



Date of release 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020

**A new Prout Bridge Project outreach vehicle could deliver accessible activities and support wellbeing for people of all ages in Beaminster and the surrounding villages**



On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April at 6.30pm local charity The **Prout Bridge Project** launched a campaign to fund a new **Community Outreach Programme via Crowdfunder - #PBPreachingOut**

They need to **buy**, kit out and staff a **vehicle** - so that the charity can remotely provide **support & activities** within **Beaminster** and the **surrounding villages**. People in the area from old to young who usually rely on the support they receive from the charity in Beaminster town centre are in need of their services more than ever.

The Prout Bridge Project is a small charity that makes a big difference. They deliver services for people of all ages in rural West Dorset, operating from the small town of Beaminster.

They provide:

- **youth work and activity clubs for children and young people** from the ages of 8 - 18
- mental health and wellbeing support for people of all ages including a **counselling service** that is **free** to use (age 16+)
- community outreach and **affordable activities** for people of **all ages 0-100+**!

They also work closely with other services including the Food Bank and the Police, and host sessions for specialist organisations like the Space Youth Project (a safe space for Dorset's LGBTQ+ young people) and Shores (support for victims of sexual abuse).

You can find out more about them by visiting: [proutbridgeproject.com](http://proutbridgeproject.com)

Achieving their #PBPreachingOut campaign fundraising target will allow them to:

- Offer **fun, play and social reconnection** for their young people, with youth clubs and summer activity days running through the summer and beyond, including dance, sports, arts, crafts and games.
- Be there for young people to turn to for **support and information**, including support with issues like bullying, anxiety and low confidence.
- Fight **loneliness and isolation** by running community coffee mornings, food and a friendly ear
- Help people get back to health with **sports and fitness** activities for people of all ages
- Extend the reach of **Beaminster Food Bank**, by delivering essential supplies to households in need who can't get to Beaminster for collection.
- Offer **advice services** to help people **build back after Covid**, including a regular job club and Citizen's Advice drop-ins.

This year has been tough for all of us, and the Prout Bridge Project knows through their work that people of all ages have struggled. Throughout the pandemic the charity has been busy helping people accessing their **free counselling service** and **outreach youth workers** but they have been unable to run their programme of youth clubs and community activities for people of all ages.

**#PBPreachingOut** is their response to calls from across the area from people, who need support from Prout Bridge Project, many of whom are unable to travel or are isolating but need help more than ever. The outreach vehicle will allow the charity to offer services out and about in **Beaminster** (e.g. Memorial Playing Fields, skate park and the Square) and **surrounding villages** (e.g. Broadwindsor, Mosterton, Drimpton, Marshwood, Salway Ash).

**The total programme costs they must raise for 2021 is £30k to purchase, kit out, run and staff the vehicle.** Thanks to a few generous supporters including Comic Relief and Dorset Council, **one third of this target is already secured**, but now they need you to help them get the rest!

Many organisations and individuals within the area are offering their support including Dorset Youth Association, the High Sheriff of Dorset, the Police and local Schools. Celebrities Martin and Phillipa Clunes are also wholeheartedly backing the campaign.

You can find their Crowdfunder page by visiting - [crowdfunder.co.uk/pbpreachingout](https://crowdfunder.co.uk/pbpreachingout)

People don't have to exclusively donate through the Crowdfunder page as cheques can be made out to "Prout Bridge Project" or cash can be put in an envelope and put through the letterbox of Prout Bridge Project, 28 North Street, Beaminster, Dorset, DT8 3DY.

If you are unable to donate please still share this project with your friends and family – with the power of our community we can make this happen for this vital charity.

They are so grateful for your support and will continue to update you with their progress.

## Quotes

"The Prout Bridge Project is an absolutely vital service for Beaminster [...] having a hub where the community can gather and have access to a large variety of services, activities and clubs (including the arts which we are particularly interested in ) is integral to contributing to a healthy community, both mentally and physically"

**Martin and Philippa Clunes**

'...there's a great deal of rural isolation and hidden poverty in the area... the importance of the youth club and activities run by the Prout Bridge Project cannot be underestimated'

**Keith Hales Headteacher Beaminster School**

"I hope you realise how much of a part you have played in helping my daughter gain her confidence and smile again. It is so appreciated. I honestly don't think she and us would have got as far as we have without you. You have been a massive part of her recovery."

**A parent**

I was in the darkest place I had ever felt, unable to cope with the depression that had been affecting me for months, driving me deeper and deeper into a hole where I not only felt alone, scared and worried for my own safety, but I also believed that I needed to change. With the loving care, help and support from Prout Bridge I am living and breathing here today. They saved my life."

**Counselling Service User**

For further information please contact:

**Vikki Park, Trustee, Prout Bridge Project**



[vikki@proutbridgeproject.com](mailto:vikki@proutbridgeproject.com)

[www.proutbridgeproject.com](http://www.proutbridgeproject.com)

[www.crowdfunder.co.uk/pbpreachingout](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/pbpreachingout)

**Charity No: 1169903**