

December 2020

NEWSLETTER



ESSEX

ESSEX BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS : SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE SINCE 1939
"better to build boys & girls than to mend men & women"



Club Leader Catch Ups

We are well aware that with guidance changing so frequently it can be confusing for clubs to know what they can and can't do. This is why, over Lockdown 2.0, we started to schedule regular online Zoom meetings for club leaders and volunteers. The aim of these sessions is to update everyone on any guidance changes from the Government and also to network with other clubs to hear about other people's experiences, thoughts and feelings. These have been a great opportunity to catch up with others and as soon as we have another in the diary we will let you all know - we hope to see you all soon.

October Half Term Activities!

Uttlesford Programme

After a successful summer of delivering activity sessions we applied for further funding to facilitate the sessions again in October and February half term from Active Essex Foundation as part of their COVID-19 response funding which we were successful in (the summer was funded through Active Essex by Essex County Council). We were able to deliver activity sessions and provide lunch in the October half term for up to 30 young people a day from Thaxted Youth Club and 2 days in Takeley, we had a total of 85 different young people attend over the days. After the success of the summer and October activity sessions in Uttlesford, we have acquired funding from Active Essex to run 4 days of Christmas activity sessions from the 21st—24th December. These sessions will be running in Uttlesford, Chelmsford and Colchester.

NCS

The NCS team have had an incredibly busy 2020 and have enjoyed meeting lots of new faces over 2 amazing programmes at Hadleigh Olympic Park. Across Summer and Autumn NCS programmes we engaged with 96 young people from all around Essex. The young people took part in lots of fun activities from kayaking and paddle boarding on Hadleigh's reservoir to laser tag in the forest. The NCS team also formed many partnerships in the local community to deliver expertise sessions to our participants including Essex Fire and Rescue Service, Mind and Parliament UK.

The project received brilliant feedback from parents/guardians and the young people about the programmes. Each NCS participant is invited to continue working with EBGC within our club network. Following on from the programme, the young people have joined our Local Action Group (LAG) which is a group that meets once a month to plan and implement social action projects within the local community. Our first LAGs have been very positive with 10 young people attending. They have created a Christmas project which involves virtual bingo to an elderly home with prize giveaways to bring some Christmas joy to the local community.

Events and activities

EBGC Ultimate Quiz Night

On the evening of 27th November, we held our online quiz night where EBGC staff, club members, leaders and families came head to head! We had members from 8 of our affiliated clubs come online to enjoy an evening of fun and quizzing. Well done to Nicole from Wanstead YC for coming in 1st place! Thank you to all who were online to take part in the quiz.

V-Team Catch Up

Lockdown hasn't been all bad! It gave us the perfect opportunity to reconnect with members of our volunteer team and get them caught up on all of our exciting upcoming events in the new year and beyond. If you would be interested in volunteering with EBGC, please get in touch with jamied@essexboysandgirlsclubs.org

EBGC Facebook

Over Lockdown 2.0, we did lots over on our Facebook page - if you haven't already, head over and give us a like to stay up to date with everything we're up to! If you fancy doing some baking, scroll down and you will see Arts Officer Lynsey baking up some goodies on Saturday mornings. If you'd like to get a bit more active then take a look at our Get Fit sessions. Or if you'd like to be a bit more creative then why not go over and check out the Woodland Creation sessions where members of our outdoor team teach you how to make various projects with their step by step video guides!

Halloween Baking Event

Although we weren't able to run our usual EBGC Bake Off this year, we still wanted to get creative in the kitchen! On Halloween we held an event in Chelmsford where we made freaky freakshakes, decorated yummy cupcakes, made cake pops and did other arts and crafts. Thank you to Seabrook Rise, Rainham Royals and Bancroft Lions for attending the event. Hopefully we will be able to hold our usual Bake Off next year!

EBGC Online Youth Club

The online youth club that formed during the first lockdown is still proving very popular and happens every Tuesday evening from 5pm via Zoom with lots of fun, games and quizzes. If you would like to come along to a session then please do send Jamie an email on jamied@essexboysandgirlsclubs.org and he will give you the Zoom access code.



