

# **GLOUCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF YOUTH CLUBS**



**ANNUAL  
REVIEW 1979-1980**



*HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER*

*THE ASSOCIATION OFFERS LOYAL CONGRATULATIONS  
TO OUR PATRON ON THIS HER 80TH BIRTHDAY*

# Gloucestershire Association of Youth Clubs

*AFFILIATED TO THE NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF YOUTH CLUBS*

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78 London Road  
Gloucester Tel: Glos 20048

**Administrative Assistants:**  
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Mrs M T Tyreman

**Finance Officer:** Norman P Barton Esq

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County Education Officer  
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Mr K Simmonds MBE  
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County Youth and  
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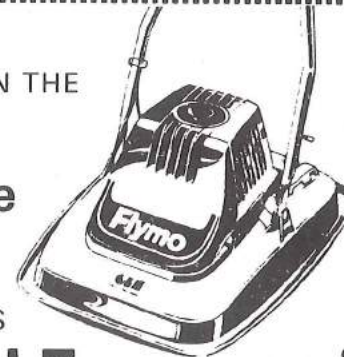
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## FOREWORD

'If a man looks after his family then society will be well pleased.' There is an independent and responsible ring about this sentiment but, as a recipe for social welfare, it requires some extension, especially with regard to the young.

Families are the abiding and supporting environment in which boys and girls grow. However, they are not self-sufficient. Healthy development requires a richer and more varied context of human relationships. It follows that looking after one's family means creating opportunities outside of it that meet the needs of its members. Self interest, alone, should cause parents to involve themselves in wider provision for youth.

Sometimes, parents are unable to look after their families. For example, how do you help a son or daughter who happens to be unemployed and searching for a job in this depressing year? The external circumstances defy a personal response. Who, then, is to help?

The model of responsible parenthood and support for family life is at the heart of our society. Fortunately, there are those who accept this and, in addition, find some way of giving which goes beyond immediate and direct family need. I am referring to volunteers and the voluntary principle.

This Association exists to support and encourage youth workers and young people in the county. It discerns ways of helping and it channels efforts. It is managed by volunteers and it is served by men and women who give freely of their time and resources. We have some full-time professional staff and they expect to go beyond the call of duty and match those who give their time.

We need, urgently, more people who will bring their talents freely to our concerns. We need more gifts of money if we are to support adequately those who give their time.

Thank goodness we have had support in the past year. In addition to continuing our extensive range of youth work services we have attracted over £57,344 of Government money for work amongst unemployed youngsters. Such is public confidence in the voluntary management which the Association has supplied. Maybe you can find a way to help as the 1980s enter their uncertain way.

(THIS FOREWORD SPONSORED  
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EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

## OBITUARY

### THE RT HON VISCOUNT BLEDISLOE QC

Lord Bledisloe became a Vice-President ten years ago on his own condition that he should have useful service to perform. Within a short time a memorable spring-time occasion was held at Lydney Park for the purpose of sponsoring the Association's work in West Gloucestershire. We remember him for the warmth of his personality, for the personal encouragement which he gave and for his willingness to find time for the cause of youth in the midst of a busy life.

### LT COL A LLOYD-BAKER DSO TD

Lt Col Lloyd-Baker's interest spanned four decades to the days of the Association of Girls' Clubs in the mid 1940s. As a Vice-President he regularly attended Annual General Meetings and, on occasions, took the chair. His counsel and practical encouragement for so many years were part of the reason for the continuity and growth of GAYC.

### MR BRIAN GILLETT

Brian Gillett was a regularly co-opted member of the Executive Committee. His quiet conviction and intense commitment to the well-being of young people, along with his great professional insight, made him a respected and valued colleague. He took a crucial part in the development of our Community Service Agency as a member of its Management Committee and as Chairman of the Advisory Committee. His sudden death has left a void.



## GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY SERVICE AGENCY (YOUTHFORCE)

SPONSORED BY: GLOUCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF YOUTH CLUBS  
AND MANPOWER SERVICES COMMISSION

Committee:

The Revd S J Riggs - Chairman

Miss A Ferguson

Mr B Gillett

Mr H F A May

Mr A D Mentz

Mr N Snook

Mr R Tolman

Mrs E Fletcher

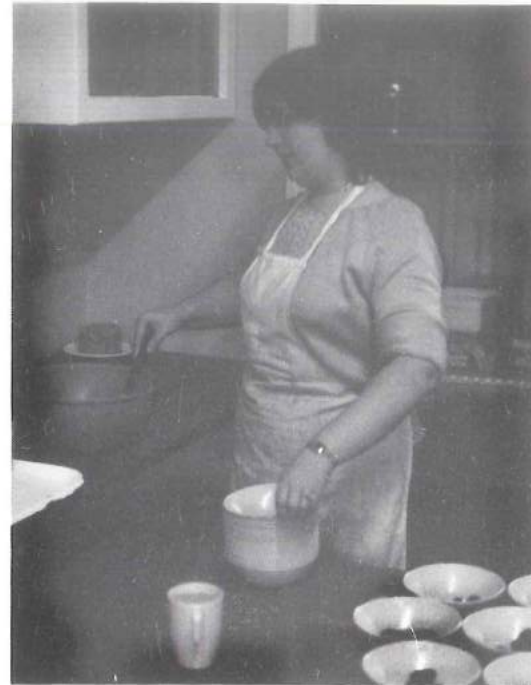
STAFF AT 31st AUGUST:

Co-ordinator	-	Mr G Mitchell
Development Officer	-	Mr P Bailey
Senior Supervisor	-	Mr C Markwick
Clerk/Typist	-	Mrs S Weight
Placement Supervisors-		Ms J Burnhams
		Mr J Best
Project Supervisors	-	Mr J Bogdiukiewicz
		Mr D McKenzie
		Mr S Brunt
		Mr W Dixon
		Mr C Brittain

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY SERVICE AGENCY

(Gloucestershire Community Service Agency) is jointly sponsored by the Gloucestershire Association of Youth Clubs and funded by Manpower Services Commission Special Programmes Department at Bristol.

We are a community service scheme at present catering for 90 trainees of both sexes between the ages of 16 and 19 years of age. Our agency has a staff of 14 including a full time training officer who provides life and social skills training at our headquarters. Outside specialists are brought in to cover relevant subjects.



The day to day management team are responsible through the co-ordinator to the management committee. This committee is made up of members of the Gloucestershire Assoc. of Youth Clubs Executive and other interested parties such as Careers, Probation Service and Manpower Services Commission. There is additional support provided by an advisory committee.

The trainees come to our agency via the job centre, youth clubs, recommendation and especially from the careers office.

Any young person wishing to join our agency scheme, which is part of the Youth Opportunities Programme, should contact the careers office or job centre, but can only qualify for a place by having been unemployed since leaving school for a period of at least six weeks. Our agency seeks to provide placements and projects within the community whereby the young person, male or female, will supply new or supplement existing services provided by voluntary organisations, public services and institutions which seek to meet the needs of groups, individuals and communities through various forms of social, educational, health, welfare and community provision.

The aim of our agency is not to meet such needs alone. Equally important is the personal development of the young people participating by giving work experience in the form of involving them in a face to face contact situation with the individuals at which our type of provision is directed. It is not our intention that the trainee simply works in the various organisations or



institutions but as far as possible be in direct contact with the clients of these bodies.

We are trying to offer support and guidance to develop the youngsters to a standard whereby they are acceptable into Work Experience Programme places in the private sector which is the platform into full time employment. Sometimes we succeed in losing a trainee straight into work, but this occurrence is a bonus to drive us on.

They come from a varying degree of backgrounds. Work experience with us is typically a placement which provides an opportunity for involvement in the working life of an existing organisation such as a playgroup, old peoples home, day centre, hostel, helping mentally and physically handicapped, both young and old. Also, there are projects where we supply the free labour force with supervision to carry out work tasks such as painting, decorating, joinery, stonework, needlework, cooking, with the old and infirm; in fact almost anything will be considered if appropriate.

