



AUTUMN/WINTER 21

YAB NEWS

News updates from the Norfolk Youth Advisory Boards



CONFERENCE SUCCESSES FOR NORFOLK YABS

Not A Cop Out! Young people lead Climate Conference sharing radical hopes and ideas around the climate crisis. And, Breckland YAB successfully delivers the 3rd Youth Against Bullying Conference online with a fantastic response.



To contact any of the YABs click the logo below



The conference was held before the new COVID 19 variant - Omicron had been discovered - and all government and National Youth Agency guidelines were followed to keep everyone safe.

The YABs have adapted their working practices during the Covid-19 pandemic in order to continue to offer essential support whilst keeping young people, families, and staff safe and will continue to do so throughout the current restrictions due to the pandemic.

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Norwich YAB and friends ask important questions to an impressive panel

In the week before the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, Norwich YAB held the event to shine a light on the issues young people care about when it comes to the climate crisis, and raise our voices while politicians and big corporations make decisions about the future of the climate.

Young people were joined by organisers from 'Stop the Wensum Link', educators from Project Change, activists from the Young Activist Network, and young commissioners from Broadland Youth Advisory Board. Workshops were organised by local activists and educators and covered a range of ideas covering everything from local action to global ideas! The discussion panel focused on corporate accountability and what we can be doing as communities in Norfolk to tackle the climate crisis.



Norwich YAB put together an impressive panel consisting of speakers:

Jamie Osborne,
Green City Councillor

Jessica Barnard,
Chair of Young Labour

Izzy Taylor,
School of Climate Action Network

Thomas Rands,
UEA Conservatives Association

Sean Bennett,
Norwich Liberal Democrats

Young people were involved in every part of the planning, decision making and delivery of the conference, including the external communications! Evelina Navickaite, a young commissioner - took over our Instagram account and reported live from the event, ensuring our communications had relevance and addressed issues from a young persons perspective. One of the questions asked was: *Why is this conference important right now?*



'WE CARE ABOUT THE FUTURE WE
HAVE TO LIVE IN. PRESERVING THE
EARTH FOR THE FUTURE, AND
MAKING SYSTEM CHANGES THAT
WILL SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT'
PARTICIPANT



Collaborating, NYAB Conference and Championing with Breckland YAB

Breckland YAB had a busy autumn, collaborating with other YABs. We were delighted to join Norwich YAB at the Climate Change Conference. The Young Commissioners found the event interesting and a little scary, listening to local politicians share their views on climate change were certainly hard hitting. There were some great presentations, the young people particularly enjoyed working with Broadland YAB to make recycled bug houses.

We also met up with Great Yarmouth YAB. Young commissioners had the opportunity to take part in Mental Health Champion training, followed by a very relaxing yoga session. The day was completed with a trip to the indoor trampoline park.



Young Commissioner, Felix, represented Breckland at a youth consultation event at Park Farm Nature reserve. Felix was joined by representatives from Norwich County Council, the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, representatives from South Norfolk YAB, Police Young Commissioners, and Youth Parliament. Felix spoke about YAB priorities and youth voice.

"YOUNG COMMISSIONERS REALLY ENJOYED THEIR TIME MEETING OTHER YABS AND WILL BE RETURNING THE HOSPITALITY BY HOSTING ANOTHER TRAINING EVENT IN BRECKLAND"
- MICHELLE
- SENIOR YOUTH WORKER



Two young commissioners, Amber and Will, had the pleasure of representing YABs and MAP at the recent Youth Bank consultation in London. The consultation was attended by representatives from youth organisations across England including NSPCC, Help on Your Door Step, and Youth Move Newcastle. Amber and Will were given the opportunity to meet and engage with Youth Bank UK, and to discuss if being part of a new Youth Bank pilot fits with our work. They helped to create a shared vision for the success of the pilot, and a view of the steps to bring this vision to life. They spoke about the importance of young people being involved at every stage, and offered their support in setting up a youth panel.

READ ON FOR DETAILS ABOUT THE HUGELY SUCCESSFUL YOUTH AGAINST BULLYING CONFERENCE PRODUCED BY BRECKLAND YAB



YABs successfully deliver 3rd Norfolk Youth Against Bullying Conference (NYAB) - an example of phenomenal team work

Breckland YAB once again smashed Anti-Bullying week, by delivering the 3rd NYAB Conference via a webinar to more than 400 people. The theme for this year was 'One Kind Word'. The Anti-Bullying Alliance writes: 'One kind word leads to another, kindness which fuels kindness, so from school to office and from our phones to our homes, together our actions can fire a chain reaction that powers positivity. It starts with 'one kind word'. The YABs worked together to produce Norfolk's third Antibullying conference with an amazing turnout. The conference was free and took place via webinar. The presenters from Breckland YAB did a highly professional job, ensuring there was a smooth transition into the next section with comments, reflections, and interesting responses. This year we had some fantastic speakers, including one of the UK and Europe's leading experts on girl on girl bullying, Val McFarlane Director of 'The BIG Award' and The Bullying Intervention Group, plus there was the opportunity to take part in several young people lead interactive workshops. It was a brilliant day, filled with learning opportunities for everyone. For details of our speakers, guests, and for more images, please visit the [Breckland YAB pages](#). The conference was recorded and will be available to watch in the new year.



Ligija and Will - Breckland YAB Young Commissioners excelled as presenters and hosts for the day

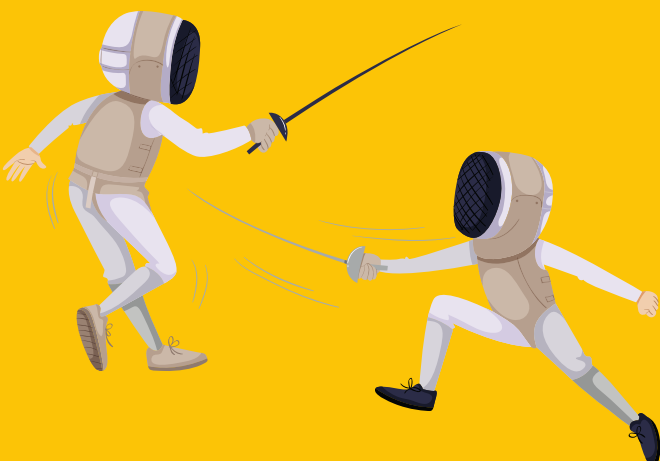
North Norfolk YAB announce new Youth Action Group and witness a zip wire first! !

North Norfolk YAB are pleased to announce that they have recently started a new group; North Walsham Youth Action Group. The group has welcomed seven new young people from Fiona McAlpine at Prospects, and has highlighted how two youth workers collaborating will get the best outcomes for young people. They are very grateful to her for her persistence and willingness to bring young people to the first session.

In November, North Norfolk YAB went to Kingswood for the day, completing zipwire, fencing, climbing and campfire activities. Many of the group, including the staff overcame fears, beat personal targets and built new relationships. It was a fun day, head to [MAPs twitter page](#) to see a video of Colin, senior youth worker, upside down on the zipwire!



And we would like to introduce our new lead, Emma Price, who has been brilliant so far and is keen to work with anyone in North Norfolk who can help develop the YAB and offer opportunities for young commissioners to participate in decision making in their local area.

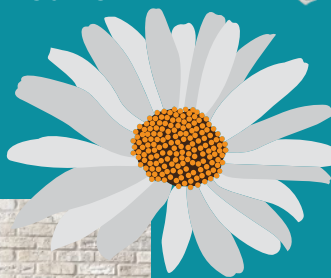


Bug Hotels! Broadland YAB reuse packaging and enhance the local wildlife



Broadland Young Commissioners led a Bug Hotel workshop at the 2021 Norfolk Young People's Climate Change Conference. Participants used recycled plastic and cardboard to build and decorate 'bug hotels' for insects to shelter in over the winter. Young Commissioners wanted to run a workshop that both helped local wildlife and reused food and drinks packaging and supported young people's wellbeing through taking part in a relaxing and creative activity which they could recreate at home.

We have recently appointed two Co-Chairs, Declan and Mariette, who were voted in by their peers. They will work closely with the others, take a lead in the groups and direct Colin and Sarah's work moving forward. Already there are plans for joint YAB work, meetings booked in with their MP along with activities and training identified for Young Commissioners.



To recognise Black History Month 2021 Broadland YAB joined the Loudspeaker! Project for a Black History tour of Norwich. This photo was taken outside Pablo Fanque House – Pablo Fanque, born in Norwich was the UK's first Black Circus owner.

South Norfolk YAB focus on wellbeing activities and getting qualified!



SNYAB activities have been returning to in-person sessions, with a great focus on wellbeing. Young people have had the opportunity to be outside with animals at Clinks Care Farm, take on conservation tasks at Quaker Wood, and enjoy watersports at Whitlingham. For those young people who were not ready to come out or had to isolate, we sent out activity and wellbeing packs, giving them something to do as well as ideas for positive mental health.

Our Young Commissioners have also been busy - meeting both online and in person. They have come together to develop the delivery ideas, be consulted on many issues, and attend training around Improving Resilience, and Equality and Diversity. They also spoke of the How The Mind Works Course on Radio Norfolk - promoting how important it is to look after yourself.

New Young Commissioners have joined recently, and so there has been some social time, so everyone can get to know each other a bit better.

It's been a good time to get back into schools too, with SNYAB having stands at two Futures Events and one Wellbeing Day. Lots of young people engaged with the workers, and it would be great to think that more young people will join as Young Commissioners.



10 young people undertook a First Aid Course, and all passed - getting their certificate, valid for three years.

