



The President of the National Association of Youth Clubs Angus Ogilvy buying items from the G.A.Y.C. stall at the Christmas Cracker Bazaar held at Chelsea Town Hall. Photo left to right - Mrs. Terry Tryeman, Angus Ogilvy, Mrs. Ann Mentz, Mr. Allen Mentz (Chairman G.A.Y.C.).

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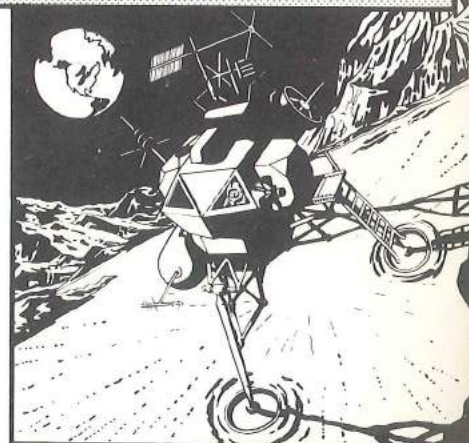
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FOREWORD

The challenge of youth work is greater than at any time I have known. This can be illustrated by reference to two matters which are of current concern.

We are confronted by the very real problem of defining and maintaining standards by which an Association like ours may be judged, given that we work in a society where the senses of the young are bombarded by sets of conflicting values to which they respond in many different ways. It is a year since we held our Bishops court Conference, when representatives of the Association reaffirmed our role of service to member organisations. In particular, we emphasized the importance of recreational and leisure time activities in the belief that they create opportunities for young people to develop personal relationships whilst, at the same time, developing resources of skill and interest. Since this is one of our most important services to clubs we have, for many years, organised large scale events when hundreds of boys and girls have come together in order to compete in a variety of games and activities. The amount of work and resources put into this have been considerable. Therefore, it is disconcerting to observe that, instead of creating a basis for friendship and the development of valued qualities of personality, we may well be providing a platform for anti-social and depersonalizing behaviours. I have been concerned, especially, about an increase in the use of crude language as a matter of every day expression. Add to this the creation of litter-strewn surroundings - and incipient aggression and violence - and I am led to believe that we shall need to reappraise the means by which we can serve the needs of our member organisations.

Second, I believe that the time has come when we must consider possibilities of service which our

Bishops court Conference rated low in order of priority in the conviction that clubs are our prime concern. Maybe we are too narrow in this concept of responsibility. The needs of young people go well beyond those which relate to club membership as a leisure time activity. There is, indeed, a cruel irony in the fact that many boys and girls spend days of enforced leisure because they are unable to find a corresponding working life. What we must ask is whether we might develop other aspects of service to young people. Can we break new ground whilst maintaining support for organised clubs? Can we go beyond the immediate provision and support of programme activities and respond to the social and economic needs of boys and girls whether they are club members or not?

Certainly, we live in challenging times but the past year has added one more chapter of evidence which records the richness of the resources which the Association brings to its task. Once more it is my privilege to express appreciation to all who have given their support. We have a loyal and devoted full-time and voluntary staff and to this we have welcomed Fred Davidson as Field Officer for Gloucester. In addition, we have been very fortunate in having Jeff Lewis through the Job Creation Programme. I am especially grateful, also, for the continued support of the honorary officers and the committee members elected and co-opted. In this year of our move from St. Aldate Street I would like to record our thanks to Mr. George Turner, our Honorary Solicitor, who takes such an interest in the Association and whose guidance is so valuable. Finally, this has been a year of many special fund raising efforts. Let us remember that we depend upon those who support us with money and let us be thankful for their generosity.

Alan Meade

SATURDAY SPECTACULAR

On the 8th July teams of young people from GAYC and Glosaid took part in sponsored events in Kings Square, Gloucester, to raise money for their own organisations and Toc H

The three events were indeed spectacular, the young people climbed up and down scaffolding towers until they had achieved a height equivalent of climbing Everest. Others pedalled training bikes until they had travelled 860 miles - the distance from John O'Groats to Lands End, and the third group paddled baths back and forth across the pool until they had covered the distance from Dover to Calais. The Mayor of Gloucester visited the event, and supported the young people by peddling a short distance on the bikes.

The publicity that this event gave to young people was excellent, and the comment of one spectator is worth recording. She said "Isn't it a pleasure to see so many young people enjoying themselves. These are the ones who should get all the publicity not the odd one or two who are always getting into trouble".

The team of people who organised the event learned much from the occasion, and hope that it will become an annual event. Thanks are due to Glosaid and Toc H for their capable support and assistance.



Jeff Lewis is a qualified teacher with a Bachelor of Education degree. The Association have been lucky enough to acquire his services thanks to the support of the Manpower Services Commission Special Temporary Employment Programme. Jeff's job description required him to carry out certain specific tasks for the Youth Service of the country, and he has in the next few pages presented a brief resume of his work since his appointment in December.



JEFF LEWIS

One of my tasks under the Job Creation Project with G.A.Y.C. was to undertake some Rural Youth Work. As most of Gloucestershire is a rural area, this promised to be a considerable task.

Originally we aimed to serve the whole county, but after experiencing many setbacks we tackled one village as an experiment, that village being Northleach.

Working with Peter Gooch, the District Youth Worker for the area, we drew up a plan of action namely to re-establish the senior Youth Club in the village and to attract youngsters from surrounding hamlets. The method used was a programme of activities including canoeing, rock climbing, sailing, swimming, video taping, archery, water ski-ing, gliding and indoor games competitions.