Christmas Card Competition 2020

Thank you to everyone who entered the Christmas card competition for 2020 we received lots of lovely, colourful cards and it made our decision very difficult! Congratulations to Emily Montague from 4Youth Brightlingsea who is our winner this year!



Training

Young Leaders Training

We have been running our Young Leaders programme virtually, this is usually run face to face but we have adapted it for a delivery over a number of weeks. Participants will receive an ASDAN award for their achievements. Please get in contact with Jamie on jamied@essexboysandgirlsclubs.org if you have any members who would benefit from gaining news skills and boosting their confidence. 15 years+ welcome.

Safeguarding

We have successfully and safely delivered Level 2 Safeguarding in Chelmsford and we will continue to run these trainings into the new year. Keep an eye out for future dates and please get in touch with Sue on suep@essexboysandgirlsclubs.org if any of your club leaders/volunteers are in need of this training.

I Can Lead

Club members from 3 clubs came together to participate and complete consisted of providing the fundamentals to running a session with young people and peers, which includes areas such as: risk assessments, session planning and most importantly fun games. The training is an accredited award from SLQ and is recognised on CV's. For more information please contact: jamied@essexboysandgirlsclubs.org

Britain's Fittest Teen

The National Association of Boys & Girls Clubs are scouring their members and affiliated youth clubs and projects to try and find Britain's Fittest Teen. From Friday 15th January to Sunday 28th February 2021 young people will have the opportunity to enter and take part in a UK-wide tournament that will culminate a national finals day at Cross Fit Rotherham. Participants

will be required to complete a range of functional fitness exercises and submit their scores online. The top scorers in each age category will then be invited to attend the finals day. It's a great event for any of our clubs to take part in but especially boxing, football and our sports clubs.

Outdoor Programmes

With all our Outdoor Residential Centre's having to remain closed during the Autumn term, we have instead been focusing on delivering a little closer to home. Working in the outdoor spaces at local schools or nearby woodlands/parks to deliver action packed outdoor learning days for young people. The staff have had to adapt sessions to work in the environment available, but it has been fantastic to see young people outdoors again and learning in nature. It was great to explore local streams and woodland that young people hadn't previously discovered, even though it is right on their doorstep! We are looking forward to delivering



even more outdoor learning days next year and we are hopeful of seeing the return of residential experiences for our clubs from Easter.

For more information on Outdoor Learning days, High Row Centre, Maes y Lade Centre, Layer Marney Outdoors and 2021 please

email davidh@essexboysandgirlsclubs.org

RESPECT

Our Projects team has completed the East Thurrock and Colchester Respect Projects that had been postponed due to the lockdown. We had 7 young people complete our East Thurrock Project and 3 on our Colchester Project. Due to restrictions we could not travel to the Lake District or Wales, so we adapted to provide a week away in Essex. On their week away the young people had a canoe trip from Chelmsford to Maldon, then walked to Tollesbury, where they camped in individual tents then on to Layer Marney Outdoors, where on their last day they had a campfire, games and BBQ. They were self sufficient throughout.

Special thanks to the High Sheriff Julie Fosh for not only visiting the young people on their hike but for her brilliant speech and for presenting the young people their certificates, ASDAN awards and a special letter from herself. Also, a huge thank you to Nicholas Charrington for hosting the evening at Layer Marney Tower on short notice, and all our staff and volunteers who gave their time during the project.



We have now adapted the projects to run with one school at a time to minimize risk and maintain bubbles. We have acquired funding to roll these projects out in the New Year. Sincere thanks to the Jack Petchey Foundation for their continued support



Layer Marney Outdoors (LMO)

Despite the trying times and restrictions that COVID-19 has brought, Layer Marney has been able to adapt sessions and still host activities days over this year. Thank you to all the clubs who visited LMO this year, we have had a total of 290 young people visit LMO from clubs, projects and other programmes. The young people from our Respect Projects helped us pack down, clean and close the centre for the 31st October.