The trainees work individually and in single sex or mixed groups. It is hoped that we can stimulate underdeveloped capabilities and skills in an environment as near to real working life conditions as possible and create the opportunity or chance to develop confidence and accept the responsibility of their own actions.

To some extent the staff provide a caring environment at work, similar to that provided by youth leaders in leisure time. The trainees are not compelled to join our agency but those who do are obviously willing to try and help themselves to find work. We pay them £23.50 nett for a 40 hour (5 day) week. They are entitled to approximately 1.4 days leave per month during the 12 months they could stay with us.

The incentive for a prospective project/placement sponsor is that the only paper work is a weekly time sheet with opportunity to comment on each trainee. The labour force is provided absolutely free. The only stipulation is that materials must be provided and the safety at work act observed.



Trainees of the Gloucestershire Community Service Agency at work.

Although initially we are attempting to fulfill the city's requirements, as we develop we intend expanding outwards throughout the county, positively, as demand shows, through contact with youth leaders, careers office, job centre and Manpower Services Commission.

For example, we have recently expanded into the Forest of Dean, creating a work force of up to 20 trainees.

The Life and Social Skills Training in this section of our agency is undertaken by the West Gloucestershire Technical College at Cinderford in conjunction with our main programme at Gloucester.

We have no wish to duplicate or disrupt any existing project or scheme in force already.

THE REV'D S J RIGGS - CHAIRMAN  
MR GLENNE MITCHELL - CO-ORDINATOR



## WHAT IT MEANS TO HAVE A PLACEMENT

BY ONE OF OUR HOST SPONSORS

There are two sides to this - one is the host's point of view and the other is that of the young person being placed. It is obviously better to be placed than 'displaced' - that has a hopeless sound about it. A 'displaced person' makes one think of refugee camps in the post war era. I think the two are related. A displaced person is one without status. A young person without a job has no status in society and there is no feeling more demoralising than that. To have a placement is therefore essential if a young person is to fit into society; if not, moral apathy and physical lethargy set in pretty quickly and we all know only too well the resultant social evils which invariably follow.

From the point of view of a host, it gives one an opportunity to train a youngster in the disciplines of service. This comes hard at first to the trainee (especially if they think that a placement is a soft option) but it's a lesson that must be learned if one is to achieve eventual self-discipline, which is the ultimate aim. A trainee can be quick to realise the importance of having a 'place' - of having certain routines which they alone are responsible for (being very careful to give a small measure of responsibility right from the beginning). In this way there is gained 'status' in their own eyes - and that is very important to them. But in having responsibility it also imposes upon the trainee the need for keeping up the standards set - and they are often high. If there is a fall from grace then reprimand, but make sure it is explained why, so the trainee knows that to gain respect they have to maintain the standards set.

Two people can benefit from a placement. One is the trainee and the other is the host. Both gain something which is considered very worthwhile - mutual trust and respect. Difficulties do arise (and hopefully are overcome) but that is to be expected - life is rarely smooth for very long. One thing which is established is a good working relationship - a rare thing in any job.

## YOUTHFORCE

What does the name mean? Who are behind it? What do the people in Youthforce do?

The present staff of fourteen cover various functions individually from direct supervision of trainees to finance control with such things as liaison and training in between.

Young men and women aged between 16 and 19 years can volunteer to join Youthforce if they are registered unemployed. The force of youth from the agency work for the community under supervision on projects or placements to allow the individuals to have as near as possible some work experience.

Although we have this Youthforce, care is taken to highlight the individual potential and often help the young people realise talents or aspects they were not aware of within or about themselves. YouthForce is a part of the Youth Opportunities Programme which does not have the aim of finding jobs. The aim of Youthforce is to act as a support during part of the unemployed period to motivate, encourage and train the less able youngster to a stage where the disciplines of the private sector are more easily coped with. This will encourage potential employers to give our trainees a chance.

This is why it is vital for the staff to foster the help and understanding of host sponsors in as wide a range of activities within the community work as possible. To offer as broad a spectrum of chances to learn and try many types of work experience, to hopefully develop self discipline, self expression, skills in coping with responsibilities, be it for their own actions or for others, but realising the need to work and play a part in society.

