As we are in the autumnal season where changes in nature are visibly taking place, we find ourselves reflecting on the changes that have gradually, yet subtly, been taking place within our own organisation.

Ringing the Changes

The ways and methods we have been used to when engaging with young people have been going through noticeable changes as we find ourselves moving to a different rhythm in order to act out our ethos of identifying and investing. The Venue has always been, and will continue to be, a major point of contact with young people. However, with the developments of new projects, it seems that in the future we may be using a number of ‘streams’ to achieve our goals.

As these changes begin to impact our work, we feel it is important to keep all our supporters, partners and any other bodies we work with informed. In this, good communication becomes the life-blood to the body. Working within the environments of young people, we have learnt a lot about how they can often communicate differently to different people about issues they may be trying to deal with.

With two new major projects, Headspace, a Mental Health Support and Adapt-ED, a functional skills support, currently in developmental processes (see over leaf), our focus is being widened more in order to meet these young people at their points of need.

Earlier this year the gap* was informed that the Mid-Counties Co-operative Community Fund had awarded us £360 towards our Recording Studio project. David and Hannah were invited to attend the award ceremony at Bilston in the West Midlands. The Mid-Counties Co-operative are keen to support local projects that benefit local communities, and the gap* fitted their profile perfectly.

Co-operative funding is sound!

The gap Studio is currently undergoing a refurbishment with some new sound insulation and equipment. It is hoped to have it up and running soon. We are also on the look-out for an experienced sound engineer who would be willing to run the Studio and provide training workshops for young people.

These projects are completely in line with the gap*’s original goals of Identifying and Investing. We will be keeping you all up to speed on how these projects pan out over the coming months. In the meantime we more than ever need your prayers and support as we train ourselves and volunteers to tread this unfamiliar territory. As author John Ortberg boldly titled one of his books, ‘if you want to walk on the water, you’ve got to get out of the boat’.

In a move to improve communication both with the young people and our supporters partners and other organizations, we are now on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram as well as our website... so there are now more opportunities to contact us and for us to keep everyone up to date.

www.thegapsuttoncoldfield.org

@TheGapSutton

The gap* Sutton Coldfield

thegapsuttoncoldfield
Where are they now?

Ironically, when I was asked if I would like to write this ‘where are they now?’ feature, I was having a bit of a ‘what am I doing with my life?’ kind of day. But as I reflect on what I’ve been up to since leaving the gap*, I’m reminded of just how faithfully God has guided me through this time, and I realise that whilst I may not always know what I’m doing with my life, I do know that God knows, and that’s what really matters!

I finished volunteering at the gap* almost five years ago, when I decided to go to University in Bristol to study Childhood Studies. Soon after I arrived in Bristol I felt really at home and had a strong sense that God had gone before me in this city. My first year wasn’t easy but I felt God use this time really carefully to draw me closer to Him. He reminded me again of my identity in Him and revealed to me more about His caring nature and steadfast love.

I enjoyed the next two years of life at Uni, living with some friends from halls and being part of a great church called Pip n Jays. During this time I never really knew what I would do after Uni, but towards the end of my degree I heard about something called ‘Play Therapy’, which is a form of counselling that uses play to help children resolve psychological challenges. Following a series of applications, interviews, assignments and placements I am now in my second year of Post Grad studies in Play Therapy and half way to becoming a Play Therapist - which is fun! I’m so thankful to God for helping me to find a profession I feel I will love.

Welcome to our new Trustee...

We are proud to announce that a new person has chosen to join our board of Trustees. Reuben Pearse is married to Esther and has 4 children - they attend Sutton Coldfield Baptist church. He is Head of Systems Development at a management consultancy firm in Birmingham. Reuben has always had a heart for young people and has 15 years of youth work experience, ranging from running a youth-club for 11-14 year olds to helping with kids holiday clubs. Reuben has been supporting the gap* since it was formed and is hoping to use his youth-work experience and IT knowledge to help build on the good work being undertaken by the gap*.

ADAPT<ED

AdaptED is the name of a new project that allows young people who have for some reason missed out on their basic Functional Skills in Maths & English. We are preparing to move on with this project but are in need of volunteers to act as tutors......it may be that you are or know of someone who is a retired teacher, a part-time educator, someone who does home teaching or has tutoring capabilities in either of these areas. The role would be a volunteer one with all expenses catered for and all materials including use of laptop computers and printer provided. If you are interested, in knowing more PLEASE do contact David on 07565 542976 so we can talk with you in more detail.