Premises were made available through Mrs. Porter at the local post office whose help and advice was invaluable.

We held a registration evening where youngsters signed up for these activities, and we were fully booked over a twenty week period.

The activities were a great success, the leaders joining in most of the activities except rock climbing (too high for me) and canoeing (I didn't fancy doing eskimo rolls - in my best suit). My thanks to you Peter for the marvellous impersonation of Tommy Cooper, which I'm sure will remain on the video tape files at Cowley Manor for posterity. My condolences to Chris, one of our members who, being slightly overweight, had to learn to paddle his canoe upside down for two minute periods only. All in all some very enjoyable times were had.

Many thanks to everyone who has helped us in this venture, and I hope we can look forward to the establishment of a permanent youth club in Northleach in the near future.
JEFF LEWIS.



HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT TRIP

This year Mrs. Sally Oppenheim M.P. arranged for a party of thirty two of our members to visit the Houses of Parliament.

We spent the morning touring the Houses, and split into small groups in the afternoon to go sight-seeing, some of us stopping in the Strangers Gallery to hear the Prime Minister's speech.

The day was completed by going to the show 'Jesus Christ Superstar' a thoroughly enjoyable event. With our ears still buzzing and clutching memento's of our visit to London, we boarded the bus and returned to Gloucester at about two in the morning. Our thanks to Brian for taking and bringing us back safely, and to Mrs. Oppenheim for organising the visit and providing us with such an interesting and educational activity.

TASTER DAYS

A 'Taster Day' is designed to give young people a taste of an activity not normally available, and then, if they enjoy the experience, to enable them to continue the activity.

Some examples of the days offered this year to our clubs are:

GLIDING - This successful activity took place at Aston Downs, and proved to be a most exhilarating experience.

DRAMA DAY - This was held at Tewkesbury School under the expert guidance of Mr. Steve Hill, to whom we offer our sincere thanks; it was a worthwhile experiment well worth repetition.

YOGA EVENING - This evening was arranged at Roxbrough House, Stroud, again as an experiment to determine response to such an activity.

WATER SKI-ING - By kind permission of Minsterworth ski Club, and the expert help and patience of their members we had a marvellous time and some young people hope to become club members as a result of the day. Many thanks to the ski club for once again being our hosts.

DRY SKI-ING - This was held at Matson ski slope earlier on in the year, with no broken bones to record.

FLYING - This was offered to us at Bristol Airport at reduced rates.

Days to be organised later this year are: Skuba Diving, Parachuting, Potholing and possibly Hang Gliding. Our grateful thanks to all the organisations who have helped us in the past, and to those who might help us in the future.

JEFF LEWIS

UNEMPLOYMENT

The problem of unemployed young people has been a subject which has stretched the minds of the Executive of the Association for a considerable time. There has been much heart searching for the Association has always been keen, once having identified a problem for young people, to find ways of alleviating the situation. This time, however, the problem is so great that questions have had to be asked concerning the contribution we are capable of making, whilst at the same time, ensuring that our main task - service to the clubs - continues

Smaller projects producing a direct benefit for our clubs are relatively easy to approve. We have employed three young ladies, at various times, in the office, where they have gained valuable work experience whilst making a contribution to reducing the work load on our overburdened secretaries. We have also been able to employ nine people (mainly young unemployed teachers) in situations working directly with young people in youth groups and this type of work continues.

The difficulties appear when we begin to look at more complex programmes, involving large sums of money and many hours of administration, but producing the benefit of greater numbers of young people being employed in worthwhile tasks. We can all see the need for someone to carry out this work, but we must make decisions as to whether it is our task to take on such responsibility.

We are at present discussing with Manpower Services Commission and a number of other agencies, the establishment of an agency that could employ over 50 people (mostly school leavers) in community service schemes under the government Job Opportunity Programme. It could be that, provided the outcome of these discussions is favourable, G.A.Y.C. will act as the sponsor for the establishment of such an agency.

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

The activities committee work under the Chairmanship of Ken Simmonds and in the course of a club year organise a wide range of events for the clubs. This committee is without doubt a working group, and the tasks they carry out are substantial. Of great importance is the fact that they have been able to establish a list of sixty or seventy people who are prepared to help with certain activities. The following pages represent a little of the work of this committee.

ARTS & CRAFTS

The standard of work in the Arts and Crafts Competition continues at a very high level, and the number of exhibits rises each year. As usual the Blaisdon Hall boys got the pride of place with their tremendous quality of work in Ceramics, Woodwork and Painting, but the other groups did not let them run away with everything. The Stonehouse Club in particular, produced some very fine metalwork to take all the available certificates. Forthampton Club members did very well in the needle-work sections, and Jordans Brook House in Collage and Cookery.

RESULTS:

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Collage | - Sharon Bennett | - Jordans Brook |
| Painting | - A. Balmer | - Blaisdon |
| Needlework | - Dawn Saunders | - Coleford |
| Soft Toys | - Hazel Wright | - Forthampton |
| Poster | - A. Barbier | - Blaisdon |
| Woodwork | - N. Gillings | - Blaisdon |
| Ceramics | - D. Drummey | - Blaisdon |
| Miscellaneous | - Ashley Smith | - Coates |
| Metalwork | - Evan Smith | - Stonehouse |
| Knitting | - Hazel Wright | - Forthampton |
| Cake Making | - Melanie Blake | - Jordans Brook |
| Biscuits | - Jane Holmes | - Jordans Brook |
| Scenes | - Janet McCannick | - Matson |

IT'S A GAYC KNOCKOUT & TUG-OF-WAR

The winner of the first 'It's a Knockout' and 'Tug Of War' was the weather, for a cloudburst on the morning of the event led to a hasty rearrangement. Twenty seven teams had to be contacted and informed of the postponement for one week.

