



120th Anniversary Appeal



Picture
taken
circa
1910



Picture
taken
2012

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www.HollingtonYouthCentre.org.uk

THE HOLLINGTON
1893 SERVING THE YOUNG PEOPLE **2013**
OF CAMBERWELL FOR 120 YEARS

INTRODUCTION

120 yrs ago A H Gilkes the then Master of Dulwich College opened the Dulwich College Mission, a club for the benefit of fatherless boys in Camberwell, a notoriously deprived area of London. Later the Mission took over the Hollington Club which had also been founded in 1893. The Hollington Club for Young People has continued to support the community and local young people of Camberwell ever since.

As we celebrate the 120th anniversary of the Hollington Club we recognise the role that the Club has historically played in working with local young people. But we also recognise the vital need of the Club to remain relevant to its constituents in the future.

Youth provision has changed dramatically over this period. But many of the basic challenges remain: linked to social deprivation in all its guises.

We are immensely fortunate to have a great team of workers and young volunteers ably led by SJ. But the pressure remains to improve the infrastructure and resources to support them. The centre itself is in dire need of refurbishment both to help our work and to build other sources of revenue. By encouraging others in the community to use our facilities, we can thereby attract more young people to take part in our activities. At the same time we need to give the Club the tools it needs (whether in terms of kitchen facilities where kids can learn the pleasures of healthy eating or in learning basic computing skills).

The Club remains hugely indebted to the Dulwich College Mission for the financial support it continues to provide and for the vision that drove its establishment in the first place. We have also been supported by Southwark Council, Rank Foundation and other charities in continuing and improving our work. But the reality is that our current income barely funds our existing work let alone our vision for the future or for the refurbishment of the building.

We do hope you enjoy visiting the Club and sharing our vision for its future. At the same time we also hope you will meet the young people who make this Club the very special place it continues to be.

I hope you will give generously to this appeal (whether in terms of time or contacts or donations) so that the Hollington can continue in its determination to help young people find a meaningful and positive role for themselves in their adult lives.



Chris Vernon

Chairman

HOLLINGTON FACTFILE

- Membership has doubled over the last 12 months to 273.
- Ages of the Youth Club members are from 8 to 16 with an increase in retention rates with older members since starting the young volunteer programme. (**49%** 8-12 / **51%** 13-25)
- Our members are made up of 84 per cent male and 16 per cent female
- A majority of members come every weekday evening the Centre is open between 5.30pm and 8.30pm.
- Mixed ethnicity of members: 45 per cent black; 45 per cent white; 10 per cent mixed or Asian.

- The Funday in February attracted 160 young people and parents.
- 85 % of the members don't access any other youth provision.
- Hollington operates as Non formal youth work and includes personal development plans with clear targets.
- We have a well developed Young Volunteers Programme.
- Focus on specialist projects (art, gardening, music, sports and choir).
- Annual income to March 2013 of £138,000 of which 50 per cent came from the Dulwich College Mission Trust and 50 per cent raised from other sources to maintain existing service levels.
- Notable crimes last year in the Camberwell Green Ward made up 29% of all crimes in the area (as against a Borough average of 10.4%). Of the 133 notable crimes, 43 were for anti-social behaviour.
- Obesity rates in Camberwell are the highest in Southwark.

“The Hollington Youth Centre aims to build positive relationships in a safe environment; to encourage learning and development through activities and experiences.”

(Our Mission Statement)

“By journeying with young people, we want to empower them through dialogue and foster community cohesion; by promoting self advocacy and supporting their transition in to adulthood.”

(Our Vision Statement)

GENERAL MANAGER’S VIEW ON HOLLINGTON TODAY

The overarching objective of the Hollington Youth Centre (HYC) is to provide a variety of activities that will positively engage children and young people living in the local community. Our intention is to support those who are deemed ‘at risk’ and are considered to be vulnerable members of the community by providing a range of services and opportunities to help increase future prospects and leisure time activities.

HYC seeks to identify individual and group needs, facilitate self-awareness of individual strengths and weaknesses and encourage members to focus on personal targets. At the same time the HYC provides information, advice and guidance on issues relevant to the membership base by responding to individual/group needs raised during sessions.

Finally and most importantly we aim to create a safe environment for young people where they can socialise, enjoy positive experiences and achieve the personal and social development that is critical for the transition into successful adulthood.

HYC currently provides these opportunities for young people aged 8-19 years old, predominately from the Camberwell Green ward. The centre is open five nights a week offering a range of recreational, educational, personal and social development activities. HYC is the largest youth centre in the Camberwell and Dulwich areas, with a footfall of 2700 per annum. In doing so, it supports Camberwells Safer Neighbourhood team (SNT) in their priorities of reducing anti-social behavior, drug abuse and supply, weapons and gang culture. The targeted area is Poets Corner and Crawford Estates, both of which are within 5 minutes from the Centre.

