

Chance for Wrexham youth to 'fix the future' at new pop up shop

Thursday 15 August, 2013

Young people in the Wrexham area are being given the chance to 'fix the future' when a new pop-up shop opens later this month.

Fixers, a charity which supports young people aged 16-25 to campaign on any issue they want, will be running the shop in the People's Market, Chester Street, Wrexham for four weeks, starting on Monday 19 August.

Fixers is recruiting 19,000 young people across the UK over the next three years to tackle the issues they feel strongly about.

The award-winning project – backed the Big Lottery Fund - has already supported over 8,900 young people to make a difference.

Fixers is represented in Wales by a team of young people's coordinators, creative producers and broadcasters, unearthing projects led by young people on issues they care about.

As well as finding out about what the charity does at the pop-up-shop, visitors will be able to see some of the projects already created by the almost 400 Welsh 'Fixers' already campaigning on issues that matter to them. They will also be able to sign up to become a Fixer and start their very own project.

"We've already seen some inspirational stories and projects from young people in North Wales, and this shop gives us the opportunity to show how young people really care about their future," says Sian Deal, Fixers Young Person's Coordinator for North Wales.

"Come along, check out the fantastic work on display and let us know what you want to fix."

Kicking off the 'Fixer Nation' week, Sian will be hosting workshops around road safety, as part of Fixers first national campaign.

"Road accidents are the number one killer of young people in the UK – and it's time for change," says Sian.

"We want to hear your views on this subject – what you think are the problems, and solutions – so that we can present your views to the Department for Transport."

You can take part in the survey online by going to <http://www.fixers.org.uk/home/road-safety-survey.php>

Posters will also be on display aiming to give young people greater awareness of their rights. Fixer Stacey Blundell, 22 and from Wrexham, created the posters as she believes many young people can be exploited due to their age.

Stacey was inspired to become a Fixer earlier this year after hearing stories from friends about discrimination they faced in the workplace over wages, complaint procedures, and holiday allowance.

From Tuesday 27 August visitors will be able to see a unique mural that encourages young people to base their opinions about migrants on facts, not myths.

Fixer Grace Hayes, 16 and from Wrexham, worked with students from St. Joseph's High School to create the collage of 42 paintings representing reasons for moving country.

Grace believes that many immigrants in the UK suffer from discrimination and prejudice due to a lack of knowledge about why people seek residence in Britain.

Then from Monday 2 September, a variety of different workshops and activities will be taking place.

In the final week, from Monday 9 September, there will be an exhibition of a large art installation to highlight the problem of domestic violence.

A group of 35 Fixers from Wrexham have created a large cardboard house. It will act as a screen where

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short filmed accounts from victims of domestic violence will be shown.

A third of the group have experienced domestic violence first-hand from past partners or have witnessed friends and family suffer domestic abuse.

They feel domestic violence in Wrexham is not talked about and would like to encourage victims to seek help through their Fixers project.

If you would like to become a Fixer, contact Sian, North Wales Fixers Young Person Coordinator, at sian@fixers.org.uk or on 07436 265905.

Fixers is charity which supports young people across the UK to take action and change things for the better, addressing any issue they feel strongly about.

How each Fixer tackles their chosen issue is up to them – as long as they benefit someone else.

The award-winning Fixers project has already supported over 8,700 young people to have an authentic voice in their community.

Each Fixer is supported to create the resources they need - such as films, websites or print work - to make their chosen project a success.

Now, thanks to a grant from the Big Lottery Fund, Fixers aims to work with a further 19,000 young people over the next three years.

“Fixers started in 2008 as just an idea... an idea given a voice by over 8,700 young people over the past five years,” says Margo Horsley, Fixers Chief Executive.

“They have reached thousands of people with their work, on a national stage as well as in and around where they live. They choose the full array of social and health issues facing society today and set about making their mark. Fixers are always courageous and their ideas can be challenging and life-changing, not just for themselves.”

Peter Ainsworth, Big Lottery Fund UK Chair, said: “The Big Lottery Fund is extremely happy to be supporting Fixers to engage with more young people to change things for the better. Thousands of public-spirited young people across the UK are campaigning to make improvements in their own communities. By providing a platform to highlight their voluntary work and many achievements, Fixers demonstrates the positive contribution thousands of committed young people are making at a local level and challenges negative stereotypes.”

For images, interviews or more information, please contact Sue Meaden in the Fixers Communications Team by email sue@fixers.org.uk or phone 01962 810970.

There are lots more stories about young people doing great things on the Fixers website, Twitter and Facebook pages:

<http://www.fixers.org.uk>

<http://www.twitter.com/FixersUK>

<http://www.facebook.com/FixersUK>

Notes to editors:

- Fixers started in England in 2008. Now with a £7.2 million grant from the Big Lottery Fund, Fixers is extending into Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland. To date, over 8,400 young people across the UK have become Fixers and created 900 projects.
- The Big Lottery Fund (BIG), the largest distributor of National Lottery good cause funding, is responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised for good causes by the National Lottery.
- BIG is committed to bringing real improvements to communities and the lives of people most in need and has been rolling out grants to health, education, environment and charitable causes across the UK since June 2004. The Fund was formally established by Parliament on 1 December 2006.
- Since the National Lottery began in 1994, 28p from every pound spent by the public has gone to good causes. As a result, over £29 billion has now been raised and more than 383,000 grants awarded across arts, sport, heritage, charities, health, education and the environment.

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