

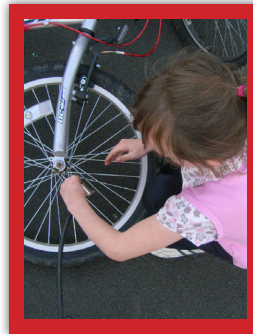
Bike Repairs

“It doesn't matter, I'm getting a new bike for Christmas.” It's getting to the time of year when we hear this more and more as the repair in progress becomes increasingly difficult! Over the last year we have spent hundreds of hours working with kids to get damaged bikes back on the road and challenge the need for 'a new bike every Christmas.' The regular Wednesday and Friday workshop sessions and the street repair sessions have been as popular as ever. Now the regular repairers have increased their skills to such a level that they are regularly helping other less confident kids. The street repair trailer is also getting a facelift with a new 'bespoke' model in the pipeline.

We have also broadened our range of activities. In response to the 'bike for life' month in June we ran one off cycle maintenance sessions in 6 primary schools in the East End of Newcastle. The 'one off' became a 'two off' at Byker Primary as 71 bikes turned up to be fixed at the first session! Therefore we had to arrange another workshop. We are continuing these school links this year by running repair sessions in the days before the cycle proficiency tests – encouraging the importance of being able to repair your bike as well as being able to ride it!

Other new projects include maintenance and bike building courses run with pupils from the Linhope Pupil Referral Unit. The success of these courses has led to us being asked to run a number of further projects in collaboration with Linhope.

Bike repairs can't be mentioned without talking about the cycle powered smoothie maker. It has been all over the place again this year – in Walker Park, Paddy Freeman's Park and Leazes Park, at the Lightfoot Centre and the Centre for Life, at Ravenswood Play and Youth Centre and at a number of primary schools... and it's beginning to feel the strain. So at the moment it is 'in the shed' undergoing a revamp and it will soon re-emerge as a bigger, better and much smoother model!



Junior Sessions



Trips and Outings

As ever, trips and residential have been a central part of the Kids Kabin programme. We have been to many of the usual places – camping in Woolplaw, Whittle Dene and Blaydon Burn, staying in the hostel at Seahouses, visiting Rupert's Wood, cycling to the coast, the millennium bridge and the Shields ferry.

We have also tried the new and the different. In January we started our winter camps, staying in bothies in Northumberland and camping at Kielder at a time of year you might not expect to do so! The first trip to Haughton Green bothy, north of Hadrian's Wall lived up to its title of 'a winter camp' as we walked over a frozen peat bog and watched the snow fall out of the tiny bothy window. These trips have added an exciting new twist to our already busy camping programme and will give the kids of Walker a new perspective on winter leisure activities!