

Summer Holiday Activity Event Report

Wowzer Wednesdays

Budget: £3000

Spend: £2744

Date	Activity Type	Spend	Attendees (child)
2 August	Crafts	£0 (funded externally)	Approx. 63
9 August	Magic Shows	£175	Approx. 127
16 August	Circus Skills	£350	Approx. 68
23 August	Puppet Shows	£300	Approx. 80
30 August	Inflatables	£1765	Approx. 421

Overview:

There were five sessions for Wowzer Wednesday, each week in August. The first four events were held by the Bandstand in Church Walk. The final event was held in St John's Park.

Week one was crafts funded by Burgess Hill Community Crafters Market. Due to inclement weather, this was moved to The Kiln. Capacity of the venue limited the numbers attending.

Week two was two, forty-minute magic shows.

Week three was a circus skills workshop, running from 11am – 1pm. Numbers had to be restricted due to capacity with the equipment. The weather was particularly hot on this date.

Week four was two, forty-minute puppet shows.

Week five was an inflatable extravaganza, with laser tag, two bouncy castles and an assault course. Places Leisure supplied soft play and Southern Co-Op provided free snacks and drinks for kids. Little Kickers also provided a free football activity.

Age ranges:

Date	Under 8	8 and over	Adult
2 August	43	19	N/A
9 August	67	27	N/A
16 August	44	20	4
23 August	52	5	N/A
30 August	306	115	210
Total	512	186	214

Where did families see the event advertised?

Noticeboards/ Posters	20
Social Media	93
Word of Mouth	41
Summer Holiday Activity Flyer	3

About Town	12
Saw the event when passing	27
Attended previous Wowzer Wednesday	3
Events Mailing List	4

Tennis and Basketball Sessions

Overview:

In previous years, Sussex Clubs for Young People (SCYP) ran tennis sessions and 'Streetmate' activity sessions with their Purple Bus, funded by the Town Council. Streetmate was targeted towards lower income families in the Denham Road and St Andrew's Road areas. Following the dissolution of SCYP, the Town Council stepped in to provide extra activities in the summer holidays for those in low-income families. The tennis and basketball sessions were run by outside coaches, with the support of Council officers. This saw an increase in officer time over the period of the summer holidays. At Easter, the Town Council paid SCYP £506 for one tennis session and two Streetmate sessions.

Tennis Spend: £840

Date	Number of attendees	5 and under	6 – 10	11+
Monday 24 July	66	3	44	17
Friday 28 July	61	5	46	10
Monday 31 July	13	1	10	2
Monday 7 August	79	9	53	15
Monday 14 August	36	9	21	7
Total	255	27	174	51

The tennis sessions were run in the courts at St John's Park with two qualified coaches. The sessions were run as drop-in and saw a high level of attendees. Occasionally, due to capacity, sessions were split into smaller groups.

Basketball Spend: £125

Date	Attendees: Session 1	Attendees: Session 2	Attendees: Session 3
Friday 18 August	6	5	5
Friday 25 August	8	4	11

The basketball sessions were run at the Maple Drive Multisports Court. As there was only one coach, sessions were limited to 12 children and had to be booked in advance. There was not an option for drop ins. The first session on 18 August saw poor weather, limiting the number of attendees. Worth Parish Council's Youth Worker, Drew, kindly coached the sessions with support from officers. The majority of attendees to the basketball sessions were 8 and under.

Feedback on events:

Every Wowzer Wednesday was posted on social media following the event. Separate posts were also created for the tennis and basketball sessions. Posters for every event were placed in the noticeboards, and correx boards and banners for Wowzer Wednesday were placed in different areas around the town.

Feedback from the public was overwhelmingly positive, with all attendees appearing to be very happy at the events on the day.

Wowzer Wednesdays:

- Thank you so much for organising this event. My daughter loved making her unicorn and my son his train. Everyone was very friendly and so welcoming. It is so nice to see that the council is organising so many events this summer.
- We had a great time thank you.
- Thank you all, our grandchildren had a lovely time.
- My children loved the magic shows
- Tom Foolery engaged the audience (old and young) really well!
- Activity with the things all are good
- Thank you for a lovely day and all the hard work by everyone our grandchildren had a lovely time

Tennis Sessions:

- Tennis tuition was great. Coaches were encouraging. It was friendly and welcoming.
- Tennis sessions were fantastic
- My children had fun
- Fantastic
- I hope these will run again they were brilliant

Basketball Sessions:

- Great coaching and just right duration
- Thanks Drew for the excellent session. Bertie really enjoyed it
- Matias and Nina had a great time with Drew. More sessions in the future will be very much appreciated.

Constructive Criticism:

One response was that basketball could have been better advertised for more uptake. This is good feedback, but sessions were already limited to 12 children, and almost all sessions were fully booked. We cannot control people not showing up on the day. The event was organized only a few weeks before the event, as it was a sudden addition to the summer holiday programme. Therefore, it was not added to the summer holiday activity flyer. Despite this, it was still a very popular

activity, and was a good opportunity to showcase the new sports facility at Maple Drive.

Feedback on the tennis sessions included, children needing to do more practice and requests for the sessions to be conducted more regularly in Burgess Hill. The tennis is clearly popular and that is something to consider for 2024.

One response on Wowzer Wednesday suggested that the circus skills could have had activities for children to watch, not just to participate in. This would be tricky with the session, as both members of staff need to be watching the children and helping them with their activities. The option of circus skills to watch could be a separate event.



Molly Devine
Events and Administration Officer