

Youth voice

We are a group of young people who are looking to get experience of what a career in journalism involves, whilst changing the negative media stereotype of young people that currently exists.

The articles that we have written are aimed at changing peoples perceptions whilst stimulating a debate on certain, more controversial topics. If you have any

thoughts or opinions on our articles we would love to hear from you! So who are we?
Becky Marsh, George Bellamy, Holly May Gallan, Leah Francis, Anwyn Williams, Mary Van Kesteren, Laura Morisot and Gemma Davies.

Email us at: youthvoice@wayc.org.uk



Why young people say 'no' to the vote

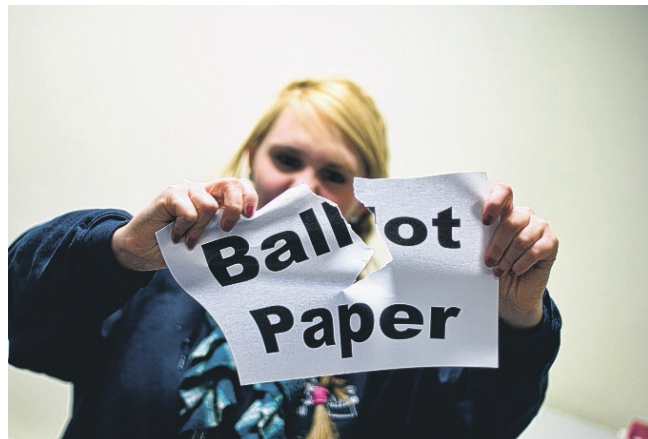
According to our survey of local young people, politics is considered to be boring and uninteresting by a large proportion of young adults in our community. Many also feel they aren't advised enough about the political system.

Over 50% of young people over 18 said they wouldn't make the effort to visit the polling station in the next general election and a staggering two thirds were unable to name their local MP, or which party they represent.

Over a quarter of our sample said they did not know enough; therefore many had a lack of interest in politics in general. Some people suggested that they would be more interested if "MPs had more contact with young people...". Local MPs could visit schools in their local area, perhaps on a monthly basis, giving politics lessons or talks in assemblies so students really get to know their faces.

Other popular reasons were that some did not know enough about politics, politicians are useless and a clear lack of trust with the government. Particularly after the recent expenses and the recession.

Another key issue was young people being put off by the sometimes farcical lack of action on the government's part. They seem to set out policies that either never materialise or are set so far in the future that they seem irrelevant to anything happening now. We want to see immediate and effective action, more action less



words.' If I could see my vote making changes in today's society, I would be much more likely to take the long walk to the polling station.

Our results show a need for an MP that they can truly relate to. This requires younger politicians who know which issues really matter to the youth of today. Many in our sample also described the politicians as "upper class" calling for "more common folk" as too many are products of the private education system.

James Plaskitt, Labour MP for Warwick and Leamington, said, "I'm not surprised about the lack of interest in party politics. Most of that is our fault but we are trying to improve the way we engage with young people."

Chris White, Conservative Candidate and chairman of WAYC Youth Services for Warwick and Leamington, said, "I believe young peo-

ple are becoming increasingly involved in politics... in schools in North Leamington I visit, there has been lively debates where students have been very engaged."

Steven Fowler, UKIP candidate, Treasurer for the Young Independence group for Warwick and Leamington, said, "In some ways politics is boring. If you are not involved then you are missing out on your chance to express your beliefs."

Ian Davidson, Green Party candidate, said, "This is partly due to recent scandals and a view that politicians are 'only in it for the themselves'."

For young people looking at politics it seems like a lost cause, however, the reasons young people are saying no to the vote are as much the fault of the politicians as they are ours.

By Gemma Davies, George Bellamy and Laura Morisot

Extreme boredom busters

For me, living in my town, I find it can get a bit dull. After activities such as the Christmas lights, the fun times of the Peace festival can seem a long time away! So if you, like me, are bored of being bored, then it's probably time to stretch the boundaries and try something new and unusual, here's a few ideas.

Zorbing – If you can imagine yourself rolling down hills in a giant see-through hamster-

ball, try it.

Jousting – On horses, this is a chance to relive those childhood dreams of being a brave knight or princess.

Paintballing – You have probably tried this, but for fun why not attack friends with bullets of paint.

Clay Pigeon Shooting – It may seem like I'm encouraging more violence here, but for a new experience, you might feel like trying this simulation shooting sport.

