



Scottish Charity Number SC047467

BOOMERANG

NEWS

September 2023

Welcome!

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





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Stobswell Trinity Church continue to support Boomerang with their Harvest Festivals encouraging people to come along to the Church with a donation of food for our Community Larder. Another fantastic donation was passed over to our volunteers in the Larder.

Due to the unfortunate recent break-ins at the Centre, Angus Alarms & Security Ltd fitted a great new CCTV and alarm system. What an excellent service we received from them.



David Craigie from the British Red Cross came along to Boomerang and delivered a free Adult First Aid course.





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Thanks to funding from The Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee we were able to purchase a new boccia set along with ramps and sticks to assist our wheelchair users.



Anna from DJCAD came along to our Adult Art Group to learn the group Scrap yarn knitting.





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We held yet another successful Quiz night in the Fort in Broughty Ferry with the monies raised going into the running of the Centre. We had around 16 teams attend, and everyone had a great evening.

Reminiscence Group

We had various speakers come along to our Reminiscence Group who meet every Thursday morning at 10am including Caroline from HMS Unicorn who came along with some materials for the group to have a look at, Dr Amy Blakeway from St Andrews University to give a talk on 16th Century Scotland and also Dr Erin Farley from the Local History Centre at the Central Library giving us a talk on the old Wellgate. The month of June saw Dundee University coming along and doing a project on “Food memories”

We held a fabulous Art Exhibition on the 29th of August where our adult art group were able to showcase their work over the past 12 months and also our children’s Art class also highlighted the work they have been doing.



We also started our Family cooking sessions in August. This is for families to prepare healthy meals on a low budget. Kids classes also started in June 2023.



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Transition Dundee Gleaning Project came along with a donation of lovely blackberries. Gleaning is the harvesting of produce that would otherwise been wasted. Sam made some lovely cakes and jam from the produce.



Fundraising

The Embark Group Dundee have chosen Boomerang for their Charity to support in 2023 and held a barbecue and raised over £600. They particularly wanted this money to go towards upgrading our security at the Centre after the recent break-ins.

Our Summer Fayre was held on the 12th of August and over 100 people came through the door. We had 18 stalls, and we had a visit from the SWE Wrestlers and Dundee University came along and did some children's activities.

We also held the Boomerang Annual Golf Tournament in Monifieth on the 20th of August and over 20 teams played in the event, and this raised over £5,000.



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Thanks to the various sponsors and local businesses supporting this Event. We even had a very famous name playing - Commonwealth Gold Medallist in Boxing Sam Hickey!



Days out

10 children were invited to Perth Airport courtesy of Aviation Without Borders and the Scottish Aero Club. The children were treated to a very special day in that they were given a tour of the hanger and were taken up in flights on small private planes over Tayside. Some of the children had never flown before and this was such a great experience for them.



We held a lovely Prosecco Afternoon tea in July, and we were entertained by singer Stephanie Gibson and the Dundee Makaton Choir. A great afternoon was had by all.



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Volunteering

We are seeing an increase in people wanting to volunteer at the Centre and in June BT & EE came along to the Centre and tidied up our Community Garden. We have also welcomed lots of new volunteers to the Cosy Café, Kitchen, and Toddlers.

Volunteer of the month

We have so many fantastic volunteers and as a way of showing our appreciation we hold a “Volunteer of the Month” and the volunteers receiving these rewards were as follows:-

June 2023 - Linda Anderson (Larder) - Linda volunteers every Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the Larder and is a great asset.

July 2023 - Euan from Dundee Bairns was with us for a few months volunteering in the kitchen and left at the end of July 2023. Euan was also a great asset to Boomerang.



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August 2023 - Roland comes to Boomerang every Tuesday morning and assists with the food delivery for the Larder. Again, his efforts are very much appreciated.



Toddlers

Recently at Toddlers we have had lots of our little people move on to nursery, we have been so excited to hear about all their adventures and were so grateful to have been a part of their journey.

On the 15th of August we had Totstars come in to do a session with our families, we had a ball singing and dancing and jumping around, it was very engaging for the families and enabled the families to have a taster session of Totstars with some families going on to join their weekly groups.





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We have recently gotten both our sensory room and arts and crafts rooms within toddlers ready, and they are now being used every session, they have been very popular and well-liked by our families as they encourage child led play and exploration. We also now have sorted a walk-in wardrobe for swapping children's clothes – this has also been well used by our families and we have been so grateful for all the donations we have had. One of the comments we received about our playgroup recently was that it is 'lifesaving'. We couldn't achieve this without the support of everyone at Boomerang as well as our families for coming along each session.



We are looking forward to our trip to Auchingarrich Wildlife Park on the 16th of October, this trip will be enjoyed by 25 families, we are so grateful to have received funding for this through Cash For Kids that allowed us to pay for transport as well as the entry fee for all children which means that we were able to keep the costs minimal to be accessible for more families.

We will also be having our toddlers Halloween party on the 31st of October, these events are always well attended by our families, and we look forward to all the fun we are going to have!

Going forward we would like to begin a voluntary parent and toddlers committee, where parents / guardians can meet to discuss things that they would like to see happening within toddlers and help to strengthen the relationship between staff, volunteers and the families who attend, we are looking to start recruiting for this in the next couple of weeks.



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Summer Holiday Provisions

In July and August, we had 6 weeks' worth of holiday activities for children, every Monday we had a trip and then the rest of the week we had films, games and arts and craft activities! These were well attended, and we were grateful to have received funding from Cash for Kids and Dundee Bairns that allowed us to make this provision free, as well as providing lunch for all our young people. We had so much fun during the 6 weeks.



Youth Art Group

Our Children's Art group recently had an evening to show off all their work in collaboration with Boomerang's Adult Art Class. This was a lovely night and enabled our young people and their families to see all the things they have been making within the group and to celebrate all their hard work!





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Bookbug

In the Centre, we have recently started offering Bookbug sessions on a Friday afternoon led by our Youth Worker Sophie. She attended the training in June and thought it would be the perfect addition as another activity for families to enjoy.

These have been well attended so far and the songs, rhymes and stories have all been so fun to do! We also have started a library within this group so families can donate, swap, and take away books to enjoy together, we even have little reward cards for the little people that get stamped every time they come! We are so grateful to The National Literacy Trust who gave us a donation of books for this group that are being enjoyed weekly by families!



Message from The Centre Manager

It's been another busy few months at Boomerang Community Centre.

We have had a new CCTV and alarm system fitted by Angus Alarms, and we've had some repairs and maintenance completed around the building. Thank you to O&K Maintenance for the fab job on our windows, Caltech for getting the lift up and running again and WRB Gas for getting our gas appliances serviced. All excellent service.

I've been busy updating policies and securing funding for the Centre. Big thank you to CIF and Robertson Trust, who have both invested in the Centre for the next few years. We've also had some smaller grants too and are waiting to hear back from some bigger funds. Watch this space for more updates!



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We have a second year Community Education student from Dundee University on placement with us until December, make sure to say hi to Thomas if you see him! He's already settling in well and is a welcome addition to our team.

We hope to see some of you at our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 25th October at 10am- a great way to celebrate all the great work that has taken place over the last year!

As always, a massive thanks to all our staff, trustees, and volunteers, who do a brilliant job at running the Centre and making it a lovely place for people to come to.

Gill Bain
Centre Manager