

# International Day of the Girl Norwich 2015

10.10.15-11.10.15

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

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On the 19 December 2011 at the United Nations General Assembly, it was declared that the 11 October was to be the International Day of the Girl Child, which was created to **recognise girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.**

The U.N. stated that the theme for International Day of the Girl Child 2015 was:

### **The Power of the Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030.**

The focus of this theme is to encourage those with the power to invest in the lives of adolescent girls on a global scale, from education and health care to encouraging political involvement and promoting gender-responsive legislation.

## DAY OF THE GIRL NORWICH 2015

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Across the 10 October and 11 October, Day of the Girl Norwich put on a variety of events, workshops and discussions suitable for a variety of ages in Norwich Guildhall.

These events included:

### Saturday 10 October

**Girls & Sport talk;** A discussion with Ian Constance and Amy Pressland on how to get more girls involved in sport.

**Throw like a girl;** A workshop following on from the Girl & Sport talk encouraging girls to be fit and involved in sports.

**Get Political;** Encouraged political thinking by allowing young people to take part in a Norwich Feminist Network Activist meeting, with their ideas being noted down as future areas for activism.

**Rosette Making;** A craft workshop creating suffragette inspired rosettes.

**A reading from Hayley Long;** A reading and Q&A delivered by Hayley Long of her book 'Being a Girl'.

**Creative Writing Workshop;** A workshop in creative writing following Hayley Long's reading.

### Sunday 11 October

**What Men and Boys can do;** Richard Cvijetic discussed his work with the White Ribbon Campaign and Norfolk Says No.

**Confidence Building;** A workshop which involved various activities to develop young people's confidence.

**Women and Publishing;** Sophie Elliott, the founder of feminist magazine Parallel discussed how she started the project.

**Zine Making;** A creative workshop whereby young people could create their own zines.

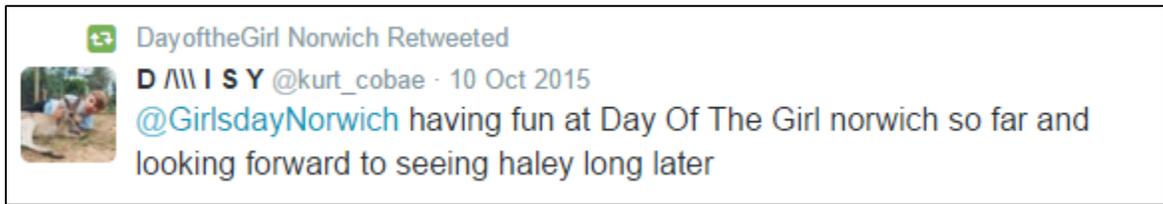
Day of the Girl Norwich worked with **nine partner schools** across the Norwich and Norfolk area, putting on workshops within these schools and collecting art from young people, which was as displayed over the weekend. Furthermore, Day of the Girl Norwich works with a number partner organisations.

The current partner organisations include:

**Sweet Arts:** a non-profit organisation which sets up creative and enterprising projects that empower women, making it their aim to support vulnerable women who have suffered with mental or emotional health issues, substance misuse, abuse, anxiety or other issues.

**Norfolk Guides:** Girlguiding Norfolk, part of the Girlguiding UK (the largest youth organisation in the UK), makes it their aim to enable girls and young women to reach their full potential, with 8,200 members ranging from the ages of five to twenty-five.

Across the weekend, people from a range of age groups attended and engaged in the talks, workshops and events, with some of those who attended taking to social media:



## EVALUATION

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All of the events across the weekend succeeded in their purpose of being engaging and enjoyable, whilst empowering girls and young people at the same time. This is evident from the comments and photos posted on social media as shown above, as well as the lively and productive talks and discussion that took place. Another successful element of the events that took place over the weekend was that there was events for all ages, meaning that girls, boys and young people could partake. For example, the **Get Political** event sparked a lively discussion amongst young people and adults about political issues that they view as important, whereas, the craft workshops such as **Rosette Making** provided an age appropriate way for younger children to be involved and gain an understanding about the history of women's rights.

One element of the weekend that was not as successful as perhaps previous years was the attendance across the weekend. The lower attendance numbers than previous Day of the Girl events in Norwich was probably due to several reasons. Firstly, the events took place in **Norwich Guildhall** opposed to **The Forum**. As stated on the Day of the Girl Norwich 2013 report, The Forum has a daily average footfall of 6800+, whereas, the Guildhall is not usually open to the public on a daily basis, meaning less people would have stumbled on the Day of the Girl events by accident. Once combined with the poor weather of the weekend and the Guildhall being inaccessible to some members of the public, attendance levels were lower than previous years which were held at The Forum. However, this did not hinder the success of the events, with numbers being high enough to create lively discussions and fun workshops across the entirety of the weekend.

## IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE

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One element of the 2015 Day of the Girl Norwich events which was particularly inspiring to young people was being able to meet and talk to women who had achieved their goals, such as Sophie Elliott and her creation of feminist magazine *Parallel* and Hayley Long's career as a successful writer. One idea for future Day of the Girl events could be to include more women from various fields of work to inspire and show girls that they can achieve their life goals, whatever they may be.

Furthermore, Day of the Girl Norwich could extend their empowerment of young people by setting up a safe space, perhaps an online forum or blog, where young people would be able express themselves and have discussions at any time of the year.