At the second attempt we were successful, and the Blaisdon Hall venue proved an ideal setting for the young people who spent a happy time splashing about knee deep in water (they got so wet we began to wonder why the rain had led us to postpone). Andoversford emerged as the eventual winners.

In the Tug Of War, teams of three boys and three girls weighing less than 66 stone competed for the county championship and Shurdington, who eventually won the event, must be one of the best teams in the county at this activity.



SHURDINGTON TUG-OF-WAR TEAM IN ACTION AT NOTTINGHAM

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER

30th Biblins Adventure Weekend.

OCTOBER

3rd Annual General Meeting at St. Mary's College of Education, Cheltenham.
 17/22nd Club Week (Tewkesbury D.C. Area).
 22/29th Club Week (Remainder of County).

NOVEMBER

4th 5-a-side Juniors North Area.
 7th 5-a-side Juniors East Area.
 8th 5-a-side Seniors South Area.
 13th 5-a-side Juniors/Girls West Area.
 14th 5-a-side Girls North Area.
 24th Darts South Area.
 25th 5-a-side Seniors North Area.
 27th Netball Rally.
 28th 5-a-side Seniors East Area.

DECEMBER

2nd Table Tennis North Area.
 5th Table Tennis South Area.
 6th 5-a-side Juniors South Area.
 17th Carol Service.

JANUARY

11th County Table Football Competition.
 16th Forest Area Darts.
 17th East Area Darts.
 21st East Area 5-a-side Girls.
 23rd East Area Table Tennis.

FEBRUARY

2nd West Area Table Tennis.
 4th South Area 5-a-side Football.
 6th West Area Quiz.
 9th Commencement of K.G.VI Training Course.
 10th Central Area Quiz.
 15th Chess Competition Central.
 21st Chess Competition West.
 22nd South Area Quiz.
 23rd Central Area Darts.



MARCH

4th Central Netball.

APRIL

1st Drama Taster Day.
 13th Girls Event & Craft Competition.
 15/16th Bracelands Training Weekend.
 17th Junior County Princess.
 23rd County Finals.
 27th Houses of Parliament Visit.

MAY

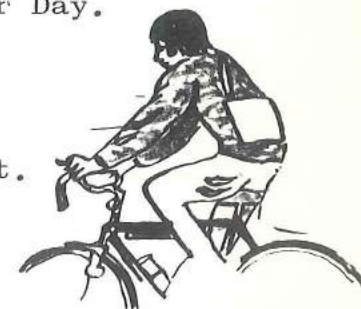
7th It's A Knockout Competition.
 14th Regional Finals.
 23rd Gliding - Taster Day.

JUNE

3rd National Table Tennis Finals at Luton.
 3rd Water Ski-ing - Taster Day.
 16th Gliding - Taster Day.

JULY

2nd Cirencester Park Event.
 4th Gliding - Taster Day.
 8th Saturday Spectacular.
 21st/23rd National Finals.



CIRENCESTER PARK FESTIVAL

The organisation involved in an event the size of the Cirencester Park Festival is quite immense, and about fifty people are required to organise the ten activities. To gather together a capable team of this size is quite an achievement and the activities group must take much of the credit.

This year 35 clubs took part, entering between them 130 teams, and, as the young people were only allowed to enter one event each, we estimate 850 young people actually took part on the day.

Lord Bathurst and his staff are once again owed our thanks for their splendid support in putting on this event, and for their continuing good will.

The results of the day were as follows:

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| IT'S A KNOCKOUT | - 1st SHEEPSCOMBE | 2nd LECKHAMPTON |
| TUG OF WAR | - 1st SHURDINGTON | 2nd CAM |
| NETBALL | - 1st CAM | 2nd FORUM |
| SENIOR BOYS FOOTBALL | - 1st NORTHWAY | 2nd VIKING |
| JUNIOR BOYS FOOTBALL | - 1st STONEHOUSE | 2nd VIKING |
| SENIOR GIRLS FOOTBALL | - 1st HARTPURY | 2nd HIGHNAM |
| JUNIOR GIRLS FOOTBALL | - 1st LYDBROOK | 2nd FORUM |
| ROUNDERS 'O' 14 | - 1st WINCHOMBE | 2nd CAM |
| ROUNDERS 'U' 14 | - 1st ANDOVERSFORD | 2nd LYDBROOK |
| CHESS | - 1st PAUL JENNINGS - LONGLEVENS | 2nd D. BOWIE BLAISDON HALL |



CIRENCESTER PARK "IT'S A KNOCKOUT"

Photos: Len Agg

FIELD OFFICERS

During the past year, we have been fortunate to gain the services of Fred Davidson as Field Officer for Gloucester City. This is a most useful addition to the service being continued by John Brown (Cheltenham), Ray Kilminster (Forest Area), Neil Havard (East) and John Jewell (South).

