

Pathfinders Cymru Quarterly Newsletter



WWW.PATHFINDERSCYMRU.ORG

CONTACT@PATHFINDERSCYMRU.COM

Welcome to our newsletter!



Welcome to Pathfinders Cymru's first quarterly newsletter. We hope this will be an opportunity for us to keep our trustees, volunteers and supporters informed about all the most recent developments with our charity, as well as letting you know about what's coming up.

Pathways Through Pixels & Creative Tech

It's been a busy and creative few weeks in our Pathways Through Pixels sessions! Thanks to Amazon's Regional Creatives Fund, we've been able to supply our young people with lots of fun tech to use! So far, our groups have been exploring storytelling and worldbuilding in games and digital media. They've been busy designing their own characters, building story worlds, and experimenting with tools such as map-making, storyboarding and character creation software. The sessions have been full of imagination, creativity, and problem-solving and it's been very exciting watching them bring their ideas to life!



Beans, Beans, Beans!

You may know that Pathfinders Cymru is run purely by volunteers and financed wholly by grants and donations. It's a hand to mouth existence and Trustee Martin and his good friend, Captain Beany will be undertaking a 73 mile walk around NPT in September called 'Toast Across NPT' to fundraise and raise our profile. On the five days of the walk, they will be eating beans on toast three times per day, ie breakfast, lunch and tea, all at prearranged 'birthday tables' at cafes on route.

For more info, please see our socials or our GoFundMe to donate <https://www.gofundme.com/f/pathfinders-cymru>

A New Trustee

We are delighted to welcome Andrew Mattick as a new trustee. Andrew will be well known to you as a key volunteer for us and we are so glad he has accepted this position. Thank you, Andrew. We really appreciate all that you do.



Gardening Fun

Our first gardening club of 2026 was very well attended and great fun. Having sown seeds in trays to take home, the group – both children and parents made a fantastic job of clearing one of the Community Garden's veg beds from weeds. It looked stunning!

This year, the Club is likely to be mixed between two areas of Skewen Park: their fabulous Community Garden and our own private stretch of Skewen park where we will be able to maintain as we please.

Further gardening club dates will be posted on our socials - please let us know if you plan to attend so that we can purchase an appropriate level of plants, seeds, equipment etc ahead of each session.



◆ Volunteer Update ◆

We have recently welcomed Caz, Fern and Shaun as new volunteers. You might notice their 'volunteer' lanyards until they have their purple shirts!

Thank you all for your help so far - we are glad to welcome you to the Pathfinders family!

Programme Updates

Arts Award

Arts Award has been really successful since it began in September, with us having to expand from one to two classes in January. Our fantastic artists displayed their work in Queen Street Gallery, Neath's Young Artist competition where five of them won runners-up prizes!

We also had a session with the wonderful One Heart Drummers which was lots of fun!



Teen Social Group

Our Teen Club is a lovely calm group which welcomes teens who might struggle to manage mainstream youth groups due to anxiety. This term we've had lots of fun with arts and crafts, board games and even a little Dungeons & Dragons! Of course we also have plenty of space for our teens to just socialise and chill out and an area for parents to have a cuppa and catch up too. A huge thank you to The Gathering Place charity in Neath for allowing us to use their amazing premises.

Brick Club

We trialled Brick Club this term (Lego therapy). This has been met by a lot of excitement from our brick enthusiasts and we have made all kinds of colourful block creations! While we have finished these sessions for the time being, watch this space for more sessions coming up in the future.



Young Enterprise

Our Young Enterprise group has been busy developing their own business ideas and learning what it takes to turn a concept into a real venture. Over the past few months, the teens have been exploring everything from branding and product design to budgeting, teamwork, and decision-making. It's been lovely to watch them grow in confidence together, particularly during our Christmas event where they had their own stall and even went out into the crowds to tout for business. We're all very proud of them for what they've achieved. If you'd like to place an order for one of their custom designed and hand-painted t-shirts or hoodies, please contact them at tomscutedesigns@gmail.com



Duke of Edinburgh

We currently have nine of our young people enrolled and striving to achieve their D of E Bronze Award. For those who don't know, the scheme is open to all aged 14 or over or are aged 13 in the school year they turn 14. A big part of the scheme is the expedition which will take place in the first week of October. We have been fortunate in being able to work with the local D of E co-ordinator in making the expedition accessible for our learners, so that everyone can take part, no matter their level of ability.

If your young person would like to take part, contact martin@pathfinderscymru.com

Coming up...

- April sees the launch of our parent/carer training sessions starting with 'Incel Culture' on the 21st April.
- We will be holding exhibitions of work to celebrate the end of our Pixels/Creative tech projects at the end of the summer term - keep an eye on our socials for dates!
- Watch out for the Romans! Coming September!