

COOKHAM YOUTH PROJECT ACTIVITIES July – December 2007



In August 2007 we took a group of young people camping, which was a new venture. This proved a great success and there were requests for this to be repeated possibly during the Easter holidays in 2008. The camping was in the grounds of Woodrow House near Amersham, which is a country house owned by the London Youth Clubs. It is located right up in the Chilterns and is in a lovely location. The camping area included benches, a camp fire, a barbecue, a covered area and tables. It was in lovely wooded surroundings with lots of room to run around. Everyone had

taken their own or borrowed tents and there were around fourteen tents altogether, of all sizes. Unfortunately the weekend was one of the wettest of the summer, but this did not dampen the spirits of the young people who even organised a barbecue in the rain. There were gaps in the rain for some games of football and the opportunity to explore the Chilterns, which the young people loved and they came back with all sorts of stories of their adventures.

Also during the summer holidays we had the Mobile Leisure Unit on the Alfred Major Recreation ground in Cookham, this is organised with Cookham Parish Council and is supplied by the Royal Borough and the Berkshire Association of Clubs for Young People. It is available for five days and there is no charge for this.

The Monday Night Club continues to be particularly active. We have had various activities during the Autumn term. The Berkshire Association of Young People have brought their SPLAT team along twice with Dodge Ball and Hoppin' Mad which are always incredibly popular. We also took the young people to Coral Reef in Bracknell which proved to be extremely popular and will be repeating it in the Spring term.

For the Spring term we are arranging a Martial Arts evening, this is also a new venture. We have also arranged an evening for the young people to be introduced to the police and the new PCSOs, so they can get to know them.

Cookham has had quite a lot of vandalism and car crime recently and we do seem to have a gang who cause problems in the village. We have tried to talk to them and some of them seem interested in taking part in Martial Arts, so in discussions with the police we are looking at the possibility of trying to set up some sort of training facility.

In the Autumn Term we started football training on Saturday mornings with a training coach from Wycombe Wanderers. This proved a popular activity and will continue into the Spring term, although not the summer when the football season will have finished.