

Boomerang Newsletter

WELCOME!

Here is a little look into what we have been up to at Boomerang...



Volunteering

We are seeing an increase in people wanting to volunteer at the Centre, whether it be to help with their mental health, work towards getting a job or to simply give back to the community. In November BT & EE came along to the Centre to help clear out our cupboards, keep the grounds outside nice and clean and even helped with our Larder and Lunch Club. We have also welcomed lots of new volunteers to the Cosy Café, Kitchen, Toddlers, Community Garden and Freecycle area.



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

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

October 2023:

Moira Prophet (Left) - Moira volunteers every Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the Larder and is a very hard worker.



November 2023:

Leeanne Napier (Kitchen) – Leeanne volunteers Monday to Friday in the Kitchen and does a sensational job.

December 2023:

Avril Henderson (Kitchen) - Avril volunteers every Thursday and Friday in the kitchen and is an amazing helper.

Group Updates

DECEMBER 2023

Lunch Club

Asda supported us with an Empowering Local Communities Grant via Asda Dundee Kirkton to put on our service users Christmas Lunch and everyone enjoyed a fantastic three course meal along with entertainment from Paul Sullivan. A good time was had by all.

Some of our service users also attended a lunch courtesy of Dundee United Community Trust and Dundee FC Community Trust.

Staffing

We said a fond farewell to our 2nd year Community Education student Thomas who was with us for a few months in 2023.

Cake Decorating

The last of the Christmas cake decorating classes took place and our service users done an amazing job with designing their cakes under the supervision of Sam our staff member. Everyone done so well and cannot wait for the next sessions!

Donations

We were overwhelmed with donations to the run up to Christmas with donations of monies, food, toys, and more! Champion Homes donated a cheque for £300 to Gill, our Centre Manager. Our Knit & Natter Group also presented us with a cheque for £500 which was greatly appreciated.



We received a lovely new heater from Sunbelt Rentals Limited that has been put into our Cosy Café to keep everyone warm. Many thanks to Sunbelt for supporting us.



We were in Partnership with Fans Supporting Foodbanks Dundee through the month of November who collected food and monies at the Dundee FC and Dundee United games and the fantastic sum of £1329.69 was raised from the bucket collections.



Fundraising

We had Denise Hutton Spiritual Medium attend Boomerang. Everyone had a great night and £1,000 was raised.

Reminiscence Group

We had the V & A visit Boomerang showcasing some very interesting items and the group thoroughly enjoyed the visit.



Dundee University came along and gave a talk on “Introduction to Modern Medicines” which the group enjoyed. They also went for a tour of the Labs the following week.

Our Reminiscence Group were invited to the V & A and were given a personal tour of their Tartan Tour exhibition.

John Fyffe came along to our Reminiscence Group and done a talk and presentation of The Dundee Tapestry.

Walk and Talk Group

Our Walk and Talk group in partnership with the Dundee Community Health team is increasing in numbers and they enjoy coming back to Boomerang for a plate of lovely homemade soup.

Adult Art Group

Kelly came along to our Adult Art Group where she had the Group draw some Highland Coos. They looked amazing!

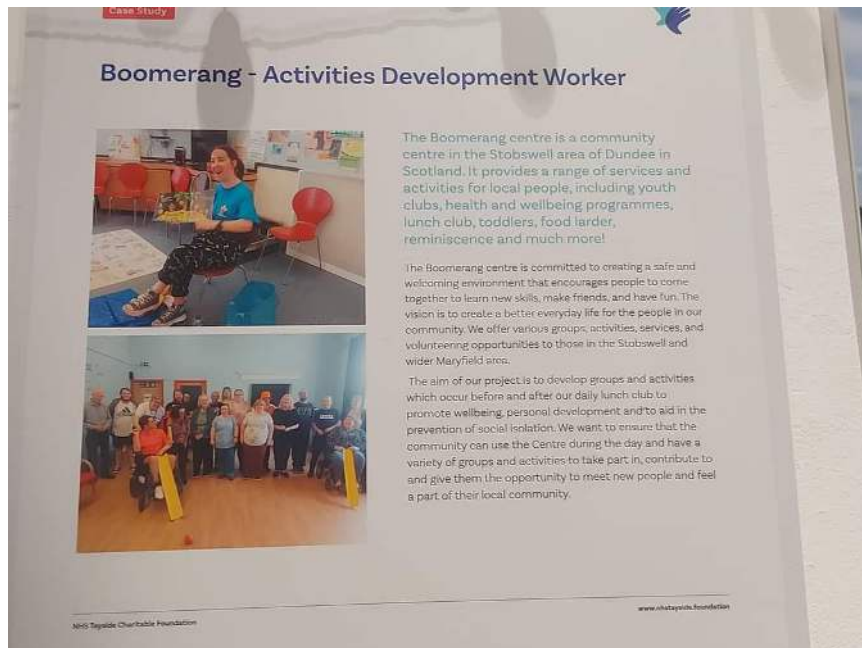


NOVEMBER 2023

Community Garden

We received funding from the Dundee Health Green Partnership and bought some lovely new planters.

