



The BUSY project

WORKING WITH  
YOUNG PEOPLE  
IN BROXBURN  
& UPHALL



The Monday Drop-in takes place at Broxburn Academy every week

### Evelyn reports on her time as the Project Chairperson over the past year.

It is once again the time of year for the annual report and it seems incredible to think we are now in the fifth year of the BUSY Project. This has been made possible by the continuing faithfulness and commitment of the many volunteers, financial supporters, Gordon our Youth Development Worker and local schools and churches. We thank God for each one of you and offer you our sincere thanks.

Gordon, our Youth Development Worker, continues to work extremely hard and has much enthusiasm and dedication for the many aspects of his leadership. Some of our project activities are listed below, and it has certainly been another year of exciting work with young people.

The project is ably supported and encouraged by Jackie Ringan from SU Scotland. We greatly appreciate and give thanks for the many volunteers and supporters who are involved in the project, and without whom the project's many activities would not be possible.

This has been a positive and exciting year and as we look forward there are many more ventures and challenges in the pipeline; 'How to Drug Proof your Kids' is an education, prevention and

intervention programme from Care for the Family. Gordon and Christine Turnbull have just completed a training course on this and will be running courses for parents in this area in the very near future. This training will also be of great benefit to the Project as one of our future challenges is to be out on the streets in the evenings alongside the young people.

Another exciting venture which started this year is the Networking Meetings – the first took place in March. These meetings are for volunteers in the local area who are involved in Christian Youthwork and feedback from the last lunch meeting on 16th September was very positive, useful and encouraging. There is a real sense of working together locally and a joint calendar is being put together. This year also saw a first for us with a presence at the local Gala Days and we hope to be at the community Christmas Fayres.

The Project is in the process of re-structuring the Management Committee with the formation of sub-committees and more people being involved in a range of practical ways.

At this present time our finances are sufficient only for the next year and a half and it is still our goal to expand this work and engage a second youth worker. We have recently applied to a major funder, but owing to the current

financial climate, this has not been successful and so we plead with those who have not previously given to consider giving a little on a regular basis to help the Project make a difference in the lives of many of the young people in our communities.

Our aim continues to be to reach out with God's love and encourage the young people in our schools, communities and churches. We continue to pray for the new volunteers and supporters God will send to maintain and expand the work of the BUSY Project.

May God bless and keep you all in His loving care in the year ahead.

### BUSY activities include...

- Friday Night Youth Cafe
- Breakfast Clubs
- One-to-one Work
- Chaplaincy
- The SUMMER BUZZ
- Chill, Chat & Discipleship
- 24/7 BIG BROTHER event
- The Chill Band
- Monday Drop-in
- Transitions Work
- Residential Events

# Join us for our QUIZ NIGHT

A fun-filled Family Quiz Night  
Saturday 21st November, 7.30pm  
Strathbrock Church Hall Uphall, Broxburn  
£5 suggested donation  
Book online at [www.thebusyproject.org.uk/go](http://www.thebusyproject.org.uk/go)



## 24/7 Prayer Night

If you have seen the project website recently, you might have spotted a set of (still growing) Big Brother diary room videos of young people who took place in our part of the local 24/7 prayer initiative, an experience best summed up by the opening line in one of the films: "13 housemates, 9 hours, and one awesome God".



A selection of BB Diary Room shots

A group of 10 young people, and three project workers spent a total of over 9 hours together in Strathbrock Church Halls, taking part in a range of prayer activities in the style of Big Brother. This included plenty of time praying individually, joining in with group activities, and young people leading the group in a number of different styles of prayer.

One young person writes; "The three things I like best about the prayer night would have to be the quiet time, awesome paintings and watching the Big Brother videos in the morning. I wouldn't change anything. Everything was perfect! I would LOVE to do it again"

A range of young people were involved; some praying in a group for perhaps the first time, and others valuing the quieter points in the evening, taking time to pray alone or spending time reading the bible, watching a teaching DVD or listening to music.

## Monday Drop-in

The Monday drop-in is off to an excellent start this term. Two senior pupils have now joined us in a leadership role and we are looking forward to an exciting term ahead. This term has included 'getting to know you' time, along with exploring topics such as 'why are we here' and 'whats your identity'? The group are about to join in preparing shoeboxes for Christmas.

