

South Shropshire Youth Forum

Clee Young Rangers programme 2017/18



What we said we'd deliver in 2017/18

Clee Young Rangers – support for a HLF funded Young Roots programme of activity

Work with Church Stretton Secondary school.

Key elements will include:

- Clee Young Rangers – recruit a total of 20 young people aged 12-18 on a programme of activity that includes: the delivery of 17 activity days, to include 6 days for a Main Summer project and at least 6 natural heritage sessions. Other sessions to include outdoor adventure and/or training days.
- Church Stretton Outdoor REACH project. Delivery of a daily programme over 8 consecutive weeks (8 sessions in total). 10-12 young people aged 13-16 referred onto programme of activity. Pupils will be referred onto an alternative curriculum learning experience from

Church Stretton Secondary School – these pupils will not be achieving their potential because of:

- bullying or other emotional issues
- poor/non-attendance at school, work or college
- risk of exclusion from school, college or society.

All activities will take place during School/term time.

Funding would support staffing costs, cost of materials and any other costs related to the programme.

What happened?

Clee Young Rangers

A total of 16 activity days were delivered .

Activities included 6 summer project activity days and 5 natural heritage activity days. 4 days covered outdoor adventure activities and a session producing some original audio material for the Clee Young Rangers film.

The Summer project comprised of 5 practical days working on Catherton Common making a board walk in bog area. Then group also installed way marker posts. The summer project ended with an overnight camp taking place in the Novers.

Production of audio piece for inclusion of the Clee Young Rangers documentary took place at a recording studio.

Other sessions included wildlife photography, making garlands, pond creation, making a bug hotel, climbing and canoeing.

24 young people have participated in the period April 2017 –March 2018.

Church Stretton Secondary school

7 sessions were delivered with Church Stretton Secondary School. We delivered an open session during October half term. 10 pupils were referred onto the project delivered in the Summer term. The open session had 2 new additional participants

The secondary school sessions were delivered in partnership with the National Trust and took place in school hours. Pupils aged 13-15 were referred onto the project through the school. Activities included sessions on teamwork, health and safety (risk assessment), individual reflection exercises and practical sessions which included path maintenance, bracken bashing, stream maintenance, removing Himalayan Balsam and work in Rectory Woods.

The School were offered 8 sessions but it transpired that only 7 could fit in to their timetable. As a result we offered open sessions during holiday times (encouraging those pupils to come back) and it also gave other young people opportunities to get involved. A gorse burn and woodland clearance session was delivered during October half term at the 'Wern' – again with national Trust staff.

Feedback from Church Stretton Secondary school Taste for Adventure sessions

From National Trust (Patrick Edwards and Dave Cowell)

It's good to work with the local community and especially the local schools as we have lots of schools coming into Cardingmill Valley but not necessarily the local ones. It's important to engage those that use the National Trust area and who use the land for recreation and social purposes, it's good to share how the landscape is managed and in so gaining an understanding on what work is involved and why it is important. Engaging the youth demographic is important to the National trust and its' good that we can work in partnership with local agencies to engage with young people. We appreciate that productivity isn't maybe as good as with adult volunteers but although there are no real problems with behaviour it is important that the right support is offered to young people while they learn from the work they are set.

We'd like to continue supporting the work we do with the Youth Forum. We could also look at utilising areas like the 'Wern'. This area could provide different activities for groups of young people like land management.

Feedback from pupils

Our planned evaluation session was cancelled and as it was right at the end of the academic this wasn't followed up in September. We did meet the pupils again in October and they gave us mainly positive feedback. The majority of pupils liked doing practical tasks and were grateful that they were selected to go on the programme as it got them out of school. Many of them didn't appreciate the work that was expected of them. SSYF tried to install and encourage a work ethic and this didn't sit well with all. 2 pupils actually preferred to go back to school and didn't complete the programme as they thought it was harder work than school.

2 pupils attended the open event during October half term.

A full evaluation of the Clee Young Rangers programme will be done in completion of the current Young Roots funded activity (end June 2018). However, we are continually getting feedback from each session delivered and we have had healthy attendances for sessions and a good retention of young people for the last few years. Parents have also been very supportive and have offered lots of their time to help out. We have had some extremely positive feedback from parents including one who thought their child had grown in confidence and being involved had been beneficial for him.

The summer project was an ambitious one. We had been commissioned by the Wildlife Trust to build a boardwalk on Catherton Common. We had good attendances despite people being away in the holiday period and the young people were proud of their achievements.

Proposing a way forward

The Clee Young Rangers has Young Roots support until June 2018, activities are being planned between now until the end of that programme.

SSYF, young people and parents are keen for the Clee Young Rangers programme to continue. We are working with Piece of String films on a second film that will form part of the evaluation of the Young Roots funded programme. Further formal evaluation will take place that will give us evidence to go back to the Heritage Lottery Fund to continue a similar style programme.

The taste for Adventure/REACH projects in Church Stretton are being supported by the school and the National Trust. A new youth partnership is being set up and SSYF hope that the projects will get more support and resources they need to be able to develop along the same lines as Clee Hill.

Pictures Top L to R

Installing new footpath signage on Catherton Common.

Wildlife photography session joined by Chris Neale falconry

Members of the REACH project working on a stream on the Long Mynd

A member of the REACH team working at Rectory Woods



