



Scottish Charity Number SC047467



Boomerang News

May 2023

Welcome!

Here is what we have been up to in the last few months.....

Engagement work

On the 1st of February Alison went along to the Roxy Pot Café at Roxburghe House telling everyone about all the services at Boomerang and handed out our present timetable and hopefully in due course the people she engaged with will come along to the Centre in the future.

On the 22nd of February the Maryfield Youth Community Arts Project came along to our Cosy café. Young people from Morgan Academy presented their Art Exhibition. The young people had been given funding from Hillcrest to create a



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community mural with Symon Mathieson, a street Artist from the area and they hope to use a site on Dundonald Street to create a mural. It was great to see our service users sharing their ideas with the young people.

On the 24th of February Alison was invited along to St. John's High School to again promote all the work we do here at Boomerang. This was a very engaging morning for Alison, and she enjoyed telling all the staff and pupils about the services here at Boomerang.

On the 28th of February the Adult Literacy Team delivered a creative storybook project at the Toddlers, making story sacks and puppets. It was really enjoyed by both toddlers and their adults.



There was also another engaging workshop with Pam from the adult literacy team, which the toddlers and their adults enjoyed learning about nature and drawing the plants and animals and they seen.

We welcomed again in February The Adult Literacy Team from Dundee City Council who came into celebrate World Book Week and done arts and crafts with the Toddlers and adults from the Toddler Group.



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On the 15th of March Dundee Carers Centre came along to our Cosy Café to talk about the Carers Community Budget. The Carers Community Budget is a way for people to have a direct say in how local money is spent.

On the 16th of March our Reminiscence Group had a lovely time with Dundee University with their “Walk around Dundee” Monopoly Board” and everyone had such a fun time. We are to be working with Dundee University throughout the year on different projects.



On the 31st of March we welcomed Social Security Scotland to Boomerang into our Cosy Café and going forward they will be at Boomerang every Friday between 10am and 11.30 a.m. if anyone needs any advice on any matters.

On the 22nd of March Sarah attended the Dundee and Angus College Leaving Event at Gardyne. She was able to provide information about all the groups and activities we have on and various volunteering opportunities currently available.

Workshops

Penumbra – Supporting Scotland’s Mental Health came along to the Centre and done a three-week course of Well-being Workshops. This was around people suffering from anxiety, advice on fitness matters and self-care. These workshops were well attended and hopefully in the future they can come back to the Centre.



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Valentines Activities

The staff and volunteers in the Toddlers carried out Arts and Crafts for Valentines with some very creative items being made.



We also held another very successful Afternoon Tea on Wednesday the 15th of February to celebrate Valentines Day and 40 service users came along and again enjoyed some delicious goodies. Many thanks to Flossy for preparing the goodies!

St Patrick's Day afternoon tea

Yet again we held another very successful St Patrick's afternoon tea again thanks to Flossie, our staff, and volunteers.



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Vintage Afternoon Tea

This event was organised by our CLD Student Kaitlyn, and we had the pleasure of the Finmill Guitars playing. Again, all had a great afternoon.



Maintenance

Many thanks to Duncan Signs for making such a brilliant job of our new signs for the Centre making us more visible in the Community.

Lunch Club

Our first "Try it Tuesday" was a great success on the 8th of February. There was lots of lovely Indian food on offer and Menuka, our Cosy Café Support Worker, helped Sam our Foods Project Co-ordinator to make a traditional Carrot pudding.



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Classes

Our Cooking on a Budget classes continued in February 2023, and many thanks to Linda Mill for hosting these and everyone has learned so much from these classes.



In February we also started up a Film Club that will run every Monday from 1.30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Refreshments are included.

Many thanks for our volunteers, Ralph and Iolanda for taking the carpet bowls every Friday at 1 p.m. Everyone has a great time.

We received funding to start up Drumming classes which started on the 9th of March and will run for 15 weeks. This class runs from 7.45 to 9.45 and 20 people attend the class. Drumming has a positive effect on anxiety, grief, fatigue, depression etc. Playing the drums can help people express themselves and get in touch with their emotional state.



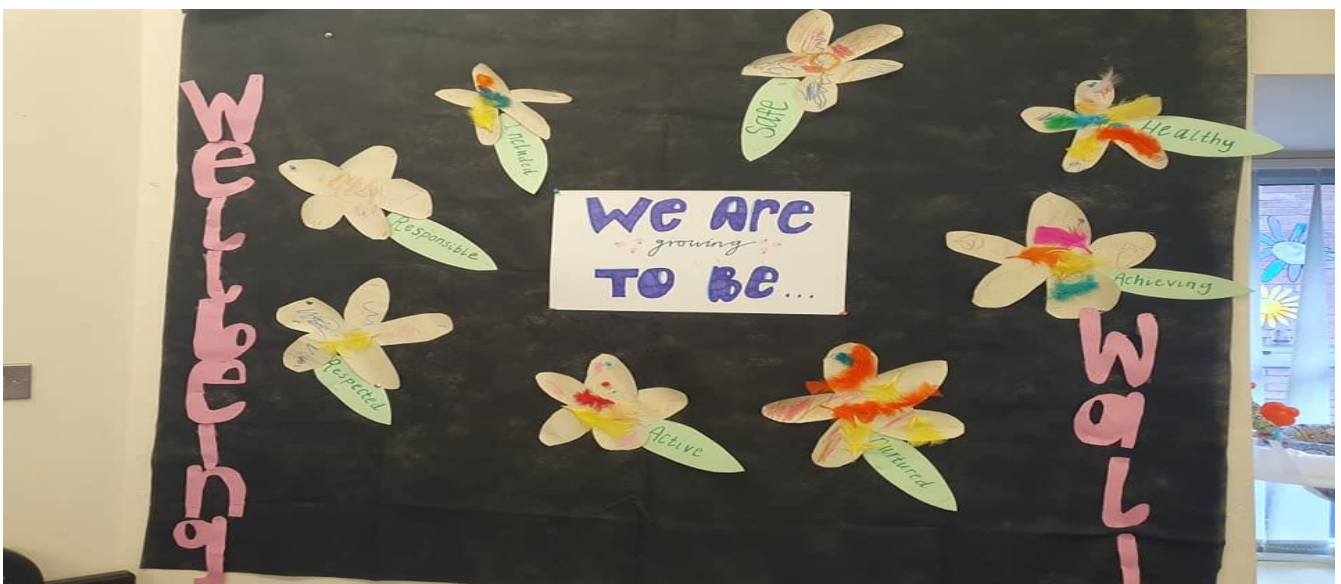
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Our Food for Thought classes started on the 21st of March for six weeks. This course is in partnership with the Nilupul Foundation. This course includes a mindfulness session followed by a prep and cooking session.



