

# Youth Matters !!!!

## West Flank Youth Club Summer Activities

In search of fun this summer, Jocelyne, the Area Youth worker with Milton Keynes Council and her Support Workers explored the estates.

“With sports kit, art kit and a gazebo tent we travelled to all the main play areas to set up activities with young people. Depending on the weather and other factors attendance varied, but it was a good way for the new Youth Workers to get out and meet young people on their home turf. We talked about current youth issues, where to go and what to do. This is helpful as we are going to set up more youth activities across the Shenley Church End Parish area.”

The Youth Service also organised 3 summer residentials: 1 sailing and 2 Outdoor Adventure Activity trips to the Lake District, staying at the councils Longrigg Centre. A group of Crownhill Youth Club members attended the 1st Longrigg residential with staff: Jocelyne, Mark, Mike, Helen & Ashley.

“A nice gentle gully walk was just what was needed after a long coach ride, little did we know it would involve climbing ‘gentle’ waterfalls! The forecast was too wet to sleep out on the beach that night so a midnight orienteering challenge introduced us to the local wildlife and hilly terrain. The next day we had



a choice of challenges, a long distance Zip wire, a ‘dry’ gully walk and caving. The Zip was HUGE! And gave everyone a thrilling sense of achievement, even if they only managed standing at the top of the cliff! The ‘dry’ gully walk was a con! Beautiful as it was ...in full flood dry it was not, but boy did we get a rush out of climbing up it/over it/in it/through it. Sometimes the pressure of the water stuck our wellie clad feet to the rocks, we needed ropes and hands to

pull and push us up the water fall. And yes most of us got very wet, some of us had unplanned swims!

Unfortunately it made the caving seem mild just a bit smaller and darker. At this point we need to congratulate Mike for getting out of the cooking by breaking 2 fingers in the minibus door ... we salute you!



Wednesday we paddled the length of Coniston water and saw the markers where the Blue Bird was timed (the British boat which attempted the water speed record in 1967). Despite this big effort the young people still had enough energy to stay awake during most of the overnight bivouac out in the hills with just a sleeping bag and a tarpaulin to keep away the elements. The last activity was the lunatic leap of a high rock into the river, it lives up to its name! Then the final and probably hardest challenge was to tidy up the hostel, it was a very quiet journey home! I would like to thank all the young people and staff, who took part in all the activities including the cooking of dinner, washing up, and sorting equipment, you were all great fun to be with. It was an outstanding trip.”

**Future Notes:** Monday Night - Crownhill Youth Club Split Junior and Senior time has now started: Junior 6 pm - 7.30, Seniors 8 – 9 pm, subs is 50 pence per night. Friday Night Multi sports 6-8 pm @ Hazeley school, we hope to continue but indoors, we will keep you informed.

**Good News!** Jocelyne will soon have more staff to help run extra youth activities the plan is to have another open youth club, a project night, a members/helpers committee, and an information drop-in. She will also be seen in Hazeley Academy on Thursdays.

Jocelyne is now based in the offices of Shenley Church End Parish Council and hopes to get to know this area and its residents soon.