

Herefordshire
**Children's
Trust**

LINKS

BRINGING PARTNERS TOGETHER
ISSUE 2 AUGUST 2010

Making growing up great in Herefordshire – Garway Primary School students on top of the world!

Year 6 pupils at the school recently enjoyed a series of "Forest Schools" sessions on Garway Hill. The purpose of Forest Schools is to encourage and inspire children through outdoor play and activities. Garway pupils have enjoyed building shelters, pond dipping, fence repairing, making wooden charms, treasure hunts, and activities involving looking at the environment from animals' perspectives to weighing lambs.



Children's Trust Partners: Children, Young People and Families; Schools and Colleges; Herefordshire Council; NHS Herefordshire; West Mercia Police; Youth Offending Service; Probation Service; Job Centre Plus; Voluntary & Community Organisations; Private Sector

Important statement regarding the future of our Children's Trust

In Herefordshire we have been proud and pleased of our joint partnership working that has taken place over the last three years under the umbrella of the Children's Trust. As the new interim Director of Children's Services and Chair of the Children's Trust Board it has been clear to me that Herefordshire has achieved much over this time period.

We are now in uncertain times both in terms of policies of the new government and financially with the cuts that are being made across the public sector. This is exactly the time when partners planning and working together can make the very best use of these reducing resources. Our Children's Trust Board has committed itself to exactly working in this way.

The Department for Education recently made an announcement that it will be reforming Children's Trusts and revoking the requirement to have a Children and Young People's Plan. Instead local areas can decide what best fits local needs. In Herefordshire the Children's Trust Board has agreed that both the partnership should continue and the plan should remain. We have already started work on the new plan which will be in place from April 2011 and that should continue. As partners we still need to focus on what we can do for children and families which working on our own will not achieve. As we develop our new plan we will also look to ensure we have the most effective structures in place to support its delivery.

These are challenging times but partners within the Children's Trust are determined that we still collaborate our effort and resources in our aims in supporting children and young people in Herefordshire.



David Sanders
Chair of the
Children's Trust
Board

Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2011-2014 - Getting to grips with issues

Planning for the future with focus on real issues was the objective of the Children's Trust event that took place on 21 June. Representatives from the Children's Trust Board, Management Group, 5 outcome groups and the Shadow Board met at the Freedom Centre to look at the



achievements over the last 2 years and outstanding issues that have to be addressed. Suggested ideas for priorities for the next CYPP (2011-2014) were then discussed and comments noted.

This was the first time the new Shadow Board members had met with other Children's Trust members and had the opportunity to air their views directly. Children's Trust representatives and Shadow Board members all felt this was a productive and challenging way forward.

Extensive consultation and further events are planned for later in the year.

An interactive event for children and young people to discuss the new plan has been arranged for Wednesday 29 September, so watch out for more details.



LEARNING IS FUN

Living Well
Activity Day,
Hinton
Community
Centre,
4 August 2010

One of the clear objectives for the Children's Trust for the next few years is to ensure that there is an element of fun in as much of its work as possible. Even in delivering serious messages there can be a degree of fun in the way the messages are relayed - as can be seen from these activities that highlight some of the brilliant work being carried out across the county.



Crucial Crew 2010 staying safe and healthy



An annual event that focuses on staying safe and healthy with contributions from Children's Trust partners and others including the Red Cross, fire service, heartstart, school nursing service, trading standards and Herefordshire Housing. As well as visiting exhibition stands primary school students from across the county had the opportunity to try different activities during the lunchtime break – including 'wii' fit and cheer leading.

Cheers!



Dying 2 Drive - a journey into reality - Another successful annual event

"How risky is a roller coaster ride compared to travelling in a car without a seat belt?" was one of the questions asked of students at the Dying 2 Drive event held during the last week of June.



