



# June 2021

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## Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Daniel's Den

This is the last newsletter of this academic year and is packed with information.

It's hard to believe that we've had a full year of no physical in person groups inside our 7 venues – We really miss seeing everyone, all the incredible friendships and the fun that is made and shared. Life has been very different and whilst we may not have seen each other in person, we have developed some incredible connections.



## Sowing Seeds Project

The idea for the Sowing Seeds project started a number of years ago when we had a forum for parents/carers, volunteers and partners. One of the standout comments was the need for more learning experiences outside. The follow up research found that over 20% of our families didn't have access to a garden or balcony and this spurred us on to develop the project. Thanks to funding from the Wembley Park Community Fund, we started a one-year project. In this time, we've had 3 lots of seeds in our craft packs involving growing cress seed hair for Mother's Day, growing sunflowers and growing lettuce for our families to enjoy.



Thanks to a connection with Amanda, a Chalkhill resident, we were invited to develop an allotment space in the Chalkhill Community Grower's Allotment. This has been successful and looks amazing.

The Sowing Seeds project leader Linda Concannon and her assistant Gina Loosley have done a brilliant job in turning round a site full of weeds, overgrown soil bags and rubbish into a wonderful space for growing things. Despite the challenging weather, they have been there week in, week out and we want to say a huge thank you for all their effort.

Families have loved attending our sessions there and we really hope to build a 'growing' community, so children and adults can experience the satisfaction of eating something they have grown.

There are 2 sessions on a Saturday 10-11am and 11.15am-12.15pm and places can be booked via our website. Do come along and join in if you are able. Please note: Although there may not be any regular sessions at the allotment over the Summer, do keep an eye on our social media pages for details of any Pop-up sessions when families will be welcome to attend.

c/o Daniel's Den St Andrews Church | 956 Harrow Road | Sudbury | HA0 2QA  
Tel: 020 8908 6986 Website: [www.danielsden.org.uk](http://www.danielsden.org.uk)

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# Hybrid Dad's Zone



We ran our very first hybrid Dad's Zone from the allotment in April 2021 and we were able to connect with dads and granddads in Sunderland, Harrow as well as in the allotment.



## Daniel's Den at Home craft packs.

We are so thankful for the funding from The National Lottery Community Fund that helped us produce the first 4 craft packs for our Daniel's Den at Home programme. These have been brilliant, and the pictures shared from Craft Pack 4 speak volumes of the impact.



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# Next craft pack



Distribution of Craft Pack 5 starts on Saturday 3rd July and our new packs can be collected from the in-person, outdoor sessions at our venues plus special pick-up times in other venues – see the details below.

You must be registered with Daniel's Den to receive a pack – and this can be done easily via our website. These craft packs come free of charge and are funded by Daniel's Den.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This will be our last mass production of craft packs as crafts will be available in all our in-person sessions from September 2021.



**New Craft Pack out!**

## New Craft Packs Collection Points

Saturday July 3rd	11-12.30pm	Chalkhill Community Allotment, Wembley HA9 9FF
Tuesday June 29th	9-9.30am	Park Lane Methodist Church, Wembley HA9 7SG
Tuesday June 29th	9.30-10.30 am	St Michael's Stonebridge NW10 8LB
Monday June 28th	9.30-10am	Lewinson Centre , Willesden NW10 2SG
Wednesday June 30th	9.30-10.30am	St Andrews, Sudbury HA0 2QA
Friday July 2nd	10-11am	St Cuthbert's, North Wembley HA0 3QY
Saturday July 3rd		Latymer Community Church, Ladbroke Grove W10 6SU

Look out for the Daniel's Den goes on Bear Hunt event on Saturday July 3rd. Meet at The Yellow at 11am to go on a fun trail walk to the allotment

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# Ripples



One of the things we love about Daniel's Den are the ripples our sessions create. For example, we recently went on a Duck Walk at the Welsh Harp organised by Martha, from Brent Canal and River Trust. She'd seen our activities online and wanted to connect.



Being able to combine an outdoor session in a beautiful part of Brent was fantastic in our 'duck week' and we are looking forward to connecting more in the future.

We also had a fantastic time at our Great Get Together Picnic at King Edwards Park, Wembley. We had a great time and it was lots of fun seeing you all.

## New Website

Our new website was launched at the beginning of May 2021 and the feedback we have received has been really encouraging. A huge thank you goes to Tim Wakeling and our staff team for all their hard work in putting this together. The Pandemic highlighted the need for accessibility to information digitally and our previous website was no longer fit for purpose. Our new site enables you to book sessions in advance and also see what is on offer. It also gives you the opportunity to register online and this will cut down on paperwork, reducing our use of paper and saving trees.

Visit us @  
**www.danielsden.org.uk**

It's Official!  
Our  
NEW  
WEBSITE  
has launched!