LMO is opening on the 1st April 2021 if you are interested in an activity day for your club or would like to know more about the centre and the activities we provide please contact the team on bookings@essexboysandgirlsclubs.org

Working in partnership with Basildon Mind

We received funding to work in partnership with Basildon Mind to enable us to take young people who are on their waiting list for a day out to Layer Marney. On 17th October 2020 we took 8 young people for a day of outdoor games, archery and laser-tag. Thanks to Lynsey we included a meditation/yoga session. We received good feedback from the staff of Basildon Mind and young people who asked if they could come back again next year! A big thank you to Jamie for not only driving but for also delivering the sessions.

Canoeing Satellite Clubs

Since the last newsletter, we have successfully run canoeing sessions on the River Chelmer which were supported by Chelmsford Boys and Girls Clubs. We had 16 young people involved over 6 sessions. Thank you to Active Essex for funding this project. If your club would like to get into canoeing then give us a ring in the office. In 2021 as we will be taking a group on the NABGC Annual 100 Mile Canoe Test.

Rep Football

This year's rep football trials resulted in 17 lads from 6 EBGC affiliated clubs being selected for the county team. To date the squad travelled to 'The Nest' to face a strong Norwich City FC. A great first challenge for the team saw plenty of positives being gained with the main one being getting to know each other. The lads battled hard throughout the game and were rewarded with 2 goals for their efforts.

Team Members

Linford Wanderers FC: William Allen, Jamie Webb-Kelly, Shay Dyer-Greene, Brooklyn Orabuiche, Sam Marriott, Josh Gordon, Louis Halliday.

Mornington Boys FC: Sam Harrison, Max Bellamy.

Island Boys and Girls FC: Jed Thomas, Brad-Lee Stone.

Canvey Island FC: Joshua Stevens.

Crown and Manor Boys Club: Habeeb Balogun, Flavio Ca-Landim.

Frenford Clubs: Lucas Cotelli, Zishan Amin, Kearon Caynes.



Important Info!

Affiliation 2021/22

In order to keep our records up to date, it is important that we receive affiliation forms back as soon as possible.

Due to the strange nature of this year - if your club affiliated and paid for affiliation for 2020/21, we will be waiving the fee for 2021/22. If you did not pay affiliation fees this year then usual fees will apply for next year and we will require a new affiliation form to be completed by all please.

Nepal Adventure 2021 / American Challenge 2021

We haven't forgotten about our overseas adventures! And although we may not have a solid date at the moment we are still planning and getting ready for the trips to take place!

If you are interested in or would like to nominate a club member for the American Challenge or Nepal Adventure which take place in August & September or would like to know more about what the trips involve please contact the office on 01245 264783.

Come along and visit one of our outdoor centres

Layer Marney Outdoors

For more information or to book please contact:
bookings@essexboysandgirlsclubs.org
or call 01245 264783

Maes Y Lade

Get in touch with David Hassard
davidh@essexboysandgirlsclubs.org to book and for more information of how you can get involved.

High Row

For more information about High Row please contact Sue on
01245 264783 or email
suep@essexboysandgirlsclubs.org

Outdoor learning days for your school and youth groups!

With outdoor residentials not back up and running just yet, instead of you coming to see us, we are coming to you! The Maes y Lade and EBGC Outdoor Team are running outdoor learning sessions in schools or youth groups. The programme can run for one to three days or evenings and can be tailored around a range of activities from survival skills, to leadership and team challenges. The sessions are adapted to whatever space you have available on the site or in the local area. Costs from £19pp bursaries are available for affiliated clubs. For more information please contact David Hassard on davidh@essexboysandgirlsclubs.org or call the office on 01245 264783.

From all of us at Essex Boys and Girls Clubs, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

We look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

THANK YOU TO ALL CLUBS, VOLUNTEERS, SUPPORTERS & FUNDERS FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT!
Essex Boys & Girls Clubs, Harway House, Rectory Lane, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1RQ. Registered Charity Number: 1163658 Tel: 01245 264783