Young people coming along are a real mix of those who are engaging directly with the project for the first time, and those who attend other activities we offer in school, the community and local churches.

## Drug-proof?

Two workers from the project attended training to become DPYK presenters on the 4th and 5th September 2009, funded by BUSY. 'How To Drug-proof Your Kids' (DPYK) is an education, prevention and intervention programme from Care for the Family.

The course is a 12 hour programme and usually runs for 6 two hour sessions. The target audience is parents of children in P6 and beyond. The course comprises 60% parenting skills and 40% information around a variety of drugs, both legal and illegal. It aims to help parents establish strategies for their families that will prevent drug use and reduce associated harm by educating and empowering parents with skills and strategies that will influence their children's choices regarding the use of drugs and increase parental awareness.



The project will be running a Drug awareness evening on the 3rd February in The Open Door, Uphall. Look out for more information or contact us using the details overleaf.

## Junior Chill

After last years 'Hearing the Word' course, a number of young people from Broxburn Parish Church felt they would like to run a monthly event for young people who are too young to attend the very popular CHILL activities, which take place at Broxburn Parish Church for young people linked with local churches.

'Hearing the Word' is a course which helps people of any age explore how God speaks through the bible; and it is exciting that these young people would choose to respond in such a practical way. Gordon, our youth development worker, is working with young people from this group alongside Terry Taylor, Broxburn Parish Minister, to get this work underway.

## BUSY with Young People...

**Developing**  
God-given Potential

**Reflecting**  
Christian Values

**Exploring**  
the Gospel

**Connecting**  
with Church

**Enabling**  
Local Volunteers

*With a specific emphasis on vulnerable and disadvantaged young people*

## Developing Young Leaders

**Management Representatives**  
A number of young people are now deciding which areas of the project they would like to engage with; from creating publicity to developing new work.

**Developing Leadership Skills**  
We're busy supporting young people as they design and deliver their own kids club in the form of Wee Chill, and supporting other young people as they take on leadership roles in groups such as the Monday drop-in.

**The Summer Buzz & More**  
Our summer programme was primarily designed by local young people who are now deciding on the next big event.

**Review & Redesign**  
BUSY review activities through young people and volunteer feedback throughout the year, which is used to set the focus of future groups, events and strategy

## The Summer Buzz

The Summer Buzz was a week of activities for young people which took place over one week during the summer holidays. A small but hard-working group of young people met together in the months before the summer holidays to plan a range of evening activities. These included an opening night, the 'Big Chill', an evening of fun and games, Sumo suits, ice-cream sundaes and mad group games. Night two was our 'Games Challenge' - where teams spent the evening working together solving puzzles, completing challenges and having lots of fun. Thursday was a 'video treasure hunt'; including plenty of fun as teams moved around the local area solving riddles, and remaking western, romance and horror films in front of the camera in the limited time available. Along with these, each day included sports and games in the afternoon, and optional 'later' sessions for young people wanting to get into prayer.

The week ended with a successful family games night, after non-stop rain meant relocating indoors into a local church hall. Those involved enjoyed the week, and there is now some discussion about a similar set of events at Easter time. Watch this space for more information, or check the website



## Feedback

### Big Brother 24/7

"It was relaxed and lots of fun"

"I'd love to do it again"

"The whole night was fun, from start to finish"

### Summer Buzz

"The inflatables were awesome; the best thing was the great feel about it, and the fun stuff we did. I loved our involvement in the planning."

### One-to-one Work...

"One to one work has helped me loads. I can see how I am less angry, more able to deal with issues that come up, and I don't know where I would be if I hadn't had someone to turn to when things got tough."

## Finance

The BUSY project entered into its fifth year of employing a youth worker on 1st August 2009. To date, BUSY has been blessed financially. We set a target of raising £125,000 for funding the first 4 years of the project and we achieved that amount within the first 2 years. There is no doubt that God has provided for us, as we carry out His work.

We currently have enough money to see the project into a sixth year. However, we would like to continue the work of the project in the long term and facilitate its growth.

We are in the process of making funding applications to major fund giving agencies. In addition, we have around £700 of income every month from people in our own community, who give by envelope or direct debit. We would dearly love to see this amount increase. The project would require another £2,000 per month to be 'self sufficient.' Therefore, we would be grateful if you would consider giving to the work of the project on a regular basis.

