



Northamptonshire Young Leaders

April 2013 Newsletter



Northamptonshire
County Council



The Young Leaders are a group of 7 people from across the county elected by you for you! We have recently been working on projects both as a group and individually, both locally and further afield to promote the Young Leaders and the great things other young people do across the county. In this edition of the newsletter you will find information about visiting political institutions, competitions, youth groups, and even a trip to The Gambia! Remember we're your voice to the County Council and beyond! Contact us.

Joe Paterson - Daventry

Shannon Howard - Northampton

Klejda Cupi - Corby

Chantal Roberts - South Northants

Kimberley-Anne Critchell - Wellingborough

Lauren Rowe - Kettering

Peter Edwards - E. Northants

Trip to The Gambia!

Visiting The Gambia was simply life changing it was truly 'The Gambian Experience' that I will always remember, every last detail of the trip was amazing. The first day we went to Penyem upper school. The students were lined up, dressed in white, singing and dancing to welcome us. I was amazed with their enthusiasm, which showed how appreciative they were of our support for their village. I thought most students in Corby wouldn't do this, we are so lucky to have so much but we don't show we are grateful and the difference was that they were so happy with what they had. After joining them sing and dance we went to visit the primary school, where I'd meet my sponsored child for the first time. From afar I could see the tops of these little heads and hear little voices chanting 'Welcome Andy', I cried with joy watching these kids full of excitement jumping up and down, some barefoot! As soon as we all stepped off the land rover we had these children coming towards us grabbing hold of each finger, bags and pockets.

The second day at the village we were each given a level to teach and I joined the level 2 class which was students aged 5+. The teacher was late so three of us awkwardly stood in the class room whilst we had many eyes on us as the children waited. We were thinking of a way to entertain them, but before we could, one little boy began to sing and before I knew it the whole class joined in. They were up on their feet dancing and singing loudly all together whilst slowly moving toward us with these big playful smiles. I had goose bumps head to toe and I cried with such happiness whilst I was watching these students freely sing to us and entertaining us, when it was our job to entertain them! When the teacher came into the class she asked the students what they wanted to start off with and they all said 'writing' which included maths, I was shocked that they asked to do this as I was expecting something like drawing. When they sat down copying off the black board I looked around at each child and you could see the determination each of them had and how privileged they felt for being in education. When I went around looking over work and asking if they needed help some were fighting over me as they all wanted to learn something from me. I could see the concentration on their faces when I held my fingers up for them to count, I felt like the luckiest girl in the world knowing that I was helping with these students education.

The teacher asked me to go around and look at completed work and mark it, when I marked my first book saying 'very good' with a smiley face I had many more students that wanted me to mark their work, if I'd told them there was a mistake they would run back to their seat to try again just to get that 'well done' in their books. This was a small boxed class room that had such a small supply of stationary full with 30+ children, eager to learn. We are so lucky we have big schools that supply us with everything and we still have students that don't realise how lucky we are to be in education.

My eyes have been opened, an experience that would benefit a lot of young people in this country, to enable them to take advantage of what they have here in England. Perhaps I can use my position as a Young Leader to make them more aware of the opportunities.

Klejda Cupi



Trip to the Houses of Parliament!

On 11th February, some of the Young Leaders were lucky enough to visit the Houses of Parliament with Philip Hollobone MP (Kettering). The visit allowed us to view proceedings from the Gallery in both the Houses of Lords and Commons on a very busy day in Parliament with debates including the EU, and the Horsemeat scandal. We also got to watch the Speaker's Procession and even had a trip on the roof!

As Young Leaders this has given us a better understanding of some parliamentary proceedings and events, as well as an eye into the world of politics, something we all decided was something we needed to take back into our districts with us.

Lauren Rowe

Shadowing Councillor Harker!

Recently I was lucky enough to be invited to spend the day with Councillor Jim Harker, it was brilliant. I got to experience how the council was run from day to day along with how the more pressing matters are dealt with. Not only did I gain valuable experience from Councillor Harker but I met with opposition members to discuss their roles within council. I accompanied a working group to Bedford to see the remains of the castle there, this was an example of cross boundary consultation, swapping information on making the best out of local heritage sites. Back in Northampton, I even got to see the old jail used back when County Hall was a Courthouse! It was a great day and I wholeheartedly thank Councillor Harker for welcoming me

Shannon Howard

Anti-Bullying Songwriting!

On Friday 1st February 2013, I was lucky enough to be asked to host the Northamptonshire Anti-Bullying Songwriting Final at Spinney Hill Theatre. With an audience of over 300, including County Councillors and 10 brilliant finalists, I knew it was going to be an evening to enjoy. The night was split into two sections: Junior Finalists, and Senior Finalists. After each performance, a panel of judges asked the finalists a question about their song, questions included 'How long did it take to write your song?' and 'Why do you think anti-bullying is important?'. Whilst the judges retired to make their final decisions, a talented house band kept us entertained, featuring the talented Tom Barford on saxophone. Finally, the winners were announced, Harmony I.T.I with their song 'Change Of Mind' from the Junior category and from the Senior category, Mel and Dani with their song 'Shadow'. The two groups will now record their songs professionally in The Studio @ The Stables, and these songs will be sent around schools in Northamptonshire to spread the message of anti-bullying. It was such an honour to be asked to host this event, and I was filled with pride seeing so many young people spreading the word about anti-bullying. As a member of young leaders and an aspiring actor and musician myself, adding music to the anti-bullying battle is just another string to our bow. The incredible messages within all the entries were truly inspiring. At the end of the day, it doesn't matter who you are or how you live, black or white, gay, bisexual or lesbian, the list goes on. You only get one chance at life, so why waste it by filling it with hate?

Joe Paterson

Visit to a Youth Club!

A few weeks ago I managed to spend an evening with a youth group, a youth group set in the remote village of Titchmarsh. I was extremely happy to see youth groups surviving in such remote locations. It currently attracts people from Thrapston, Titchmarsh and the other surrounding towns and villages; on the evening I attended it had attracted about 15 members for an evening of arts and crafts. I managed to give out plenty of wristbands and a few newsletters, and basically told them who I was and what I did, mostly to just try and get myself known in my area, somehow I feel this was quite a successful evening. I managed to speak to a few of the members as well, it was good to talk to some of my constituents and see what they feel about their area, one of them had also stood to be a young leader in the past but was too young. So all in all it was a good evening and successful advertising, and I feel glad to of met some of my people.

Peter Edwards



Contact us if you want to shout about something that matters to you ☺ ☺

Email: jbull@northamptonshire.gov.uk

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