



**Tweeddale Youth Action Report To The Trustees
For The Year Ended 31 March 2023**



Introduction from the Chair

2022-2023 has been another eventful and exciting year for TYA.

As in previous years, Dave and the staff team have worked to ensure there are opportunities available to all young people in Peebles and Innerleithen and the surrounding areas. TYA aims to provide a safe space and a sense of belonging to young people. The drop-ins in Innerleithen and Peebles remain the mainstay of this objective, they are fun, commitment-free and a great way for people from all walks of life to congregate.

In addition to the weekly drop-ins are myriad opportunities offered to engage our gregarious young people as well as those who are harder to reach. The Natural Magic and Zines projects are examples of the more niche projects offered. Opportunities like this allow the young people to express and learn more about themselves through the natural world, art and literature.

TYA remains in a good financial position. We are grateful to our funders who continue to help us deliver an exciting and supportive programme of events. We continue to search for and apply to appropriate funding streams in order to deliver specific projects.

Food and it's preparation and delivery continues to be a cornerstone of TYA's success. Food Punks continues to inspire young people and, under the guidance of Stuart Clink is going from strength to strength, generating income through outside catering events. The purchase of pizza ovens has been a huge success. As the photographs show, the young people can be involved in the whole process, developing career making skills such as communication and team work – not to mention the delicious reward to be enjoyed straight out of the oven!

Thanks go to Dave and the whole staff team for continually going above and beyond to provide meaningful opportunities for our young people.

TYA Staff Team

During the year our team was:

Full time Manager: David Hodson
Business Development Officer/ Food Punks Lead Stuart Clink
Youth Worker, Aaron Thomson
Youth Worker Elisa Smith
Trainee Youth Worker Chloe Lacey
Sessional Youth Worker Bruno Giegirich
Youth Club Assistant Amber Lauder
Youth Club Assistant: Rhian Laird (supported employment)
Administrator Leena Crichton
Book keeper: Anna Hope
Food Punks Trainee Jocelyn Ferguson (supported employment)
Food Punks Trainee Sergei Rattray (supported employment)
Maintenance Manager Derek Hunter
Youth Club Assistant Alex Church (supported employment)
Sessional Youth Worker Kris Chapman
Sessional Youth Worker Conor Bangham
Senior Youth Worker Ruth Elvin
Food Punks Digital Content Creator Aidan Duckworth

There have been several changes within the staff team but most notably we have welcomed Youth Workers; Kris Chapman, Conor Bangham and Ruth Elvin to our team.

Other changes within the team have included Community Jobs Scotland and Kickstart supported employment placements Amber, Jocelyn, Sergei, Rhian and Alex completing their work placements with us and moving on into full time paid employment and further education.

Sessional Youth Worker Bruno Giegerich has moved on and our digital content creator, Aidan Duckworth has also moved on following the completion of our Food Punks digital channel cookery sessions- more on that later.

Volunteers and supporters also make a valuable contribution and give valuable support for which we are very grateful.

Our Board of Trustees 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.

Former TYA Chair, Christine Clarke has stepped down as a Trustee but remains in a supporting role for child protection and safe guarding concerns. We thank Chris for her considerable service and hardwork! Our current Board of Trustees are:

Chair of Trustees: Lorna Morrow
Vice Chair: Jamie McCubbin
Treasurer: Catherine Maxwell Stuart
Trustee: Moira Stark
Trustee Grace Mitchell
Trustee Miriam Adcock
Trustee Charlotte Reid

Our Project

TYA remains the lead youth work organisation within the Tweeddale area working with young people between the ages of 10 and 25. We offer open access opportunities for all young people with particular success in engaging those who are hard to reach. Our focus is on building supportive, trusting relationships, removing barriers to participation, increasing social skills, confidence and resilience while promoting smarter, better informed choices. Through drop-ins, structured group work, 1:1s and via our enterprise programmes TYA provides a safe environment for young people to access opportunities and support, gain skills, build relationships, feel a sense of belonging and - most importantly, have some fun.

2022/23 has been another busy and exciting year of opportunities, growth and development. During this year we have increased our output with new offerings such as 5 a side football and our digital media project. The cohort of young people accessing our youth clubs has also grown and we have seen some good examples of positive change and progress from our young people.

None of the following would be possible without our committed team of staff and volunteers, partners, supporters and funders. Heartfelt thanks go to everybody involved and connected with TYA.

Overview of Activities

Monday - Friday daytimes:

Stepping Stones one to one support and small group work (Peebles and Innerleithen)
Food Punks cookery and hospitality sessions (Peebles, Innerleithen and wider)

Monday

Drop-in (Innerleithen 6-8pm)
Digital media session (Peebles 4-6pm)

Tuesday

Food Punks cookery channel filming (Peebles 10-3pm)
New Food Punks after school cookery and meal (Peebles 4-6pm)
New arts session, initially focused on "zines", then moving to other mediums (Peebles 6-8pm)

Wednesday

Drop-in (Peebles 6-8pm)

Thursday

Drop-in (Innerleithen 6-8pm)

Friday

5 a side football (Peebles 3-4pm)

Natural Magic (Peebles 5-6.30pm)

Drop-in (Peebles 7-9pm)

Weekends:

Ad-hoc Food Punk events and trips away.

Across all activities Tweeddale Youth Action has created 4,281 youth work opportunities from 187 active members throughout the year.

Drop-ins

Drop-ins remain at the heart of our engagement with young people. Casual, commitment free access helps young people feel confident to dip their toe in the water and come in to see what we're all about.

Our typical service user doesn't access uniformed, sports or music groups or other extra-curricular activity and TYA is sometimes one of very few positive factors in their lives.

We have a wide range of service users and attendees, many with different needs and accessing for different reasons but there is an agreed need and demand for this environment where young people can make friends, socialise, and take part in activities and learning on their terms. We offer a sense of belonging that is often not felt in other areas of their life.

Drop-ins offer a gateway to more structured work and support and are crucial to begin to build those essential, trusting relationships. For some of our young people these may be some of the only positive adult relationships that they experience and TYA youth work staff and volunteers are well placed to sign-post services, support and opportunities in a non-judgemental way.

There are a variety of activities on offer, including the usual table tennis and pool but accessing free food at the youth club is becoming increasingly important to young people who attend.









Food Punks

Food Punks continues to grow and grow under chef Stuart Clink's direction. It has been a very busy year of events but it has also been a busy year of securing some incredible outcomes for the young people who volunteer and work within the Food Punks project.







We were also busy refining our pizza making... Keep an eye out for Project Pizza in future reports.







We even managed to establish a digital presence through a collaborative project with our local food bank. For more info, please visit our YouTube Food Punks channel <https://www.youtube.com/@foodpunksofficial>







All of which has given a sense of purpose and helped to feed young people's desire to learn and improve. Being good at something shouldn't be something to be ashamed of and we show young people that it's ok to be good at stuff and that it's ok to try.

Food Punks know they are needed and that their contribution is valued. This helps improve self esteem and aspirations.

Through Food Punks young people have improved their communication skills and social interactions. They have learnt the importance of time keeping and reliability. They have felt the heat and the pressure- and have come out the other side with that wonderful feeling of a job well done.

This year, Food Punks has worked with 35 young people and has supported 12 of them into paid employment, including 4 y/p now employed part time directly by us.

Bike Punks

Our Innerleithen workshop enables us to continue teaching metal work and bicycle repair skills to young people. We are teaching skills that local employers need and value, particularly as the Tweed Valley becomes increasingly well known for cycling.

This is an important opportunity for young people who don't fit the academic mold, especially considering the soon to arrive mountain bike innovation centre on our door step in Innerleithen