Alison attended the new launch of the NHS Tayside Charitable Foundation which she found very informative.



Our service users had a great time making Lanterns as part of the Dundee Hooley Parade.

Joyce from Transition Dundee came along to give our service users the opportunity to make a Christmas Wreath.

We held our Christmas Fayre on the 25th of November and over 300 people came through the door to support us. We were entertained by the Makaton Choir, Dundee University and The National Literacy Trust. Santa and his elves had great fun entertaining everyone!



What a great time was had by at our second session of Food for Thought in partnership with the Nilupul Foundation. The group enjoyed mindfulness along with learning how to cook healthy food on a budget.

Shaper Caper came along to give one of their 'love life' sessions and everyone had a great time.

As part of the Dundee Jazz Festival, we had Zeth along to Boomerang Adult Art class to give a free art and music workshop.

The British Red Cross attended Boomerang to hand out Winter Warmer packs at our Community Larder. These packs were very much appreciated.

Alison and Kelly attended the Dundee Fairness Leadership Panel conference at the Discovery Quay.

The Boomerang staff team had a day of team building. There was a lot of fab teamwork going on learning to work together and compromise, making us all stronger as a team! Onwards and upwards for Team Boomerang.

Youth and Families

October Holiday Provision

During the October Holidays we had two family-based activities: a family film, and family bingo. We also had two Halloween themed activities which were pumpkin carving, and Halloween games, which was kindly funded by Dundee Bairns! Our holiday provision was unfortunately cut short by Storm Babet as it was unsafe for our young people and their families to come to the centre.



Toddlers

It has been a busy couple of months within our toddler group.

We enjoyed a trip to Auchingarrich Wildlife Park on the 16th of October, this was partially funded by Cash for Kids which meant we were able to keep the cost minimal to be more accessible for our families. We were able to see many different animals and even got the chance to feed some goats! We are hoping to do some more trips this year.



We had our Halloween party on the 31st of October which was enjoyed by all of the children and their carers. We played lots of games, did lots of dancing and had many yummy food and treats!



On the 1st of November we had the Creative Learning Team come in to do a messy play workshop with our families, we decorated biscuits and made some Halloween crafts! We are hoping to continue this partnership going forward and are currently planning some sessions for the coming months.



On the 29th of November we were very lucky to have had a performance of the Snow Queen from Shaper Caper. This was enjoyed by 20 families who were able to sing, dance and laugh together! We were grateful to have been able to see this show with no cost to Boomerang or our families, making it more accessible for our attendees.



On the 6th of December we took a group of families to the V&A for their Get Set Yeti exhibition which allowed the children to play a game of eye-spy inside the Tartan exhibit for free. This was engaging and allowed families who may not have been able to access the museum before a chance to explore it! We also hope to do more of these events this year.



We also had our 2 Christmas parties on the 13th and 14th of December, where over 40 children got the chance to meet Santa and received a present and selection box that were all gratefully received. We were so lucky to have had so many amazing donations in the lead up to these events!



Youth Art Group

Our youth art group have been very busy in recent months!

On the 3rd of November we had a visit from the Dundee Jazz Festival committee who came in to do a messy play workshop. Our young people had to paint and create pictures based on the sounds made when the bass instrument was played! They did both an individual and group project and had lots of fun painting (including painting their own faces!!).



MESSAGE FROM THE CENTRE MANAGER:

Happy New Year! Another busy few months at Boomerang and as always, a massive thank you to all our staff and volunteers who help to deliver all the groups, activities and services that go on.

We are thrilled that we have been awarded three-year funding from The Henry Smith Charity, which will help to keep so many groups going and hopefully allow even more groups to start! We are so grateful to all of our funders and to everyone who makes donations to us.

We are delighted to receive funding from The Rank Foundation for a Time to Shine Intern this year. Amy McLaughlin has joined us as our new Outreach and Engagement Worker and will be getting out and about to promote everything that goes on at Boomerang and hopefully bring new people into the Centre.

We continue to host Community Education students from Dundee University and have two first year students, Libby and Beth, who are helping in the larder and toddlers one morning a week for the next couple of months. We also continue to have Laura, our third-year student, with us until the end of March.

Gill Bain

Centre Manager