

news from Novi Most **New Bridge** Spring 2024

pioneering youth work in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mało Plivsko
Lake -Jajce

@novimost   

A warm welcome to this edition of New Bridge. As we come together following Easter we are reflecting on the new life that this season brings and sharing the work that is taking place with our young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Also, we have some updates on opportunities to connect and engage with us in the UK. We hope you enjoy this edition of New Bridge.

A Breath of Fresh Air and Adventure: An Interview with the Heart behind the Hiking Excursion

In the realm of creating unforgettable memories and cultivating a love for nature, our local worker Budo in Jajce, has found a unique way to bring joy to young people in the community. We had the pleasure of catching up on what's been going on. What emerged was a tale of spontaneity, laughter, and the simple pleasures of outdoor activities. For a long time the outdoors has been a place of beauty and danger in Bosnia and Herzegovina as many landmines have been left littering the mountains following the war.

When asked about a recent highlight, Budo couldn't resist sharing, "You know, it all started quite spontaneously, we had organised this hiking event from the town to the lake. It's not just any hike; it's a journey filled with exploration, laughter, and bonding. We walk around, soak in nature, and just have fun together."

The excitement in his voice was palpable as he recounted the experiences, especially highlighting the joy it brought to the young people. "But kids, oh, the kids really enjoy it. Especially John," He said with a chuckle. "John was really excited. I didn't think he would be keen on coming, you know, but he surprised us all. And boy, can he eat! He's a funny kid, truly." It's clear that these outings are more than just walks; they're adventures that leave lasting impressions on these young explorers.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Budo is already planning the next adventure. "We did it twice so far, but this Saturday, we're spicing things up with some volleyball at the lake. It's not just about the sport; it's about the journey there, walking together, experiencing the outdoors as a group."

From the sound of it, these events are a hit among all age groups, providing a perfect blend of physical activity, social interaction, and connection with nature. As our conversation wrapped up, it was clear that this isn't just a series of events; it's a growing activity that brings joy, health, and a sense of adventure to everyone involved. Whether you're a kid at heart like Budo or someone looking for a fun way to spend your Saturday, there's something truly special about getting out and walking through the beauty of the nature that surrounds us.

Sharing our story in the UK

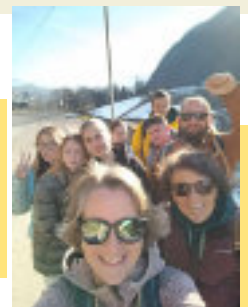
We are excited to announce that Novi Most will be at Spring Harvest Minehead and also the Big Church Festival. Please come and find us in the Expo areas to meet with the team and share more about the vision we have for the young people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As part of turning 30 years old on the 4th July, we are creating a new fundraising pack. With the help of our young adults in Bosnia and Herzegovina it is packed with ideas from Youth Clubs for adults, to a Bosnia and Herzegovina themed cook off. There are amazing ideas to help raise funds to change lives in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Contact Phill for more info on how to get a pack.

Phill would love to hear from any of our supporters and if your church would like a visit from the Novi Most team then he would be delighted to arrange that!

You can contact Phill via email:
phill@novimost.org

On the
way to
the
Lake



Mało
Plivsko
Lake

A beautiful
location for
changing lives
in Bosnia and
Herzegovina



How Baking is connecting our young people in Mostar

At the heart of our vibrant tapestry of youth programmes lies a simple yet profound philosophy: the best way to serve our young people is by listening to their voices and turning their aspirations into reality. This ethos has not only shaped our journey but has also painted our efforts with strokes of creativity, warmth, and inclusivity. Imagine a canvas where every color represents a different activity or interest of the youth we serve, creating a masterpiece that is as diverse as it is beautiful. This is the story of how a few voices led to the creation of a space filled with laughter, faith, and the sweet aroma of baked goods.

It all began with a conversation, a spark ignited by the curiosity and desires of a few young girls. They approached Indria with a simple yet heartfelt request, "Can you teach us to cook? We don't get the chance to do it at home." In this moment, a new chapter of our journey unfolded. Indria, embodying our ethos of listening and creating, embraced this request with open arms. What started as a small cooking group has now flourished into a thriving community. This isn't just a place where recipes are exchanged; it's a sanctuary where life's lessons are shared, where discussions about faith and the future are as common as the flour on their aprons, and where every session promises a delicious treat.

However, our dreams are as vast as the flavours we wish to explore. Our current resources, including the absence of an oven and limited cooking equipment, have not dampened our spirits, but they have curtailed our culinary adventures. We dream of the day when we can experiment with recipes that require baking and beyond. Imagine the possibilities - the joy of pulling a perfectly golden loaf of bread from the oven, the excitement of decorating cookies for a community event, or the warmth of sharing a freshly baked pie. This dream can only become a reality with the generous support of our donors. Together, we can equip our kitchen with the tools needed to not only enhance our cooking programme but to also enrich the lives of the young people we serve. Join us in this delicious journey of growth, learning, and community building.

Strengthening trust through the arts

Over the last 3 months, in her role as leader of Jajce town wind band, Rowan has been involved in a project called 'Možemo bolje' or "We can do better". This project has been funded by the European Union. Over the last 18 months the project was started in 24 local communities in BiH, with the aim of strengthening trust and cohesion and one of these local communities is Jajce.

In Jajce 'Hrvatski Napredak', the Croatian cultural society, was the lead organisation for the project which took the form of setting up an amateur theatre company open to people of all ages and backgrounds. Together this group of people wrote an original play called 'Please don't block my sun'. The play follows 5 characters as they go through the process of learning to stand up for what is right and to go against the pressures to conform even when they are rejected for it. Rowan was asked to write the music for the play and to organise a small orchestra to play the music for the performances. The orchestra was made up of young people from the Jajce town wind band and violin students from Novi Most.

Rowan said,

'We have now performed the play in Jajce, Travnik, Sarajevo and Gornji Vakuf/Uskoplje and we have invitations to perform in several more places. Over 500 people came to our first performance and many have told us how the message of the play impacted them and left them thinking about it for a few days afterwards. Some were even moved to tears. By working together on this project the actors and musicians have got to know people they would not have otherwise met and have made new friendships with people from different age groups and backgrounds.'



novimost.org



Novi Most International,
Lee Common Methodist Church,
Oxford Street, Lee Common, Bucks HP16 9JP
Telephone: 01494 793242
Email: chesham@novimost.org

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in Bosnia and Herzegovina

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