

Registered  
Charity  
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SUMMER 2021

# PYCP SUMMER NEWSLETTER



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**PYCP**

Pilton Youth & Children's Project



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# LITTLE LIBRARIES PROJECT

Our Thursday Adventurers group have been hard at work over the summer planning, designing, building and decorating **two Little Free Libraries** with the help of Alison McLuckie, a paediatrician working with children and young people in Edinburgh and Mark Stares, a research doctor based at the Western General Hospital. The young people, staff and other volunteers engaged in the whole process from the idea stages all the way to the Libraries being put on the PY Building! The **rainbow hot air balloon library** is home to books for children from nursery to P2, and the **Harry Potter themed library** has books for P3 - P7.

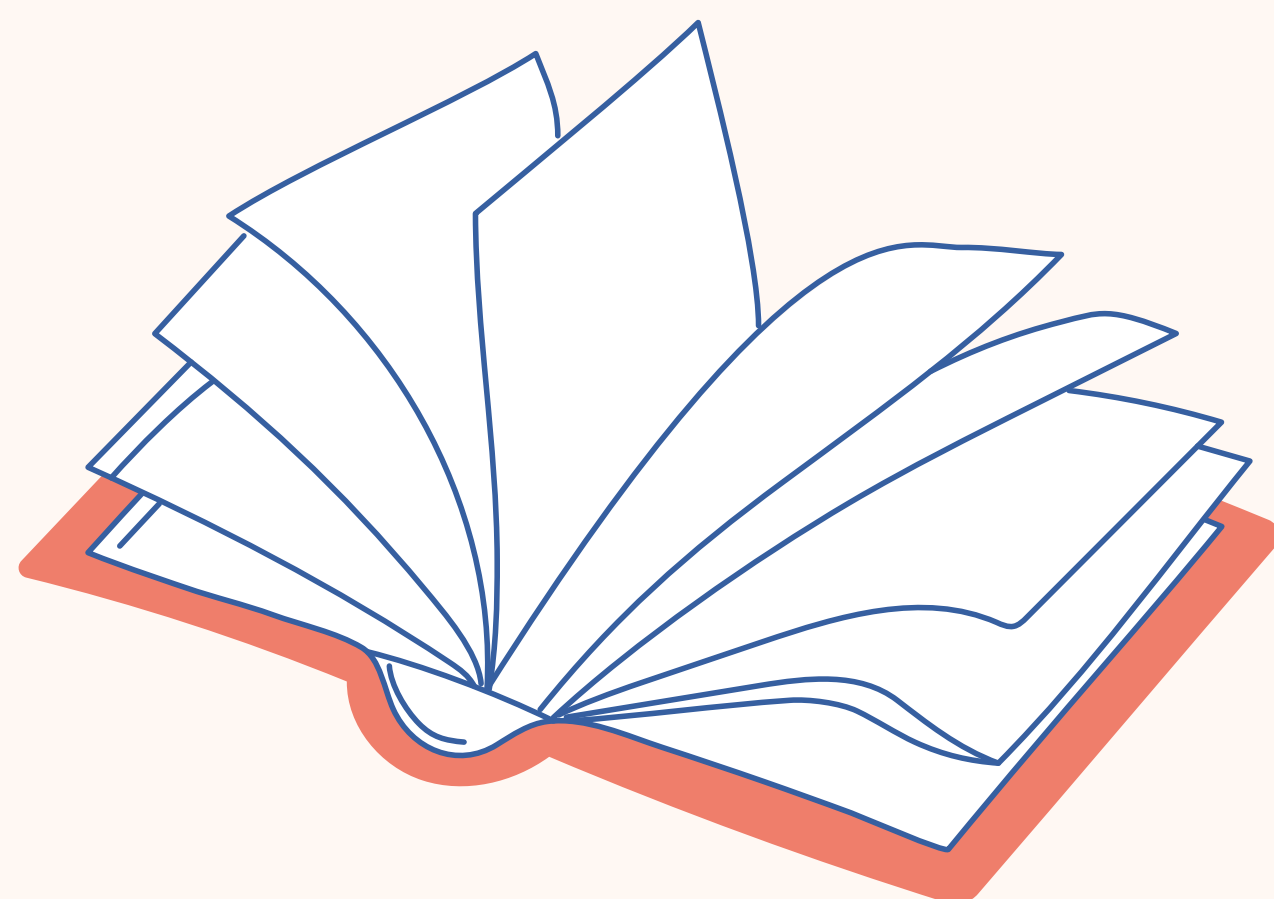
The libraries were officially launched on **Tuesday 10th August** by Bruce Adamson the Children and Young People's Commissioner and Nick Hobbs from the office of CYPS. Young people from the group met with Bruce and Nick and talked them through the design and building process. Bruce and Nick also brought along some books to put in the libraries which were greatly appreciated by the young people!

The books are free to children in the local community and if you have any spare at home why not pop them in when collecting some new ones!

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I'm free!!







