



Introduction



Welcome to Pelton Youth Project's September 2024 update. This will reflect on the months of July & August 24, including our two DofE expeditions, our youth centre garden, and our summer programme 2024. It will explore what we provided for juniors, seniors, and our DofE members. More standard information relating to funding and attendance can be found towards the end of the document. Our updates are written to keep our trustees, funders, partners, parents, and young people informed of Pelton Youth Project's progress. Should there be any questions relating to the content of this report, then please contact me (Tom), Youth Project Manager at tom_pelton@yahoo.co.uk.

Mick Rodgers – Charity Leader of the Year Nomination

We are enormously proud that our chairman Mick has been shortlisted following a nomination for 'Charity Leader of the Year' at the 2024 North East Charity Awards. Many will be aware, that Mick has led Pelton Community Association for seventeen years now, and the transformation of the building, our team, and services has been astonishing. There will be twelve colleagues attending the awards evening on Thursday 19th September, including representatives from the board of trustees, community and youth centre teams, and Pelton Parish Council. We are looking forward to an evening of celebrating our own charity along with many like ours, across the Northeast.



DofE Gold Qualifying Expedition 2024



During the school holidays, our latest group of young people working at gold level, set off for Wales, to complete their gold qualifying expedition. The young people were to navigate a route along the River Wye, the River Wye is the fourth-longest river in the UK, stretching some 250 kilometres from its source on Plynlimon in mid Wales to the Severn Estuary. For much of its length the river forms part of the border between England and Wales. During the five days the weather stayed pleasant for our group, who at times endured high temperatures, which can be as challenging as cold weather on

an expedition. The expedition also included an educational visit to Castle Goodrich in Herefordshire, which was a welcome break from the challenging canoeing. The feedback from the youth work team and the DofE assessor is that this group worked tremendously hard during their expedition, supporting each other, and remaining positive during the tougher moments. Well done to all those young people who took part, and best of luck as you complete your gold awards. As always, it is a pleasure to support you on your journey.





DofE Silver Qualifying Expedition 2 2024

This summer, our second group of young people working at silver level, headed up to Northumberland, to complete their qualifying expedition. Despite an apparent summer, these young people endured high winds and rain throughout their first day walking at Hadrian's Wall, but thankfully, the weather improved on day two. Our DofE leader said that the team work and navigation skills were excellent. Remember, our young people carry all required water and food, camping equipment, and clothing. Young people set up their own camps and cook for themselves throughout their expedition. Well done to all of the young people who took part, and best of luck as you hopefully complete other required sections, and progress to gold level.



Summer Programme 2024

Pelton Youth Project has provided local young people with a summer programme every year since we began operating in 2008. These programmes often include daytrips, residentials, expeditions, and reward activities. This year, we were pleased to be able to provide activities for juniors, seniors, and our DofE members. Further details for the opportunities provided for each can be found below:



Juniors – Thanks to funding predominantly from Durham Fun & Food, we were able to offer young people aged seven to eleven eight sessions during the summer. This included three offsite visits to War Room Laser, Moorhouse Activity Centre, and Infinite Air. Young people enjoyed two Candy Kids parties in the community centre main hall, a Nerf session, and two multi-sports sessions. All of the activities we provided our young people aged seven to eleven included food and healthy snacks, and our partnership with Pelton Pork Shop helped us to provide that service.

Seniors – Again thanks to external funding, this time from the Champniss Foundation and the National Lottery through One Youth CLS, we were able to provide eight opportunities for our young people aged eleven to nineteen including four offsite visits. The offsite visits included a trip to the cinema, an ice-skating trip, Flamingo Land trip and a day out at Whitby. Onsite, young people were able to attend four BBQ sessions, where young people could come along, spend time in the youth centre, and eat together in the new Youth Centre Garden.



