

THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT

Dan's the man... with help from his friends.



Daniel Swabey, Senior Play Worker at Granby

Staff: Daniel Swabey, Michael Tippett, Lee Bromley, April Davey
Kids: Romeo Ryde, Martine Taylor, Leon Taylor

Daniel Swabey and the team of young volunteers from the Kool Kids Club at Granby Island Community Centre (GICC) are this month's winners of The Kids Are Alright award.

Daniel (20) is the Senior Play Worker alongside Kimberley Holbrook (18). Amy Darlington (18), and Lisa Holbrook (24) are Senior Volunteers, and completing the team are four more Volunteers: Michael Tippett (15), Lee Bromley (18), April Davey (15) and Jess Richards (16).

"I was aware we had a very young team, that's why I asked Lisa to join – initially for one evening a week but now she's here all the time, I sort of conned her into that," said Daniel. "She is the Mum of one of the children, and she has brought a steadying influence."

These eight young people, headed up by Daniel, currently run the Kool Kids Club every Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening at GICC, where they have up to fifteen 4-13 year olds to look after and keep busy for two hours each evening.

The success of the Club is due in large part to Daniel and Kimberley's initiative in 2008, when they rescued it from closure.

In 2008, when funds ran out and the club was about to close, Daniel and Kimberley, who were volunteering at the time, approached Sam Swabey (Chief Exec of GICC) and asked if they could continue the work themselves. Sam set them a number of challenges to prove themselves, which they overcame, and with some new funding from PAYS and DRCP they were up and running.

"I've been at the Club since I was a youngster, so has Kimberley, and I know how much it has meant to me. That's why I wanted to make sure it carried on," said Daniel.

"We put together the bids for funding, and began to plan sessions, supervise them and advertise the Club."

Sam pushed them in at the deep end according to Daniel, "It was sink or swim really, but we achieved what we set out to do and it really built our confidence that we could continue to run the Club. Sam got us started, found the initial support and then let us stand on our own feet. On behalf of the team, I'd like to thank Sam and PAYS and DRCP for giving us the kick-start we needed."

As well as the evening sessions during term time, Daniel and the other volunteers run a holiday club, from 10 – 3 Monday, Wednesday and Friday during school holidays, which attracts up to 30 children between the ages of 4 and 13.

"Seeing someone like the child we have with ADHD, who cannot stay in school, but stays in the club the whole time, really motivates me," said Daniel.

"Devonport has been improved a lot over the last twenty years, and working with young people is part of that."

"I get a buzz off the things the kids achieve, and seeing them enjoying themselves makes volunteering here better than getting paid," he added.

The experience Daniel has gained is already helping him, as he has just finished his first year at University where he is studying to be a primary school teacher. As well as the benefits for the children, Daniel says that the volunteers are all developing useful skills in

their roles too. "Kimberley is about to complete her NVQ level 3 in Childcare. Amy, Lisa and Lee are also doing their NVQ's, and the fact that all the volunteers have planned and led sessions successfully means that they are developing in confidence and skills. That's another buzz for me."

Alongside the regular staff, who come mostly from the Devonport area, there are two volunteers on placement from The Prince's Trust and Future Jobs Fund. The recognition by other organisations given to the Club is also backed up by referrals from Social Services who regularly recommend that children join the activities.

"Seeing children achieve things that they never used to be able to do gives us all a good feeling," said Daniel. "I'm learning with them as they learn, and it's good fun. I don't know many people who love their work as much as I do."

During the Summer Holidays, Kool Kids Club will be open from 10am – 3pm for children aged 4-13. Details of how to apply for a place are available from Daniel Swabey on 01752 300201, alternatively you can drop in at Granby Island Community Centre during one of the sessions and ask to see Daniel or one of the team. The club is open to children from anywhere in Plymouth.

Can you help with funding?

Bids for funding are currently lodged with PAYS, but if you, or your organisation, can help with funding please contact Daniel on 300201 – the work they are doing in Devonport is having a positive impact in children's lives.

**SUMMER MIX UPDATE:
COURSES STILL
AVAILABLE!!!!!!**



There are still a number of places available on Summer Mix. If you are already registered and have consent forms sent in to us, then just give us a call (with your parent/carer if under 16) and we can let you know if there are places available and sign you up!

If you haven't yet signed up? What are you waiting for! This summer all young people living in Plymouth between the ages of 11 to 19 – (or 11 to 25 if you have a disability or special learning needs) - are getting the chance to try something you might never have done before as part of Plymouth's Summer Mix 2010.

You are being given the chance to sign up to any of the free courses happening across the city during the summer holiday

You could have a go at anything from fashion design to playing the steel drums, from learning how to beat box to making your own flavour ice cream or becoming a games designer or film director for a day!

The courses are exciting, different and it's got to be better than being bored at home!

Everyone gets a certificate at the end of their course and the courses and activities are a great way of finding out what you may like to do in the future as a hobby or even as a career.

To sign up for one of the FREE places still available go to www.summermix.co.uk – but hurry, places are limited!

Take our Survey and you could win £50 worth of M&S vouchers!

Your views are really important to the Kids Are Alright campaign, and this is a great opportunity for you to let us know how you feel about young people in Plymouth.

The Kids Are Alright survey has been designed with assistance from the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, a cross-departmental govern-

ment organisation reporting to the Ministry of Justice, the Home Office and the Attorney General's office.

It is designed to measure perceptions of young people in Plymouth before and after the campaign. There is a prize draw where you have the chance to win £50 worth of M&S vouchers, so make sure you fill out the online survey as soon as you can to be in with a chance of winning!

Nominate a young person

You can also nominate a young person for the

monthly award – if you know a young person who is making a positive contribution to their community, go to www.tkaa.co.uk and tell us why – they could be our monthly winner, receive £50 worthy of vouchers but more importantly be recognized and encouraged for the work they are doing!

Visit www.tkaa.co.uk to take the survey, nominate a young person and find out more about The Kids Are Alright campaign.

For more information on The Kids Are Alright campaign, or to nominate a young person for a kids are alright award please visit

www.tkaa.co.uk

