

We believe that everyone should have a safe place to stay ...



**YMCA
BOURNEMOUTH**

Bournemouth/Poole/Christchurch



YMCAB NEWSLETTER

**MAY
2020**



Building Services ▶▶



ESC Programme ▶▶



The Chatterboxes ▶▶

Visit www.ymcabournemouth.org.uk ▶ **Telephone** 01202 290451



YMCA enables people to develop their full potential in mind, body and spirit. Inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian values, we create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.

SUPPORT & ADVICE

ACCOMMODATION

FAMILY WORK

HEALTH & WELLBEING

TRAINING & EDUCATION

YMCA Building Services – Focused!



been focused on many of the YMCA locations during the Covid-19 period ... not least The Junction Sports & Leisure Centre.

The all-important Reception area has undergone a much needed refurbishment upgrade, which will be extremely welcomed by users,

Members and staff alike when they return to 'normality'.
"We all know how important first impressions are, and the detail that has been used in this work has been fantastic. My/our sincere thanks to Dean, Richard and Jack for 'caring' so much and being focused on this job being completed during this unprecedented close-down."

Martin Stockley
(Senior Operations Officer)

The YMCA Building Services Department, in addition to their mandatory and health/safety responsibilities, have under the management of Jonathan Chadd



Rising To The Challenge



Here at The Chatterbox Project we have been busy adapting our ways of working to ensure that we support young disabled people who access our project and enable them to have opportunities to connect with their friends and not feel alone in these challenging times.

We are now running 3 virtual youth sessions per week where young people can come together to catch up with friends, design and deliver virtual youth sessions to their peers on topics they are passionate about such as keeping safe online and we even have guest speakers join our sessions. Our latest guest was BCP Councillor Jane Kelly who updated our members about what the local council is doing during these times and answered the many questions young people had.

We have also set up weekly Chatterbox challenges for young people to take part in. Past challenges have included sending in videos of your daily exercise whilst in fancy dress, sending letters of positivity to loved ones, etc. Additionally, Staff within the project are also offering 1:1 telephone and video support to all young people involved in the project and their families who are struggling in these strange times.

If you want to find out more about our project find us on:



@Chat_boxes



chatterboxes



The_Chatterboxes



Or visit our You Tube channel to check out our latest Chatterbox Challenge results:<https://www.youtube.com/user/ChatterboxesBmth>

YMCA Bournemouth proudly hosts full time volunteers through the European Solidarity Corps programme, and currently has nine volunteers in place, including two who are our own YMCA residents.

Why would YMCA residents choose to embrace a two-month volunteering placement during lockdown?

“I just wanted to be productive and put my energy into something positive. It was to help my mental health as much as helping others. It makes me feel good to help out and to be a blessing to others.” Henry (UK)

We're so grateful for all the ESC volunteers who give up 2-12 months of their lives to support the work of our YMCA - and now that of partner organisations in our local community too.

Lockdown has presented many personal challenges for these young people who don't have family nearby to lean on. YMCA Bournemouth is their family here and we continue to stay connected with them in their different accommodations and host families, reaching out with essential support.

Here are some words from our European Volunteers...



Antonella (Italy)

“Hello everyone! I'm 28 years old and I come from Italy. I graduated in Political Science and to maintain my studies I always had to work in hospitality. I was a bartender for 6 years and for 4 years a waitress in many restaurants. My dream is to continue my university studies and to do so I know that I will have to work a lot more. That's why I decided to take a year off and dedicate it to helping others at the Water Lily Café in Christchurch. Even if the language barrier impacts my first few months, I am sure I can contribute and help out.”



Sabine (Germany)

“I really enjoyed my placement at the YMCA before the lockdown. And now during the lockdown I have the chance to make completely new experiences, to take responsibility in new ways and learn so much about different ways to connect during social distancing.”



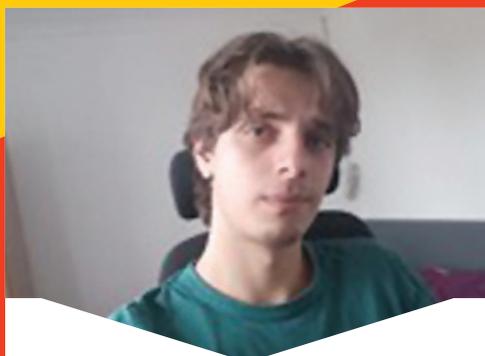
Sara (Spain)

“Difficult times also means to discover new limits and explore more about yourself. I've been taking some important decisions and enjoying more than ever my placement. And I would also add thank you Angela and Glen for being always there”



Alessandra (Italy)

“Hi everyone! I spend my days studying and improving my skills. I am unravelling new interests that will help me grow socially and professionally. Now it's my 49th day in quarantine! Unfortunately I was sick before the lockdown in the UK. But I'm still here, at home, doing my volunteering with @ymcabournemouth (whatever I'm able to do from my room). I create present and future projects. To see what I do with my volunteer colleagues, follow our newsletter here @challengedbyymca See ya! ”



Adam (Hungary)

“Hi all, I'm doing well in quarantine, got involved with new projects and spend more time with my lovely family”



Chaida (Mayotte/France)

“Everyday is a new lockdown experience as an ESC volunteer and it makes me grow!”



Lenka (Czech Republic)

“During lockdown I can think more about what is important for me, which direction I want to go and where I want to grow. I am trying to enjoy every day with doing activities I like and I want to improve my skills.”

Could you host a YMCA European Volunteer?

We will be recruiting new Host Families for future months and the year ahead.

