

Debenham Youth Club Annual Report 23/5/11

The youth club has continued to run an open access night every Wednesday evening during term time. The regular Thursday evenings were halted due to staffing problems; however the facilities were used on a fairly regular basis for youth meetings such as Project D and the Youth Council.

The youth club was being accessed regularly by 20-30 young people throughout the year, until the cut backs were announced by SCC. This had a disheartening effect on many of the young people. Consequently attendance fell during the period of uncertainty while we were working to come up with a plan to save the youth club. However, several of the older users have stuck with us and have moved from feeling “powerless” to save the youth club to coming up with ideas for activities/ trips and fundraising ideas to pay for travel etc.

On 8th May the team decided to organise a trip to Thorpe Park in Surrey. 10 adult helpers and 40 young people from Debenham and the surrounding villages took part. The day was hugely successful and was enjoyed by all, so much so that the young people are planning other trips as indicated above.

The Future:

As from 1st August the youth club in Debenham will be run by a partnership between the Forge Church and the community. Youth workers from the Forge will lead this partnership and will be assisted by volunteers from the community and the church. A meeting to discuss the detail is planned for early June.

Current youth provision on Wednesday evenings will end 25/5/11. At the moment we have no firm confirmation as to whether we have paid youth workers or not after this date. The plan however, is to take into account that the light evenings, the warm weather and exams tend to affect the numbers attending after half term, so any paid hours will be used to staff planned, dedicated activities that are currently being arranged – for example, the youth council Under 18’s Club night planned for 15th July at DS&L.

The current team and the new team are working together to plan several one off activities to take place over the summer period and some taster sessions for the young people – we are hopeful that we can provide an activity every week. We will also be liaising with the Youth Council and Project D who are also arranging activities – so a busy summer could be on the cards?

The new youth club will be launched in September at the start of term – details to follow.

We would like to thank everyone who has worked with us to ensure the future of the youth club. Many people have helped in many ways. We would also like to formally thank Sarah, Gary, Abbie and Emma who have continued to provide the service and work with and support our young people, especially face with the uncertain future they have and continue to face.