



## SUMMER CLUBS 2015

Summer 2015 saw us once again run one of the biggest programmes of our youth calendar, the Summer Club. For 4 weeks, Monday to Friday, a range of activities were provided to over 60 young people, the majority of whom were from the local area, to participate in and enjoy.

The 4 weeks were split in to 2 age categories with 2 weeks for ages 5 to 9 and 2 weeks for ages 10 to 14. These age groups were set last year and continue to allow us to cater our activities better for the ages present week by week.

The morning sessions followed the same format for all ages with 2 hours being spent within the skatepark arena each morning. This is the time for young people to work with our team of stewards in a mentoring capacity. All our Stewards are age 14 to 17 and volunteer their time. It is a huge commitment that takes up a lot of their summer holidays and is greatly appreciated by both the staff at FSP many develop lasting friendships with these mentors. The main role of the stewards is to pass on knowledge of skatepark etiquette and various tricks that can be performed on stunt scooters, inline skates and skateboards. It is fantastic to see a young person work away at a particular trick all week and finally land it, making all the bumps and scrapes totally worth it. Many of the Stewards also, at the request of the young people, help out

in afternoon sessions, a sign of the esteem in which they are held by those they are helping all week long. This goes above and beyond what is expected of them.

Afternoon sessions for both groups involve various arts and crafts and games. Trips to the local park to participate in dodgeball, football, and rounders, were a regular occurrence this summer with good weather allowing us to run outdoor activities a lot. There were also movie and video games sessions for the few days not suitable for being outside. The younger age group took in a trip to the Fun Factory and a magic show by local magician Harry Mudini. As always the young people enjoyed these treats a great deal and although they thought they knew everything, were regularly stumped by Harry's illusions. The biggest draw was his bunny rabbit and balloon animals, a wonderful end to both weeks for the younger age group.

As for the older group they also took part in outdoor activities, arts and crafts, and video gaming sessions with some competitions being organised to lend a competitive edge. As they are older there was also sessions in the skatepark arena in the afternoon which were used to continue the morning's work, either with or without assistance from the Stewards. Their biggest activity though was a trip to Battlefield Live. Both older groups thoroughly enjoyed this Laser Tag based adventure and were

clamouring for more when it was time up.

All 4 weeks were a success from the staff's point of view. Numbers were up on last year and above our expectations but behaviour was at a high standard with disciplinary issues at a minimum. Especially pleasing to see is the markedly higher level of interaction on the Friday of each week as opposed to Monday. As is to be expected at the start of a week with an unfamiliar group many young people were shy and slightly apprehensive but by each Friday each group had developed a strong bond and good friendships. We look forward to starting our new programmes once the Autumn school term starts and to hopefully seeing all the young people we saw over the Summer Club again very soon!