HYC is a vital resource for young people in one of the most deprived areas in Southwark with a third of young people living in poverty. Obesity, teenage conception and crime are critical issues affecting young people in Southwark. The levels of notable crimes in Camberwell are significantly high than in many parts of the Borough particularly crimes involving anti-social behaviour. We aim to engage with the young people affected by these statistics with the aim of building awareness through a set of activities focused on information, advice and guidance, sports and art activities and one to one pastoral care.

Through our early intervention outreach programme we are able to identify and work with young people 85% of whom currently do not access any other form of youth provision within the area. We are able to support young people who feel disengaged from the community around them and actively encourage them to make a positive contribution to that community.

HYC has spent 120 years of service to the local community in alleviating poverty and supporting vulnerable young people. Social deprivation however remains a continuing problem: children with absent fathers, poverty, poor mortality rates, limited mobility as a community and with high levels of crime.

Our vision for HYC over the next 120 years is of a centre continuing to dedicate itself to providing the resources local young people need enabling them to adapt to the realities of the 21st century and providing

them with some of the key tools to become confident and positive members of society.

We very much hope you can help us with this quest.



SJ McIntosh

General Manager

Director of Youth Work

Case Study 1

In the summer of 2012 we took a group of young people aged 8 -14 to Minas Bay in Kent. It came out during discussions driving down there that two of the group members had never left London and been to the Sea. Once we arrived, the young people were nervous about going on to the beach and found it hard to find things to do. So I began to make a trench to get the sea to flow into; the young people joined in and before we knew it 2 hours had passed. It was so much fun, chasing the tide in, burying staff in the sand, collecting crabs and exploring the wildlife! The trip was so simple and cheap to organise. But many young people off the Camberwell estates and surrounding areas have limited if no opportunity to get out of town and experience a day out at the seaside.



But many young people off the Camberwell estates and surrounding areas have limited if no opportunity to get out of town and experience a day out at the seaside.

An unforgettable experience for the young people involved, but also a more serious reminder of the limited opportunities available to the young people we are working with.

Case Study 2

February half term, we took a group of young people aged 8-14 to Greenwich Park, up to the Observatory and returned to Westminster by ferry.



When we arrived in Greenwich Park, 'Harry' (Aged 14) asked if we had left London, because there was so much greenery. Once we arrived at the Observatory we pointed out famous London Landmarks. The majority of the group members struggled to name more than one or two of them.

Later on the return ferry, 'George' (Aged 10) asked why we were getting a ferry. Are we leaving the country?

It is a common misconception that young people need to go to theme parks, and high thrill activities to have fun. Hollington prides itself on developing simple activities utilising the vast wealth of culture and leisure activities that are on our doorstep. This is where the most learning happens!

OUR “TO-DO” LIST

Our Comber Grove building has had very little attention since the Youth Club area was built in the 1970's.

To make it fit for the purpose of serving young people and the community urgent upgrading is required.

The following is a list of projects we are planning to improve our facilities and to improve our chances of additional income through rentals and multi-use bookings:

New IT/Media suite including a music studio

Enlarge and refit kitchen for teaching cooking skills and catering for functions.

Disabled access and toilet facilities.

Refurbish toilets

Refurbish sports hall

Upgrade changing rooms and showers including provision for women.

Refit boxing gym

Replace heating system

Replace windows and improve insulation

New fitness/dance studio

Emergency lighting and electrical upgrades

Improved security including CCTV

Upgrade Youth Club area

Fire escape works

OUR TARGET IS £250,000 BY CHRISTMAS 2014

SEEKING COMMITMENT

Finally, how can you help us in our 120th Anniversary Appeal?

There are a number of ways you can help support us, whether that is short term or on a longer term basis.

Here a few ideas:

- Join our new 'Friends of the Hollington' group with the aim of publicising news, updates and relevant information.
- Volunteer your time and any expertise you have eg: Gardening; offering your company services; running daytime activities in the centre for the community; website design and updates; helping with Club administration and/or fundraising events.
- If you are making a Will, consider including a legacy for the Hollington Club for Young People.
- Make a donation, eg using :



Hollington Club For Young People Limited
Registered charity no. 1101844

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If you have any additional ideas, do get in touch with the General Manager.

SJ McIntosh
Hollington Youth Centre
56-60 Comber Grove
SE5 0LD

t: 0207 703 5193
e: sj@hollingtonyouthcentre.org.uk



www.hollingtonyouthcentre.org.uk

56-60 Comber Grove, Camberwell, London SE5 0LD

tel: 0207 703 5193

email: info@hollingtonyouthcentre.org.uk

For further information and our current programme find us on:



With grateful thanks to our supporters and funders:



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