

NEWSLETTER

Q3 edition

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2024



We have been up to lots in the centre in the last quarter, here's a look at what's gone on!

VOLUNTEERING

One of our marvellous volunteers, Steve, started up a karaoke and sing-along group! It has been very popular and a great mood booster, some of the staff have even had a go!



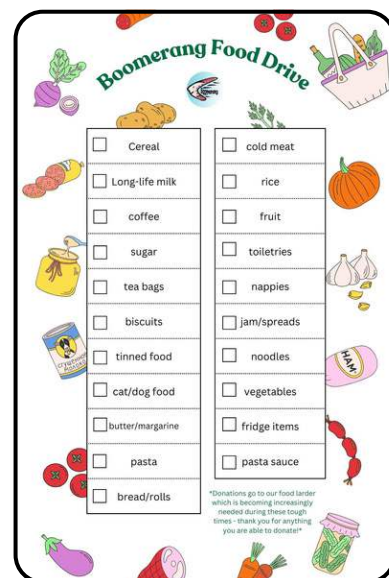
We had a group of 16 Volunteers from EE that came along on the 12th and 24th of July to help us in the centre and helping to maintain the outside of the building.

We had some new volunteers as well, they have settled in well and we are always so appreciative of anyone that wants to help out!

July – 7 new volunteers

August – 2 new volunteers

September – 7 new volunteers



We had a food drive with the larder ladies in Morrison's (on our front cover) which was a great afternoon and we were so touched by the generosity of people in such tough times!

In August, Sarah and Amy completed the End of Life aid skills for everyone (EASE) training. They said it was eye opening and developed their skills in having more taboo but necessary conversations

DEVELOPMENT

One of our garden volunteers, Ralph, was successful in growing garlic in our community garden!



On the 7th of July, young people from Boomerang attended the Smiling Wings Aviation day at Perth Airport in Scone. 11 children from Boomerang attended the day and were flown over the skies of Tayside and were shown round the hangars, and even had some face paint done!

13th of July -

We held our annual Summer Fayre! We had the University of Dundee in with some fun activities, the National Literacy Trust giving away free books, and Scottish Fire & Rescue even came along and brought their fire engine.

We held a Summer afternoon tea on the 21st of July where people

were treated to delicious selection of sandwiches, scones, sweet treats, tea and coffee

In July, Lynne celebrated 25 years working at Boomerang. We held a little presentation at work to thank her for all her hard work and dedication to Boomerang.



We were deeply saddened by the passing of one of our long term members, George Thayre. George and his wife Maureen had been part of Boomerang Community Centre for almost 20 years and he was a much loved part of the Boomerang community and his presence is sorely missed. We would like to acknowledge the generosity of his family for having a collection for Boomerang at the funeral too.

DEVELOPMENT

The annual Model Show took place on the 27th of July and was very well attended

Boomerang's LGBTQIA group started on the 10th of August by our 4th year student, Laura, with help from a volunteer. This is group-led, and is the only social group supporting recovery for LGBT+ identifying individuals. Laura had identified a need for an LGBT+ group in the area and discussed this with other LGBT+ organisations who agreed that this was a great idea!

August seen the start of our photography course. This was in partnership with Everlong photography. This ran for six weeks and was centred around 'Stobswell through the lens'.

Stobswell Trinity Church of Scotland held a Harvest collection and very kindly donated to our Larder. Their continued support is very much appreciated.

It was green health week from the 23rd to the 29th of September. The idea of it was to be outside and appreciate nature, so many of our groups took place outside and revolved around the natural world and the environment.

The Boomerang annual golf tournament took place on Sunday the 18th of August and over 20 teams participated. Over £4,000 was raised on the day. GMB Scotland were our main sponsors of the event with then donating £500.



Vicki and Michelle from Yorkshire Building Society came along to our Cosy Café on the 11th of September to do a presentation on the cost of living crisis. Everyone found the talk very informative.

We held a psychic supper on Friday the 13th of September and this was very well attended. Over £1,000 was raised.

YOUTH AND FAMILIES

In July and August we had 3 weeks of holiday provision. These were very well attended with 12 children attending each session. We did various activities such as family bingo, making slime and meeting lots of cute (and slimy) animals! Our holiday provision is funded by Dundee Bairns and we are so grateful to them as without their funding we would not be able to provide this much needed provision for our young people and their families.



Youth Games Group – We have been fortunate to have received many donations such as a Wii, new switch games, and new puzzles which our young people have really enjoyed. We also received a funding donation from Help For Kids which enabled us to buy more new games for our group. We also now have 12 regular attendees for this group which is great!

YOUTH AND FAMILIES

On the 16th September we took some of our families on a trip to Stanley Active Kids in Perth, this was funded by Cash For Kids. We took 40 people on this trip and everyone had such a fun day, we got to pet some furry friends, play on the go-karts and even tried our luck with the mini golf. We are so fortunate to have received the funding for this trip as unfortunately without it we would not be able to take our

toddlers on these trips.

In August Sophie, Sammi and Alison took part in the Mighty Stride at the Kiltwalk – a 20 mile walk from St Andrews to Slessor Gardens to raise money for Boomerang which we raised just over £500. It was a good day minus the sore feet and sunburn! Well done to Sophie, Sammi and Alison, we are so proud of you!



MESSAGE FROM THE CENTRE MANAGER

Hello again! It's been a busy few months settling in and getting to know you all... I've also been out and about meeting other community members and visiting community groups- I'm just astounded by the amazing spirit of Stobswell and the great work that our colleagues at Stobswell Forum, Dundee International Women's Centre, The Community Health team, and many others are doing!

July started out with some real excitement- there was a lot of chat about 'aviation day'... which it turns out is exactly what it says on the tin- we take our youth groups over to Perth Airfield and give them a go in 2/3 person planes... I'm hoping to get a shot next year!

Getting to know the centre has been overall great; but there were some things that were on the 'To Do' list from the get-go, first up was getting all of our staff working in the same place and using the same systems- so if we're all a wee bit slow on the computers, give us a wee bit of time- its all still a bit new!

We've had quite a few new volunteers over this quarter; including our Mr-Fix-It, volunteer handyman who you've maybe seen up ladders or under the kitchen cabinets- repairs are expensive so its amazing to have someone with the know-how volunteer their time! That said, any extra hands are always welcome; The larder, Kitchen, Toddlers, Café and Reception Volunteers are just a brilliant bunch- we couldn't do it without them!

Over the last few months, We've been so impressed with the teams from EE, BT & B&Q who have all donated their time (and energy), doing everything from doing the dishes and making toast to painting the loos and building us a sand pit. B&Q created a wee film of their time here that we'll be sharing soon! I couldn't possibly cover all that's happened over this time; I'll leave some for the rest of the team!

I was going to finish up by apologising for all of the exclamation marks above... but you know what? I'm excited by all of the things we do and the people we see and the change we make... and I just think there aren't enough exclamation marks in the world to show that!!!

Until next time,
Carrie