# PY PICNICS

## A delicious summer!

We made nearly 4000 picnics and suppers this Summer. Over the 7 week holidays, we made lunches for up to 100 children per day. On some days we had to make another 15 to keep up with the number of children and families coming to pick up a picnic.

It has been lovely to see so many children and parents too coming to get their lunches. After almost 18 months with lockdown restrictions, we are seeing some children for the first time in ages, some of them have really grown up...we hardly recognize them!

We couldn't have made the picnics and suppers without the support of Radio Forth Cash for Kids and City of Edinburgh Council and Youthlink Scotland who helped us pay for all the food and activities over the weeks.

The photos speak volumes, lots of happy faces and we hope this goes a long way to creating happy childhood memories of Summer School Holidays 2021.



◆ EDINBURGH ◆  
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL



# "My daughter eats every last bite!"

Our midway through Summer questionnaire sent out to parents gave us these facts and stats from our Summer picnics.

## Facts

Apples & Strawberries are what children like eating the most. However, Kiwi fruit and raspberries are at the low end and least enjoyed by PY children.

Out of 42 responses we had 9.35 out of 10 stars for how much their children were enjoying the picnics

## What did children like the most? Top 5 answers:

- 1) Pancakes
- 2) Crepes
- 3) Cheese pastries
- 4) Scones
- 5) Sandwiches

"I prefer my kids to get picnics so I can sit and eat lunch with them."

"I think picnics are better than hot dinners, especially in the nice weather"



# SUMMER TRIPS

## A summer of adventures!

During this summer at PYCP we had the chance to visit some wonderful places. The kids had loads of fun and they went home with beautiful experiences and memories.

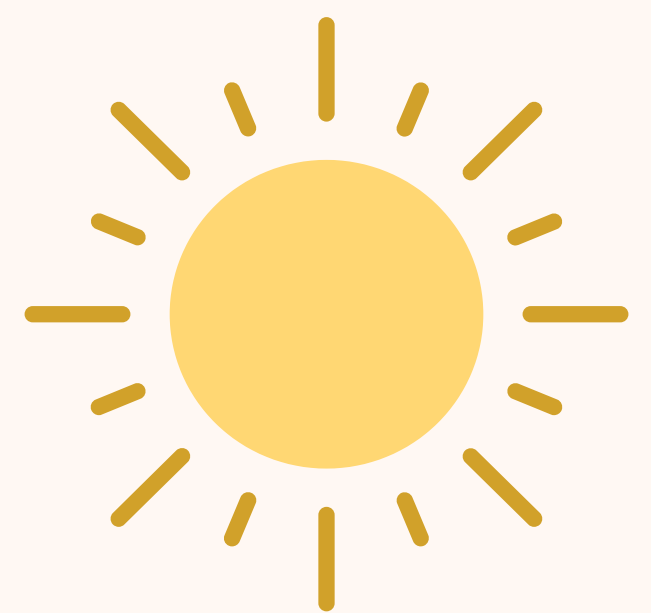
Our children visited the aquarium at **Deep Sea World** and they were mesmerized by the variety of animals like seals, firefish, piranhas and sand tiger sharks.

The most adventurous ones went to **Foxlake** where they climbed trees and run through paths built on water and **Innoflate** where they had fun bouncing on giant inflatables. The **Muirhouse Youth Development Group** organized a day of activities including gardening, outdoor games, painting, canoeing and archery.

Thanks to the **National Galleries of Scotland** we spent a wonderful time exploring and learning new things. The kids had fun interacting with the artworks and they managed to create their own outside in the wonderful green park overlooking the museum. What an amazing day they had!

Least but not last, the kids went to **East Link farm** where they met many cute animals, from donkeys to Lamas. They were happy to spend some time with them and take pictures together.

This summer was amazing despite the difficult times we all had to face. We hope to keep going on with many other fun trips during our Autumn and Winter programme.









# OUR PY SUMMER IN WORDS

It's great to have PY open and able to take my children for a club and away from being in front of the TV.

It's giving the kids something to do, something to look forward to and something to get up for.

Pycp don't just help through the summer, they help all year around, they are amazing in everything they do.

They are helping the children back to some normality after the horrible time they have had due to covid.

You do amazing for the kids and all the activities you organise over the summer help the kids out.



## Affordable, upcycled clothes for young people 11 & up!

Another wonderful project that we have been running this summer on several occasions is Teen Boutique. By now many of you know what this is all about but for those of you who don't, read more about it below!

Teen Boutique is a way for young people to get good quality clothing at an affordable price. Many of the local families spend a fortune to get the latest branded gear so their kids can feel a part of things. Therefore, we offer them the opportunity to buy used clothes from famous brands without spending a fortune. By doing this, we also enforce a very important message about the impact of fashion on the environment. In fact, buying second-hand and recycled clothes is a great way to avoid unnecessary waste and prevent good quality fabrics and clothes from ending up in landfills.

