

YFA News

August 2018



The Young Firefighters Association

The Young Firefighters Association (YFA) helps 13-17 year olds challenge themselves, make new friends, learn exciting firefighting skills and help their communities. A lot of their time is spent on the training yard, practising firefighting drills, but they also get involved in plenty of other exciting and challenging activities. Whether these young people go on to become firefighters or not, they will undoubtedly learn a range of vital skills that will help them in their everyday lives.

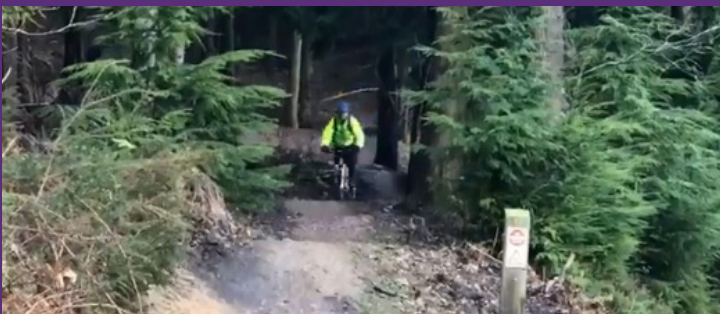
This newsletter gives an overview of the activities undertaken in the last three months by members of the YFA.



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Conquering the Dragon's Tail

Eight young firefighters from Droitwich spent a full day mountain biking in the Forest of Dean, tackling the steep climbs, the swooping flat top, and the undulating descent of the infamous Dragon's Tail trail. Seven novice trail-bikers were joined by one young firefighter with previous off-road experience, negotiating technical trails and off-road challenges. The result was a few spills, much mud, an adrenalin-fuelled descent, and bags of new-found confidence.



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Out in force

Young firefighters from Droitwich YFA joined other representatives of the emergency services, the armed forces, and other essential services for a showcase of SOS capabilities at Eastnor Castle. Members enjoyed demonstrating equipment to visitors and providing a guided tour of the two fire engines and the off-road vehicle.

“Events like this provide the young firefighters with the opportunity to share their knowledge of the vehicles, equipment, and service with members of the public,” said Station Commander Phill Sanders. “This often results in new recruits to YFA, and also helps the young people to confidently talk about something they are passionate about.”

Members of Redditch YFA were also out in force on Armed Services Day, meeting members of the public in Redditch town centre and raising funds for the Fire Fighters Charity.



Kayaking

Nine young firefighters from Droitwich enjoyed a day of kayaking skills on Upton Warren Lake. Most of them were novices to the water, but after developing paddling

and capsizing skills, conquering their nerves culminated in them launching themselves into the water in their kayaks down the seal launch slide.



Happy Ever After at the Carnival

Redditch YFA had the honour of leading the Astwood Bank Carnival. Twenty young firefighters escorted the engine as the opening chapter to the day's theme of 'Happy Ever After' and will receive a donation from the carnival organisers at a gala event later in the year. These funds will be used to provide more team building activities later in the year.



If you have any comments regarding this newsletter or would like to find out more, please visit www.hwfire.org.uk/yfa
Alternatively, you can email droitwichyfa@hwfire.org.uk or redditchyfa@hwfire.org.uk

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