

Woodvale Fun Day



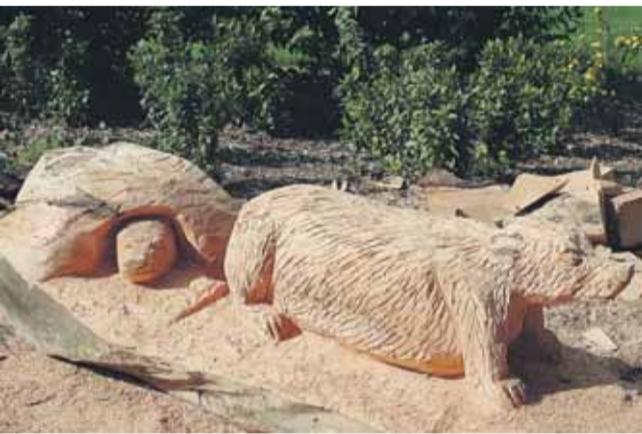
Family day at the park



Does your dog bite mister?



On yer bike!



Carving



Ride 'em cowboy



Donkey and me

Belfast Teens Make Their Mark In Global Summit

Four teenage members from the Belfast Computer Clubhouse travelled to Boston USA to take part in the Intel Computer Clubhouse Teen Summit, joining over 300 young people from over 20 Clubhouses around the world including groups from Denmark, Russia, Jordan and New Zealand.

The week long event was organised by the Intel Computer Clubhouse Network which has established Clubhouses in over 100 underserved communities across the globe, in collaboration with the Museum of Science, North Eastern University and the world renowned Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston.

James Woods, Geordie Devine, Jeanette Duff and Gareth Shields were chosen by Clubhouse Coordinators for their contributions to the Clubhouse community and their technical and creative ability sharing a once in a lifetime opportunity to represent the city of Belfast to their Clubhouse peers on a global stage.

The Teen Summit takes place in Boston USA every two years and it was an exciting prospect for Clubhouse Coordinator Louise Feeney to have four members be part of this life changing experience. Talking about the Teen Summit she said, "Our young members truly appreciated every day they



spent in Boston and made a real impact on Network staff. Knowing that this experience has allowed them all to grow in confidence both individually and as a cross community group is truly inspiring.

The teenagers used a variety of technological tools to create projects centred on community improvement addressing issues like social regeneration, reducing community violence and improving the educational prospects of young people. They also had the opportunity to explore career options, interact with university research students and meet industry professionals working in a variety of fields, including computer programming, animation, photography and engineering.

Clubhouse Network Director Gail Breslow and her colleague Brenda Abanavas chose the Belfast Computer Clubhouse video entry to show at the Teen

Summit opening ceremony. In the video entitled 'ReImagine Your World' the four teens talked openly about their cross community experiences and hopes for change in Belfast and the greater community, their powerful message touching a nerve with Network staff and sparking interest with the American press.

The Belfast Computer Clubhouse is always on the lookout for new members and volunteers. If you are aged 8-18 and live in the Greater Shankill or West Belfast areas and would like to be part of this exciting project or if you over 18 and would like to volunteer by becoming an adult mentor you can contact Louise Feeney on 02890 242362 or l.feeney@springvalelearnin g.com or check out the website for details at www.belfastclubhouse.org

A lasting friendship

By John MacVicar

Who would have thought that a chance comment made over a few pints in the bar of a bowling club in Glasgow would have led to what is now a well established and endearing friendship between the members of Forthriver Bowling & Tennis Club on the Woodvale Road and Maryhill Bowling Club in Glasgow. I was 'home' visiting my cousin Billy McVicar and his family and many of my friends in Maryhill as I was returning from a touring holiday around Scotland along with my wife Elaine. I happened to mention some friends I had in Belfast who were all members of a local bowling club and the rest they say is history. At probably one of the darkest times of our Troubles it was heartening that people were still prepared to visit Belfast.

When we came home I mentioned my family connection with Maryhill to Hugh Linton, Joe Beattie and Albert Horner and thus began the plans for a visit to Maryhill the following year. Looking back fondly on that first visit Hugh Linton recalls the

friendship, warmth and camaraderie, 'When we stepped off the bus at Maryhill it was just like arriving home we were welcomed with open arms, treated like royalty and the drams flowed like water. Despite being plied with copious amounts of whisky we still managed to beat Maryhill on our first visit.'

Such was the warmth that developed quickly between the two clubs alternating visits were arranged each year and lifetime friendships have subsequently been formed. Jackie McKee one of the longest serving Presidents at Forthriver remembers the familiar faces of long established friends some of whom have since passed away. 'It is just like yesterday and none of us can believe that 25 years have passes us all by. With stalwarts of Maryhill like Billy McVicar, Stuart Douglas, Louis Patterson, Jim McKay and Willie McComish to name just a few it was no wonder such a happy and enduring relationship was developed. And to think it is all down to a chance remark by John MacVicar that has led us to celebrate this 25th anniversary.'



Some of the team off to Maryhill