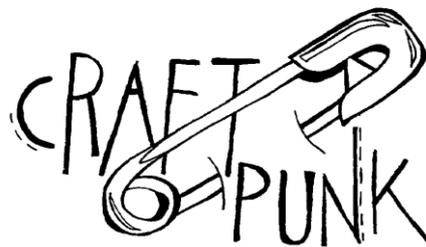




**Tweeddale Youth Action Report To The Trustees  
For The Year Ended 31 March 2017**



## A sad farewell to a dear friend and colleague



In April 2016 we were hugely saddened by the passing away of 22 year old volunteer, Dillon Scott. His death has affected everyone at the youth club hugely.

Dillon had an incredible story, overcoming considerable adversity in his life and was drawn to helping young people. He had been a volunteer at TYA for the past 3 years, supporting drop-in sessions and trips away as well as being the driving force behind our detached street work, motivated through concern around the scale and extent of risk taking behaviour in Peebles. Dillon engendered respect from young people and would have made a fabulous youth worker, something he was working towards having completed several youth work training courses. Losing anyone so young is tragic but this has been compounded by the huge journey he has made in recent years and his story is a very sad illustration of the effectiveness of youth work reaching those on the margins of society and making a difference.

## The year in summary

2016-17 has been an exceptionally busy year and repeat funding from the Climate Challenge Fund among others has seen our staff and volunteer team continue to grow. We have offered an unprecedented number of services, activities and opportunities for young people and the number of young people using our project continues to grow, as do our networks, partnerships and collaborations within both the statutory and voluntary sector.

## Our project

Since our establishment in 1999, we have been the only generic youth group working in Peebles. We seek to empower young people, by offering them opportunities for personal and social development, through enjoyable recreational and educational activities provided in an inclusive, welcoming, structured and protective environment. TYA is committed to its work with a wide range of young people. We remain a free to use youth service, open to all young people throughout Tweeddale but we have been particularly successful at attracting those who are typically hard to reach and don't engage with school and/or other services.

### TYA staff

Our team comprises of:

Full time Manager, David Hodson

Full time Big Wheels Co-ordinator, Katie Hibbert

Music Leader and Bike Punks Supervisor David Coyle

Sessional Youth Worker, Heather Lothian

Sessional Youth Worker and Bike Punks mechanic, Sean Macneil

Sessional Youth Worker Scott Wight

Sessional Youth Worker, Andy Lumb

Sessional Youth Worker Miya Hayes

Sessional Craft Punks Textiles Worker, Lynsay Munnis

Sessional Craft Punks Textiles Worker Laura Maciver

Sessional Bike Mechanic Aegir Maciver

Trainee Youth Worker Louise Morton

Social Media Co-ordinator Hayley Crawford

Administrator, Anna Hope

During this year we were sorry to say goodbye to Bike Punks mechanic and Sessional Youth Worker Sean Macneil who left to fulfill a lifelong ambition of joining the Fire Service. Losing Sean was a huge blow as he'd built some fantastically strong and positive relationships with young people and had been a huge support and voice for change with some of our more chaotic and disengaged young people. We wish Sean the best of luck in his new role of Fire Fighter.

Our ambition to grow our own youth workers has started to bear fruit and we are delighted to welcome Trainee Youth Worker Louise Morton to our staff team as Trainee Youth Worker. Louise is a former service user, then volunteer who we have now managed to include on our staff team through a Community Jobs Scotland funded work place.

We're also delighted to welcome former volunteer Hayley Crawford to our staff team as our Social Media Co-ordinator, again with thanks from Community Jobs Scotland funding

Our volunteer team continues to grow and thanks to our Volunteer Action Fund project to better support and train our volunteers, we're delighted to welcome Lindsay Mann as our volunteer, volunteer co-ordinator. We're hugely grateful to Lindsay and all our volunteer's contribution which has allowed us to offer more services and activities than ever before.

Our Board of Trustees also give of their time and expertise freely and oversee and guide our project. We're hugely grateful for all their support and acknowledge the considerable amount of time and effort each of them contribute towards the safe governance and running of our youth club.