A graphic display of what could happen – serious injury or death – focussed minds on the problems of being on the road – as a passenger in a car, as a driver or as a pedestrian. Year 10 students from schools across the county attended 5 workshops focusing on: distraction; the affects and effects of drugs and alcohol; attitudes and stereotyping; understanding risks and consequences; plus the importance of first aid in life saving. The event encourages students to think seriously and act sensibly when out and about on the roads.

One of the retained firemen involved in cutting the 'dead' body from a crashed, demonstration car believes events such as this are 100% effective in making young people think more about what they are doing on the roads and what they can do to avoid risks. As one who has to pick up the pieces, he should know.

LEARNING WE'

Enjoy and you really CAN achieve

15 year old Aylestone Business and Enterprise College student John Day was awarded runner up in the 'Young Student of the Year' National IMI (Institute of the Motor Industry) Awards held in London on the 10th June. John was selected from nearly 70,000 students after being nominated by Dave Finn and John Vickers from Motov8 and Lydia Dyer from Herefordshire Council.

John was referred to Motov8 - a Motor Vehicle training centre – by the Live and Learn programme and he has been attending for the last year. Live and Learn is an applied vocational training scheme for students who are struggling with school life and often end up dropping out of traditional education.

Since joining the scheme in September 2009 John has spent a day a week at Motov8, where his confidence has grown and his attendance at school has improved dramatically.

Last year 250 pupils were involved in the programme which involves pupils spending one day a week out of school working on practical work-based activities to encourage them back into learning. A number of organisations are involved in the scheme including Keith St Peters hairdressers, the Wye Wood project, Taste for Adventure and Herefordshire College of Technology.



John was presented with his award by HRH Prince Michael of Kent.

BODY IMAGE

Loving yourself inside and out! Enabling teenagers to have a positive bodyimage, enjoying their unique attributes.

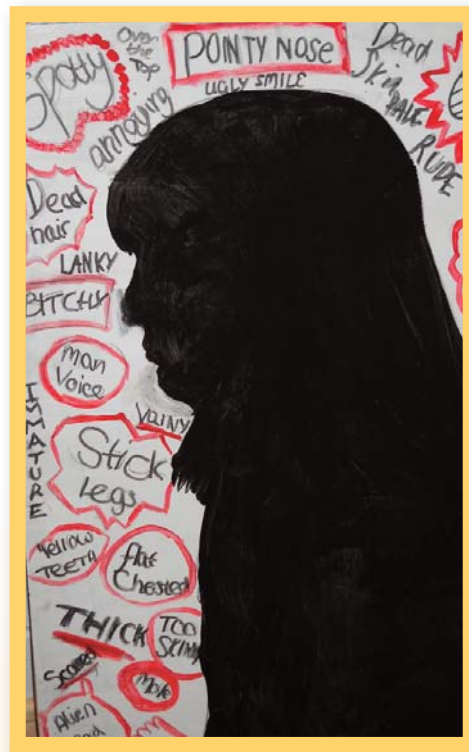
'Body Image' was an after school

activity during the summer term for girls in years 8 and 9 at Aylestone High School. The project focuses on how we see ourselves compared with how we think we should look, and refers to the strong influence created by the media. Developing self esteem, acceptance of who we are, and self confidence were the aims of the activity.

The Body Image workshops answer teenagers' questions including:

- Why do I feel so negative about the way that I look?
- Is it possible to look like the people in the magazines?
- Does it matter how I feel about my body and appearance? Does anybody else struggle with the way that they look?
- What effect does the media have on how I view my appearance and other people's?
- Is it possible to feel good about the way that I look?

The girls taking part agreed they had fun and learnt a lot about themselves.



Comments from teenagers

"I have realised that everyone looks different and is beautiful in their own way"

"I feel better about everything, my shape, my size and my weight"

"It helped me realise that pictures I see in magazines are not real. That helps"

"It made me realise that I am great the way I am"

RE ALL SPECIAL



Awards not ASBOs

When a group of young people decided their kind were getting too much bad press they decided to do something about it. 'Awards not ASBOs' was to be a celebratory event and the group was inundated with nominees for awards. Nominations were whittled down to two runners-up and a winner in each of eight categories, including young volunteer of the year and community support award. Winners and runners-up were then invited to a presentation evening on Monday 12th July at a packed Hereford town hall. The award ceremony was followed by fantastic local music from D.J.P.Green and bands Church and Destroy and Tramps Like Us. So successful was the evening the group are already planning the 2011 event!

