

NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM JACKIE REDDING, OUR CEO

Christmas seems a long time ago now and, despite staff illnesses and bad weather, we have only had to close our Youth Zone twice over this long winter.

We have had such a positive start to 2023, with our 7th birthday celebrations in January, an exciting visit from the UFC Champion Leon Edwards in February and lots of new volunteers training to join our team in March.

We are seeing an increase in the number of young people joining our Youth Zone every month and our sessions have over a hundred young people every evening. We are introducing more and more activities into our evening sessions and I think we can confidently say that The Way Youth Zone is a safe, fun and inspiring place for the young people of Wolverhampton!



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

On 16th January, The Way celebrated 7 years since it opened its doors to the young people of Wolverhampton. Since 2016, our Youth Zone has had 15,800 young people through its doors, with current memberships at 1,493 and increasing by around 100 young people a month.

Senior members joined us for a birthday party which included our live band, karaoke and some DJing by one of our Youth Team, Nat. We then surprised the Junior members with a small celebration in their session too with a birthday cake made by our amazing chef, Aneta.



HOW ARE WE DOING?

DEC 22 - FEB 23

7619 ↑

YOUNG PEOPLE VISITS TO THE WAY

16011

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE BEEN A PART OF OUR YOUTH ZONE SINCE IT OPENED ITS DOORS

WE HAVE RUN

78

SESSIONS

354 ↑

NEW MEMBERS



CHALLENGE 7

To celebrate seven years of The Way, we encouraged our young people to try something new, get active and help out during January. Youth Zone members were challenged to complete 7 activities across the climbing room, gym and sports hall, art room, boxing gym, music room and dance studio, as well as one final challenge which is completed once they have either beat the staff at an activity or helped the staff out during an evening session.

Over 150 challenge cards were filled in by our members and on 1st February, the completed cards were put into a prize draw, selecting a junior and a senior member to each win a high street voucher.

Members really enjoyed trying different rooms within the Youth Zone that they maybe hadn't used before and tried their hand at some new activities.



LEON EDWARDS INSPIRES OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



In February, Leon Edwards, the UFC Welterweight Champion, paid a surprise visit to The Way, inspiring the members to achieve their dreams through commitment and dedication, whatever their background.

Leon spoke to members about his journey to success, demonstrating why it is so important to find your passion and to have the access to safe and inspiring places like The Way Youth Zone.

Leon 'Rocky' Edwards became just the second British UFC champion in history when he dethroned 'The Nigerian Nightmare' last August and he successfully defended his title earlier this month. We were really grateful that he took time out of his intense training schedule to visit the Youth Zone and see some of the amazing work delivered by the Youth Team, as well as the MMA training that is provided by Inpower Academy. Hopefully, he'll be back to see us again soon.

ART AWARDS



We were excited to launch our new Arts Award, which started in February. Open to both Juniors and Seniors, this 10-week art programme will encourage our young people to explore different styles of artwork, developing a factfile on a famous artist and then producing their own art work. Once they have completed the 10 weeks, they will be presented with an Arts Award qualification.



VOLUNTEERING

The Way have kicked off the new year with a campaign to bring more volunteers into our team. There are so many benefits to volunteering, including making a difference in your community, improving your confidence, giving your CV a boost and getting back into work. We look forward to welcoming some new faces into the Youth Zone over the next



couple of months to help us to make a difference to the lives of our young people. If you know anyone who might be interested, have a look at the volunteering section of our website.

TRANSCENDENCE - THE BAND



The Way Youth Zone have a band! Three seniors, Harri (drums) and Chloe (lead guitar) and Spencer (singer) have been regularly practicing and, with the addition of one of our Youth Team Nik (bass guitar), there's been some great sounds coming from the Music Room.

They performed two songs at the Newhampton Arts Centre in Whitmore Reans in February at the Live & Picking event, handling it like true professionals. We're so proud of them and we can't wait to see them performing more at our events this year.



ACTIVITY TIMETABLES

With our growing Youth Team, we are able to offer more and more activities on our sessions. We have so many interesting, inspiring ideas for our young people that we are starting to produce clear timetables for each activity room so that members can plan their time while they're in The Way. From songwriting classes to a craft and chat hour, learning a musical instrument to sewing - we have now planned every activity out. Look out for more timetables across our social media.



MEET DL ACADEMY

We have an exciting new partnership with DL academy who are currently coming into Friday Senior sessions to run dance classes, including acrobatics on the inflatable air track! There's some brilliant choreography and exciting ideas for future dances.

There are still spaces for more members to join, you don't have to have dance experience, just give it a try!



COMING UP

Just some of our exciting plans for the next few months!

