

## The first year of Rise:61

Having started with **little more than a vision**, a bedrock of relationships with young people and a **passionate belief in God's goodness**, it has been amazing to look back and see all that has been achieved this year. We have much for which to be thankful...

### Meeting young people where they're at...

Through our weekly football matches in the compound and games of rounders and frisbee over the summer months we have built relationships with over 50 young people in Salisbury's Bemerton Heath community.



July 2015 Young people playing in the regular Tuesday night football at the compound

One young person who has been attending for years commented:

*"The activities helped me get out and meet new people, but the talking helped more. It made me realise how much damage was being done by the drugs and drinking. It motivated me to sort out my life; you pointed out the **potential of what we could be.**"*



This work expanded at the start of 2015 when we set up a small bike hub in a local garage thanks to a grant from Salisbury City Council. We have had ten young people coming each week, learning how to fix their own bikes and repairing donated bikes which are then sold.

## Responding to needs...

Life is hard for many young people in this community and it has been our privilege to be asked by local schools and the council to mentor three lads. After supporting one young man to successfully return to school after 5 months of leave through 1:1 work and sporting activities a teacher commented to his mum *"What have you done to him? He is like a different child. He can't stop smiling."*



## Seeing passions flourish

We have met so many young people with amazing skills and passions and it has been our privilege to give them opportunities for these to flourish. Through practical mentoring **we have supported:**

**Nine** young people to attend the Sound Emporium's School of Rock, where they have learnt to sing, write songs, play the guitar and enjoy making music. Three of these talented youngsters even made it to the final of a singing competition, where they faced their fears to deliver amazing performances to a packed out crowd at Salisbury Arts Centre.



**Two** budding gardeners to transform their dying communal garden into a flourishing vegetable patch.

Through practical mentoring we have also supported:

**Two** young entrepreneurs with advice and seed funding to set up micro businesses and sell their products at the teenage market.



**One** talented local freerunner to complete an accredited leadership qualification in the sport.

## Supporting young people to change their world...

We are continuously reminded that when given the right opportunity young people can achieve amazing things. Through our practical mentoring we have empowered groups of young people to:

Organise a **football tournament** at Sarum Academy, a school where they had previously been excluded, giving the opportunity to return in a positive light and show what they are capable of.



Organise a fantastic **Christmas party** in the community with live music, a café, an inflatable obstacle course and more. A local resident commented:

*"I had a lovely evening listening to all the young people singing. I took my two year old to see the Santa's Grotto. I think it's great that the children have somewhere to go and things to do".*



Set up and run **Café Boost**, which has served delicious cakes, pancakes and hot drinks at locations across the city. After taking inspiration from a trip to visit Cafés in Bristol, the young people designed a logo, completed qualifications in food hygiene and honed their menu. Their hard work caught the attention of the Sound Emporium who are now looking to turn it in to a small scale business. In their words:

*"I think it's good that we've been doing it since we were younger, about 14. It keeps you out of trouble, keeps you from getting cold outside, it's good to get your mind off things. At the end of the day gives you skills for the future."*

## Seeing faith soar...

We passionately believe in a loving God, who longs to see people living life to the full and it has been a joy to introduce Jesus to a group of young people who want to know more. At our weekly Life Group we eat together and learn about God through the bible, arts and crafts and other activities.

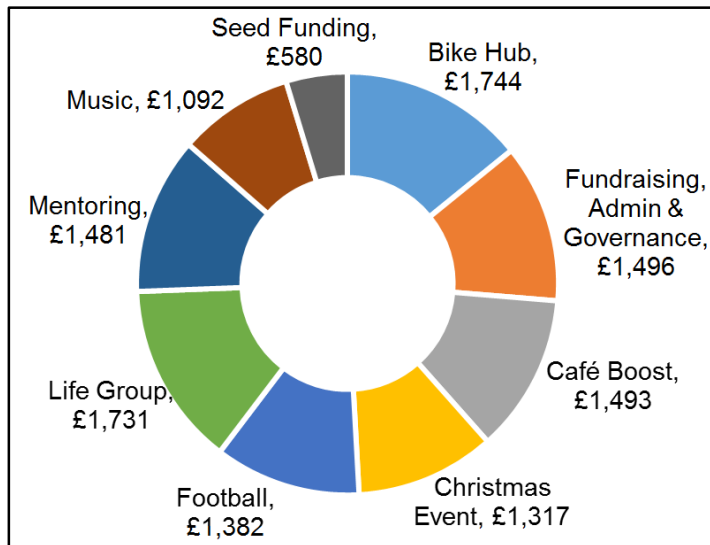


*"I want to learn about God and have people to look up to, like you."*



## Income & Expenditure

Did you know, **88p in every £1** donated goes directly on our work with young people? Here's how we spent our income:



Our income has come from:



**Over 100**

Young People involved in Rise:61 activities

**Approx. £300**

Raised by young people for Rise:61 projects



**Exactly 19**

Policies developed during the first year for Rise:61

**About 40**

Bikes renovated by young people at the bike hub



**More than 900**

Emails sent and received by Rise:61 during the first year

**At least 22**

Young people involved in one-to-one or small group work with Rise:61



**In excess of 60**

Games of football played with young people during the year

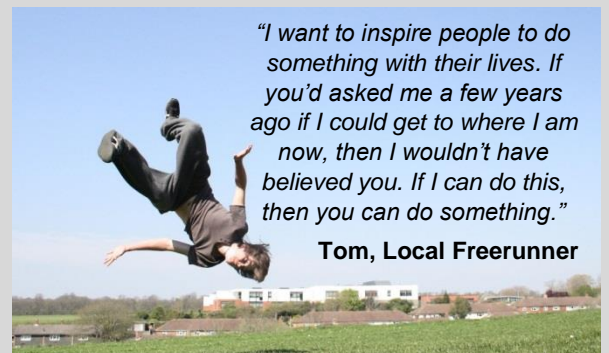
## Thank you...

As we set out on this journey, it was our hope that people would rise up and support what we are doing. We are so thankful for those of you who have. We have seen...

- ✓ Many people commit to **regularly praying** for our work;
- ✓ **Nine regular volunteers** give their time, energy and expertise week in, week out;
- ✓ **Over £18,000 donated** by our army of regular givers, through one off gifts, grants and fundraising events;
- ✓ **Donations** ranging from office equipment to bikes and even a garage; and
- ✓ An **amazing website** designed and created for free by the incredible Gabe at Solitaire Works.

Most of all we just want to take this opportunity to thank God for his provision, equipping and faithfulness through it all.

We also want to thank all the young people and their families who we have worked alongside. It has been a joy to do so.



*"I want to inspire people to do something with their lives. If you'd asked me a few years ago if I could get to where I am now, then I wouldn't have believed you. If I can do this, then you can do something."*

**Tom, Local Freerunner**

## The future...

This is just the start of the journey and with plans to expand the bike hub and life group, your long term support is needed more than ever. To find out how you can help please visit our website [www.rise61.org](http://www.rise61.org).

Together we can empower more young people to change the world around them.

Mike Partridge  
Chair of Trustees  
March 2016