Out and About

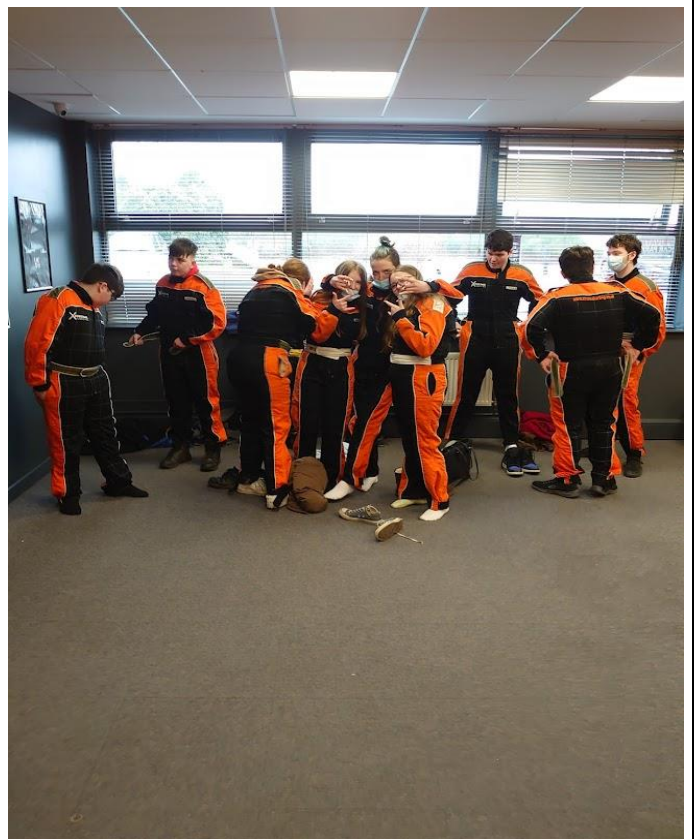
Making friends, consolidating friendships, breaking down barriers and being open to new ideas and new experiences can be life changing. We have seen increased confidence, self esteem and aspirations as well as reduced anxiety, loneliness and isolation on the back of these trips.

It's not rocket science, it's about belonging, having an identity and seeing there is reason to be optimistic and hopeful for the future. If young people don't get this through positive experiences, they will find it through other means.

This years excursions have included a residential trip to Broomlee (huge thanks to Richard and his team for their fund raising support that enabled us to come); M&D's theme park, beaches (loads), Football at Easter Road, East Links, Ryze, Camera Obscura, city trips to Edinburgh and Glasgow, Xtreme Karting, motorcross (thank you RUTS!) and Youth Beatz music festival among much else

The following pictures show some of what we have been up to

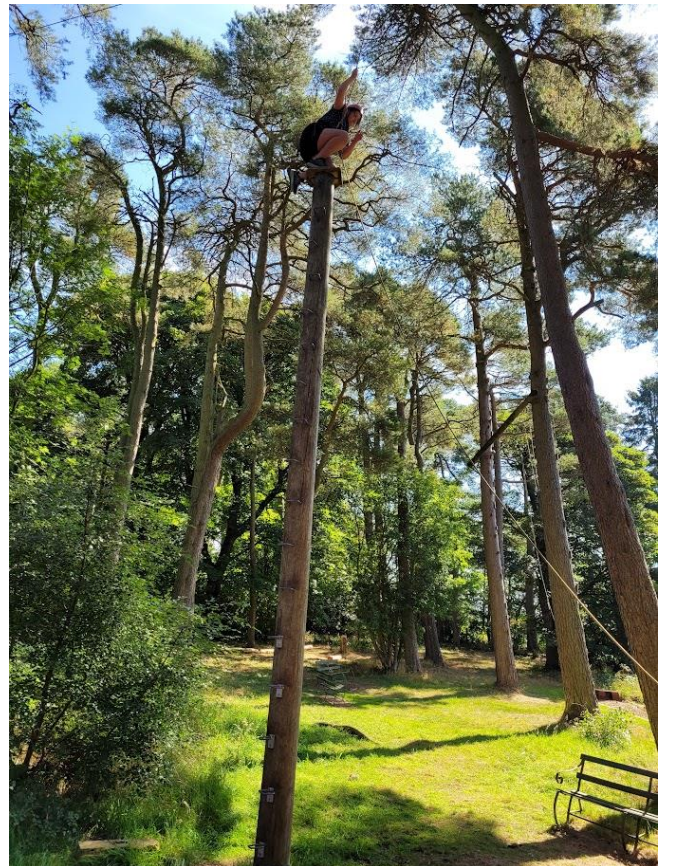












Art

Art and creative expression is a hugely important offering and gives our young people an opportunity to use their voice and express themselves in a different way.