TRIBUTE TO BOB CASEY



MAP recently lost a special member of their youth work team. Bob Casey was a unique and charismatic presence in the organisation, and an exceptional youth worker. Bob led the West Norfolk YAB for almost a decade, and was a well-known and much valued member of his local community.

After battling a long-term illness for some time, Bob passed away on the night of 13th October. It was unexpected and sudden news and a huge shock for everyone.

Colleagues appreciated Bob's lightness and humour, and his passion for going the extra mile for those in need. We are determined to keep Bob's memory alive, and to celebrate the youth worker who always went above and beyond for young people. Here are some words from colleagues and young people that worked closely with Bob.

Danny Whitehouse.

PP

'BOB WAS ALWAYS THERE FOR ALL OF US. SOMETIMES WHEN WE NEEDED SOMEONE TO TALK TO, HE KNEW HE WOULD BE LATE FOR A MEETING BUT HE DID NOT CARE, HE WAS SO GENEROUS WITH HIS TIME. HE HELPED ME WHEN LIFE AT HOME WAS TOUGH, I KNOW HE HELPED SO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE

PP

WITH LOVE FROM MICHELLE BIBBY, SENIOR YOUTH WORKER, AND YOUNG PEOPLE BOB WORKED WITH



BOB WAS A BRILLIANT YOUTH WORKER. WHEN I FIRST MET BOB, HE WAS WORKING IN WEST NORFOLK FACILITATING THE YAB, A ROLE HE LOVED. DURING HIS TIME IN THE WEST, BOB SUPPORTED MANY YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS TO BECOME THE BEST VERSION OF THEMSELVES. BOB NEVER GAVE UP ON A YOUNG PERSON NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT OR CHALLENGING THEY WERE. HE WOULD ALWAYS FIND THE GOOD IN THEM AND HELP THEM TO SEE THAT FOR THEMSELVES. BOB HAD THE ABILITY TO LAUGH IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY, AND TO DEAL WITH ANYTHING THAT CAME HIS WAY. BOB ALWAYS GOT INVOLVED, WHETHER IT WAS HIGH ROPES OR BEING STUCK AT THE TOP OF JACOBS LADDER, GOING GREEN ON THE GIANT SWING OR BEING SOAKED IN A KAYAK. IF A YOUNG PERSON WAS SCARED OF AN ACTIVITY BOB WAS ALWAYS THE FIRST TO STEP FORWARD. YOUNG PEOPLE COULD OFTEN BE HEARD CHANTING "WE LOVE YOU BOB, WE DO, BOB WE ALL LOVE YOU". BOB WAS ONE OF A KIND; ONCE YOU MET BOB YOU NEVER FORGOT HIM. BOB WAS MY COLLEAGUE BUT SOON BECAME MY FRIEND. WE SHARED SO MANY GREAT EXPERIENCES WITH YOUNG PEOPLE, WATCHING THEM GROW AND BECOME AMAZING YOUNG ADULTS. BOB WAS NEVER SAD WHEN THEY LEFT THE YAB, INSTEAD HE WAS PROUD TO SEE THE CONFIDENT, HAPPY YOUNG PERSON THEY HAD BECOME!

HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE QUOTES THAT YOUNG COMMISSIONERS FROM WEST NORFOLK HAVE SHARED ABOUT BOB:

'WHEN BOB FIRST CAME TO DOWNHAM SIXTH FORM TO RUN A YAB MEETING I THOUGHT I WOULD POP ALONG AS IT SOUNDED INTERESTING, LITTLE DID I KNOW I WOULD STILL BE A YAB MEMBER 3 YEARS LATER! BOB'S ENERGY WAS INFECTIOUS, I HAVE NEVER MET SOMEONE WHO COULD BRING THAT AMOUNT OF ENERGY TO A ROOM, WHO HAD THE ABILITY TO MAKE EVERYONE FEEL WELCOME!'

'BOB HELPED ME SO MUCH. WHEN SCHOOL WAS DIFFICULT AND I WANTED TO LEAVE, BOB CAME INTO SCHOOL AND SPOKE TO MY TEACHERS. HE TOLD THEM ABOUT ALL THE GREAT WORK I WAS DOING ON YAB AND EXPLAINED THAT SOMETIMES I JUST NEEDED A LITTLE BIT MORE HELP. BOB SUPPORTED ME AND HELPED ME LEARN TO CONTROL MY EMOTIONS AT SCHOOL, BECAUSE OF BOB I FINISHED SCHOOL.'



"WE LOVE YOU BOB. WE DO, BOB WE ALL LOVE YOU"





THE IMPORTANCE
OF BLACK
HISTORY

Great Yarmouth YAB celebrate BHM

"THANK YOU FOR
EVERYTHING AND
NOT JUDGING ME"
YOUNG
COMMISSIONER

"REALLY ENJOYED
DOING NEW
ACTIVITIES"
YOUNG PERSON



Norfolk
County Council