Aiming High

Is a Government programme to provide additional services and short breaks to severely disabled children and young people.

Herefordshire Children's Trust has been given funding to put on a programme of FREE fun and varied activities in August 2010, followed by a further programme from September '10 - March '11.

All children and young people with a disability and their families can take part in the programme and activities have been arranged across the county.



More detailed information is available on the website www.herefordshire.gov.uk and www.herefordshire.nhs.uk/ or email kbrzonkalik@herefordshire.co.uk

LIVING TO LEARN

From there to here - an amazing career

It has been said that young people setting out today can expect to have several career changes in their lifetime.

So, as an example, here's one we prepared earlier



Julie graduated from Exeter University with a degree in Zoology and the intention of completing her Ph.D and becoming a marine biologist. However, love stepped in and Julie very soon became a mother of 4 (all under 5 years at one point!) and loving every minute of this 'different and new career'.

Needing to supplement finances and because of her love of children, Julie became a registered childminder and then a Supervisor at Garway Preschool Playgroup. This allowed her to do what she enjoyed, be a working Mum but have the advantage of time off to spend specifically with her own family during school holidays. The playgroup was in the village hall opposite Garway primary school, and as her children moved up into primary education a Teaching Assistant (TA) post was advertised at Garway School. Julie was successful in her application and attended evening classes at Hereford Technical College to gain her City and Guilds qualification as a teaching assistant.

Julie always maintained her interest in ecology and during this time worked as a volunteer for Hereford Nature Trust and a Wildlife Watch Group, taking groups of children out and about at weekends. Eventually she became the county co-ordinator for all the groups across the county, co-ordinating all their activities.

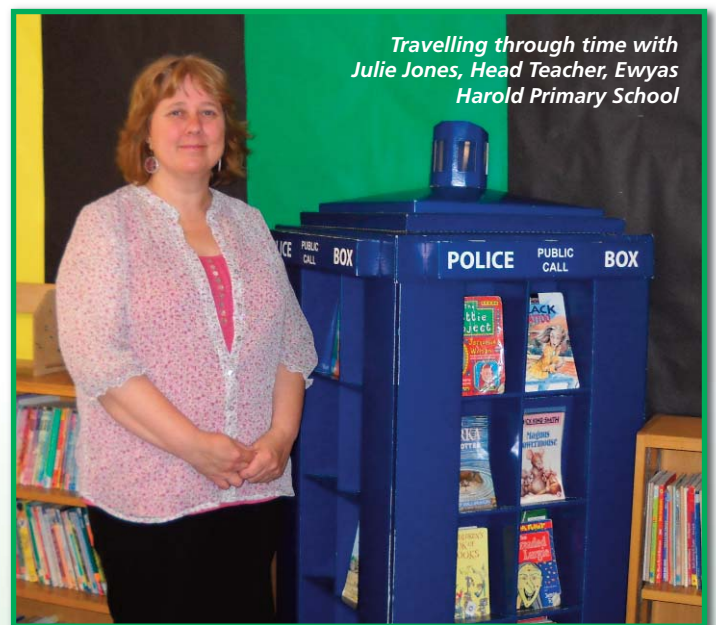
Working as a TA at Garway School Julie felt inspired to do more. Encouraged by the then Head Teacher Huw Evans, Julie spent 18 months studying for her Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) whilst still working as a TA. Julie completed her teaching practice at the school and then applied for a job there. Maintaining her love of science she became the science/eco-school co-ordinator (the voluntary work with Nature Trust stopped at this point) and then the 'Advanced Skills Teacher for Science' for one day a week, deployed across the county.