Our current Board of Trustees is:

Chair, Christine Clarke  
Vice-Chair Fional Lumb  
Treasurer, Jorge Kubie  
Trustee, Amanda Kubie  
Trustee, Moira Stark  
Trustee, Catherine Maxwell Stuart  
Trustee, Ian Jenkins

Thanks also go to our advisers to the Board, Graham Lumb and Gary White.

### Our activities

Over the year, our scheduled activities have changed and not all of the following activities are currently taking place. The following give a snap shot of sessions we run and items high-lighted in blue are current as of March 2017.

#### Monday

Weekly After school transitions project in Peebles  
Weekly Daytime Bike Punks 1:1 access for over 16's and school refusers in Innerleithen  
[Weekly Peebles High School Store morning nurture group](#)  
[Weekly Youth Club event planning workshops Monday afternoons in Peebles](#)

#### Tuesday

[Weekly S2+ Drop-in Tuesdays 6pm until 8pm with drug and alcohol inputs, Innerleithen](#)  
[Weekly, Innerleithen Bike Punks, 4.30pm until 8.30pm](#)  
[Weekly Peebles High School Store morning nurture group](#)  
[Weekly Open doors adult drop in \(16+ group\), mornings in Peebles](#)

#### Wednesday

Weekly evening Bike Punks workshop in Innerleithen  
[Weekly junior drop in for P7-S1 in Peebles](#)  
[Weekly senior drop-in for S2+'s in Peebles](#)

#### Thursday

[Weekly P7 and S1 drop-in in Innerleithen 6-8 \(weekly\)](#)  
[Weekly evening Craft Punks workshops at Peebles Youth Club and Sew Shed in Cavalry Park, Peebles,](#)  
[Youth management team in Peebles and Innerleithen \(weekly in rotation for each place\)](#)

#### Friday

Weekly Food Punks cookery classes in Peebles  
Weekly 16+ afternoon group in Peebles  
[Weekly drop-in for all ages 7 – 10pm Peebles](#)  
Weekly Music Group, 2 – 8pm in Peebles Youth Club's recording studio

Our drop-ins continue to be at the heart of our service provision and provide opportunities for staff to engage with, and build relationships with young people. There is no requirement for young people attending the drop-ins to engage with activities on offer, allowing young people to use the space to relax and socialise. For our more chaotic members this is vital in establishing a relationship with them and the drop-ins serve as a conduit in encouraging these young people to access our structured provision as well as advice and sign-posting other services.

Activities on offer during these sessions include, cooking/ baking, pool, table tennis, card games, arts & craft work, video games, access to computers, conversations, discussions and outdoor games such as football and cricket (weather permitting).