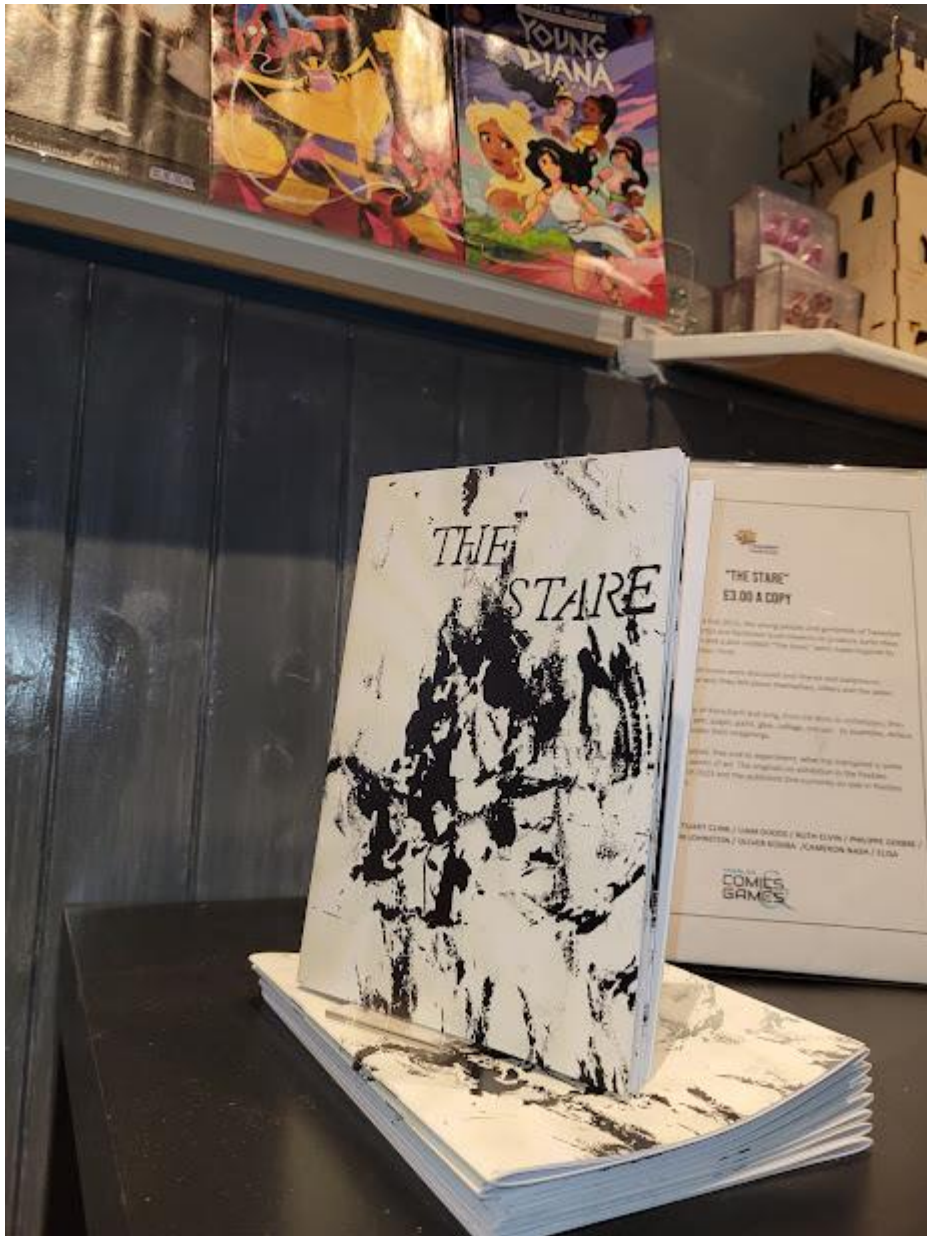
Natural Magic engaged a group of girls who rarely, if ever attended other TYA activities. Creating this separate space gave these young people an opportunity to explore the world around them in a different way

