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# The Cookham Youth Project

## AGM 2002

Registered Charity No. 292103

### **A Note from the Chairman**

Once again it is time to report on the activities of the Cookham Youth Project. The Project has been going for four years now and we have had the most enormous amount of support from the residents and organisations of Cookham, particularly when earlier this year we thought that we may not be able to continue with all our activities due to a cash shortage. In fact when this was reported by the Maidenhead Advertiser we had an overwhelming response and offers of support.

The future looks exciting, we have a very successful Youth Club running on Monday nights very effectively by Pam Forrester and Sue Teasdale with some extremely able and enthusiastic helpers and we have been thinking of opening a Thursday night one too. We have also embarked on an Outreach Project run by Youth Leader Earl Nanton and assisted by Dave Walker who is the Youth Worker for Holy Trinity.

I would like to thank everyone who has been involved with the Cookham Youth Project over the last year, the donors, the helpers and the supporters and the young people. Without all of you it would not have been possible.

**Liz Kwantes** - (Chairman Cookham Youth Project)

### **MONDAY NIGHT YOUTH CLUB**

The Youth Club for the 11 to 14 year olds continues to thrive. The start of a new academic year in September with the resultant school changes that affect this age group meant that we held our breath & kept our fingers crossed when we restarted the youth club after the summer break. Our fears have proved to be unfounded & the numbers have continued to swell with each week that passes. We now have a regular attendance of approximately 20 young people, with on average half boys & half girls.

We have a number of new faces as well as some who were regular attendees last year, so we feel that we are able to integrate new members in to the club. So far they have been quite happy to take advantage of the mild weather & play outside or just mooch about inside with the pool table, table tennis & darts. Chatting & listening to music interspersed with decisions about what sweets to buy from the tuck shop are still the main activities on their agenda. We will be planning some future activities for them through the Berkshire Association for Clubs for Young People (BACYP), which we have done before, (an arts & craft evening plus another on circus type acts have proved popular in the past). Wall climbing has also fared well.

We have been particularly blessed with the volunteers that have stepped in to the brink to help run the club. Our regular helpers are Pete Lineham, Jacqueline Frost & Alison Parry who all have daughters who are members of the club, plus Dave Walker, the youth worker at Holy Trinity Church, who has been a particular god send! Last but not least, Steve Taylor. Steve was recruited by the Borough to help us run the club & he is gradually taking on more & more responsibility so making our lives easier & our time keeping more reliable!!

However, running the club is a big commitment & we are always looking for helpers as this would enable us to branch out & try different things. So if you are interested please come & join us on a Monday night & let's see what we can all do.

As a final note we would like to thank the cricket club for continuing to let us use their facilities which seem to be ideally suited to our needs. However, the biggest thank you must surely go to the young people themselves, they are a great bunch & they make it a pleasure to be involved with the club.

Pam Forrester & Sue Teasdale

## Cookham Youth Outreach project

Dave Walker

Since May 2002 Earl Nanton and Dave Walker have been undertaking research on behalf of the Cookham Youth Project in partnership with the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. The aim of the project has been to contact young people and ask them for their views regarding the facilities and activities available to them in Cookham and give them a chance to put forward suggestions as to future developments in youth provision.

The early weeks were spent planning how we would undertake the research and establishing where and when were the best times to find young people in order to talk to them. The detached youthwork phase of the research got going over the summer months when at least a couple of hours a week was spent in public spaces in Cookham talking to young people. In addition we talked to shopkeepers, the Police and others with views about young people in the village. Some weeks there were plenty of young people around and we were able to have a number of useful conversations whereas on other occasions the streets were virtually deserted. But in any case enough information was gathered to enable us to proceed to the next stage.

This began in late August onwards as a questionnaire was compiled using the information we had gathered and responses began to be collected. At the time of writing this process is continuing with a number of questionnaires completed but still more required before any recommendations can be made. It is hoped that this more quantifiable data from the questionnaire results will help the Cookham Youth project to know the way forward as to future youth provision within the village.

## Young people at Holy Trinity Church Cookham

Dave Walker

A new weekly event for secondary school aged young people has started this term at Holy Trinity Church. 'Sunday Nights@the Centre' happens (surprisingly enough) at the Parish Centre on Sunday evenings and aims to give young people a safe environment in which to meet their friends. As well as playing snooker, football and other games each evening has something to encourage the young people to think about the world around them – this might include an optional discussion, an activity such as signing a petition or carrying out a practical task of some kind. These evenings are supplemented by a range of other activities – these include our Amnesty Breakfasts where letters are written about human rights issues, a discussion group and 'alternative worship' where young people and others explore spirituality in new ways. The young people have also taken part in such events as the Jubilee weekend service as well as other aspects of the life of the church and community. Details of activities for young people at Holy Trinity are on the website: [www.h3y.info](http://www.h3y.info).

<b>COOKHAM YOUTH PROJECT</b>		
<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE as at 30 June 2002</b>		<b>£</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	King's Hall Trust	250.00
	Maidenhead & Windsor Volunteer Centre	20.00
	Cookham Dean Tennis and Croquet Tournament	200.00
	Cookham Dean Fete	130.00
	The Fabulous Shirtlifters	250.00
	Maidenhead Advertiser Donation	1,000.00
	Grant RBWM 2002/2003	1,000.00
	Kaffirs of Cookham Dean Donation	250.00
	Interest	21.84
	Membership	396.00
	Food/Tuck	186.94
	<b>3,704.78</b>	
	=====	
<b>Payments</b>	Cricket Club Rent	1,261.00
	Food/Tuck	215.23
	Miscellaneous	398.96
	<b>1,875.19</b>	
	=====	
	<b>Surplus</b>	<b>1,829.59</b>
		=====
	<b>Cash at Nationwide</b>	<b>7,386.24</b>
	Owed for salaries, rent and Outreach work (est )	<b>4,863.00</b>

Chris Hughes-Rees FCA, MBA — Honorary Treasurer