

# CIRCUS CENTRAL NEWS - January 2011

This News Letter gives a brief review of where the **North East Circus Development Trust (NECDT)** is with it's two major projects: Circus Central and Five Ring Circus.

## A reminder of who we are:

The NECDT is a charitable organisation set up to develop the youth, community and professional circus sectors in the region. Our main focus in 2011 and 2012 is the development of Circus Central, turning a collection of buildings into a fantastic and significant new circus training facility and community space. This development is our response to the lack of high-end circus training facilities in the region which has capped the development of young people, artists and the circus arts sector to date.

Along side this we have been developing the Five Ring Circus programme which allows young people to gain regular access to circus training in a social/club setting. The young people we are working with have shown a great deal of enthusiasm and commitment for the Five Ring Circus and many of them who were involved from the beginning are still with us.



## Five Ring Circus Diary –

**April 2010** - The Five Ring Circus started delivering regular term time youth circus clubs aimed at 13-19 year olds, but not exclusively.

**July 2010** – We had our first youth circus festival – with special guests, Spaghetti Circus from Australia. The festival included:

- A Launch event hosted by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle,
- Open Weekend Event called, Circadium, which had 250 people of all ages learning and sharing circus skills. It was held in the Great Hall of the Discovery Museum,
- Circus Outreach in public spaces and in schools performances including workshops all in Tyne and Wear
- Two stage shows at the Tyne Theatre with local and regional young people performing alongside Spaghetti Circus's world class show "Teenager"
- and a fact finding trip by NE youth circus participants to the International Youth Circus Festival in London.
- A series of Master Classes – where Young people were encouraged to share skills.

**Summer Holidays 2010** – We provided many circus activities for the public in the region including workshops and youth circus performances at local and regional events including, **Autumn 2010** – 5 regular Youth Circus clubs are now up and running, in North and South Tyneside, Stockton, and Newcastle, with some activity in Co Durham.

**November 2010** – the Regional Youth Board is formalised with 6 members focussed on Circus Central. Youth Board Members have also been very active with the wider youth project – NE-Generation and are seconded onto their decisions making panels for the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> projects.

There is a lot more information on the projects website – please visit [www.fiveringcircus.net](http://www.fiveringcircus.net) which will give you more of an insight into the project. You can also see videos on our youtube channel by visiting [www.youtube.com/circuscentral](http://www.youtube.com/circuscentral)

In 2011 we are looking forward to developing performance groups with in the clubs as well as a regional performing troupe.



## Circus Central Up Date –

We have been working since 2009 towards developing a circus training facility for the NE. We now are nearing the end of our 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of development.

Which involved the following:

- Commissioning of Surveying of the buildings and Architectural Plans,
- Aerial Rig Designs,
- Business modelling and Project development
- Brochure and website design.
- And preparation of our fundraising launch event will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011.

Our Target is around £1.5million for capital and project development funds to enable the transformation of Christ Church Buildings in Shieldfield, Newcastle into a bespoke circus training centre, turning Circus Central into a regional Hub. With opening date projected to be mid 2012.

Circus Central is possible because of a unique partnership formed in 2009 between the NECDT and Christ Church Parish and Primary School. We have had regular partnership meetings and through these we have established a positive working relationship and together we are looking forward to achieving newly renovated facilities which will significantly benefit the partners, their communities and a wide cross-section of the host community in Shieldfield. The local people have been treated to circus performances on the Green by the local youth circus, as well as visiting artists from Australia, Spaghetti Circus, and Italy.

There are now three regular circus clubs running in the in the school and church halls:

- The After school Circus Club has been running now since April 2010 and has proved very popular with the children, some of whom show great promise, while others are rising enthusiastically to the challenge.
- Newcastle Youth Circus has been running since September 2010 following public workshops in the community,
- And Club Circus Central started in November 2010 – an instant hit for adults wanting somewhere to practice circus – with a group of 75 already signed up on line.

We are delighted to see that some circus professional and tutors are beginning to migrate towards the NE because of our projects. This will greatly contribute to the vibrancy of the community as well as helping the skill base increase. The prospect of Circus Central, the establishment of the Five Ring Circus clubs and the European project which is being run by Let's Circus our delivery partners – are all contributing to establishing, Newcastle and the NE as a place to be for circus activity – when formerly you could say the opposite.

We are very grateful for the support and commitment our funders have shown to Circus Central. In particular we are pleased to have significant support from Newcastle City Council and Ouseburn Ward as well as from the Arts Council of England. We look forward to growing support and hope to have reached our funding target by the end of 2011.

**If you would like to have further information please do not hesitate to contact us.** Our Website will be online soon the address will be [www.circuscentral.com](http://www.circuscentral.com).

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