



“THE CHARGER”



North Edinburgh Children & Young People's Participation Newsletter

DEC 2013

Welcome to the first edition of the Charger

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide up to date information about how children & young people who live, go to school, or regularly visit Forth & Inverleith participate and have an influence on the decision which take place in the area.

Each edition plans will highlight what's been happening regarding participation in local youth projects, give updates on pupil councils, showcase the work of eco committees, and highlight the decisions and influences which your nearest youth forum has been involved in. Your editorial team plans to share up-to-date information on campaigns or “happenings” which groups of local young people are involved in.

It could be a great way to get some new tips and share resources, a place where people like you can gather support for their ideas and get together to discuss issues of interest to local young people. YP will be able to share their knowledge and experience. You the reader (or the writer) can positively influence change in your local area

The Charger also a space where local service providers can “test the water” with new ideas — or even report back on how they've been consulting and involving local children and young people.

It could be an exciting time ahead for 16 & 17 year olds in Scotland as they will be able to vote when the referendum on Scottish Independence takes place in September 2014. Some young people may need help to understand the issues here, or to get involved in this but some young people may also express that they don't want to get involved in it! But the Christie Report on local government demands that individuals and communities are involved in the design and delivery of the services which they're using — and this also applies to the services which children and young people use! Obviously this presents Ch & YP with a huge opportunity to make their voices heard and thereby affect change! And if folk don't listen then they'll just have to try shouting a little bit louder then won't they! ;0)



The world hates change, yet it is the only thing that has brought progress.

Charles F. Kettering

“ I used to bite my tongue and hold my breath

Scared to rock the boat and make a mess

So I sat quietly, agreed politely

I guess that I forgot I had a choice

I let you push me past the breaking point

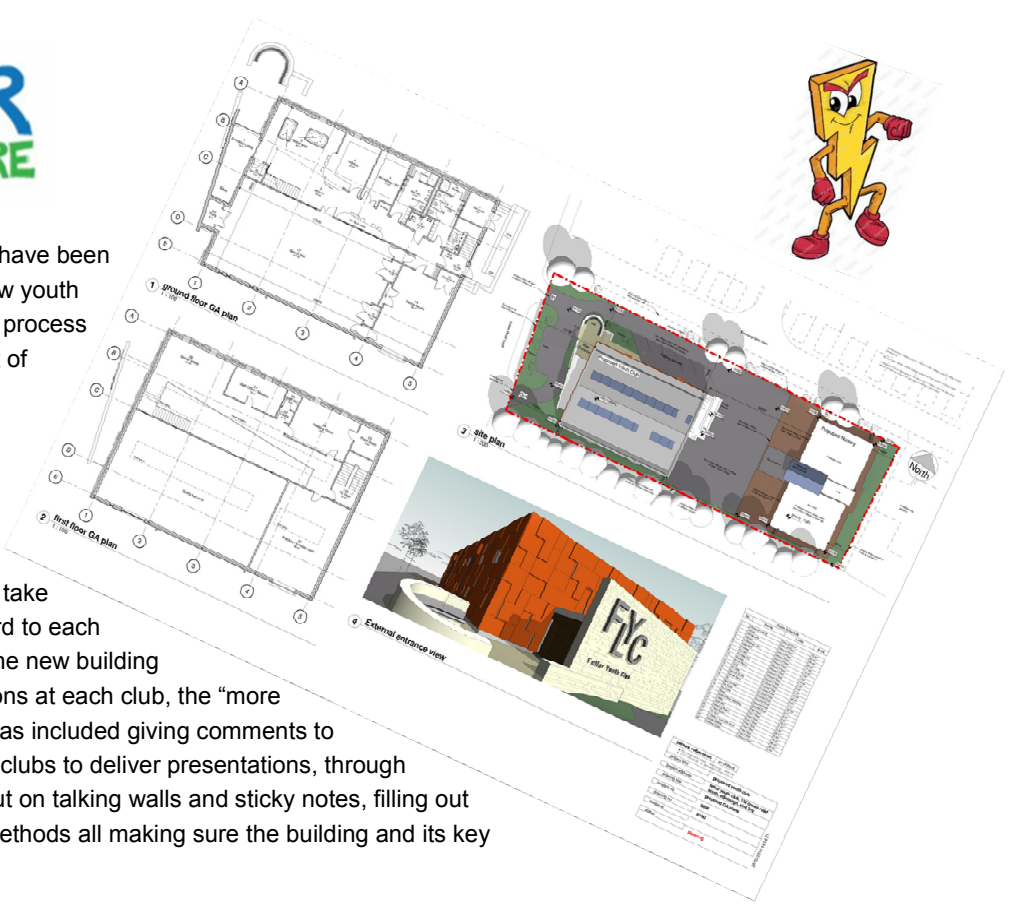
I stood for nothing, so I fell for everything”.