The field officers service to clubs is of particular value to a sizeable Association in a relatively rural county. Each field officer can be contacted outside of club hours and endeavours to make the service of G.A.Y.C. more personal. Clubs are invited to forge closer links with their field officer, and through him learn of support and assistance available from neighbouring clubs and the Association.

NEIL HAVARD

MISS G.A.Y.C.

It takes a great deal of courage to walk out onto a platform in front of a large audience, and to attempt to project your personality, and show yourself off to best advantage in a very few seconds.

All of the girls who took part in the Miss GAYC Competition deserved to be winners, but only two could be in that happy position at the end of the evening. The judges had an unenviable task, particularly when the girls in their nervousness were on and off the catwalk so quickly.

At the end of the day, however, the sashes for 1978 were awarded to Lorainne Lashford-Spinks of Winchcombe Youth Club in the senior event, and Michaela Simmonds of the Forum Youth Club Cirencester in the junior event, and without doubt these two will be first class ambassadors for G.A.Y.C.



MISS SENIOR



MISS JUNIOR

REGIONAL FINALS

These took place this year at Hereford, and were well organised by Herefordshire Association on behalf of the West Regional Council. The day proved to be a resounding success for the home team who managed to win six of the events that progress to National Finals. Inevitably Shurdington won the tug of war, and Gloucestershire's other successes came in the darts and the chess.



SHURDINGTON TUG-OF-WAR TEAM WITH THEIR LEADER MRS. JOYCE GODWIN AT THE REGIONAL FINALS HELD AT HEREFORD.

NATIONAL FINALS

The Tug O'War team of three boys and three girls from Shurdington Youth Club were disappointed with their performance in this years National Finals because they only managed fourth place. The record of this club in Tug O'War is such that this is their lowest position in four years of competitions, and very few clubs can boast that record - particularly small voluntary village clubs. Much credit must go to their trainer Danny McLelland, and club leader Mrs. Joyce Godwin, no doubt they will be back fighting even harder next year.

Our other team at National Finals, in the darts, also found the competition fierce, and a bad case of nerves left them struggling in the early rounds. Nevertheless they got to the National Finals and this in itself is a tremendous effort.

TRAINING. - King George VI. Training Course.

Miss Dilys Harrison of the South Area Staff of the Local Authority kindly agreed to act as tutor for this year long course of advanced training for youth workers. Seven students agreed to take part in the course, and, after interviews, were accepted. After a year long series of meetings and residential weekends, stretching students and tutors to the limit, the award of an advanced certificate is made to the successful participants. This years group have attended a weekend in Cheshire which, apparently was extremely lively and concentrated on making the students more aware of their own strengths and weaknesses. Further weekend sessions on more specific subjects are planned.



To help young people help others

Jubilee Training Course. After prolonged negotiations with various organisations the Association is soon to present a training course for senior members. This is possible thanks to a significant contribution from the Queens Silver Jubilee Appeal Fund. Many hours of planning and preparation have already gone into this high level course by a team of tutors led by the consultant Ann Mentz of St. Mary's College of Education. The next stage is recruitment of the young people who will most benefit from a course designed to help them find their niche in society.



ADVENTURE WEEKEND

The first weekend in October has now become the traditional weekend for the Adventure weekend enjoyed by so many young people. Again we had a full house for the event with a team of expert tutors being provided from amongst the youth leaders in the County backed up by the Army Youth Team. Sadly this will be the last time that we will get support from the Army as they have been disbanded due to financial cuts.

However, thirty young people took part in canoeing, climbing, walking and a night exercise on this weekend, and on the Sunday set off home very tired but very happy.

It is difficult to think of a venue more suitable than the Biblins for this type of event, and we are grateful to the local authority for ensuring its continued existence.

WHEN WE ARE OLD ENOUGH

This was the subject of the National Members Conference and also a preparatory residential weekend organised by the Gloucestershire Association. About twenty young people and their leaders attended the events, and played a very active role in the National Conference. One of the major resolutions was presented by Marco Malecki of the Wotton-Under-Edge Youth Club, it stated:

"That this Conference is concerned that the advertising of alcohol is both misleading and irresponsible. We propose a total ban on any alcohol advertising and invite the Health Education Council to initiate a comprehensive programme of education, covering both the benefits and the dangers. Young people must be allowed to make up their own minds based on proper information and knowledge".

The proposal was carried unanimously by the 500 participants. Joanne Elias of the Gridiron Youth Club, Stroud, was elected to join Martin Ball as a representative on the National Conference Committee.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The speaker at the Association's Annual General Meeting in 1977 was a tremendous success. Mr. Graham Wiltshire, the coach of the county cricket team, gave a talk mainly aimed at the young people, but thoroughly enjoyed by all those present. His humorous presentation of the life of a county cricketer added a sparkle to an otherwise formal evening.

The guests at this well attended event included The Deputy Mayor of Cheltenham and his wife (Councillor and Mrs. F. L. Bowden), The Sheriff of Gloucester and his wife (Councillor and Mrs. G. Williams), and Lt. Col. P.B.J.A. Carroll - Vice President - who took the chair.

Once again St. Mary's College of Education provided us with excellent facilities for this event.