The team of staff who try to give these youngsters a boost of encouragement to think for themselves and be motivated to search for a suitable job themselves are ordinary people



wanting to do something positive in the way of encouragement and prevent a deteriorating apathetic air of despondency setting in. The various functions to make it all work and happen are supervision, training, project and placement development, finance, secretariate and co-ordination.

The supervisors are responsible on a day to day basis for controlling individuals or groups of trainees. These youngsters like the staff are having to cope with a world of change. Change of work, change of site, change of workmates or change of supervisor, sometimes all four at once. The supervisor is the person the trainee turns to first for security while they adjust to the new set up. Adjust to taking instructions, adjust to working with others, adjust to being responsible for their own actions. Adjust to arriving somewhere on time every day. Adjust to realising that if they do not bother to turn up on time or at all, the agency doesn't bother to pay out the full cash allowance. Adjust to the fact they have left school and we consider them to be young adults being paid to act as young adults. If they act like adults we will treat them like adults, if they behave as children we treat them as children.

The Training Officer is the link between the trainee, supervisors and development officer. The Training Officer has each and every trainee in groups of about twelve one day every week for Life & Social Skills Training, and during these sessions the astute training officer spots the best in the individual youngster and passes on advice and recommendations to supervisors and the development officer how best to raise the sparks of hope to encourage progress; on this basis more fruitful placing is possible. It is also important to have continuity between training and work experience maintained to develop a theme for the trainee to recognise and hopefully predict to advantage, so that confidence is built up to a state when mock interviews and the like are absorbed. A certain amount of counselling can take place during training, but often the problems which the trainees wrestle with are paramount to them and the build up of frustration must be recognised by the staff who work in close proximity

with the trainees. Co-operation at demarcation lines in jobs is essential to ensure the trainee in question is kept bouyant till the heat is taken out of the situation. If the trainee explodes it can upset other trainees or voluntary workers he or she may be working alongside, in the community. Encouragement to develop self control and accept the dreary mundane parts of working life including the realisation that life is full of give and take, but to give encourages others to give in turn.

The Development Officer has to establish contact with organisations within the community to create both projects and placements which will marry up to the needs and limited abilities of our trainees. The people the development officer comes into contact with are mostly volunteers who are citizens recognising the needs of others in the community where money is scarce but work must be done somehow. This is where youthforce can excel. An agreement with the minimum of paper-work can be drawn up between the host sponsor and the development officer, to carry out almost any work on the understanding that the community will benefit and no individual will make personal gain as a result.

The work covers activities from bricklaying, plastering, painting, wall paper hanging, woodwork, clerical/typing work, care of the elderly, mentally or physically handicapped, domestic activities from cooking to bed making, gardening to play group activity.

YouthForce do not claim to produce craftsmen standards, but as a result of good supervision and patience we have had letters of praise from host sponsors on the quality of standard achieved.

However, the other side of the coin is how we appease host sponsors who experience distressing incidents with some of our trainees, stay friends to keep the placements open for following trainees. It is the Development Officer who initially sells our scheme to the public by convincing them that by accepting trainees into their establishments they are doing their share towards