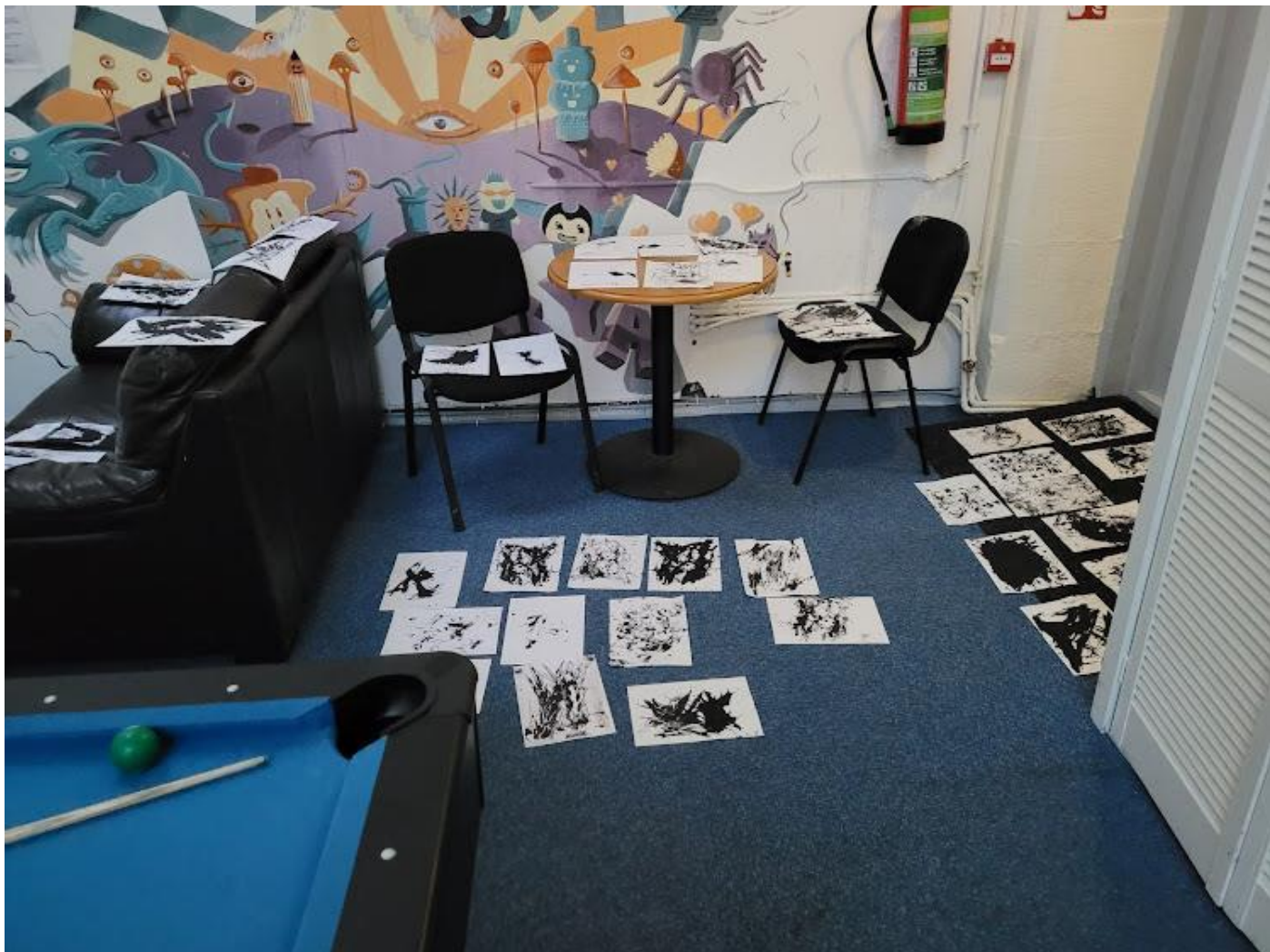


Artist Scott Hawkins delivered a 6 week block of “zine” making sessions. These mini, self publishing magazines gave our young people a chance to explore the media and social norms and express some of the anger and sadness they sometimes feel.

