

COOKHAM YOUTH PROJECT ACTIVITIES January – June 2007

The Monday Night Club continues to be particularly active. We have had various activities during the Spring and Summer terms. The Berkshire Association of Young People have brought their SPLAT team along three times with Dodge Ball, Parachute Games and Hoppin' Mad which were incredibly popular. We are rather concerned that they may be losing their government funding as the SPLAT team has been a fantastic facility for us and probably for many other groups in the area.

At the Cricket Club we have had the popular evening Cooking with Kathy, a Fun Quiz, Karaoke, a Barbecue and an Easter Egg Extravaganza. We have also been ten pin bowling and had a visit to the cinema. We also had a pasta/pizza evening.

From a sports point of view we organised a match between the Cookham Dean Colts and the Youth Club, we have had a Boules evening and we had also organised for a Wycombe Wanderers trainer to come along on a Saturday morning for a taster training course, unfortunately we were rained off, but we are planning to try again in September and have leafleted the local schools.

We also got rained out on a Treasure Hunt and a walk along the Thames with a fish and chip supper, only the fish and chip supper survived. We had also started to design a short film for the Cookham Festival but unfortunately the Festival's sponsor for this activity pulled out.

The third week of July in conjunction with the Borough and Parish Council we are having the Leisure Unit back again on the Alfred Major Recreation ground and hope the rain stays away.

In August we are visiting Woodrow High House near Amersham for a camping trip over the weekend before the Bank Holiday. This is the first time we have tried anything like this and everyone is very excited. We have had support from the scouts on setting up kit lists and people have offered tents and other camping items. We shall be visiting the site in advance for a risk assessment, so we will have some idea of what to expect. We have told everyone to take stout shoes and lots of plastic bags to wrap up wet items. Woodrow High House is owned by London Council, for the use of young people. If the camping trip goes well, we are planning to go there again early next year and use their residential facilities, which allows us to use the swimming pool and other activities there which we cannot do while camping.

We have set up a sub group to talk to Year 6 pupils in the local primary schools and let them know about facilities for young people in Cookham. We have someone who is a professional PR person to head a team of three people and he is organising flyers for the schools and posters.

The Cricket Club where we hold the Monday evening Youth Club are planning a total refurbishment of the facilities and are looking to raise £450,000 for this. The Youth Project has been included in the project planning with members of the management committee being asked to sit on the committees dealing with the refurbishment.

We are always looking for volunteers and Liz Kwantes attended a meeting of Rotoract in Maidenhead to see if they would be interested in offering some help.

Cookham is working on a Village Plan and the Youth Project has been giving input to them on environmental facilities for young people and also on youth activities that could be included in the plan.

We are currently working on the Autumn programme and on planning a trip to Thorpe Park in September.