

## 2013 Group Activities

During the last year we have help to provide internet access for the community to help with Job Searches and apply for Jobs, write CV's. Over 1200 have used these facilities during the last year. Several of our volunteers have now gained full time employment over the last year.

Children who have no internet access come in to do research for their lessons or homework.

During school holidays we have provided activities for children aged 7—13 from disadvantaged areas, 3 days per week each school holiday. We try to make most activities of an educational nature.



In February we ran a 3 day activity, the children were asked to bring in clothes so they could put a design on them. T-shirts and Jeans were the most popular. While they waited for the design to dry between colours they did arts and crafts. Last day we had a healthy eating day and a disco.

In April we ran a 2 week activity, it began with a day of plastacine animation, the children split into 4 groups and they had to create background, characters and storyline. Then when all was ready they had to photograph is sequence and make a 20 second film.



Next day they did a pensioners garden, digging and weeding and cutting hedges so that pensioners could manage their gardens easily after.

Next day we took the children to the Space Centre in Leicester for the day.



Next week the children did another pensioners garden, then we took the

children to Elan Valley, here the children found out where their water came from to get into the tap, and the next day to Umberslade Farm.



In May the children did another garden and next day we took them to Sandwell Valley and Monkey Forest the following day, here we ran a photo competition.



In July we did a week's residential in Wales, we rented a cottage in Wales for 5 days, we split the group into 2 smaller groups, each group doing 2 and half days. The children have to learn how to work together as the adults take a back seat and only do the cooking with the help of the children, cleaning and preparing food and making their own fun was down to the children. At the cottage there are no TV's, radio and mobile phones have limited connections as it is amongst the mountains.



In August we ran a 4 week activity, having a football coaching student and a dance instructor student among the volunteers, we ran a fitness programme. Football and dance 1 day a week and a garden each week. Between we took the children to Gulliver's Kingdom, Baggeridge Park, High Ropes and Weston Super-mare. The final week we took the children to everyone's favourite Drayton Manor as thank you for all the work they had put in over the holidays.







As well as children's activities we also ran trips for pensioners from different area's to help stop isolation and help them to make new friends. We took 50 pensioners to Bury Market. Here they could make their own way round The town, volunteers with first aid training went with them to make sure no one gets lost or hurt. Each person is given a card with an emergency phone number.



We took another 50 pensioners to Tewksbury in July, Worcester in August and Shrewsbury in September. The final trip of the year was to Blackpool to see the lights. A group pensioners came to our centre on Wednesday afternoons for a game of Cribbage, Domino's as well a as a chat and a cup of tea or coffee. Coffee mornings are run on Wednesday



All year we are ably assisted by our own youth group (Star Youth), during the year they have completed first aid training and fire safety with the Fire



Service at Stourbridge, Asdan training with DY3 training and raised their own money by doing Face Painting and Air Brush Tattoo's at local fun days and a day Bag Packing at B&M Dudley.



In October Star Youth invited pensioners from across the area to join them at

the Bunch of Bluebells public house for a party. They rented a room and provided all the food and music. They put on old Black Country delicacies like Groaty Pudding and Grey Peas and Bacon as well as normal party food. The pensioners just had to ask and Star Youth waited on them, at the end of the party the pensioner all said how much they had enjoyed Star Youth's company for the day.