DofE Group – Finally, in addition to the expeditions we deliver over the school summer holidays, our team also make sure our DofE members are afforded the opportunity participate in reward activities for their hard work and commitment in completing their awards. This year, our DofE members were given the opportunity to visit Scaling Dam for an activity day on the water, which included paddle boarding, always a favourite among young people. Perhaps the highlight though, was a trip to Flamingo Land, to enjoy the theme park and the zoo. The sun was shining, and it was the perfect way to end the summer programme.



Parish Council Summer Fair – 28.07.2024

It was a pleasure for the youth work team here at Pelton Youth Project, alongside Heart Remind CIC, to support Pelton Parish Council summer fair. The event provided the community and local families with the opportunity to take part in games, crafts, and food. Our activity involved young people decorating name plaques with graffiti artist Chris. It was a beautiful day for the event which saw local groups and families come together as a community. Thank you to the Parish Council for organising the event and for including our team.



Youth Centre Garden Completion



I am pleased to report, that while later than anticipated, the Youth Centre Garden development is now complete. We now have a dedicated outdoor space to be used by all the young people who access Room 14. This will provide young people with a safe space to sit and socialise, dedicated area for small-scale sports, games, group work. The YCG will provide a dedicated space for DofE training including training in camping, map reading, cooking using stoves and team building. Finally, the space will provide a place to BBQ and eat together outside in the summer months. Young people were

able to use the space during our onsite sessions during the summer holidays, and having the breakout space really changed the session dynamic for the better, with feedback from young people positive, and smiles on the faces of young people using their new Youth Centre Garden. We would like to extend the thanks of everyone here at Pelton Youth Project to Durham County Council S106, the John Horseman Charitable Trust, the Bernard Sunley Foundation, the Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust, and County Durham Community Foundation. This development would not have been possible without your financial contribution and ongoing support

Friday Evening Session

Pelton Youth Project are once again going to be working in partnership with Durham Police, Crime, and Victim Commissioner Joy Allen's office. We have been successful in an application to the trailblazer funding to deliver a senior youth club session on a Friday evening, with the aim of reducing anti-social behaviour in Pelton and the surrounding areas. The young people who participate in the session are going to be able to work on a six-week anti-social behaviour programme, to learn about the impact and consequences of ASB.



Fundraising Update

In July 2024 we received £16,589.67 in grant income from four external grants. We received £10,000.00 from the Champliss Foundation for DofE and summer activities, £1,250.00 from the DofE Resilience Fund for DofE equipment, £4,839.67 from CDCF for Youth Centre Garden equipment, and finally £500 from the Hadrian Trust. So, a very positive July in terms of financial support. Then in August 2024 we received total grant income of £10,209.50 from two external funders. Firstly, we received our second years funding from CDCF from the Chester-Le-Street Primary Care Network for activity sessions, and £300 from the Fitton Trust. Let's hope we continue the positive income trend and continue to secure resources to support young people.



Attendance 2024-2025

We are now almost halfway through the current financial year and our progress continues to be impressive in terms of the reach of our sessions. You will see from the table that we have worked with a total of 606 young people, which includes 220 accessing juniors, and 356 who have been involved in the One Youth Chester-Le-Street project.

Total 2024-2025 Attendance	606
One Youth Chester-Le-Street	356
R14 Senior Youth Clubs	129
R14 Junior Youth Clubs	220
R14 Sports & Activity Sessions	88
R14 Duke of Edinburgh's Award	44
School Holiday Programmes	159
Grange Villa Youth Clubs	55

Closing Comment

To conclude September's report, I would like to say how thrilled we are to see that Mick has been shortlisted for Charity Leader of the Year, best of luck Mick. I would also like to congratulate all those young people who completed their expeditions with us throughout the summer holidays, and best of luck as you continue your journey or progress to higher education and employment. The team are excited to be able to utilise the youth centre garden space in the coming term and look forward to the potential projects that we can deliver in the new space. Finally, we are grateful to all those who continue to fund our work, including a grant from Durham Police and Crime Commissioner, which will see a brand new session start in Room 14 in September 2024.