Please support us as we reach out to our young people with a strong witness of the gospel. By giving even just a little, you can play a significant part in making a difference in the lives of people in your community.

## BUSY Developments...

The project has grown in many exciting ways over the past years, and the project management team have been exploring ways to help the project grow. At a recent strategy review meeting, they addressed key areas for project growth, primarily focused on participation and communication; asking questions of how we help others from within and outside the project participate in exciting activities and developments taking place, and recognising the vital role that good communication, and 'joined-up' working plays in this.

We are pleased to have an excellent team of volunteers working with the project in many different roles, including the management team, group leaders, administration, help at annual events, along with those who give financially and those who pray for the work; one exciting development is the increasing number of older young people growing into leadership roles.

The management team are now working on the best way to help the project grow over the upcoming years and we are actively seeking enthusiastic individuals who would like to be involved

## Chaplaincy Events

The chaplains at Broxburn Academy are pleased to now be involved in assemblies almost every week of the term, alongside special events at Christmas and Easter. We have been working together redesigning our Christmas and Easter events with young people in first, second and third year, to include a more interactive, small group, and exploratory approach. Developments are looking exciting, although there is much work still to do.

## Working with Others

BUSY is a formal partnership between The BASICS Trust, Uphall South, Strathbrock and Broxburn Parish Churches and Scripture Union Scotland. We work with a number of other organisations, schools and churches. The project is partially funded by the Church of Scotland Parish Development Fund.



## Chaplaincy Events (cont)

In a move on from the already successful events, we are aiming to increase participation from young people, work with the range of learning styles, and have offered them a thoroughly interactive session in which they can express their views, engage with the Christmas message, and consider their own response to Jesus during the upcoming fun and festive period.



The Chill treasure hunt

Multi-media has also proved invaluable over the past few years as we have worked with young people at risk of exclusion, helping them develop their self-confidence, abilities in decision making and team-work skills using video to record their involvement in challenges and activities as a starting point during one-to-one mentoring sessions.

Our latest over-night prayer event, another video-enabled piece of work, in the format of Big Brother can be seen online via the BUSY website or by searching for 'theBUSYproject' on YouTube.

Watch out for more exciting and innovative projects with groups we are working with over the upcoming year of project activities.

## Multi-media and more

Over the past year there have been a number of excellent opportunities for young people to engage in multi-media work with the project; whether it has been young people recreating the story of the Lost Son or the Lost Sheep from the bible, making their own live-action remakes of classic film genres, or chasing around the local area to complete photo challenges, the young people involved have shown great creativity and imagination along with enjoying the opportunity to be involved in the film-making process.



A scene from 'The Lost Sheep', created by young people & used regularly in local RME classes

## A BUSY Year

During this academic year BUSY will...

- Deliver group-work programs for around 50 young people and parents in schools, the local community and with churches.
- Work with around 20 young people in 'young leadership' roles helping them support and engage with other young people
- Offer 80 Drop-in sessions through the Open Door and in Broxburn Academy
- Work with over 70 volunteers and partners serving young people in the local area
- Engage with over 500 young people with Chaplains at Christmas & Easter events
- Serve around 660 breakfasts to young people at breakfast clubs
- Offer around 700 hours of fun and challenging activities for young people to take part in.

## Getting in Touch

If you would like more information, feel free to get in touch with us.

The BUSY Office  
c/o The Open Door  
28 East Main Street  
Uphall, Broxburn  
EH52 5HL

01506 853872  
office@thebusyproject.org.uk

or contact our Youth Development Worker, Gordon Rouse on gordon@thebusyproject.org.uk

The BUSY Website  
Our website is currently being redesigned. Please contact the office and we're more than happy to pass on information you might need.

## Meet the BUSY Management Core Team...

**Evelyn McCreight**  
Chairperson

**Susanne Wilson**  
Secretary

**Steven Turnbull**  
Treasurer

**Jackie Ringan**  
SU Scotland /  
BUSY Line Management

**Gordon Rouse**  
Youth Development Worker

**Christine Turnbull**  
Networking Group

**Andrew Finlayson**  
Activities Group

**Harry MacPhearson/  
Jack Watson**  
Fundraising Group

**Felicity Murrie**  
Networking Group

**Margaret Steele**  
Communications Group