



Annual General Meeting 2016

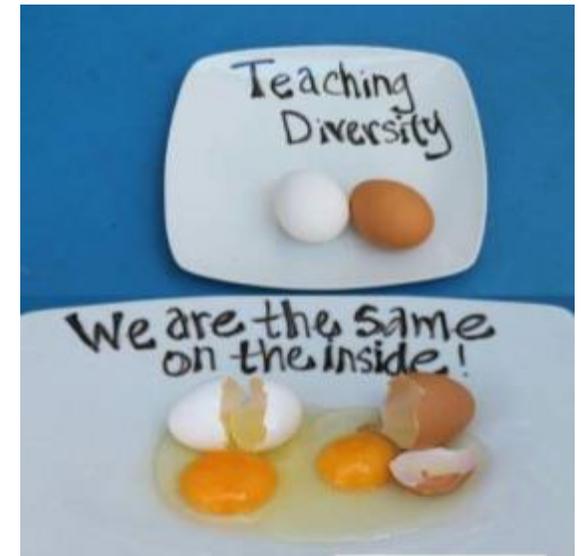


This has been a year of ups and downs! We have been successful in being awarded three grants which have enabled us to do more work with our existing GYA young people, and also young people new to the community. There has been the ongoing saga with the building - with great work being done by the Gladstone Group to negotiate with the council to try and come up with a solution agreeable to both. We're not quite there yet but hope to be soon. We are grateful to all of our trustees for their hard work this year - becoming our IT support, our taxi drivers, shoppers, cooks - you name it, they've done it!

Sue



In January and February, GYA worked on diversity training. Always a great session promoting lots of discussion. This is something close to GYA's heart and is always good to revisit. In March, amongst all the other things that we did, we held one of our delicious convivial suppers. Much soup, pasta and, as ever, many brownies were eaten!





Once again in April, GYC worked with Public Health Gateshead to take GYA down to London. Much noise was made by the young people to protest outside the BAT AGM at the Barbican in London, followed by presentations at The Museum of London where GYA told the assemble young people what we do in Gateshead to tackle smoking. As ever, a trip to London is never complete without a trip to the theatre. This years show was Charlie and The Chocolate Factory - complete with an upgrade!





May saw another convivial supper, again with delicious food, with Gateshead Councils Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Children and Young People being invited. They were treated to a presentation showing all of the good work that GYA had been up to. These Convivial Suppers are the designated route for OSC to engage with young people in an environment best suited to the young people.





June saw members of GYA attending an Education Panel at the Discovery Museum about keeping schools creative. This was an opportunity to discuss with delegates at the conference the different thoughts about school and how the curriculum is changing - and more importantly, whether it is to the benefit of the young people! There were some interesting questions posed by the young people.





September was a really busy month!

GYC have been working incredibly hard to fundraise through grants. This was the month that we received funding from the Police and Crime Commissioners Fund and United Way. This funding has enabled us to work with a group of refugees called 'Peace of Mind'. We combined with members of this group to form 'Peace of GYA', which now meet once a month and is a place for young refugees, asylum seekers and GYA members to discuss issues affecting both groups, learn about cultural differences, expand their knowledge, make friends and have fun.



Also, September saw Valerie and Sue in posh frocks at Liverpool Cathedral where Valerie had been shortlisted for a lifetime achievement award in the National Diversity Awards. It has to be said, everyone was so so proud.





October saw our elections - people were dynamic within schools, recruiting new members and we once again had our election night at the Civic Centre and celebrated the achievements of our outgoing GYA.





November saw another busy month. Lots of Key bids were approved. The Saviours went for a Winter to Remember (should have been a summer to remember, butbroken ankles). The group planned work around promoting independence on transport and bowling, they also planned and delivered two Christmas parties. These are really useful skills—lots of research and a presentation involved. Watch out in next years AGM for the fun photos to follow!

The Mythbusters were awarded a Key bid to run a poster competition for school all around diversity. Lots of hard work went into to planning....again, watch this space!



GYA is considered the formal group young people in Gateshead, because of this they are included as part of the Civic Ceremonies throughout the year. November saw GYA as part of the Remembrance Day service. Josh read In Flanders Field and James laid the wreath. Always a very important, and emotional part of our year. Whatever peoples opinion about war, we always take part to remember the sacrifices made by human beings, on all sides.



*In Flanders Fields the poppies blow,
Between the crosses, row on row.*





“Retweeted GBYOC (@GBYOC):

Fantastic first session of the Peace of GYA young people's drop in. Watch out for some incredible young people doing inspiring things”

December saw many Christmas parties! Peace of GYA continued to meet and organise a Christmas party. At this party ,200 children from 23 different countries all received a present, a selection box and Snowman Soup. Just so you know, the group are also planning an Eid party in 2017.





We eventually got some new computers! We were very lucky to receive a grant from the Big Lottery (and a visit from them!) so now, we have computers, that work!

We owe huge thanks to the organisations who funded our work in 2016.



VERA BAIRD_{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER