

ATWORTH YOUTH CLUB CHARITY 305462.
ANNUAL REPORT Sept 2007-Sept 2008

2008 has probably shown the highest standard of youth work since the Club was re-opened in August 1996.

Our premises are in good order, with a new roof, a fine Porch, and repainted/covered windows. The exterior 'Damp Course' installed by a talented builder who was found quite by chance has been put to the test with weeks of heavy rain throughout the year. Not a drop of rain has penetrated the social area. Unfortunately blocked ditching caused by Southern Electricity Board and the adjacent property causes water to penetrate into the corner Girls' toilet area. The cost of resolving this would be phenomenal, so we meekly 'mop up' each time a puddle is found. The onus is on Neston Estates in regard to ditching.

The PROGRAMME between September 2007/September 2008 has been superb because Mrs Dawn Rossi offered to take responsibility for organising Outings and exterior Events. Dawn also commenced to organise Craft sessions. Mrs Sharon Mortimer then offered to assist Dawn, and was joined by Mrs Bonita Harris. Prolonged illness prevented Ms Nicola Carter from attendance. Nicola has been a staffing member for eight years, and her name was put forward to the Wiltshire County Youth Service Awards. Nicola was too unwell to attend. Dawn and a small group of members attended the Ceremony on her behalf. Atworth Youth Club has benefited from £100 from this Award.

PUBLICITY. Details of our progress are provided in Atworth Village Magazine each month. It is hoped that by this publicity, the community of Atworth will realise the importance and benefit of having a Youth Club which offers social, sport and art enjoyment to youngsters over the age of ten years.

MEMBERSHIP. Attendance has topped 30 per session. This is a 'physical' challenge for staffing in the limited space available. In consequence, a Waiting List is held. There are 46 registered memberships, covering 5 different Schools.

SESSIONS. The successful and enjoyable sessions of the last year have been due to staffing. Thomas McMahon, Eddie Miles, Nancy Vost, have been dedicated Support Staff but they will no doubt be moving on to university placements. Nancy has provided personal to Immi Cainey, who has Special Needs. Dawn, Sharon, Wendy, are all Parents who have given vast chunks of their time.

PRACTICAL SUPPORT. Running a Youth Club requires a lot of 'ancillary' support help. Thanks are recorded to Mr and Mrs Hughes, who have removed/collected heavy items in Mr Hughes' lorry including a second-hand pool table from Sells Green.

ATWORTH PARISH COUNCIL. Councillor William Bird retired from A.P.C. at the end of the Summer, and in September the Youth Club invited past staff to attend a Dinner at Shaw Hotel in William's honour. A painting of Atworth Clock Tower was presented to Margaret and William to acknowledge their strong and continuous

support from 1995. Margaret continues to visit us for one session per month. A.P.C. are the Trustees of the Building, and provide insurance for the premises.

OVER FOURTEENS ONLY.

After months of paperwork and representation, A.Y.C. were awarded funds through Wiltshire Community Foundation to finance separate Thursday sessions for Over Fourteens Only. Part-time staffing was paid from the Fund. Sessions ran for the six months of Autumn and Winter. A programme of interesting activities was compiled with those who attended. This included Healthy Eating, Music Xpress sessions, Bowling. The Scheme ended in March 2008 with a Chinese Supper enjoyed by fifteen young people.. In July 2008 another funding application was placed under the Young Peoples Opportunity Fund (Government based) in the hopes that another six months could be available to local youngsters over fourteen years, for the following Autumn/ Winter 2008/09.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS. Dawn Rossi is herself a Medallist. Dawn valiantly offered to be the Club Organiser for this prestigious and demanding involvement, which requires monitoring challenges, and liaising with the D of E staff at County Hall. Dawn therefore attends alternate Over Fourteens Sessions to monitor and organise the galaxy of training opportunities for this challenging scheme.

FINANCES. We have been without a treasurer for several years. Ken King has continued therefore as Book Keeper. Mr Derek Edwards has been a meticulous Auditor. The accounts are onerous, complicated, and extremely important to the welfare of Atworth Youth Club as audited Accounts must accompany any Funding Application. Income has frequently topped £10-£20,000. Our 'stable income' of is far from sufficient. Much time and effort must be spent trying to obtain outside funding. We have been and are still indebted to Mr Anthony Fuller, who through his Company has provided an annual Grant. This was raised to £1,000 in the current year. Audited Accounts will accompany this Report.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE. We have a Management Committee, and Chairman, meeting four times per year to monitor the wellbeing of the Club and premises.

CLUB LEADERSHIP. During 2007/8 the Club Leader suffered illness which caused a long period of poor health. Preparations of Sessions, fund-raising, and liaising with the County Youth Service, easily amounts to a minimum of ten hours per week. Attendance at evening meetings in various parts of the County which are all connected to the Youth Club adds to the commitment. Mrs Dawn Rossi has been an important support throughout 2007/8 giving a great deal of time and assistance.

It is hoped that 2009 will attract more personnel to provide new leadership, and competent support. The Management Committee must work towards this, rather than allow the Club to fail.

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