Julie's next move was to Kingstone High School where she was appointed 'Innovative Learning Development Leader', based at the school as an assistant head teacher, but working with the high school and its 6 feeder primary schools. This involved collaborative working including topics such as transition, creativity, sharing good practice and continuous professional development. Whilst working as part of this leadership team Julie took her National Professional Qualification for Headship from the National College for School Leaders and then moved on to become the Head Teacher at Ewyas Harold Primary School.

Julie says she did not set out on this career pathway and admits she has been fortunate enough to take opportunities that have arisen along the way. They have presented themselves in the south Herefordshire area she so loves, and allowed her to maintain her very strong sense of place. She is passionate about community and thrives on change and challenge. Julie is a Parish Councillor for Longtown Parish.

In her *spare time* Julie helps her partner and their family on the farm – lambing, hay making, and preparing the turkeys for Christmas.

WOW, Julie, an inspiration to us all.



LEARNING TO LIVE

Me@Work - professionals invited to share skills with school pupils

This exciting careers fair with a difference allows young people the chance to gain hands-on experience in a range of professions.

For a third year Herefordshire Council invited local businesses to sign up to the Me@Work event that took place at the Three Counties Showground on June 29th. The aim of the event is to open up the world of work for years eight and nine students (aged 14 and 15 years) by encouraging them to talk to

professionals and try their hand at a number of skills.

Hairdressers, catering companies, media companies, colleges and many others were there to encourage students to have a go at different activities. They also talked to the students about the types of qualifications and training they should be signing up for now if they wish to pursue a given profession. Other popular exhibitors were

Eastnor Pottery and Fruto Del Espirito where students experienced making fruit drinks.

Herefordshire College of Technology brought along their animal care team and a project kit car. Worcester College of Technology brought along their construction tutors to discuss trades with students and held active carpentry workshops along with plumbing and brickwork advice.

Workforce Strategy

In order to improve outcomes for children, young people and families a well trained and motivated professional workforce is essential. The new Workforce Strategy, approved by the Trust Board in July, sets out the priorities to support this across all partners. This Workforce Strategy will create a workforce in Herefordshire that:



- Is highly skilled, motivated, valued, accountable and able to work effectively to provide excellent fully integrated services
- Promotes participation from users
- Improves outcomes for children, young people and their families

The full strategy can be found:

http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/community_and_living/young_people/41586.asp

For more information contact: Sharron Goode,
01432 261641

Information Sharing



Both locally and nationally, the sharing of information has been seen to be crucial in protecting and improving outcomes for children and their families. As a result the Children's Trust and Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board are about to launch their "safe to share" campaign in September. This will be followed by a year long campaign to support the workforce in being clear when and how to share and receive information.

A new protocol is being developed and Information Sharing "Champions" are being recruited and trained in all organisations. Champions will be nominated leads for information sharing in their organisation and be able to deliver or organise basic training in information sharing in their organisation. More detailed training will also be available later in the year. There will be several "Safe to Share" weeks in 2010-11 and Champions will be proactive in raising the profile of information sharing with all members of the workforce.

For more information contact: Sharron Goode,
01432 261641

SUMMER FUN



*What????!!!
Quick build a
fence to keep
it out!
Forest School
at Garway*



*'Ello, ello - driving licence please!
Child accident prevention week - Ledbury Children's centre*



*If we make enough noise
we might drown out the
builders next door!
Community Fun Day at
Hereford Academy*



Stop press

In the first edition of Links we reported the success of SHYPP (Supported Housing for Young People Project) in winning the Midlands TPAS (Tenant Participation Advisory Service) best practice in supporting people award.

We are now pleased to tell you that SHYPP went on to win the NATIONAL award. Well done!

Look out for the next childrens trust e-bulletin - there will be important information about the Ofsted inspection.

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**Learn more, do more • Eat well, be well • Join in, take part
Log on, look out • Stay firm, be brave • Get learning, start earning**

If you would like this magazine in a different language or format, please contact the Children's trust on 01432 261743. 'Links' is also available online: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/childrenstrust