*“Roar”
by Katy
Perry*

In This Issue

- Roger Hart's ladder of youth participation
- Results of the “Inverleith Youth Decide” vote
- The Big Night Out in North Edinburgh Arts
- North Edinburgh Young People's Gathering
- Broughton Amnesty International Youth Group Ceilidh
- PYCP's GIG Group
- And much more!



Young people at Fet-Lor Youth Centre have been heavily involved in the design of the new youth centre building which is currently in the process of being built on the same site at a cost of over £1M

Since the early stirrings when the idea started to become a reality young people have been involved in shaping it and have met with architects, staff and the centre manager numerous times to take their ideas, and the new building forward to each next stage. As well as the subject of the new building appearing in the day to day conversations at each club, the “more formal level” input from young people has included giving comments to planners and architects who’d come to clubs to deliver presentations, through individual interviews, though giving input on talking walls and sticky notes, filling out questionnaires and a variety of other methods all making sure the building and its key features suit their needs.

As well as helping to work out how the layout of rooms is to take shape and how these are to be used young people will also influence how the interior design will look after the shell has been built – they want “their art” and local artists to “jazz the place up” once it’s been built! ;0)

Of course they haven’t been given a blank cheque to “build and paint the walls” since young people themselves have been involved in a lot of the fundraising to get the show of the road in the first place. This has included fundraisers such as sponsored cycles, football games a “bikeathon” and other similar events which all have chipped away at the total figure needing to make the new Fet-Lor building a reality.

There’s still loads to do yet but if you’re interested in helping out or getting involved contact Mark Foster on 332 4506 or by email at fetlor@hotmail.com



“Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist when he grows up

Pablo Picasso (1881-1973)

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is an international human rights treaty that grants all children and young people (aged 17 and under) a comprehensive set of rights. The UK signed the convention on 19 April 1990, ratified it on 16 December 1991 and it came into force on 15 January 1992.

Article 12 (respect for the views of the child)

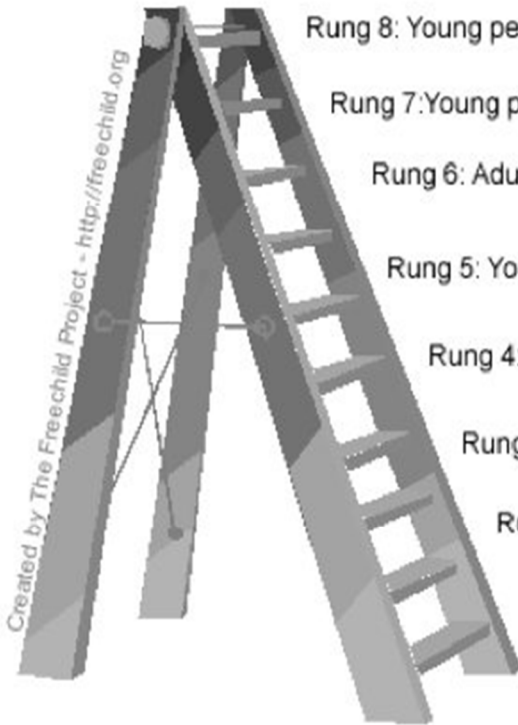
Every child has the right to say what they think in all matters affecting them, and to have their views taken seriously.



THE "CHARGER"



Roger Hart's Ladder of Young People's Participation



Rung 8: Young people & adults share decision-making

Rung 7: Young people lead & initiate action

Rung 6: Adult-initiated, shared decisions with young people

Rung 5: Young people consulted and informed

Rung 4: Young people assigned and informed

Rung 3: Young people tokenized*

Rung 2: Young people are decoration*

Rung 1: Young people are manipulated*

Note: Hart explains that the last three rungs are *non-participation*

Adapted from Hart, R. (1992). *Children's Participation from Tokenism to Citizenship*. Florence: UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre.

Hart offers the ladder to help identify the different levels of responsibility and control held by each group of YP

"Of course you'll belong to many different groups, and so could be standing on more than one step (and more than one ladder) at the same time — but can you tell which step each of the groups you're a member of occupies?"



Broughton High School's Amnesty International Youth Group, Ceilidh

Broughton High School's Amnesty International Youth Group, newly formed in September, held a ceilidh on Saturday 7th December to raise awareness of Human Rights Day (10th December).

