



News

12 April 2021

We are reopening!

Over a year ago we closed the Centre, cleared out the office and furloughed our staff. Since then we have reopened intermittently and partially. Only to close again. Hopefully this is the start of restoring the Centre, step by step, as a vibrant Community Hub.

We have been closed for other than support groups or similar since the beginning of the year. Step 2 permits us to reopen with restrictions such as no indoor mixing of households but from step 3 we hope to host some Covid secure events and a few are arranged over the next few months. Attendance numbers will be restricted to improve safety. Details of forthcoming events are shown below or are available on our web site.



We are surviving and are financially sound thanks to the Government's furlough scheme; grants from Milton Keynes Council; and generous donations from users and individuals. Many thanks to you all.

The next step should be on May 17 when limited indoor mixing (rule of six) will be allowed and then, from step 4 on June 21, "normality" may return. However the office remains closed, empty and un-staffed for the foreseeable future. If you are interested in booking a room after May 17 or June 21 or wish to contact us about anything then please send us an email as below.

We have decided to re-start the recruitment process for our new Centre Manager. We hope to have someone in place for the Summer. If you may be interested in applying then you should find further details towards the end of this newsletter.



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Youth Clubs

We are all really looking forward to starting up the open access Youth Club from Monday 12th April from 5.30 to 7pm. This will be a mixed session for all age groups to start with as it's been a long time since any seniors were able to come to the club. As soon as there is interest, we will start up the Senior session too. Please let us know if you are interested in this.

Although we are awaiting final confirmation of the guidance from the National Youth Agency on Thursday 8th April, we are sure we will be back in 'Amber' which means we can have up to 15 young people in a bubble in each room. To ensure we are Covid Safe the same rules as before will be in place with hand washing, sanitising hands when moving around the building, social distancing to at least one metre indoors, sanitizing equipment and for young people aged 11 years or over, face coverings will need to be worn. Our Covid risk assessments are available on our website or on request.

The only other requirement is that we need parents/guardians to complete a form if they haven't done so since September and to let us know they are planning to come along (just so that we can monitor numbers). Seniors can just turn up to the session. Please email us if you'd like a form, or call Debra if you want to talk anything through.

We are holding a Zoom session every Wednesday evening from 5 to 6pm for games, quizzes and as a general get-together with other young people. The login details have been emailed to all the contacts we have. If you haven't received one, please contact us and we will forward it to you.

email info@ynmk.org or Debra 07483 107016

Act Out

Act Out and Act Up are returning to York House in the week beginning 19th April until the week beginning 16th July (not including half term). Two sessions a week.

They hope that if everything opens up then they might also use the week that coincides with Stony Live to do a small performance piece which might be outdoors if the weather permits.

Looking even further ahead. The annual Christmas Panto on the 17th and 18th December. A Christmas Carol.

Thursday 6 May Polling Station

The Centre will be closed on Thursday 6 May for all activities other than voting. We will be a Polling Station for both this year's Milton Keynes Council elections and the election of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley.

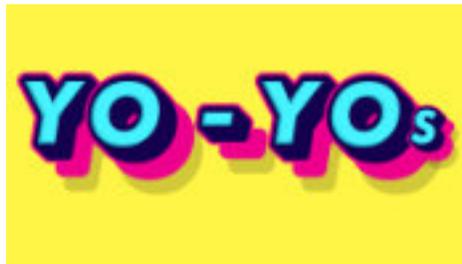
Stony Stratford in Bloom Plant Sale 9.30 to 12.30 Saturday 8 May



Growing vegetables for the Food Bank again this year

With so many people in need of food from the Foodbank as Covid takes its toll on people's livelihoods, SSiB volunteers have been keen to continue growing vegetables in York House Community Gardens this year too. Already, early and main crop potatoes and broad beans have been planted, carrots and parsnips sown, and onions and shallots set outside; while in the poly-tunnel lettuces and spinach are flourishing, and tomato and leek seeds beginning to sprout. Theresa of Branch Out donated a whole batch of vegetable seeds to us and soon we'll be sowing beans, sweet-corn, courgettes. With the help of two grants from MK Community Foundation we've been able to buy two cold frames, more fruit bushes and strawberry plants, and lots and lots of luscious manure.

We've been especially delighted that we've now been joined by more young families. Kate Shaw brought in her friend Misia Kibble and her family; and Mary Martinez and her daughter Salome have become keen helpers of the project too. The RHS Press Office asked us for information about the project for Women's Weekly (Gardening edition), and a piece will be appearing in the April edition.



York House Yo-Yos are excited to reopen from Monday 17th May. Once again the playgroup is able to meet inside, but with limited numbers. Yo-Yos will continue to offer a wide range of toys, play equipment and a craft activity in a relaxed and friendly environment for babies, pre-school aged children, their parents and carers. The session includes a snack break for children and refreshments for adults. Yo-Yos runs on Mondays during school term time in the Main Hall, and when the weather is good the group moves outside to the grassed area at the rear of York House.

To book a place and for enquiries email yhyoyos@gmail.com



For further details of VOAC then please go to

<https://www.voacinema.co.uk/>

Escaped Alone

Escaped Alone” a play by Caryl Churchill

Friday 4th June at 6pm; Saturday 5th June at 4pm and 6pm

Tea and Catastrophe: Four women sit in a garden drinking tea, passing the time of day. Around them the world crumbles. According to Time Out, this 2016 play confirmed Caryl Churchill as ‘our greatest living playwright’. It was the winner of the Best Play Writers’ Guild Awards in 2017. The Drama Llamas are a new Milton Keynes company and we have chosen this play as our debut because of its brilliance and relevance. We love it because it is funny, serious, moving and brave and we hope you will too.

The play is set in a garden and will be performed in the garden of York House. The audience numbers for each performance will be limited to 24. The play is recommended for ages 14+.

Please bring your own picnic to enjoy while the cast enjoy their teas! We invite audience members to bring their own garden chair/blanket/cushion. Audience will be shown an area to set their seats/blankets/cushions down, in compliance with 2 m. distancing advice.

Running Time 60 minutes. We will start to admit audience 15 minutes before the performance is due to start. An entrance time will be allocated via email to stagger entrance and avoid queues. Tickets £5.

For details please

email francaleighton@windowslive.com or phone 07955 358773

Youth|Community|Arts

Are you

- Skilled in managing and organising people?
- An effective communicator including with social media?
- Experienced in creating and delivering community projects?
- Familiar with the world of charities, the voluntary sector and fundraising?
- A good networker and enthusiastic about our local community?
- Comfortable with financial management?

then you should apply to be our new

Centre Manager

We aim to attract the next generation of talent to continue to strengthen our partnerships and relationships in the local community; maximise the use of the Centre; develop successful community projects; manage our paid staff and recruit and inspire volunteers; create sustainable fundraising opportunities; maintain our buildings and grounds; manage our £100,000+ annual budget; and develop our digital presence.



People Management



Finance & Fundraising



Networking & Projects



Communications

30 hours a week £23,790pa Workplace Pension

if you would like more information then please contact us via the email below. Or please send us your CV together with names of two referees by May 7. Appointment is subject to a satisfactory DBS check and probationary period.

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