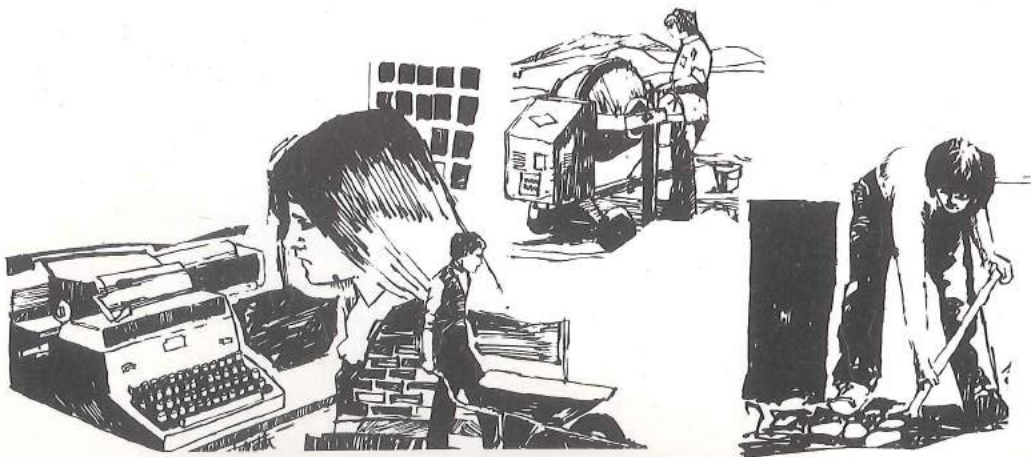


improving the lot of some youngsters who would find it practically impossible to enjoy work experience and a chance to obtain a meaningful certificate to present as a reference. We do at present, very often convert a placement into full time employment with a host sponsor. However, there is a saturation point in voluntary organisations.

One aspect which the Senior Supervisor and Development Officer have uppermost in their priorities is safety. We are just as liable for safety at work as any employer

in the private sector, but instead of being like the private sector with spirited youngsters in the minority we must cope with untrained groups in perpetual change in working areas which are under the control of one supervisor.

The Co-ordinator has the task of tying all the ends together within strict budgets, translating policy and ensuring continuity with a volatile state concerning both trainees and host sponsors. Monitoring staff, quality of work experience, progression and attitudes. To, above all, ensure the well being of our trainees.



## G.A.Y.C. ACTIVITIES SUB COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mr K Simmonds MBE

Mr C Bowen

Mrs J Cossor - Field Officer - North

Mrs E Fletcher

Mr J George

Miss A Gregory

Mr N Havard - Field Officer - Cheltenham

Mr R Kilminster - Field Officer - Forest

Mr G Powers - Field Officer - South

Mr S Powers

Mrs S Rodway

All that prevents the activities committee from an even greater expansion of the opportunities that it presents to clubs is finance, for the committee have strict instructions that any new activity must be self financing, and that attempts be made to reduce expenditure on the present programme without affecting the service to clubs. Despite these limitations there is a continual striving to seek out new opportunities for young people, and some of these are mentioned elsewhere in the review.

Special mention should be made of the efforts of Brian Didcote and his team of five-a-side football referees and Wendy Yeates and her netball umpires who braved the terrible English weather to ensure that our competitions progressed efficiently to their conclusion.

The loss of Sue Rodway at the end of the STEP Programme funding meant that from January the taster day programme could not be quite so comprehensive. However, before her departure she was able to organise a couple of horse riding opportunities for members, and since then Steve Powers has arranged a very interesting day to introduce members to Rock Climbing.





## PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

### SEPTEMBER

- 20th Annual General Meeting  
22nd Horse Riding Taster Day - Maisemore

### OCTOBER

- 5/7th Biblins Adventure Weekend  
16th Disco Dancing Competition at Snobs  
19/26th Club Week  
19th Area 5-a-side - Westfields - Juniors  
19/21st Jubilee Training Weekend in Liverpool  
29th North Area 5-a-side - Winchcombe - Juniors

### NOVEMBER

- 3rd Disco Dancing Regional Finals at Evesham  
12th Area 5-a-side - Winchcombe - Seniors  
16th Area 5-a-side - Westfields - Seniors  
20th Area 5-a-side - Minchinhampton - Juniors  
25th Horse Riding Taster Day - Robinswood.

### DECEMBER

- 4th Area 5-a-side - Minchinhampton - Seniors  
9th Area 5-a-side - Gloucester - Juniors  
12th Area Darts Competition - Blakeney  
15th Carol Service  
16th Disco Dance National Finals

### JANUARY

- 10th Area Darts at Elm Tree  
16th Area Table Tennis and Pool at Stonehouse  
21st Area Table Tennis - Moreton  
24th Area Darts at Wotton-Under-Edge  
29th Area Darts at Roxburgh House

### FEBRUARY

- 1st Chess at Ullenwood  
5th Area Table Tennis at Coleford  
14th Area Pool Competition at Elm Tree  
20th Area Darts at Charlton Kings  
28th Area Table Tennis at Seymour 66