The ceilidh dancing was led by the school's own 5th year band, Fiddlers on the Ramp, with Seoras Lewis (S6) calling the dances Isla Ratcliff (S6) and Anna Djordjevic (S5) compered the event.

There was further musical entertainment by Isla Ratcliff, Cara Targett-Ness (S5) and Isabella Webster (S5), highland dancing by Georgia Combe (S1), and a speech by Amnesty speaker Eilidh Douglas.

Many guests wrote letters to victims of human rights abuse and bought candleholders made by members of the Youth Group.

There was a raffle and some excellent home baking. Niamh McNulty (S3) gave an impassioned speech to commemorate Nelson Mandela and his outstanding contribution to human rights.

The group raised an amazing £476.96 for Amnesty International!





The 'GIG' is a group of young people from PYCP who are interested in getting involved in PYCP and their local community.

PYCP have had 'young volunteers' for a number of years now but have recently tapped into the potential and enthusiasm of a younger age group and we have around twelve regular members of GIG, - the youngest being in P6!

- ⇒ *GIG members have recently been involved in:
- ⇒ *Organising and running a 'fun club' for younger children.
- ⇒ *Making links with older members of the community and baking cup cakes for them.
- ⇒ *Face painting and helping in youth clubs
- ⇒ *Organising info circulation and events relating to the Scottish Independence Referendum.
- ⇒ *Anti Racist awareness raising and campaigning.

GIG have recently taken part in the 'Show Racism The Red Card' fortnight of action and this involved them researching and exploring the issue of racism and bigotry and organising events in their community. We had great support from 'Show Racism the Red Card' who brought the Hibs legend Mickey Weir along to present prizes and T-shirts.

The next big project for GIG will be organising events relating to the Scottish Independence Referendum. GIG feel that there is little clear information for young people, with many not realising that 16 year olds can vote and both sides of the 'debate' giving out contradictory 'facts'.

The young members of GIG are supported by other young volunteers who have been involved for a number of years.



Get Involved

Watch out for news about the "Summer Muster" for children and young people in North Edinburgh

It's early days yet but we're starting to take some early steps towards creating a space where a celebratory gathering of children and people can take place in North Edinburgh at some point in the summer. It's being planned that local children and young people's involvement is key in the development and organising of this gathering. If you would like to get involved, or find out more, get in touch with Callum McLeod on 332 6316 or email callum.mcleod@ea.edin.sch.uk



Got an issue in mind?

Not sure if anyone's listening to you?

Fed up and don't know what to do about it?

Or are you fed up and do know what to do about it but need some support?

Check out the poster to the right and then maybe contact Will Golding through the details at the bottom to see if he can help



"a dinnae de politics"

Speaking out about the kind of Scotland you want
Free sessions available to groups of young people (16-25)
in Edinburgh

From October to February 2013

Rank your top 3 sessions

<i>My right to work: Unemployment and a fair wage</i>		
"a dinnae de politics"; What you do, and who decides		
"Yes, No, It depends!"; Referendum on Scottish Independence		
"Like this": Power of Social Media		
<i>The Generation Game</i> ; Parental rights, child poverty and welfare		
<i>Getting your message heard: Loesje</i> Poster-Making workshop		
<i>Ill Manors</i> ; Music, politics, protest song and songwriting		
<i>People Power</i> ; Co-op's, campaigns and football supporters trusts		
<i>Art Matters</i> : Banner Making workshop		
<i>Mental Health; a silent issue?</i> Led by peer educators		
<i>The Other in Society</i> ; Disability, law, and society		
<i>Conspiracy Theories; Who are we to believe?</i>		

If there is any important issue you want to learn more about and discuss that is not here let me know

Let me know; your top 3 sessions; when and where your group meets; how many people are involved; and what age range there is in the group

Contact Will Golding on will.golding@edinburgh.gov.uk or on 07949230245



Your voice in Edinburgh and Scotland

Young people from the area are represented at a city wide and Scotland wide level by Youth Forums, Participation Mentors and by Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYPs). The city wide participation activities are open to anyone and offer a different perspective on youth issues. The MSYPs and participation mentors can come and visit your event, school or group (given enough notice). One of the key projects for the coming year will be voter registration for 16 and 17 year olds and democracy education. To get involved or be added to the mailing list, contact gavin.crosby@edinburgh.gov.uk



A New Pupil Council at Broughton High School

After a successful application and interview process we are delighted to announce that Broughton High School have a newly formed Pupil Council. The 22 pupils have been selected from across S1 and S6 and fully represent Broughton's diverse and vibrant cohort. The members of the Pupil Council all have one thing in common, however, and that is their passion for their school and their desire to lead their peers in continuing to shape the Broughton experience. The council will meet regularly and look forward to creating the opportunity for the pupil voice to be represented at a whole school level. They will address issues such as learning and teaching, the school environment and will take a strong role in events that happen within the school.

