

Debenham Youth Club:

The High Suffolk Centre (Youth Club) is used by a Girls' Group every other Monday evening – 7.00 – 9.00pm; as an "Open Youth Club" on Wednesdays (7.15 – 9.30); as a project evening on Thursdays (7.15 – 9.30) and our aim is to make it available once a Month on Fridays for "Live Music" 7.00pm to 10.30, and every other Friday for live music practice.

Mondays – Girls' Group and we have also run 2 Babysitting courses a year on Mondays from 5.30 to 7.00pm. The course leads to an AQA accreditation.

Wednesdays: Open Club & Girls' football

Young people can use the facilities and equipment available – Pool, Table football, Table tennis, darts, DJing, TV, Radio/CD and access to the Internet. There is the opportunity to make drinks, and some refreshments have been available. The young people have the opportunity to speak to staff about their successes and raise any issues of concern to them. It is an alcohol and smoke free, safe place to be.

There is also a girls' football group – this started from scratch on Gary French's initiative and has developed into an extremely successful team

Over the last year, the staff have used the activities and resources to work on:

- * Citizenship – What it means to be part of a community. What is a community? Work on Anti Social Behaviour.
- * Skin care and the dangers of sunbathing, use of sun screening.
- * Using the Internet to access information and support – Source-me.
- * Encouraging young people in the club to use their artistic skills. Using "The Big Draw" which takes place on one Saturday of the year.
- * Sexual health – information about testicular, ovarian cancer, contraception, STIs. The staff will be taking further training on this and linking with local health workers.
- * Surveying young people on their wants and needs.

Thursdays: Project Evening

The projects offered to young people were:

Drama, Art, DJing, Photography, film making. At the moment, photography is being offered to year 8, but there have been no takers as yet.

Fridays:

Last year we ran a number of successful "Open Mic" sessions on a Friday evening, initiated by Mike Carpenter and Kate Scott. They ran from 7.00pm to 10.00/10.30pm once a month. Numbers of young people attending varied between 45 and 90. The performers used equipment belonging to Mike Carpenter and his family. James Dixon, Alfie Carpenter and Kim Moore were the leading group of young people organising and running the evening's events.

We have not been able to reinstate these evenings yet, due to disruption from building works at the High Suffolk Centre and many of the band members who have played before, are now taking their exams.

However, as I said at the beginning, we plan to run these live music sessions as soon as possible, with regular opportunities for practice sessions on other Fridays.