COUNCILLOR GORDON WILLIAMS (SHERIFF OF GLOUCESTER) AND MR. GRAHAM WILTSHIRE (GLOUCESTERSHIRE CRICKET CLUB COACH) PRESENTING TROPHIES AT

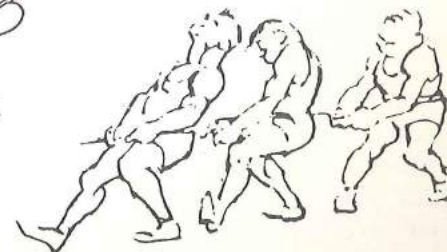
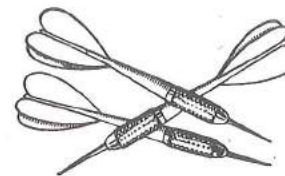
COMPETITIONS 1978

The activities group of the Association, under the very capable chairmanship of Ken Simmonds, has once again completed a year of competitions and activities that were thoroughly enjoyed by a high proportion of our registered groups.

Blaisdon Hall was the venue for the 'It's A Knockout' and 'Tug Of War', which was completed at the second attempt, the weather being the winner first time round. Despite having to quickly rearrange transport most teams managed to participate in this event where the Salesian's were, as usual, the perfect hosts.

Dursley was also an excellent venue for the county finals, and thanks are due to the staff of the sports and community centres for their assistance. The following teams won county competitions with those starred progressing to National Finals.

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| IT'S A KNOCKOUT | - Andoversford |
| * TUG OF WAR | - Shurdington |
| * DARTS (Mixed & Boys) | - Cinderford |
| * TABLE TENNIS - Boys | - Up Hatherley |
| * " " Girls & Doubles | - Forum |
| CHESS | - D. Bowie - Salesians |
| QUIZ | - Stonehouse |
| NETBALL | - YMCA Gloucester |
| 5-A-SIDE - Girls | - Hartpury |
| Boys Junior | - Forum |
| Boys Senior | - Unity |
| TABLE FOOTBALL | - Cinderford |



CLUB WEEK 1977

Again twenty three clubs took part in Club Week in 1977, and successfully raised the total collected throughout the County by over 60% on the previous year. This year eight groups broke the £100. barrier and four of these, Reddings, Beeches Green, Andoversford and Wotton-Under-Edge Youth Clubs achieved this at their first club week attempt. Totals raised by the clubs participating were as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Glos. H'Qts Group | 303.71 |
| Jordans Brook House | 288.95 |
| Andoversford | 176.66 |
| Up Hatherley | 148.56 |
| Wotton-Under-Edge | 111.23 |
| Reddings | 105.48 |
| Beeches Green | 101.08 |
| Shurdington | 100.00 |
| Dursley | 88.53 |
| Mitcheldean | 82.64 |
| Parry Hall | 81.66 |
| Hartpury | 70.00 |
| Northlands | 59.18 |
| Robinswood | 52.50 |
| St. Gregory's | 51.62 |
| Elm Tree | 48.50 |
| Berkeley Vale | 47.82 |
| Littledean | 36.18 |
| Cowley | 30.00 |
| Winchcombe | 29.52 |
| Oddington | 25.00 |
| Baden Powell Scouts | 19.00 |
| Clearwell | 14.00 |



TOTAL £2,071.82
=====

Special mention must be made of the achievements of Jordans Brook House, which collected an average of almost £20. per girl, thus making them very strong challengers for the Angus Ogilvy Award.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE & NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Martin Ball, a member of the Up Hatherley Youth Club, was chosen at the 1977 Members Conference to serve on the National Conference Committee. He has sent us the following information from his year in office:

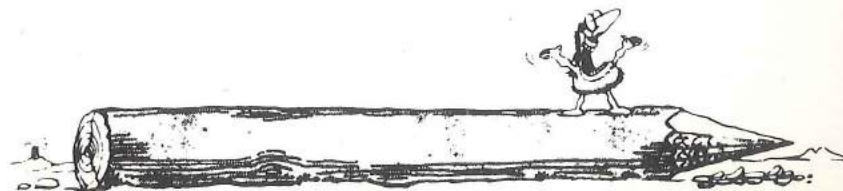
"The task of the National Conference Committee, a group of 24 young people from all over the country, is to put forward the ideas and resolutions of the Youth Conference for action, and plan the next year's conference.

Each member stands for two years, and twelve retire annually. They meet together six times a year all around the country, and although there is a fair amount of work, there is also time for enjoyment.

The N.C.C. are represented on the National Executive Committee of N.A.Y.C. and in this way the direct voice of young people is able to influence National Policy, and to present resolutions from the conference for further action. I represent N.C.C. on the Executive, and my major task is to attempt to persuade the forty members to support the resolutions of the National Conference.

Both committees are very interesting and I have learnt a lot about youth work in the past year".

Martin Ball.
Up Hatherley Youth Club.



TREASURER'S REPORT

In retrospect it would seem that the year ended 31st March, 1978 was rather more successful than was at one time thought possible. The balancing of the books, however, was achieved rather more by cutting down on operations than by an ability to increase our income. This particular aspect is not encouraging and it should also be borne in mind that of the funds that we have raised, a considerable proportion will have to be retained and be devoted to the eventual setting up of a more permanent headquarters since these were the terms upon which they were raised from our public subscribers. The need of youth in the county continues to increase rather than decrease, and is not made less by the escalation of unemployment within the younger sector; it is therefore critically important that our operation be properly funded from one source or other to enable us to perform an expanding not a contracting service. It is hopeful to note that central government seems to be taking a much more constructive attitude towards the solution of these problems, and it is only to be hoped that funds will be made available to organisations such as ours that will enable us to go forward rather than backwards.

