



NEWSNEWS***NEWS***

ClayArt provide creative memories for families to treasure

On Sunday 13th July ClayArt, on Plymouth's historic Barbican opened their doors especially for Stepping Stone's children and their families. Stepping Stones is a group for children and young people who have a terminally ill parent. Currently there are nearly 20 group members with many more families supported on an individual basis.

The group meet during term time at Plymouth College of Art and allows space to chat, share stories and just have fun away from the stresses and difficulties at home, currently it is only the children and young people that meet. As the summer holidays approach we have set up a programme of events to bring our families together for the first time.

Kim Higham, Stepping Stones Project Coordinator said; "This is the first time that we have run an event for the whole family, it felt really important to bring everyone together when times at home can be very isolating. It was the perfect event for a Sunday morning; really relaxed and it felt like friends getting together. Watching the families totally absorbed in the artistry was fantastic and many treasured memories were made! We'd like to thank everyone at ClayArt for making the morning so special and welcoming our families."

John, one of the parents who attended said: "It was an extremely well run event, my daughter and I thoroughly enjoyed it. The staff were extremely welcoming and encouraging – would recommend this again, it's the first time I've been to a

Stepping Stones event. A big thank you!" Finally John's daughter Leah, age 11 added "It was really fun and I really enjoyed myself and I would love to do it again."

We are so grateful to Caroline and the team at ClayArt and we are looking forward to further events across the summer at the National Marine Aquarium and Dartmoor Zoo.

To find out more about Jeremiah's Journey and our Stepping Stones group please visit: www.jeremiahsjourney.org.uk or to get in touch with our team please call 01752 424348.

Dates for Your Diary

17 th July	The Big Noise Chorus Sun's Out Sing Up	Mutley Baptist Church
27 th Sept	Photo Marathon	Plymouth
28 th Sept	Superhero Skydive	Dunkeswell Airfield
Sat 11 th October	Moulin Rouge Ball	The Duke of Cornwall Hotel, Plymouth
2 nd November	Plymouth Get Up & Go 10k Road Race	The Hoe, Plymouth
December	Christmas Fayre	TBC

ENDS

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Notes for Editors:

1, Jeremiah's Journey was founded in 1996

2, Jeremiah's Journey supports approx. 220 bereaved children and their families in Plymouth and the immediate surrounding area each year.

3, The children who use our service have experienced the death of someone special, the majority of our children have lost a parent.

4, We support families who have been bereaved through a variety of circumstances including long term illness and sudden and often traumatic events e.g. road traffic accidents and suicide. The main part of the support that we offer is through a short term therapeutic group programme which we run in partnership with Plymouth College of Art. This means that we are able to offer a safe space for children to: express their feelings of grief; share their memories of their deceased loved one; and explore ways of coping.

5, With the support of Comic Relief, we have been able to develop a new project called Stepping Stones, which provides support to young people who have a parent with a terminal illness.

6, As a local self-funded charity we want to be able to continue to offer support to those children and their families that need it. This can only be achieved with the generous support of our local community.

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