Abseiling down a Large Building – Vertical descending, it's a major adrenaline rush. Get sponsored and it's free!!

References: That's what Google's for!
 Zorbing: www.zorbing.co.uk/
 Paintballing: www.paintball-leamington-spa.co.uk
 Clay Pigeon Shooting: www.thebigshoot.co.uk

By Leah Francis

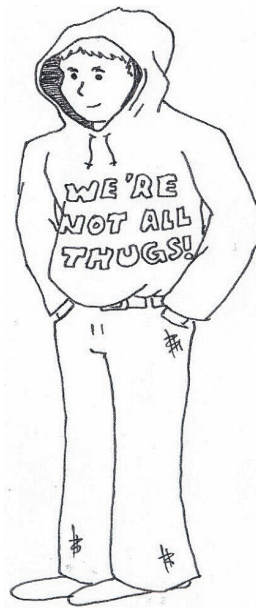
Youth music

Are you currently playing an instrument and want to find a group to play in? Have a look at the Warwickshire County Performance Groups. There are many different group genres such as: Warwickshire County Youth Orchestra, Warwickshire County Rock Band, Youth Waits (renaissance instruments), Pannissimo (steel pans) and County Youth Jazz Orchestra.

Not only do you play in the groups; you also have the chance to socialize with people who come from all over the county. You too, have the opportunity to go on tour and attend a residential weekend!

By joining a group, it increases your confidence and immediately builds your musical knowledge. It's a fantastic experience which would prepare you for a rewarding career as a experienced, professional musician. Contact via email: cms@warwickshire.gov.uk

By Holly May Gallan



Fancy a new hobby?

Lads and ladies ditch the hoodies, forget about COD (Call of Duty) and help yourselves by getting your parents off your back. Have you ever thought about joining the Air Cadets?

You maybe thinking "this isn't really my thing". But don't judge a book by its cover.

Since joining the Air Cadets at Southam 2028 Squadron I have been offered the chance to get involved in things, I otherwise would not have been able to. I've been flying and gliding, a favourable cluster of experiences for many cadets and an adrenaline rush offered at no cost. Shooting – another action packed and addictive experience full of fun.

It offers the Duke of Edinburgh Award, where numerous cadets have successfully reached D of E Gold level. Camping, sports, First Aid, classroom training and the opportunity to move up the ranks from Cadet to Cadet Flight Sergeant is offered through hard work giving responsibility.

Many cadets find it a great help that academically, you can achieve a BTEC in Aviation Studies and a First Diploma

in Public Services and also work for a Certificate from the CVQO. All is offered through training.

Being part of the Air Training Core, offers so much more than a uniform to be worn with pride and perfect drill on the parade square. It involves commitment and working as part of a team.

So like the sound of that? Want a challenge and get to know other young people who have similar ambition? Visit the local cadet squadron websites below.

www.2028sqnadc.co.uk
www.stratfordatc.org

By Gemma Davies



Hidden gem of Warwick

Guy's Cliffe house is Warwick's atmospheric jewel. It's described as being the "most beautiful abandoned stately home in England". But sadly, Guy's Cliffe has fallen into ruin and is covered in haunting history.

The site has been inhabited since the Saxon times, the most famous legend is of Guy of Warwick; founder of Warwick Castle. Guy returned from his adventures and retired to live the rest of his days in a cave by the river.

His wife, Lady Felice of Warwick remained ignorant of his unannounced presence so close.

Before Guy died, he

revealed his true identity to the poor lady, who overcome with grief, threw herself from the cliff where her husband had lived for many years.

It is said that her ghost, distraught with grief still haunts the site.

The earliest parts of Guy's Cliffe house that we see the ruins of today, dates back to 1751.

It was sold to Samuel Greatheed, the son of a west Indies sugar planter. His ambition was to create a position for himself in politics and in society.

Greatheed set about extending the existing house so it was big enough for entertaining.

Some of the rooms were

decorated with Rococo plasterwork, fragments of which still survive.

The Chantry Chapel, founded in 1423 is the only part of the complex which is used today; owned by a group of Freemasons.

Jackdaws caw and flock above the towering ruins; which peer out behind the trees.

No more than a tantalising glimpse, can be seen from the footpath by the Saxon Mill restaurant.

However, not open to the public, you can still get dramatic views from the footpath.

Definitely worth a day's exploration.

By Holly May Gallan