The Pupil Council:

Tom Bagshaw, Ella Philips, Ella Duffy, Isla Ratcliff, Connal Tolmie, Amy Laing, Cara Targett-Ness, Jack Curran, Anna Djordjevic, Toni Beisel, Gregor Campbell, Harmony Rose-Bremner, Kyle Fitzpatrick, Abby Renwick, Susie Chilver, Jack Curran, David Danaylov, Cameron Boath, Shannon Mackintosh, David Hale, Saskia Eng & Justin Youngs.

"This month Broughton have set up a coherent structure that will enable all students, from first to sixth year, to express their view and have a direct influence on the school in a way that has not been possible for the past few years. The group of students selected highlight the creativity and diversity of the school, and bring with them fantastic ideas that will all undoubtedly produce results in the near future"

Tom Bagshaw (Head Boy)

I have come to the conclusion that politics is too serious a matter to be left to the politicians

Charles de Gaulle (1828-1970)



This is what we at North Edinburgh Young People's Forum have done this year so far...

Younger Youth Forum Play Scheme

Sponsored Walk

Recruitment Movie Night
Summer Photography session

'The Matter' newspaper

Community partnerships consultation - worked with Snook & Young Scot & many more

Bullying - worked with Total Craigroyston & local primary schools & many more

Sponsored Triathlon

Mental health & well-being consultation

And many more things. If you want to know more or get involved in the North Edinburgh Young People's Forum, then follow us on **Twitter @NEYPPF** or like us on **Facebook: North Edinburgh Young People's Forum** or even email us at: **NEYPPF@hotmail.co.uk**

A local group of Drylaw lads continue to lead the way as a local skate park project in Drylaw Park reaches its final funding approval. With the go ahead the project should see on site construction early this summer and its completion by the end of August. With the help of Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre staff this would be a project that has been campaigned, planned and delivered by young people.

Roy Douglass



“The Internet could be a very positive step towards education, organisation and participation in a meaningful society

Noam Chomsky



If you don't design your own life plan, chances are you'll fall in to someone else's plan. And guess what they have planned for you? Not much!

John Rohn

Forth Neighbourhood Partnership has given a grant in 2013/14 to North Edinburgh Young People's Forum to fund a course on media training for young people aged 12-25 in Forth ward. This funding's to cover the cost of hiring a trainer in social media (£600) with the balance of £385 meeting the cost of room hire, refreshments, training materials, photocopying and bus tokens.

The project will build on the success of 'The Matter' newspaper and will promote young people's understanding of local policy issues while providing training that will give them the option of becoming community journalists.

This was in follow up to an award in 2012/13 where Forth NP had given them a previous grant to meet cost of printing/distributing the Matter newspaper

Jim Pattison

Mary's Meals Bag Packing Appeal

Our pupil led Helping Hands and Global Community Groups did a fantastic job promoting our Bag Packing Appeal and collected over 60 school bags, filled them with essential items to help children in developing countries attend school. Most of the benefitting children have suffered war, poverty, famine, or natural disaster. Very often families cannot afford to buy basic things like pencils, books, or even clothes for their children to wear to school and a simple backpack with educational materials can offer a lifeline to a chronically poor child to help them escape poverty in later life. Our children also led an assembly, created posters, publicised the event on the website and led a



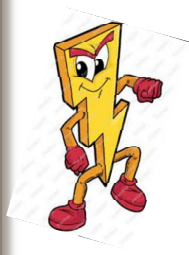
bag packing conga around the school to raise awareness of this appeal!

Fairtrade Soup Stall

Our Primary 5 have been learning about Fairtrade products. After researching different food journeys they decided to create a Fairtrade soup kitchen for the school. Working in partnership with Shirley our school cook they have created a range of Fairtrade vegetable soup and have been selling this in aid of Cancer Research.

Night Light Event

Our school choir performed in front of huge crowds on George Street as part of our the launch of the Christmas celebrations. They performed their chosen songs 'Imagine' and 'Stand by Me' as their interpretation of the theme of 'peace'.



Contact Us

Give us a call if you'd like to hear more information about this newsletter, youth participation, or even if you'd like some help or support for your group or club.

If you've a story to tell, want to highlight an example of decision making by children & YP and fancy putting this down in a few words for the next edition, or even want to tell us about an amazing club, member of staff or agency because of the way it supports young people's participation then contact:

Callum McLeod

Forth & Inverleith CLD Team

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Email callum.mcleod@ea.edin.sch.uk