We set this project up to light a fire under our young people and give them a safe outlet to use their voice. We never expected to create something that would be sold in our local comic shop- nor be displayed in our local museum! Huge thanks to Scott, to Peebles Comics and Games and Peebles Museum staff for blowing on the embers and helping to create something so special. Plans for the coming year include graffitti and sub culture.







What else?

Once again we have distributed Scottish Government and local authority funding to families in need, as well as opening up our Peebles Youth Clubs for an extra evening a week during the winter to offer a safe warm space and a free hot meal.

We continue to offer free food for hungry young people as and when we can but we are reliant on volunteer support to make that happen. We often have in excess of 30 young people attending- and sometimes more than 40. That requires quite a bit of preparation and service delivery.

Our aim for the future is for Food Punk trainees to help us meet this need- young people volunteering and helping young people.

Buildings and improvements

Our Innerleithen Youth Club is a much more inviting and welcoming space now that it has been painted and is fully carpeted.

There is still plenty more to do, not least including the need for a more efficient and cost-effective heating system for the colder months but the headline news is that TYA owns a dedicated youth work space that gives local young people a youth work legacy for the future.

Structured sessions:

Throughout this year we have continued to deliver inputs and structured sessions on a wide variety of topics, including sexual health, drugs and alcohol, relationships, bullying, online safety and much more. We are working to update our website with up to date and useful information from the inputs we deliver at our youth clubs. We hope that our relationships with young people and parents will encourage them to also seek help from us digitally outside of project opening hours.

Stepping Stones worker Aaron continued to deliver one to one and small group work with identified young people. Once again he has secured some positive outcomes from young people accessing this support. Stepping Stones serves as a bridge between y/p and TYA (and external) activities and opportunities.

Peebles High School:

Our relationship with Community Learning and Development (CLD) and Peebles High School continues to grow. TYA has expertise in building positive relationships with young people and delivering informal education. This has now been recognised with financial support from Peebles High School for a pilot project of youth work inputs during the school day.

In many ways we share similar aspirations and want the best for our young people but we do need to be clear and ensure we remain true to youth work and that what we deliver is based on youth work principles- the most important of all being that young people choose to take part- or not.

This is uncharted water for us and for Peebles High School but this year's pilot has achieved some very positive outcomes and we are hopeful that our relationship will continue to grow.

We are far from alone in exploring how to work collaboratively with our local schools and we are part of a National youth work conversation to encourage meaningful dialogue between youth work agencies and education.

Our Funders

We are extremely grateful to the continued financial support and investment from:

Scottish Borders Council; Bank of Scotland Foundation, National Lottery, Saints and Sinners Club, Children In Need, Community Jobs Scotland, Kickstart and Garfield Weston, Arnold Clark Foundation, Hugh Fraser Foundation, Youth Link Scotland Cashback,

We are also extremely grateful for new financial support from Orcome Trust, Community Led Locality Development (CLLD), No One Left Behind, Youth Borders and Peebles High School

Their collective financial support has enabled us to continue supporting young people and making a positive difference in their lives

Outside of these funding awards we would also like to thank local businesses and the wider community for their donations and financial support.

We remain in a relatively stable financial position, but we are ever mindful of the funding environment and the need to secure essential funding to continue providing a relevant and meaningful youth service in the years ahead.

We are, as ever focused on sustainability and reducing our reliance on external funding.

Outlook

We still remain vulnerable to the short termist nature and lack of sustainability of third sector funding but we continue to deliver high quality, innovative and relevant youth work and our funders and supporters recognise the value and impact of our work with young people.

We consistently meet our funded outcomes and remain hopeful that the value of this work will continue to be recognised and continue to attract further financial support.

We have excellent community links and support from statutory and community partners, stakeholders and parents who understand the benefits that TYA bring to our community and the positive difference we make to young people's lives in the Tweeddale area.

Food and Bike Punk's income generation capacity continue to grow and we will continue to work towards sustainability and reducing our reliance on grant funding.

We see this as vital in ensuring continuity of service provision and retention and development of our staff team.