



YMCA worker Jenny's 'Humber hop'

A record number of people are set to bounce across the Humber bridge on space hoppers in a bid to raise funds for one initiative that's bringing families back together again.

For YMCA worker, Jenny Hodson, the 'sky's the limit' when it comes to fundraising – that's why she's decided to organise the biggest-ever bounce across the Humber bridge in aid of Community Games.

Last week the plucky 53-year-old skydived out of a plane, from 15,000ft, for the programme.

And despite having her feet firmly on the ground, now, she doesn't plan on keeping them that way for long.

The mum-of-one said she feels so passionately about the positive effect Community Games, which is backed by the Cabinet Office, has had on families and communities in the area she wants to ensure the initiative reaches as many people in Grimsby, Cleethorpes and Humber as possible.

Jenny said she feels enthusiastic about the project because she believes the Olympic and Paralympic legacy programme is helping to bring communities back together again.

She said:

"I never imagined when I first started organising Community Games that they would be such a success.

Each and every event that we have run has been unique in its own way.

Community Games is so much more than just a day out. These events are bringing families, friends and communities back together again in a way that – up until now - has been somewhat forgotten in this country.

Instead of communicating through text messages or emails, communities are able to re-engage with each other the old fashion way. In a world dominated by technology this is really refreshing to see."

Jenny plans on holding the Humber hop in June 1 next year.

She added:

"I am already taking down names of people who want to take part in the hop-a-thon across the Humber.

People are really enthusiastic about it already. The money generated from this event will be pumped directly back into the community giving people all over the region an opportunity to enjoy a free, fun-filled day out."

ENDS

For more information or to arrange an interview with Jenny Hodson, contact Donna Roddy on 0121 710 4482

KEY FACTS:

Community Games:

- The Community Games programme was launched in the West Midlands in 2009 and was originally funded for three years by Legacy Trust UK, an independent charity set up to help build a lasting cultural and sporting legacy from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- Since its launch more than 750 games have already taken place involving more than 500,000 people.
- Community Games is inspired by the Wenlock Olympian Games founded by Dr William Penny Brookes in 1850 and still held annually in Much Wenlock, Shropshire. The Wenlock Olympian Games were the inspiration behind the modern Olympic and Paralympic Games when Baron Pierre du Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic movement, visited the games in 1890. The Community Games programme pays homage to a community event that inspired a global event, and now uses that global event to inspire a new raft of community events.

Legacy Trust UK:

- Legacy Trust UK is an independent charity set up to create a lasting cultural and sporting legacy from London 2012 in communities across the UK.
- The Trust is funded by a £40 million endowment from the Big Lottery Fund (£29m), Department for Culture Media and Sport (£6m) and Arts Council England (£5m), and is a Principal Funder of the Cultural Olympiad and London 2012

Festival. www.legacytrustuk.org

The YMCA:

- Founded 168 years ago, the YMCA in England is made up of 121 member YMCAs working to ensure that young people have opportunities to thrive and contribute positively to their communities.
- YMCA operates in over 530 different communities in England impacting upon the lives of over 500,000 people every year.
- Every night YMCAs provide over 9,000 beds for young people. The YMCA is the largest voluntary sector provider of safe, supported accommodation for single men and women aged between 16-30 years old.
- The YMCA enables nearly 24,000 people every year to engage in education, skills and training to enable them to improve their opportunities in the job market.
- The YMCA is the largest voluntary sector provider of health and wellbeing services promoting physical activity.
- For further information please visit <http://www.ymca.org.uk>

Grimsby, Cleethorpes and Humber YMCA

- The Grimsby, Cleethorpes and Humber region YMCA provides accommodation and support for up to around 100 local young people every night of the year.
- With support from the community it turns around disadvantaged young lives, helping them belong, contribute and thrive.

The County Sports Partnership Network (CSPN):

- The County Sports Partnership Network brings together 49 County Sports Partnerships from across England, and is responsible for supporting the delivery of national sports policy at a local level by shaping it to the needs of local communities.
- The CSPN contributes to the health of the nation by helping local people lead healthier, active lives.
- The CSPN brings together the knowledge and expertise of a range of local delivery partners – including local authorities, clubs and schools – which enables it to use resources in the most efficient way possible to deliver sport in local communities.

Donna Roddy, Citydesk Sport, on behalf of Community Games.

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