H. F. A. MAY, TREASURER



CARAVAN

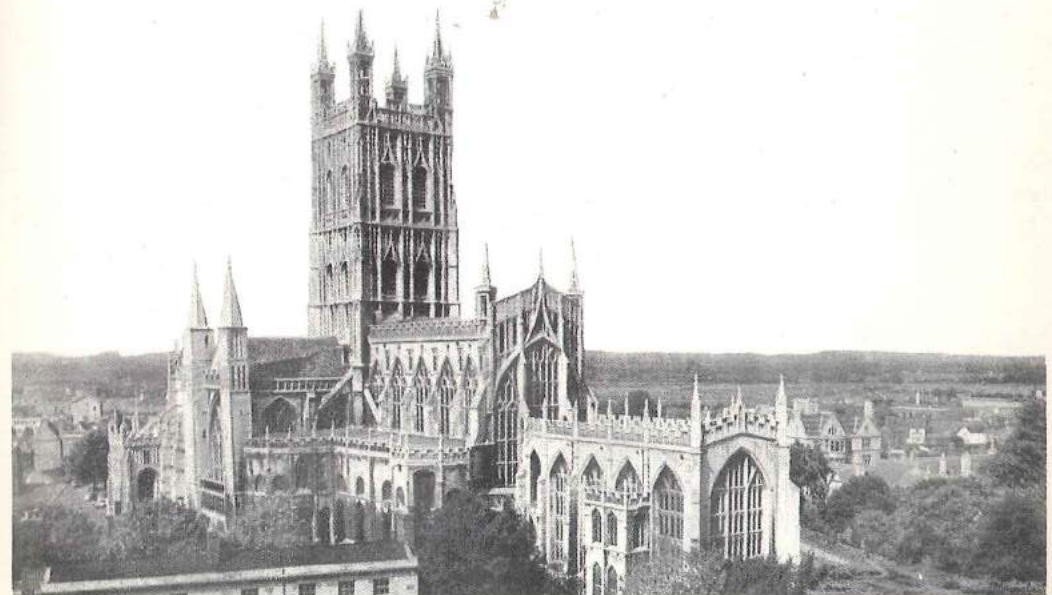
The Association's caravan, renovated by the girls at Jordans Brook House, is now in use in the Forest of Dean, and single sex groups have been able to use the van to get away for the weekend at short notice.

It has been the policy of the Association not to take bookings too far in advance in an attempt to encourage those groups in clubs who ask the leader, "let's do something different next weekend", only to find no vacancies at the normal centres. It has also been the policy to sacrifice comfort for cost, and we feel that this is probably one of the cheapest possible ways for a small group of young people to spend a weekend in the beautiful Gloucestershire countryside.

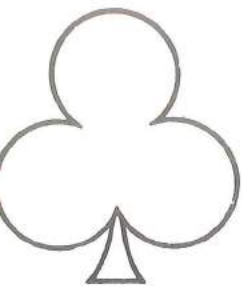
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Once again the Cathedral in Gloucester was full to overflowing for the Annual Carol Service held in Partnership with the Diocesan Board for Education. The new Diocesan Youth Officer, Rev. Andrew Banfield, took over from Roger Grey this year, and this was his first Carol Service with us, but the planning was as efficient and the running as smooth as ever. The Rt. Rev. John Yates Lord Bishop of Gloucester gave the Christmas message, which was warmly received by an enthusiastic congregation. Young people made very significant contributions to the service through a variety of readings and musical presentations.

A new idea this year, was to have the young people representing a variety of Youth Groups, to join the clergy in the procession to the Nave stalls at the commencement of the service. The highlight of the service, as always, proved to be when the light from the single candle in the Nave grew as the tapers of the congregation were lit. Surely a symbolic way of illustrating how the word of God passes from one to another casting light onto an otherwise dark World.



GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL



Are Trumps

In this section we attempt to illustrate for the reader some of the work that goes on in clubs throughout the County. It is not possible to present a complete picture as even a couple of sentences from each group would involve us in a very much larger review. Here, however, is a sample drawn from the reports of a number of the clubs which are members of our association.

The Reddings Youth Club. 1977/78 was the very first year for the newly formed Reddings Y.C., and much time had to be spent fund raising in order to ensure our continuing existence. The members raised money mainly through discos and sponsored events, but they also managed to organise and run stalls at the local Summer Fete.

These activities meant that the members could purchase sports equipment including table tennis tables and snooker tables, and even their own Disco unit. The members committee have just organised a very successful dance and carnival queen competition from which a profit of 40 pounds was donated to the funds of the G.A.Y.C. to assist with the Association's work. We are hoping for yet another successful year with membership continuing to rise steadily, and we wish all the other clubs in the County equal success.

Ann Franklin (Leader).

The Beeches Green Y.C. This club reopened under the leadership of Kath Barnes in January 1977, and we were able to produce the following report thanks to the Stroud News and Journal.

In its first year the club opened for no less than 142 sessions, an indication of the amount of time freely given by leaders. The club participated in a large number of activities including skiing, rifle shooting, archery, canoeing and skittles, as well as the more normal club activities.

The skittles evening was held at the Star Centre for Disabled Youth who acted as hosts. At Christmas the juniors went to Ashwell House and entertained the residents and guests with a carol concert. Many members of the club are working towards their bronze and silver Duke of Edinburgh awards. In addition to all this much work has been done in decorating the entire club building. All in all a very successful year for this go ahead club.