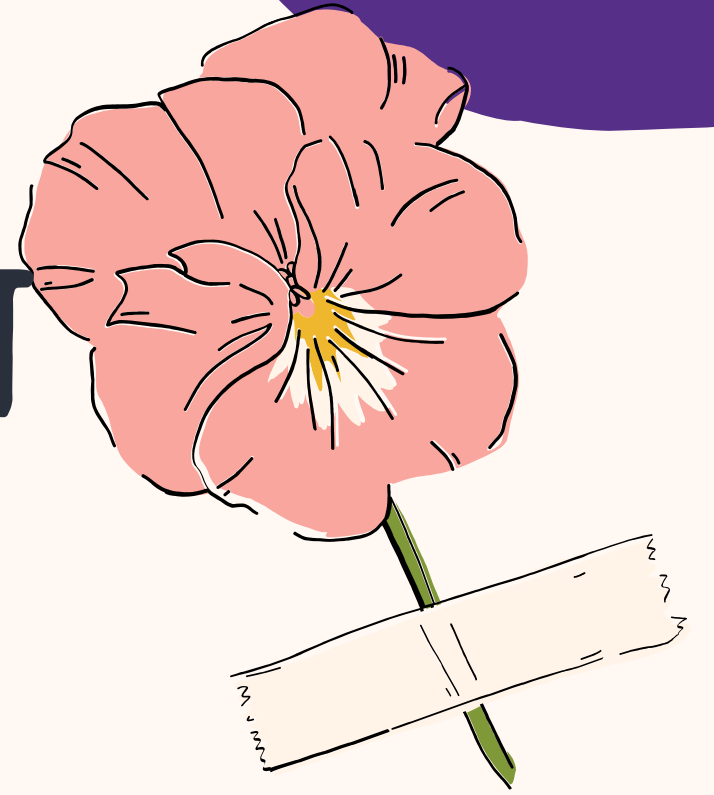
During the summer we managed to organize some events that had a huge success! Many people visited our pop-up shop and young people enjoyed choosing their new clothes.

Stay tuned on our social channels to find out what the next dates will be for this beautiful popup shop event!





# BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

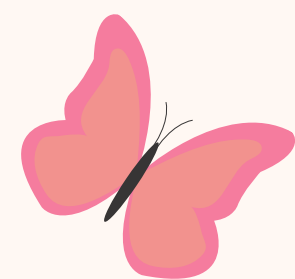
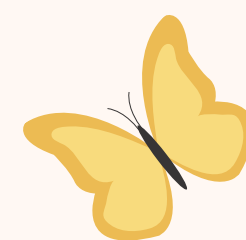


## Exploring biodiversity project

During the summer holidays, young people from the PYCP Adventurers group took part in the "Exploring biodiversity" project delivered by **Ross Combe from the National Museum of Scotland**. Young people explored different ecosystems in a fun and stimulating way, learning about biodiversity in their local area.

The young adventurers had lots of fun doing the erupting volcano experiment on the beach and exploring the local wildlife and the ways of protecting it. Young peoples' interest in nature was supported by exploring museum exhibits e.g. animal skulls and fossils. By taking part in Parkour sessions, young people developed their fitness, balance and coordination in the urban ecosystem and they absolutely loved it.

The biodiversity project helped young people to improve their self-belief and resilience and develop strategies in risk management.







# SUMMER FAMILY PROJECT



Jill from our **Intensive Support team** ran some **family sessions** over summer, on Mondays and Fridays each week. This was a combination of fun activities and some focused sessions.

Families enjoyed doing **messy play** such as making slime and playing with pasta, rice, oats, plastic shape tools, paper, string, paints, trays and small cars.

The families also enjoyed a beach trip where they explored rock pools and even found a live crab! They then played games on the beach including football and tennis. Another fun session was our **Family Scavenger Hunt**.

Focused sessions included a **mindfulness workshop** with an organisation called “Habits of Happiness” with parents and young people learning about taking time for themselves and practising gratitude.

We also had a visit from two of the **Granton Information Centre team** which was really useful with families making further appointments for advice and support.

We hope that we can have more activities like this so please keep an eye out for our programme after October break.



# NEW TEAM MEMBERS AND...



Rachel Joyce

Hi, I'm Rachel Joyce and I began studying Community Education 4 years ago and since then I have worked with numerous youth work and adult education projects within the South/West & North areas of Edinburgh. I am passionate about equality and social justice and I love working with individuals and wider communities. Seeing people thriving and living their best life or being able to support people during hard times gives my own life a sense of purpose.

I am a naturally happy person, I'm all about good vibes and positive energy! I love to attend music festivals & events with my fabulous group of friends.

I'm also quite laidback so I enjoy just chilling and taking life easy. I'm a massive foodie whether it's cooking, takeaway or eating out... I could talk food for days! The role of a 1:1 intensive support worker is my dream job so I am delighted to be in this role. I'm so glad to be joining a solid organisation like PYCP and excited to see what the future holds for me and my new team.

## ...OTHER UPDATES!

### We have a new Logo!

During this summer we also worked on our new logo! Check it out on our website [pycp.co.uk](http://pycp.co.uk) and social media channels!



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