By hosting one of our European Volunteers, you'll be supporting the work of YMCA Bournemouth and helping us to reach even further.

Get in touch for more details:
esc@ymcabournemouth.org.uk



Joy has always been part of my life. I can remember as far back as aged 6, singing in Sunday School, I've got the JOY, JOY, JOY, JOY, down in my heart. We sang it in a "round" like a camp-fire song. As an teenager, aged 17, I taught younger children in a Summer holiday Bible School, and the memory verse was from the Psalms 'In your presence is fullness of Joy'.

In 2016, the year our son Simon was diagnosed with terminal cancer, this became very real. A favourite Bible verse was, 'The Joy of the Lord is my strength', I decided I would choose Joy. YMCA also called the Intranet 'Joy' that year after I won the name ballot! Those of you who know me well have heard many of the stories, where I have found Joy in the most unusual places, Scotland, Lincoln, Singapore, Budapest, Australia, as it travelled with me, in my heart. At work I became known as 'The Joy Lady'.

Joy was always there before maybe, I just wasn't looking for it.

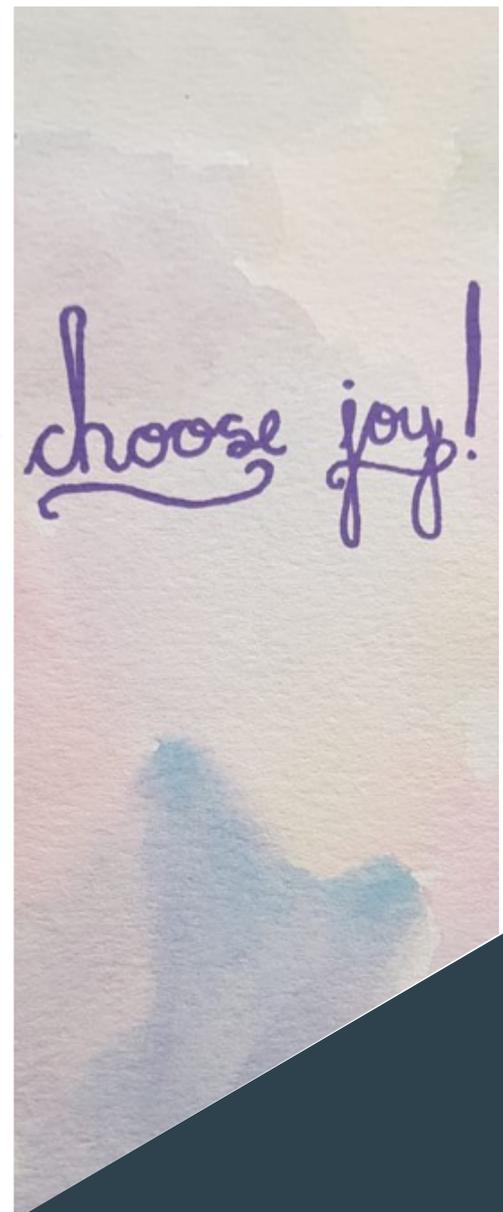
More recently due to the COVID 19 outbreak which involves home working, job change and working closely with my work colleague, Val, who was also home schooling, we had several interesting conversations in the course of my work.

My new role was to assist Val, our Bid Writer, and do research for her. This was a learning curve for me and involved several calls to Val. One day in my eagerness to get a very small bid submitted, I uploaded the wrong document and could not retract it. I sent them an email, but it would be amongst hundreds and prayed. The next day they emailed back, sorted my mistake and 2 weeks later there was Joy when I got £500 for YMCAB!

Another day, as a distraction for the Val's children, I asked her daughter, Tilly, if she would draw me a rainbow picture to put in my window. As I live on a main road close to the hospital, I told her it would be seen by all the buses, ambulances, police, and those who walk along the road. Several days later a handmade envelope arrived and inside a beautiful painting by Tilly. This was in beautiful rainbow colours and written in her writing the words, 'Choose Joy'.

A few days later, during a phone call, I thanked and told her that I would be taking it outside to show the neighbours and the ambulances as they passed by. This happened the following Thursday, "Clapping Night"! I was, of course, complete with my pot lids and making a joyful noise. I have another Psalm, 47. I now call it "The Thursday Psalm"; - "Clap your hands all ye nations shout to God with cries of Joy", and Psalm 81, "Sing for Joy to God our strength, ... begin the music with flute, tambourine, lyre and (pot lids)".

These are very unusual times where we have all had to make choices. The choice is always ours, whether we choose to act on it or not. JOY is also a choice and the choice is ours. As Val and I have worked on the bids, there have been several days where we have had to make such choices - sudden deadlines, rejection, computer failures. I am pleased to say Joy has always appeared just when I/we have needed it.



Local Collaboration At Its Best!

When The Poole Grammar School took up the national call for additional and much needed Personal Protective Equipment, by utilising what they had in their Design Technology area, they came across one obstacle...Boxes!

Boxes to store and deliver their self-made PPE Masks to local Surgeries, Care Homes and the YMCA. This is where YMCA Bournemouth/Poole used it's contacts and upon receiving

the request from the Grammar School, the very next day Castlepoint's Store & Secure Company delivered the required boxes to the School. YMCA Bournemouth/Poole have been supported by both The Poole Grammar School and Store & Secure in their challenge to end local homelessness, and it was simply a matter of all the parties working together to meet the national/local need in the present time.

"Our Dorset Chamber of Commerce & Industry associates + our local Schools/ Colleges never cease to amaze me in their support of others...Store & Secure & Poole Grammar School we salute you..."

Martin Stockley
YMCA Bournemouth
Senior Operations Officer

