

"A very very good day in the life of Bilbrook"- A little something for the kids

By Christopher Adams

A forty thousand pound custom skate park design has become a reality to the kids of Codsall and Bilbrook, South Staffordshire, near Wolverhampton.

The project is the result of over a year's planning and funding from the Codsall Community Learning Partnership, the Staffordshire Youth Bank and South Staffordshire Council. The parish councils and local community believed that the skate park was a necessary facility for youngsters within the area. Valerie Chapman, Chairman of Bilbrook Parish Council said: *"It's somewhere for the youngsters to go and let loose their energies in a positive way"*.



Valerie Chapman and Helen Wallet raise a skateboard to commemorate the opening of the park.

Maggie Quinn, Community Safety Manager and Mark Jenkinson the Community Development Officer for South Staffordshire helped to get this project started and see it through to its conclusion. They worked with Robert Marshall, Staffordshire

County Councillor, Valerie Chapman and other local agencies to find the necessary funding.

"A very very good day in the life of Bilbrook" says Robert Marshall as he and Valerie open the Bilbrook skate park on a wet and cold Saturday 28th November. Despite bad weather the local community and youngsters were in high spirits. The park's unique layout was created by David Howse and Rod Carter of "Rampmental Ltd" and designed with strong input from local youngsters. Rampmental make it their prime objective to give the users of the park the best possible area while also understanding and taking into consideration the council's view and the community in general.

David and Rod pride themselves on ensuring that a full RoSPA (Royal Society for the prevention of accidents) safety



inspection is conducted on all the equipment used in the park. "Ramp mental" designs have enjoyed a 100 percent pass rate on all of their skate parks from the very beginning.

The park itself features a large 1.5 metre quarter pipe facing the custom built 7 metre long driveway with grinding ledges down the sides. The custom design incorporates the



kids' idea of a set of stairs opposing a jump ramp on each side of the centre box. Next to the driveway

it has a 1.2 metre spine transfer which faces quarter pipe and flat bank of equal height.

"We are bringing about change for young people in the community"- Valerie Chapman

Despite the vile December weather, David and Rod were able to fully assemble the park within 3 weeks of the start date that was the 2nd November. Local PCSO Dave Layton and the skaters of Codsall posed for a photo to commemorate the opening of the park and represent the



relationship between the young people and the council. It is this relationship that has made this project so successful.