STONEHOUSE YOUTH CLUB The club has seen many changes over the past year with the redecoration of the building by the members and the Management Committee, and the formation of a PHAB club.

Last year the club received a trophy as the club of the year, for the progress made; it now has a membership of over 400, with an average monthly attendance of 120 young people. Trips are made regularly to the Bristol Ice Rink, and the response has been so great that often two coaches are required. Trips have also been organised to the Oasis Baths in Swindon and to Weymouth. The club also tries to help Charity Organisations and this year members helped with the collection for the Dr. Barnardo's homes in Stonehouse. The club enters most of the inter club competitions and this year the club's team won the County event and were runners up in the West Regional Finals.

Rose Prentice (Member).

BLAISDON The latest edition of the Blaisdon Bugle gives an excellent picture of the enormous range of activities available to the young people at Blaisdon. It is with apologies to their 'ace reporter' that we reproduce here some snippets from their newspaper. Athletics seems to have been prominent in the latest session, with Derrick King appearing as one of the stars failing by only two centimetres, to beat the senior high jump record whilst still a junior. A brilliant win by Neil Gillings in the West Gloucestershire night exercise is also recorded with pride. 22 boys visited Cowley Manor to see the Duke of Edinburgh, who appeared very impressed by the quality of the display of ceramic work presented by the boys, and in particular a piece by Kevin Barlow. Other activities recorded in the bugle include orienteering, caving, camping, chess and table tennis.

It is not all competitions however, and the boys did manage to raise over £40 for the Forest Lions club, and £34 for G.A.Y.C. In addition nearly 1000 guests paid to watch the pantomime Red Riding Hood with all the profits going to the Save the Children' Fund. All in all we can report another tremendous year for the youngsters of Blaisdon.

WESTFIELDS YOUTH CLUB

The following extracts have been taken from the Leader's report of the above club with the permission of Rosemary Ash.

"The club raised money to buy Christmas presents for our neighbours in Walton House. It was difficult to ascertain who had the most pleasure from the presents, those who received them, or those who delivered them, and witnessed the pleasure they gave.

During the power strike we visited Walton House each day to deliver details of the times of the cuts and to ensure that all of the residents were managing to cope.

The girls basketball team has had an extremely successful season. They ended the season in 3rd position in division one of the South West Ladies League.

An attempt has been made to form a Members' Committee, but due to the diversity of membership this is not an easy task. It is hoped that the members activity group will form a nucleus of a proper Members' Committee."



Girl's Friendly Society World Council

The 9th World Council of the Girl's Friendly Society is finally under-way. The temperature is in the nineties, apparently the hottest it has been in years. However, the atmosphere here, is wonderful and everyone has been made to feel at home.

Our first day has been fairly relaxed with the main object, I would assume, to get acquainted with our fellow GFS members from twenty countries in all. There doesn't appear to be a language problem, and there are people from as far away as Korea, Japan and Australia. The next few days of World Council promise to be hectic, but I am sure will be most enjoyable.

Whiffier is a fairly small town although the college campus is quite large. There appears to be very little activity due to the heat, however, we are making the most of the sunshine. Los Angeles is very scenic and the difference immediately noticed when compared to England is the vastness of the land. The roads are much wider and for the most part, are lined with trees.

The Council has been well organised and we have a very busy and interesting programme ahead. Hope to give a full report when I return.

MARION JESUDASON
California



OUR PHOTO SHOWS

THE MAYOR AND MAYORESS OF GLOUCESTER Mr. & Mrs. SMITH, THE LORD BISHOP OF GLOUCESTER, PRESENTING MARION JESUDASON WITH MEMENTO'S OF GLOUCESTER TO TAKE ON HER AMERICAN TRIP.



UP HATHERLEY YOUTH CLUB

This is a Church Youth Club with a membership of forty young people. Our club has had to remain closed for some time because of alterations and work on our hall being carried out through the Job Creation Programme, but we hope to be back in action in September.

Although the club has been closed, we still had members committee meetings, and entered as many events as possible. We did well in one event, the county table tennis, with three members qualifying for County Finals. Peter Ball eventually qualified to go to the National Finals in Luton. Our table tennis team also managed to win the Cheltenham League division 4 quite comfortably.

Our club always ensures that we have representatives on the adventure and discussion weekends, and at National Conference. This year we did particularly well in club week and raised nearly £150 in total.

MARTIN BALL



BISLEY AND ROXBOROUGH HOUSE

One of the club leaders from the South of the County who works part time in a village club at Bisley, and gives still more time to the Stroud club at Roxborough House, sent us an excellent report explaining the difference between the two clubs. This was so good that we have forwarded it to the Campaign for Rural Youth, but not before taking out just a few sentences for this review.

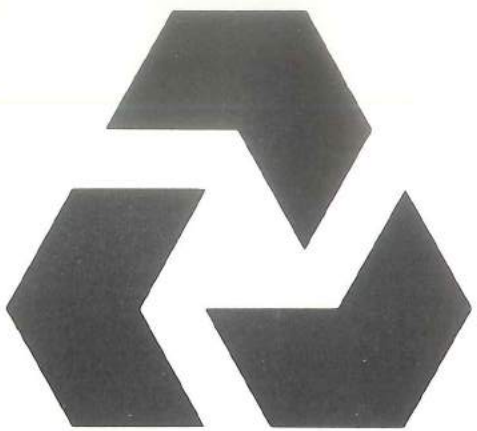
At the end of the club night we have to move all our equipment to make room for the play group to take over in the morning. They keep all their little toys under the stage which is alright for them, but a bit of a headache for me when I have to haul large 15 yr. olds off them and tell them not to be so childish when often I would love to have a go round the room on the toy tractor myself.