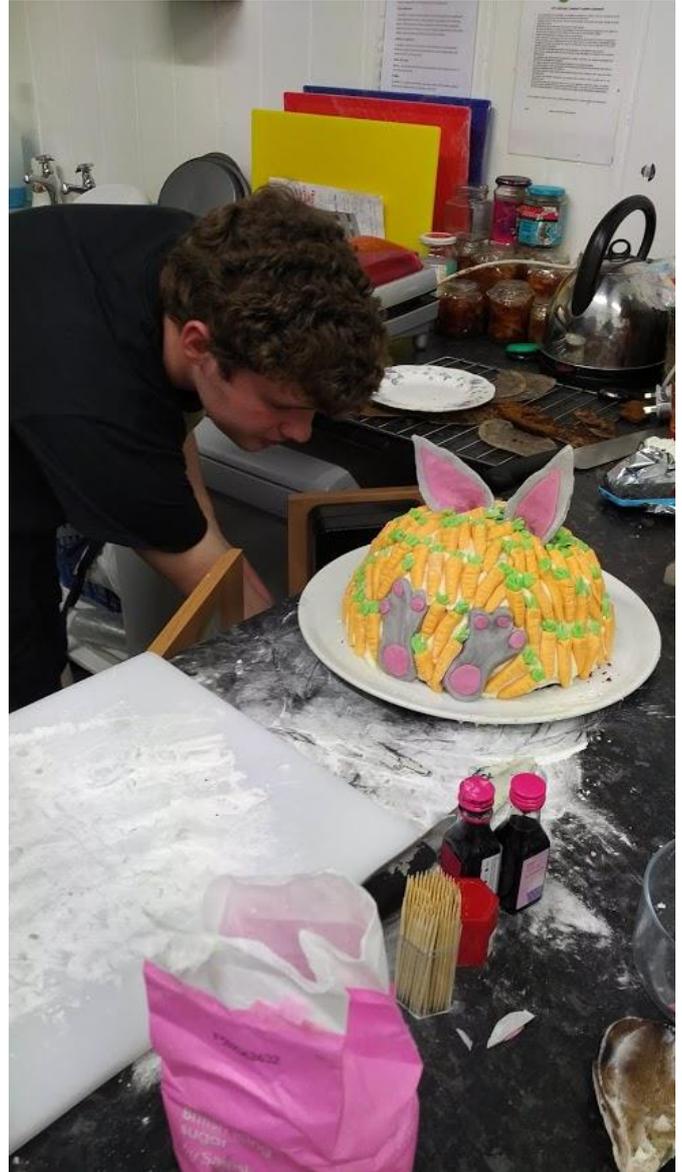


## **Cookery**

Our Food Punks project continued to develop and grow throughout the year and opportunities for young people to gain some practical cookery experience and work as part of a team included

- May, Cookery input at PHS. As part of Health Week, we rattled the pots and pans and gave 20 S2 students a hands on opportunity to prepare healthy, local and seasonal food.
- June, Food Punks High Street cookery demos.
- July ,Food Punks barbecue on Coldingham Beach
- July, Food Punks catering for our Hawaiian evening, complete with alcohol free cocktail bar constructed by youth club members.

- August saw Food Punks in the middle of 500 riders at Tweed Love's King and Queen Of The Hill event at Glendinning field just outside of Walkerburn. Food Punks were demonstrating cookery skills and selling freshly prepared food to the event participants as well as giving out literature and information on ways to reduce our carbon footprint. The event was hugely challenging and required considerable planning and work from our young Food Punks who researched all of the climate change and carbon footprint material, prepared literature and flyers, planned out the food and logistics and then proceeded to work two, twelve hour days in the rain and mud. The brigade of all nine Food Punks were outstanding and all worked to support each other!
- September Another month, another lunatic undertaking by Food Punks! This time barbecuing for 150 vegetarians at Saughton Park's Winter Gardens in Edinburgh. Conscious of not breaking the Food Punks who had worked so hard the previous month, we pitched this barbecue at 4 new Food Punks who'd never done anything like this before. This was a big ask and not without risk but the 4 y/p who supported this event all benefited hugely, not least from this opportunity to spend time with the largely BME community attending, something that y/p in predominantly white, rural areas like ours rarely have an opportunity to experience.
- October. As part of Youth Borders AGM, Food Punks entered a carrot cake in their Bake off competition against other Borders youth projects and won. This was a great achievement for the team of 4 Food Punk bakers who spent hours baking and decorating.
- October, Food Punks wild game input at Tweedvalley Forest Festival. This year we showcased venison, rabbit, partridge and pheasant alongside wild mushrooms. Food Punks led live cookery demonstrations throughout the day
- November: To thank Food Punks for all their hard work over the summer we went to Loch Fyne restaurant in Edinburgh to give them an opportunity to sit on the other side of the table.
- December Food Punks curing, smoking and preserving sessions culminating in the delivery of canapes for 100 people at a party in Kelso





- March 2017. Food Punks catering for our celebration of climate change project and volunteers event.

### **Community life**

May: Tweed Love on Tweed Green. We were disappointed at missing out on Tweed Love, one of the largest cycling festivals in the UK and on our doorstep in Peebles and surrounding area. This made us all the more determined to be involved this year and TYA youth worker and bike mechanic Sean co-ordinated a Bike Punks trials riding area with local Trials rider Alan Hunter from Redscar. Lots of y/p got hands on with trials bikes, many for the first time and there were even a couple of biking superstars showcasing skills on our equipment. This was an excellent platform to promote both TYA and our Bike Punks project.

May: Recording Studio access for students from Peebles High School as part of Health Week, this year focusing on sound recording and mixing.

