

# Newport Youth Centre ONE YEAR ON

MATT YARWOOD

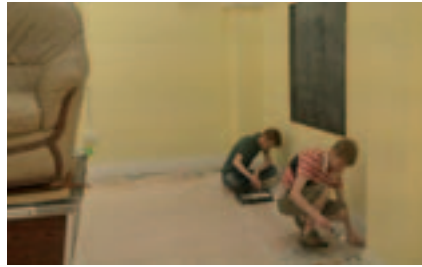
One year on, a year's worth of use, a year's worth of wear and tear, and we're still offering our facilities to everyone who comes through the door. Regardless of who they are and what they want to do – whether it's to play a game of football, or play a musical instrument.

## Fundraising

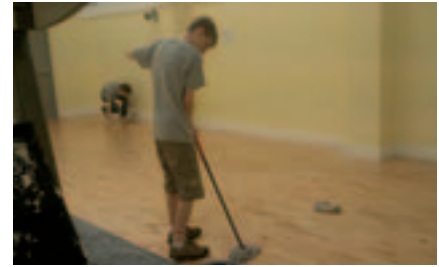
Over the past year we have held many events and raised lots of money. Back in October 2011 we held a Halloween party that raised £50. In 2012 we held a family disco that raised £30, and a local band gig that raised £80. We also ran various stalls at the village fête, bringing in £950. In April Andrew (Yarwood) took part in a challenge to drive to Bury St Edmunds and back using a limited amount of fuel, and even though he didn't quite manage it, we still raised £870.

## Refurbishment

Dan Cornell and I noticed that some sections of the building were becoming more and more marked – much more than what we could clean off. I went away and came up with a plan to repaint, clean everything (even more), and generally tidy up. After a few weeks of planning by Dan and me, I approached the more senior members of the committee and in mid-July was given the go-ahead. We would have to work around all the activities that the



REPAINTING THE SKIRTING BOARDS



THE LAST FINISHING TOUCHES

hall and music rooms were used for. During the summer Newport Youth Centre underwent a partial refurbishment when it was repainted and cleaned.

The results were obvious, even after just one day of sanding, cleaning and painting. However, it was clear that although our plan were working and the centre was already looking better, we still had some way to go to make it look like new.

I think at the start we all underestimated the task we had undertaken. One day we spent nearly 14 hours working at the Youth Centre, with late nights and very early mornings. All this hard work was about looking after something that has been such a big part of our lives for over a year. From the beginning of the build back in 2011, to the opening in September of that same year, to helping out at events or volunteering our time at the Younger Youth Club on Thursday nights (not because we had to, but because we wanted to make a contribution to our community). The objectives for the refurbishment were about making sure that this building remains here for generations to come, to benefit anyone who wishes to make use the facilities, young or old.

Dan Cornell and Rob Gowers helped me throughout the week, just as they had originally helped with the construction of the building last year. I knew that, as good mates, they would do the job that needed to be done, without mistakes. During the last two days of the final push, I also asked Fran Lake to help, as we still had quite a lot to do. Without the help of these three people, to whom I am hugely grateful, the refurbishment of the building in such a short space of time would not have been possible.

## What's next?

Well, for us it's about giving everyone an opportunity to use the facilities – whether it's to come to either of the two Youth Clubs, use the hall for parties or classes, use the music rooms, or even rent the whole building.

The Youth Club currently runs two nights a week – Thursday nights from 6:30pm to 8:30pm for ages 9-12, and Friday nights for ages 12 and above. It's only one pound to get in and gain access to activities such as pool, table tennis, air hockey, PlayStation, computers, football, basketball and the tuck shop.

The hall costs only £8 an hour to rent (for children's parties etc) and the music rooms £5. Music rooms in this area are few and far between. Conditions apply obviously. Both are available to rent any time of day, any day of the week. For more details ring Sharon Davey on 07770 766380 or email her at [ssdavey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ssdavey@yahoo.co.uk).

We currently have a Zumba Class in the hall on Wednesday evenings between 7pm and 8pm, open to all. For details phone 07872 966828 or email [andrea.rigg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:andrea.rigg@hotmail.co.uk). On Friday mornings we have Baby Sensory classes for babies up to 13 months old. For more details visit [www.babysensory.com](http://www.babysensory.com) and search under 'Cambridge', phone Juliette on 07966 789785, or email [cambridge@babysensory.co.uk](mailto:cambridge@babysensory.co.uk).

Come along and see us. You never know, you may like it. **NN**