There is a large grassy area outside the W.I. hall where we meet, and on fine nights the village resounds to the noise of youngsters playing an exciting game of rounders- usually enlivened by the ball disappearing at least once into Farmer Evans' field.

And now another difference. Whereas I have known the town youngsters to get up and walk out of a film and even the seniors have been known to show their disapproval by pelting the screen with salted peanuts and polo mints, it is vastly different in the village. There the juniors, often with their mums sat beside them, sit enthralled through the cartoons and seniors sit on hard chairs to watch a 'horror' film- the only sound being the odd feminine scream.

In the town club one never seems to meet the parents, but in the village I am on Christian name terms with most of them; in fact many of the mums, and some of the dads, come and help at the coffee bar every so often. Add to this the fact that half the youngsters are related to each other, and you will realise that this too causes problems. You can't put your heart into ticking off a wayward youngster with a fond Auntie looking on, nor administer a good whack to a ten year olds backside with an 18year old, six foot tall cousin looking on as if you were a sadist.

I have now become a bit of a youth club addict and see the added pleasure to be gained from taking part in two very different clubs. Marion S. (Club Leader).



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GLOUCESTER CARNIVAL 1978 Some residents of Bodiam Avenue sponsored a Publicity Float for the Association in the Gloucester Carnival Procession this year. This was a great success from the public relations point of view with a large number of leaflets being distributed throughout the town. In addition, the workmanship was of a standard that impressed the Judges into awarding it 1st Prize in its class. The Association wishes to extend its sincere thanks to all those who were associated in any way with this venture.

Photo: Gloucester Journal

A TSB Cheque Account.

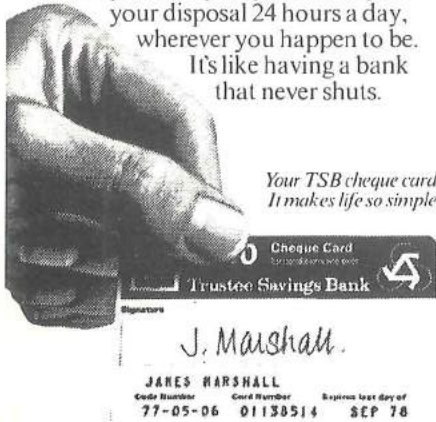
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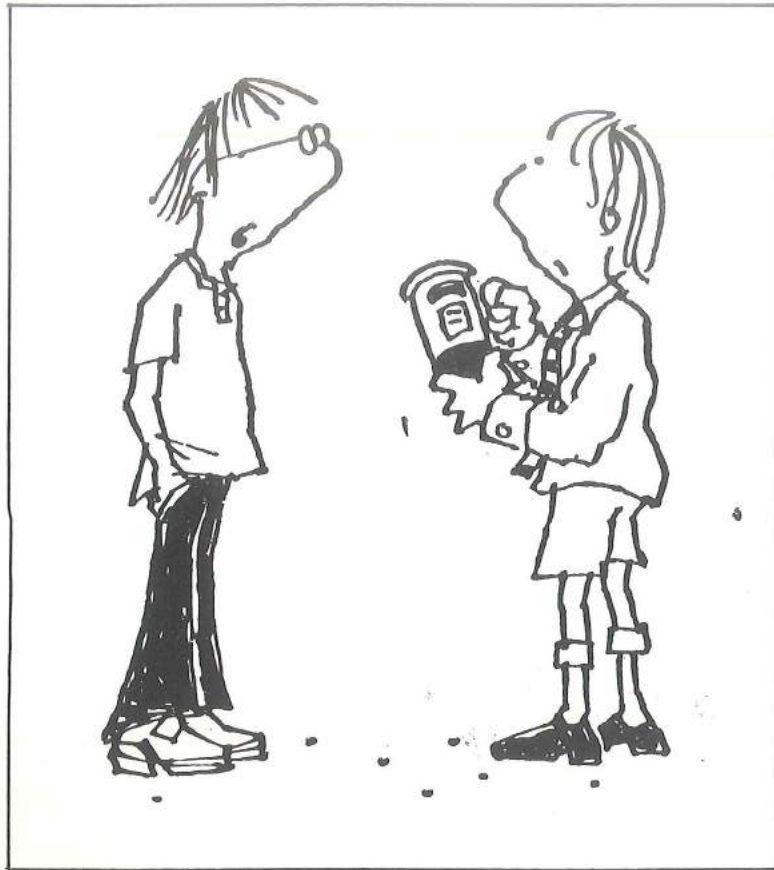
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County Champions at Dursley

Concentration and effort from all those taking part in the County Championship events held at Dursley made it an exciting day.

The concentration shows in our photo *left* of the Chess event, and *below* the effort from the girls of Gloucester Y.M.C.A. which won them the Netball event.



Junior County Princess

The Junior Princess competition was again held at Parry Hall Centre. An attractive setting was made from display horses and flowers, to make the stage a picture for the girls to parade on.

Our photograph *left* shows the winner Luisa Cicuttin. The above photo shows *left to right* third Susan Deeley, *centre* the winner, and