May: Hawaiian evening- Following weeks of preparation by our young people we hosted our Hawaiian, climate change evening at Peebles Youth Club. This was a brilliant evening, attended by over 60 people including several from Granton Youth Centre in Edinburgh and TD1 In Galashiels.



October, Go Green On The Green: Following months of worry, work and preparation by the we delivered our Big Wheels Climate Change Event alongside the Tweed Valley Forest Festival on Tweed Green. This was a mammoth undertaking, involving the entire staff team, volunteers and youth club members and on the day we had a marquee with key note speakers, trio of comedians, a fashion show involving TYA's Craft Punks and the Welcoming Associations textiles project, live music from bands supported by TYA's recording studio and a compere to tie everything together. Outside we had a face painting and henna tattoo stand, a game and wild mushroom barbecue, TYA information and promo literature stall, Bike Punks stand with crazy bikes that young people were competing over who could ride furthest on and we also had representation from Peebles CAN's home energy advice and one of our young people selling carbon friendly paper bricks for burning at home. This was a great opportunity to promote both our youth club and climate change project to a wide audience and was a fantastic opportunity for our y/p to get involved and take centre stage. This is not conventional youth work by any stretch of the imagination but our outcomes of improved confidence, aspirations and self esteem, feeling valued and connected and part of something had a profound effect on several y/p involved with the event.





December, Peebles and Innerleithen Christmas lights switch on and markets Young people from both youth clubs were supported by our Craft Punks project in making Christmas decorations from unwanted material that would otherwise end up in landfill. Both stalls were a great success, looking really professional and giving young people yet another opportunity to play an active part in community life.

January saw the first of our two clothes swapping “swish” events to encourage young people to swap unwanted clothes with each other. The event was a success and also served as a great way of recruiting new youth club members who were keen to get involved with our Craft Punks textile up-cycling project.



March saw the second of our “swish” events, again with a good turn out from young people and a considerable weight of clothes successfully swapped.

We also staged our celebration event to reflect on our climate change project and celebrate our volunteers who play a pivotal role at TYA.

The event was well supported with in excess of 80 young people, parents, volunteers and community supporters in attendance. During the evening we showcased each element of our climate change project with Craft Punks giving 2 fashion shows from up-cycled clothes they’d made, Food Punks showcasing their cookery skills with the catering and Bike Punks showing off some of their weird and wonderful creations in their bike workshop. We were also able to show the film of our climate change project, created by VOMO before celebrating our volunteers with certificates and awards, including the inaugural Dillon Scott Memorial Award. We then finished the evening off in style with live music from several of our young people.

Links to the film on climate change and volunteering are below:

<https://vimeo.com/207326954>

<https://vimeo.com/210815489>



### **Out and about:**

Throughout this year we’ve continued undertaking regular trips away with youth club members and we have found that introducing young people to new environments has worked wonders for making new friends, raising aspirations, developing new interests and feeling like part of a team. High-lights this year have included:

July, 4 day activity residential to Mull, Jail Break hill walk and trip to Coldingham Beach  
August Trips to Alton Towers, Ryse, Edinburgh and Whitmuir Farm

October, Day out to Fox Lake watersports centre in Dunbar, Day out to Wet’n Wild water park in South Shields and an overnight residential to Wooler Youth Hostel for our P7 to high school transitions group

November, Rewards lunch at Loch Fyne restaurant in Edinburgh for the Food Punks team.

December, Christmas shopping in Edinburgh with older youth club members

February, Fashion shoot at Peebles Park Hotel with 5 of the Craft Punks modelling up-cycled clothes they’d made themselves.

February, Trip to Glasgow with Craft Punks to attend Junk Kouture at Glasgow’s SEC

February, Three day trip to London to attend a conference on population displacement for the Big Wheels Keep on Turning youth planning team.



### **Closer to home**

Throughout the year we've had lots of fun at our youth clubs in Peebles and Innerleithen. With considerable help from our young people and volunteers we've undertaken an unprecedented amount of activity, including regular discos and fund raising events. The following are a few examples that have particularly stood out:

Innerleithen's P7/S1 cohort ran their own car wash from Chapel Street to help raise money for our summer programme.

Free magic show for our P7/S1's with local magician Colin Swan aka Max Marshall



Young Scot/Sestrans consultation in Linlithgow to discuss bike routes for their X route active travel project with 4 of our Bike Punks

Consultation with over 600 High School students from S1-S3 at Peebles High School. We asked a wide array of questions, including questions to gauge young people's understanding of and interest in the environment and climate change and open ended questions on the services and support that young people want and need. This was an extremely challenging and exhausting 2 days and we would make huge changes to future consultations, BUT, we got some amazing data! Of particular interest was how little young people seemed to know about us and we have used this information to change the way we promote and communicate with young people. The High School Information Point was cited as being redundant and we now use this time to promote through PHS's weekly bulletin as well as increasing our social media output, including branching out on new platforms (for us) of Instagram and Snapchat.

Fundraising fun day at Innerleithen Youth Club. After considerable planning by the staff and y/p of Innerleithen we had a coffee morning at the youth club. The young people had prepared cakes for sale, as well as donated cakes and items for sale by the local community. Raffle prizes were organised by the young people and they managed to get quite a haul. Older volunteers from Peebles youth Club also turned up to cook and serve bacon butties as well as oversee our bouncy castle and Dr. Bike service from Bike Punks. Feedback from members of the community that attended was also hugely positive and it was a great opportunity to tell them about our project and the great work we do.

Not quite so fun, but essential have been our Tuesday evening drug and alcohol awareness and harm reduction sessions. These informal sessions use informal discussion and conversation to have frank and open conversations with young people who have increasingly better and easier access to drugs and alcohol.

Evaluation has demonstrated increased awareness and understanding, possibly making the difference between life and death in one extreme case.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, many of the young people we work with who are engaged in risk taking behaviour and drug taking do so through boredom and wanting to belong. Young people who aren't sporty, musical, academic or arty sometimes struggle to carve identities for themselves. Joining peer groups of risk takers is a very easy trap to fall into and one that many struggle to break free of.

The good news is that getting to know and building relationships with these young people, including them in community events, exposing them to new people and places and challenging them with activities gives something to do, a sense of purpose, opportunities to feel good about themselves, to socialise and make friends with positive peer groups and reduce destructive and negative behaviour.

Equally vital is the one to one support we've been able to give young people. Extreme examples of young people benefiting from this support include 1 fourteen year old boy who hadn't left his house for over 3 months, refusing to attend school and completely disconnected from his peers, not even through social media or video games. TYA staff supported this young person to come out on dog walks with her before finally re-connecting him with two friends who he remains in contact with.

Another example is a fifteen year old home schooled girl who hadn't left her house alone in over a year. Again, completely cut off from any peers she was socially isolated, anxious and lonely. Following support from TYA staff this young person is a regular fixture at our youth club, has friends and is far more confident and relaxed. She tells us that she feels like a new person and life before was unbearable.

Conversations with our young people have included:

Sexual health, sexual identity and keeping safe  
Mental Health, including eating disorders, suicide and self harming  
Substance misuse and risk taking behaviour  
Self confidence and belonging.  
Personal hygiene  
Literacy and numeracy  
Homelessness  
Benefit advice  
Racism and homophobia

### **Making sure our youth clubs are fit for purpose and meeting young people's needs**

We've managed to make considerable improvements to our Innerleithen youth club with new skirting boards and all holes in the wall filled in.

Into this revamped space we've managed to include a stage which now gives us a platform for music nights and presentations. Huge thanks also go to Youth Worker Heather Lothian and her team of volunteers who've painted and decorated the space, making it look cosy and inviting. Our bicycle repair workshop has also received considerable investment with metal sheeting and clearly defined work stations for up to 10 mechanics. New spot lighting and extraction fans have made larger scale, ambitious welding projects possible.

Peebles Youth Club is next on the agenda and is looking tired and in need of investment. The equipment from the small bicycle repair workshop has been taken to the larger Innerleithen workshop, leaving us with a space for structured group work and meetings. Young people have taken complete ownership of this space, calling it the crack den. In consultation with our young people we will convert our existing window to a door to access our garden space and reconfigure the room as a comfortable conversation and relaxation space which will be known as the Dillon Scott Memorial Craic Den.

