Hello again Dover!

Hard to believe we’re half way through August already – and half way through the school holidays!

Kids’ Club has been going well, with 4 events so far and another 3 planned. Next week’s session! [link]

We have a fairly continuous flow of uniform being donated and bought. It’s never too late to bring down what your child no longer needs, or to find something for the coming term.

Wellbeing has been high on the list, with our Diabetes and Coeliac Self Help Group running every Thursday from 1-2:30 pm, Healthy Eating on Wednesdays, and light exercise for group members to complement both sessions.

Our Job Club and Welfare Advice Clinic continues to run on **Tuesdays**, with support from Southern Housing [link], Shaw Trust [link], Live Well [link]/Porchlight [link] and a wide range of community organisations. **Wednesdays** are more low key, with Hub staff and external providers hot desking: individual pre-booked appointments are available with Shaw Trust and CXK [link], healthy eating/ One You [link] in the afternoons. **Thursdays** are mainly about wellbeing with DBL Stitching Group meeting from 10-12, and health support 1-2:30 followed by bicycle maintenance 2:30-3:30. **Fridays** are mixed - our Friendly Friday session has restarted with bingo from 10-11 and karaoke from 11-12 each week. Refreshments and crafts are available to all from 10-12. In the afternoon pre-bookable appointments are available to discuss funding and start up opportunities.

In between all of these we’re working on our Urban Fete [link], the half term activities, new courses and groups (we would like volunteers who could lead jewellery making classes and exercise to get in touch [link]!) - and of course the Innovation Warehouse [link]! There’s been a lot of interest and input which is reflected in the design phase and it will be taking shape physically in the coming weeks! The latest:

**Innovation Warehouse**

We, DBL [link], have always wanted to provide a space where start-up businesses could operate from, where we could reduce the risk of failure and provide mentoring and support.  Thanks to an exciting partnership with Dover District Council [link]we have been able to realise this ambition by taking over the old Co-op supermarket on Stembrook and utilise it as a business incubator space and more.

The joint press release [link] announcing this can be found here - <https://www.dover.gov.uk/News/Press-Releases/2018/Former-Co-op-Building-to-be-Launch-Pad-for-New-Dover-Businesses.aspx>

The business area will incorporate partitioned office/studio/maker spaces, a co-working area, private meeting rooms, a training space, a fully equipped kitchen area, free fibre broadband and free printing (both subject to reasonable use restrictions).

If you are interested in locating your business with us then keep an eye out for our application form which will be available shortly.

Currently we are in the process of undertaking the conversion, which not only involves a number of local building trades businesses who will undertake the necessary works, but also involves local Dover based artists and interior designers who will be responsible for the look of both the outside and inside.

The space is enormous, so to make the best use of it and offer the best options to you, the residents, we are looking at utilising about 40% of the space for community activites.  These will include an exhibition space, an adult games area, a self-service refreshments area, a comfortable seating area for parents and a children’s soft play facility.  There is potential for additional activities, which we can develop over time; so please do share your ideas with us.

Ross Miller

Chair Dover Big Local Partnership

Calling all Dover based start-up or small businesses

Are you worried about work space costs?

Have you outgrown your home office/kitchen/spare room?

Do you want help setting up or growing?

If so then we have the answer for you at the Innovation Warehouse

Interested in knowing more complete the application form HERE