

NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM JACKIE REDDING, OUR CEO

It's been a busy three months, with the warmer weather allowing us to get our young people outside more often.

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to our special events recently - the Coronation Party in May and the Wolverhampton Pride celebrations in June. It was lovely to see so many of our members and their families coming together and getting involved in all of the activities throughout our Youth Zone.

We are focussing on our Youth Zone's Values this month. Discussing their meanings, understanding their importance and launching our new Values Awards. These monthly awards will recognise the positive behaviours within our Youth Zone and celebrate how amazing our staff, volunteers and young people are.

Our Holiday Clubs are continuing to be very popular. We were delighted to have British Cycling over May Half Term, running cycling lessons on our outdoor pitch, helping our members to improve their bike skills and build their confidence. Looking ahead to the summer, we are awaiting confirmation of funding for our summer Holiday Club, which will hopefully run for 4 weeks in August. As soon as we are able to, we will open booking online so keep an eye on our social media!

I hope you all have a great summer!

HOW ARE WE DOING? MAR-MAY 2023

8918 ↑

YOUNG PEOPLE VISITS
TO THE WAY

16,428

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

316 ↓

NEW MEMBERS

WE HAVE RUN

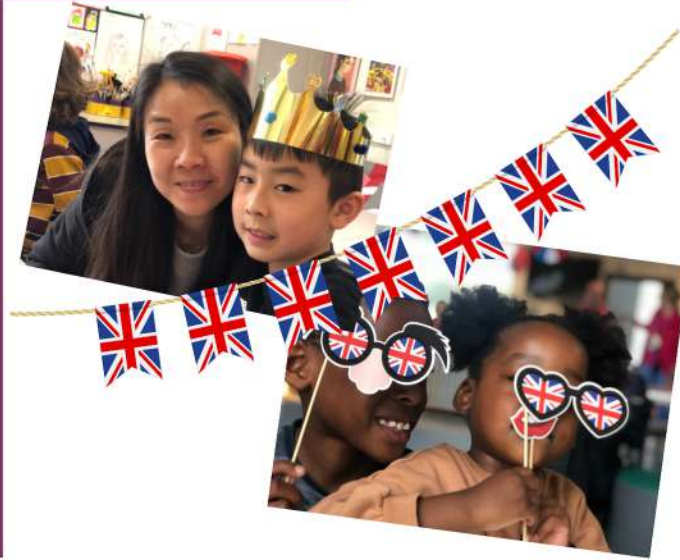
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SESSIONS

Coronation Party

Our Coronation Party was a great success on Monday 8th May. We had over **130 people** attend, including some new members who joined especially for the party. There was a lovely atmosphere with so many fun activities going on around the building and it was great to see some of the staff with their families too!

Thanks to everyone who worked and supported this event – hopefully we'll organise more themed, one-off family events like this.



OUR YOUTH ZONES COME TOGETHER



Many young people who attend our network of 14 Youth Zones rarely have the opportunity to leave their local area, so it was brilliant to bring together over 400 young people from across the country at OnSide's President's Cup 2023.

Hosted by Warrington Youth Zone, the energy on the day was electric, and in the midst of the competition there was a real sense of belonging, community, fun, friendship and memory making.

Our young people did us proud, with our Youth Zone coming joint 5th place out of 18 teams from across the network as well as members for Hammersmith & Fulham, Grimsby and South Bristol, who gained an idea of what to expect when their Youth Zones open.

Congratulations to Wigan Youth Zone, winners of the President's Cup!

MY VIEW OF THE PRESIDENT'S CUP

By *Shiloh Pryce*,
Senior member



“ I really enjoyed the President's Cup in Warrington because it was really nice to compete against different Youth Zones and people from different parts of the country. I enjoyed the football tournaments the most because football is my favourite sport and I wanted to represent The Way in the best way that I could. I'm glad that we won the Seniors football tournament as that was very tough to win and the games against the other youth zones were very tough and tiring.



The staff, volunteers and everyone from all of the Youth Zones, especially Warrington Youth Zone were really kind and welcoming and it was so nice to feel welcome from the moment we got there to the moment we left!

Overall it was a great day and I really enjoyed representing The Way at President's Cup 2023!



HOLIDAY CLUB SUCCESS!

We had a fantastic holiday club over the May Half Term. We kept over 200 kids entertained across four days with so many fun activities such as climbing, parachute games, arts and crafts, board games, quizzes, music and fun team challenges.



British Cycling joined us for two of the days to teach the young people cycling skills, which was a huge hit! We hope to welcome them back on a more regular basis.



It was an absolute pleasure having your amazing young people with us, they behaved so well and we saw lots of kindness and respect from them during our activities.