## The Great Outdoors!!!

Join us for face to face sessions as we have started a number of outdoor sessions at our St Michael's, St Andrew's and St Cuthbert's venues. We are also holding outdoor sessions with our Sowing Seeds project in the Chalkhill Community Allotment.

Check our website for more information

<https://danielsden.org.uk/sessions-and-events/>

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# Funny Bunny interviews



Every year we have visitors to our sessions, and they provide an excellent source of information and support for families. Of course, this hasn't been possible this year so Funny Bunny is conducting interviews online

So far, we have interviewed Sharon, an oral health educator and Georgette from Brent library service. The interviews are being posted on our social media and YouTube pages.



## Next term

We are hoping to re-open our physical in-person sessions inside our venues in September. This is all dependent on Covid regulations and we will have systems put in place. We will keep you posted of updates via email, our website and social media pages.

### **New Sessions will be starting**

We are delighted to announce that we will be opening a new venue at Chalkhill Community Centre. The details are still to be confirmed, but our website will be updated with the details once they are known. [www.danielsden.org.uk/sessions-and-events/](http://www.danielsden.org.uk/sessions-and-events/)

We are also opening a brand new session on Zoom on Wednesday afternoons between 2pm-2.30pm. This will be run by Jo Gordon and Lynn Storey and will be open to all families around the world!

## Feedback Fortnight

We value feedback from our children, parents, carers, friends and partners and with this in mind, we are running our annual Feedback Fortnight. This year we are very interested in people's perception of Daniel's Den as well as their experiences.

Please complete the survey on our website and feel free to share with your friends. Your feedback matters and many of the things we do at Daniel's Den are as a result of feedback received. The form can be found [here](#) or via the link: [www.danielsden.org.uk/session/feedback-fortnight/](http://www.danielsden.org.uk/session/feedback-fortnight/)

## New staff and volunteers

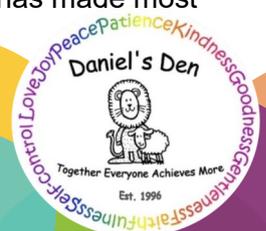
We are delighted to welcome Samuel Attah on to our staff team as our Service Delivery Administrator.

We ran a Volunteers Information Evening followed by an Induction Training session for all those who applied to be a volunteer for Daniel's Den. Interviews, references and DBS checks are being done and we are so thankful for new members joining our volunteer team. Please do email Linda, our Volunteer Co-ordinator, if you are interested in becoming a volunteer [volunteer@danielsden.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@danielsden.org.uk) or visit our [website](#) for more information.

In National Volunteers Week we celebrated our amazing volunteers in a Celebration Evening, which finished with an awards ceremony. All our volunteers had been nominated for different categories and certificates were presented to the winners.

The inaugural **Emma Hay Sunshine Memorial Award** for the volunteer who has made most progress during the year was presented to Alison Ifil.

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# Our volunteers



## Dates for your diary

For your information -

- **Leaver's Certificates** - Do let us know if your child/ren are going on to nursery or reception in September and we will arrange to send them a Daniel's Den Leaver's Certificate. Although they will still be welcome to join in with our Sowing Seeds projects and Pop-up sessions when they are able to.
- **Sowing Seeds** - Although there may not be any regular sessions at the allotment over the Summer, do keep an eye on our social media pages for details of any Pop-up sessions when families will be welcome to attend.
- **Zoom and in-person sessions** - Are held in term time only

June 28<sup>th</sup> > July 2<sup>nd</sup> - Sports Week

June 28<sup>th</sup> > July 11<sup>th</sup> - Feedback Fortnight

July 3<sup>rd</sup> - Last Dad's Zone of the year

- Daniel's Den is Going on a Bear Hunt

July 9<sup>th</sup> - End of Term and last sessions of the academic year. Leavers certificates will be posted

July 10<sup>th</sup> - Distribution of Craft Pack 5 starts

September 13<sup>th</sup> - Autumn Term starts

November 2021 - **25th Birthday Celebrations** for Daniel's Den



Every Saturday throughout the Summer at 10.45am  
Join us and see what will be happening over the next week

Thank you to all who have donated. Because of your funding we've been able to continue to put on our sessions and provide things like the Daniel's Den @ Home Craft Pack. If you would like to support us, please consider donating to us via our website: [www.danielsden.org.uk/support-us/donate/](http://www.danielsden.org.uk/support-us/donate/)

## Finally ...

Daniel's Den would not be able to do what it does without the tireless work of our staff team and volunteers. A huge thank you goes to them for all they contribute to making Daniel's Den what it is. And of course, we wouldn't be what we are without our families and friends. Please do keep spreading the word.

**Jo Gordon, Chief Executive**

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