Toddlers

In February Kaitlyn our CLD Development Student in placement along with Sophie our Play and Stay Worker created a Wellbeing Wall in the Toddlers, with the flowers created by the children.





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On Wednesday the 22nd of March the Toddlers had a lovely trip to the Deer Centre in Cupar. Everyone had a great time, and all the wee ones came home tired out!



We are also in the process of creating a small sensory room for the toddlers and organising a walk-in wardrobe for swapping childrens clothes.



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Promotional material

On the 14th of February we received our new Boomerang pop up banner. This will be fantastic when out and about promoting Boomerang and the many events that we have planned.



Funding/ Fundraising

On the 21st of February we received a fantastic donation of £5,000 from The Tuut Charitable Trust to help with the running costs of our Community Larder. We were nominated for this award through GMB Scotland. Thank you to all concerned.

On the 28th of February we held a Quiz night in the Fort Bar in Broughty Ferry to raise funds for Boomerang and Grey Lodge for the Grey Lodge Annual Prison break that was taking place on the 18th of March 2023 where Alison and her team will be escaping from Perth Prison. Over £900 was raised on the evening with monies being split between Boomerang and the Grey Lodge Settlement. This



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Prison break has been running for over 20 years and has raised thousands of pounds for Charity.

On Saturday the 4th of March we held our first ever Jumble Sale here at Kemback Street from 10am to 12 noon. This was organised by Sarah our Resource Worker. We had various items donated by members of the public and all the monies raised will go into the running of the Centre. There was good footfall through the door, and everyone had a great time. Items were also left out for our service users to have a look the following week after the Event.

A very successful Easter Fayre took place on the 25th of March. We had 17 stallholders attend the Event. Many thanks also to the SWE Wrestlers for coming along to entertain the children (and adults!), to Next Generation JST, The National Literacy Trust for giving out free books to the children and to Sophie our Stay and Play Worker for entertaining the children with the craft making. We also ran an art Easter competition with some fantastic drawings being handed in.





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We held our first every Curry Night on the 31st of March. 50 people attended this Event, and a great night was had by all. We were also entertained by musician Paul Sullivan. Many thanks to Menuka and her team for making it a great success.





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Easter Egg Appeal

We have had a great response to our Easter Egg Appeal with hundreds of Easter Eggs being handed into the Centre to assist with our Toddlers Party, Larder etc. So many people to thank but thank you to everyone for their donations.



Training

A big well done went to Moira our Larder volunteer who recently completed her First Aid Work Training and Moira was presented with a Certificate.





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Volunteering

Our Volunteer for the month for February went to Sylvia Anderson. Sylvia does a fantastic job with our Walk and Talk Group in conjunction with the Community Health Team every Friday. Well done!

Our Volunteer for the month of March went to Stevie-Lee Robertson. Stevie has worked hard in assisting with the Film Club and the setting up of classes. Again, a very well done!



Message from the Centre Manager

It's been another busy wee while at Boomerang.

Big thank you to Mike Brown who sponsored our new sign. This will hopefully make us more visible. Duncan Signs did a fab job with the design and installation of this.

We have had a couple of changes to our board of trustees. Anne Robb has stepped down as the chair of the board after leading the organisation through a difficult transition period after the passing of Neil in 2021. I would personally like to thank Anne for all her help and support since I started in April 2022, and I hope Anne enjoys full retirement now!



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Charlie Robertson has joined the board as our new secretary. A big thanks must go to Lorraine Clement who acted as a minute taker for the last few months while we were looking for a new secretary. It's great to have Charlie on board!

Kaitlyn Stott has also joined the board as a trustee. Kaitlyn was recently on her third-year placement with us on her Community Education degree and felt so passionately about the organisation she decided to stay on as a volunteer and trustee! It will be great having a younger viewpoint on our board of trustees and we are so happy that Kaitlyn has decided to stay involved with the organisation.

I've been busy applying for funding and we have had some success for our youth activities.

Big thank you to the Maryfield Community Regeneration Forum who have awarded us £4000 to run the children's art classes for the next year. We are so grateful that we have been able to get something up and running so quickly after the closure of No 1s at the beginning of the year.

STV Children's appeal have also awarded us funds to run Family Cooking classes over the year, with the first block already fully booked! And The Dundee Youth Fund awarded us funds to run Childrens Cooking classes- again the first block already fully booked!

It's great to see the timetable so busy and so many people coming through the door!

As always thank you to all our staff, trustees and volunteers who work so hard to keep the Centre running.

Gill Bain
Centre Manager.



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