It was very clear from their feedback (and the noise levels) that the Kahoot quizzes were the highlights of each day, just after lunch!



DID YOU KNOW

Our Youth Zone is a charity and we rely on funding from Wolverhampton City Council for our Holiday Clubs. It costs **£33 per day for each child**, which pays for staff, food, power and equipment.

When you reserve a place on Holiday Club, this is only funded if the child turns up. **If you do not turn up, our charity has to pay for these costs.**

**28 young people did not turn up!
That cost almost £1000**

This is money that could be better spent on supporting our young people in our Youth Zone.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE cancel your booking if you cannot make it so that more young people can benefit from our charity. Thank you!

OUR YOUTH ZONE'S FIRST NOVELIST!

Mattat Salmon, a Senior member of The Way, has released her first novel, "Breath," on Amazon. The novel is an inspiring story about a family of friends making a treacherous journey through a world ruined by pollution, to make it into an eco city where they can finally breathe without a gas mask. The story explores themes of grief, gratitude, and sustainability.

Mattat was inspired to write the novel by her mother, who has published six books of her own. "My favourite hobby is reading, and I've always enjoyed coming up with stories and writing them down," said Salmon. "The story was inspired by my desire for people to stop taking the planet for granted."

"Breath" is available for purchase on Amazon.com.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW VOLUNTEERS!

We have had some new faces in our Youth Zone recently and hope to have a few more soon. Our team of volunteers is gradually growing and we now have four regular volunteers. 12 people are already booked onto our next volunteer training day so we hope to increase our team even more!

There are so many benefits to volunteering, including improving your self confidence, giving your CV a boost to help you back into work or encouraging you to meet new people.



Sadie



Anthony

NEW FUNDING TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE



We've received some great news, National Lottery Reaching Communities have funded The Way with a grant of **£245,417** to run a targeted project for 3 years!

The MAP (Mentoring Aspirations Plus) targeted project will support 30 young people each year aged 8 - 18 in care, leaving care or on a child protection plan. They will receive tailored one-to-one mentoring support from fully trained, adult mentor volunteers who can provide education around independent living and safe lifestyles.

Providing support with learning and training, they will also improve resilience and self-esteem and give young people the vital skills required to secure sustainable employment, stability at school, and a safe home life.



The Masonic Charitable Foundation have approved a grant of **£35,258** (over 1 year) to our Youth Zone providing increased support for 70 young people through our Time to Talk project.

Our Emotional Health and Wellbeing programme, "Time to Talk" will train our youth workers as mental health first aiders to have conversations with young people attending sessions at our youth zone.

This is designed as an early intervention programme to identify young people in need, to offer a listening ear, support and resources to deal with issues at an early stage before they escalate to more serious mental health problems.

JOIN WOLVERHAMPTON COMMUNITY LOTTERY AND SUPPORT OUR YOUTH ZONE

Imagine winning **£25,000** and supporting a good cause at the same time? Well, you're in luck, because The Way Youth Zone has joined the Wolverhampton Community Lottery!

This means that every time you buy a **£1** ticket for the weekly draw, you have a chance to win up to **£25,000** and help us provide amazing activities and opportunities for young people in Wolverhampton.

All you have to do is go to <https://www.wolverhamptoncommunitylottery.co.uk>

and select The Way Youth Zone as your chosen charity. We will get 60p from every ticket you buy, which will go towards funding our programmes and services. Join the Wolverhampton Community Lottery today and support The Way Youth Zone!



WOLVERHAMPTON PRIDE 2023

Thank you to all of our families who joined us on Saturday 10th June to celebrate Wolverhampton Pride.

We had a great time on the parade and the Youth Zone looked great with all of the flags and with everyone wearing stickers and tattoos.



NEW SPORTS TIMETABLE

Did you know we offer 20 different types of sports sessions throughout the week for our young people?

We have published new timetables for all of our sports areas throughout our Youth Zone. They are all available on our website in the What's On section.



GIRLS GET STRONG!

Following on from the success of our girls-only sessions during International Women's Day, we have introduced regular girls-only sessions in gym, football and bodyweight fitness classes.



There are so many benefits of sports for girls:

- ▶ Improved physical health
- ▶ Improved mental health
- ▶ Improved academic performance
- ▶ Developed leadership skills
- ▶ Increased self-confidence

Checkout our new sports timetables online to find out more.

CLIMBING FOR CALM

We have launched our new Climbing for Calm sessions. These sessions are for our young people who may need additional support or just want a quieter atmosphere to try a new activity.

Young people can come and develop their climbing and knot-tying techniques in a calm, relaxed environment.

Climbing for Calm will run Mon, Wed and Fridays 4:30 - 5:30. No need to book, just turn up!



KEEP UP TO DATE WITH OUR YOUTH ZONE



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