

the BARNABAS beat

Issue 1 - August 2022



Our new website is live!!!

Our fantastic new website is now live - we've taken the opportunity to freshen everything up, simplify our pages and update information about our projects. You can also check out our What's On page to link in with fundraising opportunities and latest news. Our Resources page has useful links to local reports and our Referral process for Supported Housing You can get to know the Team and learn about our Trustees via our Meet the Team page.

If you're feeling fancy, you can scan the QR code to the right and it will take you directly to our new site. Alternatively, you can visit: www.barnabas-northumberland.org.uk



MEET ELLA - OUR SOCIAL MEDIA VOLUNTEER



My name is Ella, I am 17 years old and studying my A levels and I have just recently started volunteering at the wonderful Barnabas. I will be helping out with the social media side of things, such as Tiktok to try and bring a young perspective and hopefully some new ideas. So far I have met two members of the team and they have made sure to make me feel welcome and comfortable. I will be carrying out my volunteering with Barnabas for the foreseeable future and I am very excited to see how I can help out and grow as a person by doing so. In the past I have volunteered at the Womens and Childrens Centre (West end Newcastle) and a primary school within Fenham and I can't wait to help out more with Barnabas as it is clear to see how much they care for the young people in the community and how much they want to change and impact others lives for the better. From what I can see they're doing a fabulous job!



A Summary of Summer

A range of activities for 9-13 year olds, delivered in partnership with Morpeth Town Council, based around Morpeth Riverside

74 young people attended our sessions this Summer

Our Summer Programme has provided an opportunity for young people to get outside into the fresh air, to move more, have fun, and learn new skills.

Paddle Sports: We've paddled, kayaked and canoed our way along Morpeth Riverside - and dare I say it, spent a bit of time in the water too!!! Dry clothes for afterwards were a definite must.

Circus Skills: a great way to fine tune balance and concentration without even knowing it!

Art in the Park: being creative with what can be found around us, in nature. Themed around the environment.

Mixed Sports: trying out new things in a fun and informal way.



Supporting young people through housing



At the time of this issue, Barnabas Safe & Sound offer 10 bed spaces to young people in housing crisis through our Supported Accommodation project. Residents within our housing, receive targeted support to help them achieve their short term and long term goals.

We have seen a sharp rise in homelessness referrals within the last few months. In July alone, we received 7 self referrals from young people - 2 of which were sleeping rough in Morpeth and Blyth.

THE GOOD NEWS? Within the last 2 months, we have supported 2 of our housing clients to make the transition to independence. They are now living independently within their own flats.

We're improving our facilities for young people

We're currently refurbishing the Garage space at our Wellwood House office base. Previously a little unloved, and used as storage space, we will be offering a safe place for young people to hang out, have fun, and engage in meaningful activity through project work. There'll also be a very cool little cafe where we hope to be able to train young people to be baristas. Having owned Wellwood House since 2009, it has been our dream to transform the site into a purpose built facility for young people in Morpeth and Northumberland. We're getting one step closer!



MARCH 2022

We cleared the space, and stripped everything out so we had a blank canvas to work with. Our builders arrived and began creating the framework for the new space. This interim photo was taken shortly after the first layer of our new concrete floor went down.



JULY 2022

Wow - what a difference a few months can make. We have strong walls, smooth floors, and staff have been working hard to paint the walls after consulting with young people about how they would like the space to look. We're looking forward to finalising lights, furniture and fittings in the next few months.

From September the space will be open for young people, coinciding nicely with the start of the new school year.

GREAT NORTH RUN - ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP?



2 of the team meet Gill Monaghan:
Gail & Michael Gutherson with their son, Leo

This year, Barnabas Safe & Sound have 9 fantastic fundraisers taking part in the iconic Great North Run, which takes place on Sunday 11th September. The most support we've ever had for the event. Can you support our team by making a donation? Simply scan the QR code provided or visit our main website to access the link via "Whats On"



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