

September 2017

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We are nearly a year in to our Young Essex Assembly two year term and we are midway through planning are a festival with Essex Music Services! It is going to be a festival with many stalls that will vary from food stalls to stalls advertising charities.

We have also started 'Make Your Mark', where we decided what subject we would like to focus on this year. We have also had a lot of fun doing 'guess the baby', 'how many sweets in the jar' and the philanthropy are currently organising a talent show.

Tyler May



Make Your Mark is the largest youth consultation in the UK; last year, it gave a voice to 978,216 young people. This ballot decides what Members of the UK Youth Parliament (MYPs) will debate and vote on to be their campaign for the year ahead. Every young person who participates in the Make Your Mark campaign will receive a ballot paper with a list of 10 statements on it. The statements will be issues affecting young people; last year, we had statements such as an 'Education for Life' and 'Votes at 16'. All participants will have the chance to vote for the one that they think is the most important. This consultation gives young people a voice; as a result of their vote, the 5 most voted issues will be debated by the Members of the UK Youth Parliament in the House of Commons.

Rachel

<http://www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk/makeyourmark/>

## *British Youth Council: Kew Gardens*

Kew Gardens:

Kew Gardens was a great event to understand the vision behind making the world a better, healthier place to live in. They encourage the growing of plants making the world a bit more green which is great! They are also looking for help in the future so keep up to date!



Bethany

## *Youth Democracy Conference 2017*

### **Conference Planning**

The Conference Planning group have been working hard over the summer to pull together our Youth Voice Development Day Conference. The aim of the day is to give young people in Essex the skills they need to influence real change in their smaller communities and bring young people together to create a network of young people keen to bring about real change for young people in their area. A date, venue and times have been confirmed and invites have been sent out to secondary schools. A site visit is planned in the next few weeks! In terms of the day itself, there are several tasks lined up for the morning session, set to build teamwork skills and develop time management whilst working under pressure. In the afternoon the challenges will continue, before a panel question and answer session will be held before the winning team will be revealed!

Imogen

A small group of the YEA have been planning a conference for young people in schools throughout Essex to take part in and develop skills such as teamwork and practising writing letters to their MP's. This will be taking place in **November/December** at the Chelmsford City Racecourse. Members of the YEA will be there to help the day run and help the pupils attending interact with others from other schools. There will be certificates given out for the work done and **attendees will also be given tote bags** with information inside. Planning meetings are still taking place and some members from the planning group **will be going** to see the venue to check the facilities and see if it is suitable for the conference.

Caitlin



## UKYP Annual Sitting 2017



The UKYP sitting is a meet up of all members of parliament in the whole of the United Kingdom. We debate and discuss motions that have been put forward and decide whether it should be added to our manifest. We also network with others and learn eagerly about how youth organisations are run in different areas. We campaign on issues that we strongly believe are extremely important to youth and even debate some of them in the House Of Commons. We represent young people and we are elected by young people.

Rachel

At the end of July, myself and five other YEA members travelled up to Liverpool Hope University to the UK Youth Parliament Annual Sitting. During the weekend we took part in several regional sessions, discussing what has gone well in our areas recently, any challenges that we have faced and which projects we are currently working on. We also took part in a public speaking workshop where we all prepared a one minute speech and presented this to our fellow Members of Youth Parliament, helping to develop confidence with speaking in front of others ahead of the House of Commons Sitting in November. Team East of England then formed a great team and took part in the quiz, coming second, answering questions on a variety of topics from our regions to history. On the second day, we heard from the Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker of the House of Commons who spoke passionately about the need for young people's voices to be heard and encouraging us to break the 1 million mark for young people who vote in the Make Your Mark consultation. We then had a Question and Answer session with a panel of people who have championed youth voice, in their constituency or organisation. This included a key person from the NUS and several MPs. Later on day 2, the Big Vote began, where we debated and voted on motions which would form part of our constitution. Some of these motions included abolishing tuition fees, subsidise gym memberships for 16-18 year olds, protecting LGBTQ+ people and human rights as a compulsory part of the curriculum. We then attended the fantastic UKYP17 Disco where we enjoyed spending time with our new friends from all over the UK. The following day the Big Vote session 2 commenced where we debated the final few motions before we heard from Margaret Aspinall, chair of the Hillsborough Family Support Group, who spoke about how important it is that people continue to make their voices heard. Overall, the weekend proved interesting and inspiring helping to provide motivation and momentum for the upcoming Make Your Mark Consultation.

Imogen

## YEA July Sitting

### July 2017

At our YEA sitting in July, we focused our attention on our mental health festival which will be happening in June 2018. Firstly, some members who had not been for a few sittings due to exams spent the morning working on tasks for young people to have a go at for the Youth Voice Development Day Conference in November. The rest of the YEA continued to discuss important details of dates and venues before we all reconvened before lunch to share our work and suggest improvements. After lunch, we developed a timeline of how preparations for the event would run, contacted our potential venue, agreed our date and contacted some press organisations before splitting into groups again to look at separate aspects of how the festival would run. We then came back together and fed back later in the afternoon before we had a go at a music quiz to relax. We are now in a good position to begin detailed preparations for what looks to be a very exciting and interesting day!

Imogen

## *British Youth Council*

### **Convention 1**

In June, myself, Bethany and Naman attended British Youth Council Conference 1 at Pimlico School in London where we met with various other Youth Representatives and Members of UK Youth Parliament from London, the South East and the East of England. Throughout the day we took part in a series of sessions discussing youth voice in our area and current projects and looking at how we could use successful ideas from other areas and use these within our own local authorities. We also heard an inspiring speech from an ex Deputy Member of Youth Parliament, Temi Mwale, who talked about her youth-led social enterprise The 4Front Project to find solutions to street violence affecting young people. We then had another session discussing the upcoming Make Your Mark ballot and how to get as many young people voting as possible before Anna Barker, chair of the British Youth Council wrapped up the event, motivating us to continue pushing for young people to be heard in our local areas.

Imogen

### **BYC Annual Council Meeting**

At the beginning of September, myself, Bethany, Naman and Molly attended the British Youth Council Annual Council Meeting in London. During the day we elected new trustees and treasurers, took part in workshops on governance, structured dialogue and strategy of the British Youth Council. We then debated new motions to be added to the British Youth Council manifesto. Such motions included whether we believe that tampon tax should be abolished and whether feminism should be made a mandatory part of the curriculum. We then networked with other delegates, such as from the Scout Movement, the Quakers, the Methodist Church, St John Ambulance and Girlguiding UK.

Imogen

BYC's ACM was a great opportunity to find out what BYC does with other groups of young people. We were able to vote on different motions such as the tampon tax which was suggested by Girlguiding and incorporating feminism into the education system. Overall the experience was very rewarding as it was an opportunity to network with other young people that aren't related to the UK Youth Parliament.

Bethany

## *Young People's Mental Health Panel*

### **Mental Health Panel**

Within the Mental Health Panel we have been prioritising issues surrounding mental health that affect young people. Our top priorities have emerged as being 'What actually is a mental health problem?' and 'Where is the line between confidentiality and safeguarding in mental health discussions?' In the next meetings we will be looking to put together an action plan of how we can effectively explore these questions and share our findings with the young people in Essex.

Imogen

## *Meeting with Vicky Ford MP*



Naman and I met with our local Chelmsford MP Vicky Ford to discuss Votes at 16, Make Your Mark and Mindfest. The meeting was very successful and Vicky Ford has suggested some useful suggestions as to useful contacts when working on MindFest and tips on how to work efficiently in a large group.

Imogen

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