events took place over the two days by the banks of Loch Tay, which was a beautiful setting for the first event, the cross country run, followed by the tandem bike ride race and finishing off the day in wetsuits with a swim and canoe on the Loch. *MYAdventure* were working in partnership with *MYDG*, taking the lead on some of the events and were part of the staff team. Both Leaders and young people gave it their all to get points for their teams with some friendly competition and great participation from everyone. As evening set on the athletes village, we were joined by the *Dancing feet Ceilidh band* who gave a great night of live music with leaders and young people dancing around the marquee to some old Scottish classics, and learning some new moves (some a bit confusing), culminating in everyone getting involved for a final rendition of 'Auld Lang Syne' to finish off the night.



The second day was welcomed with beautiful sunshine and some tired but enthusiastic young people raring to get going. The Swamp football tournament kicked off the day's events, accompanied by archery, tree climb, tug of war and long jump all leading up to our final and most anticipated event, the assault course. This year we had *Perth and district YMCA Ybounce* bring along their inflatable assault course and slide. The assault course had everyone getting involved ending in a youth leaders vs. youth work games staff show down. This proved to be a favourite amongst all the events. The prize giving ceremony was next on the agenda with most teams receiving medals. This year our youth Work Games trophy winners and overall champions were *Kids in the street* from Craigmiller who annihilated any competition by winning most medals and scoring an impressive 25 points over the two days, with *Grantown youth Centre* coming in 2nd with 12 points and the *breathe project* from Aberfeldy in 3rd with 10 points. *Rowlands* from Selkirk were the recipients of the Sportsmanship award for showing enthusiasm, teamwork and all round good spirit for the event.

Things to look out for this term!

- Monday 12+ years library hub @ 5:30pm – Muirhouse Library
- Monday night football 16 – 25 years @ 8.00pm – CraigRoyston Community High School
- Tuesday 12+ years activities/sports hub @ 7:30pm - Craigroyston Community High School
- Wednesday under 12's Don Bosco Hub @ 5:30pm – CraigRoyston Community High School
- Thursday arts hub 12+ years @ 6:30pm – North Edinburgh Arts
- Friday under 12's Don Bosco Swim @ - CraigRoyston Community High School
- Friday Hub 12+ years @ 6:30pm - Pilton Youth and Children's Project
- Saturday hub 12+ years @ 6:30pm - Pilton Youth and Children's project



Summer Newsletter

Issue [1] 2015

Muirhouse Youth Development Group

Craigroyston Community High School, 67 Pennywell Road,
Edinburgh, EH4 4NL

www.mydg.org.uk



Also a HUGE thank you to the following funders, partners and organisations that made this year's summer program possible:

- My Adventure
- North Edinburgh Arts
- Link Up, Muirhouse
- MITIE
- Iona Community
- Hopscotch
- Edinburgh Airport Trust
- Creative Scotland
- Awards for all
- Grow Wild
- North Edinburgh Partnership
- Muirhouse Library
- Dance Ihayami
- Tinderbox