Other improvements on the horizon are improved storage and painting of the main space as well as changing our external signage and adding a promotional board to better advertise our activities.

Across all activities Tweeddale Youth Action has created 4,889 youth work opportunities from 190 active members throughout the year

It's also important to note these statistics still don't fully reflect the hub that TYA is becoming for young people and there is a considerable amount of casual support which is regularly accessed and hard to document. When young people don't know who to turn to, they increasingly turn to us.

## 2016-17 income and expenditure

Income: £235,309 (includes £35,602.92 awarded for work to be delivered in 2017-18)

Expenditure: £197,133

### Our Funders

We are extremely grateful to the continued financial support and investment from: The Robertson Trust; Scottish Borders Council; Young Start; Souter Trust; Lloyds Henry Duncan; Climate Challenge Fund and Volunteer Action Fund.

We are also extremely grateful for new financial support from SCVO, Bank of Scotland Foundation and BBC's Children In Need.

With their collective support we have maintained our service as well as continuing to expand, develop and grow, offering greater access to youth provision throughout Tweeddale. The short term future of TYA is assured until 2018 but we do face challenges in securing funding for the years ahead. The financial sustainability of organisations like ours remains fragile and uncertain. Our plan for the future is to grow and develop our Food, Bike and Craft Punk projects to generate income and reduce our dependence on grant funding while maintaining good relationships with our funders and attracting further funding to ensure we can continue offering high quality, relevant youth provision for all young people throughout Tweeddale.

### Outlook

2017-18 looks set to be another exciting and busy year for us with a focus on renovating and improving our youth clubs in Peebles and Innerleithen. We want to ensure our venues are fit for purpose and continue to meet the needs of our young people. We also intend to keep growing our Food, Bike and Craft Punk micro enterprise strands to help reduce our dependence on grant funding. Lastly and most importantly, we will continue to deliver high quality, relevant youth work that continues to have a profoundly positive impact on young people's lives. Provision for the coming year will include our High School transitions project, one to one support, harm reduction work on drugs and alcohol, cookery, metal work and art workshops, sports and physical activities, live music nights, trips away and our drop-in sessions which are at the heart of our provision.



A tribute from our Chair to our team

Another year on and 2016/17 has been quite a year for TYA, with Dave Hodson continuing to inspire and support an extraordinary staff team & group of volunteers committed to the wellbeing of young people in Tweeddale. The secure base that TYA offers is evidenced by the increase in numbers of those attending both the Peebles and Innerleithen youth clubs. TYA were able to provide a 5 day a week presence in Peebles and 4 days a week in Innerleithen. 2016/17 has seen among other things:

The signing of a 3-year lease for the youth club building in Innerleithen which has enabled so many more opportunities for the young people locally

The start of investment and alteration to both youth club buildings to make them more welcoming, valuing and fit for purpose

Funding from CCF, CJS & VAF which has enabled an increase in staffing including the appointment of a project co-ordinator, part-time textile project workers and a social media co-ordinator, all of whom have been transformational in their contributions.

Bike punks, food punks and craft punks develop from strength to strength

An extraordinary range of activities on offer to young people stretching way beyond the boundaries of Tweeddale, including a residential to Mull, trips to the coast at Coldingham and Northumberland, Alton Towers and London.

Visits to other youth provisions in other parts of Scotland

An amazing end of CCF project event with a very well-attended fashion show

I am very grateful to all the Board members for the time they give and the work they undertake and we have been truly fortunate for their commitment and dedication

I would also like to pay tribute to all the young people, staff and volunteers who attended last year's AGM and made such a valuable contribution to the meeting. I believe that at the end of this 16/17 session, we remain in a good place to continue and develop further the work on offer to the young people of Tweeddale. None of it would be possible without the extraordinary energy, leadership, hard work, tenacity, determination and optimism provided by Dave Hodson; we are lucky to have him at the helm.

With thanks to one and all.

**APPROVED BY TRUSTEES AND SIGNED ON THEIR BEHALF :**

.....  
C. Clarke Tweeddale Youth Action Chair

Date: 10th of October 2017