### MARCH

- 1st Badminton Competition - Chequers Bridge

- 6th Area Quiz at Forthampton  
12th Area Quiz at Drybrook  
13th Houses of Parliament Visit  
19th Area Quiz at Charlton Kings  
22nd Netball Competitions at Stroud & Gloucester  
25th Area Quiz at Matson  
27th 5-a-side & Netball Finals Night

### APRIL

- 12th National Badminton Finals  
23rd County Finals at Tewkesbury  
27th It's a Knockout & Tug O'War at Blaisdon Hall

### MAY

- 4th Regional Finals at Shifnal Shropshire  
8th Arts & Crafts & Girls Event at Seymour 66  
13th Junior County Princess

### JUNE

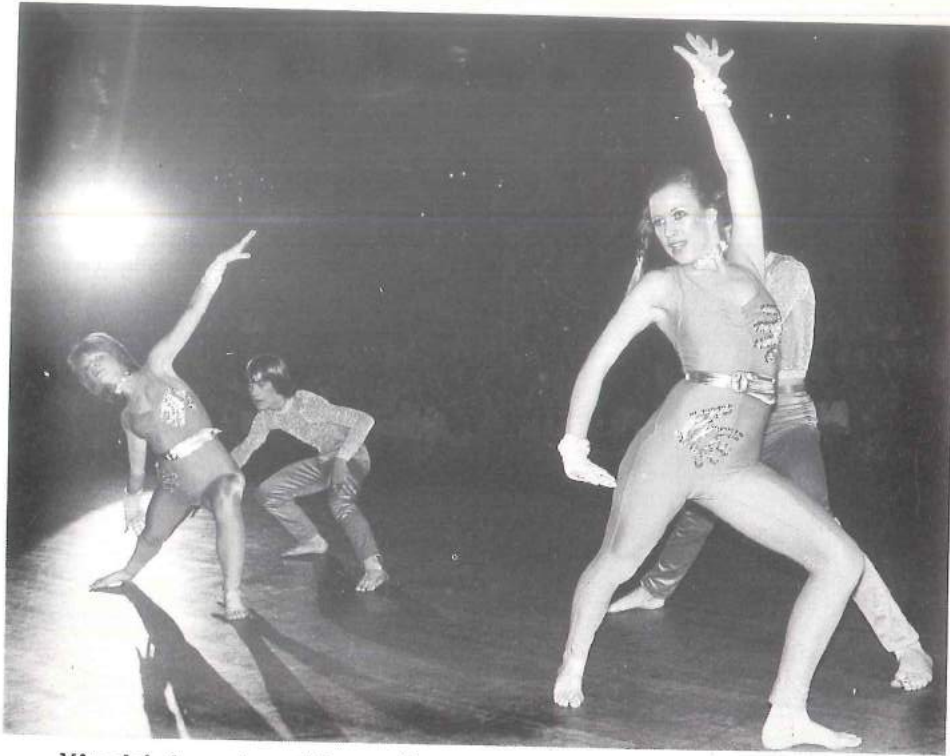
- 7th National Table Tennis Finals  
15th Superclub Event at Ullenwood  
28th Saturday Spectacular

### JULY

- 6th Festival Event at Tewkesbury  
19/20th National Sports Finals at Nottingham







Minchinhampton Disco Team at the Hammersmith Palais

### **SUPERCLUB EVENT**

Sixteen teams from the Association arrived at Ullenwood Manor on a day which threatened to be spoiled by the weather. However, the rain stayed away long enough for the teams to complete a gruelling programme of six out of eight events in 3 hours. Teams of eight had to include three girls, which proved difficult for the Blaisdon Hall team; however after 'borrowing' three girls from Huntley they managed to run out winners.

So So Club from Drybrook completed a notable double for the Forest ending only two points behind the winners, with Stonehouse and Charlton Kings equal third. The winners of this event receive the Charles Dickens Leisureland Cup, and well deserve it, for the effort that is required in an afternoon of hectic competition is great.

The hosts for the event at the Star Centre for Disabled Youth are really super, they enjoy the day and give much to assist in the smooth running of an enjoyable event.

### **BIRD'S DESSERT COMPETITION**

Bird's Desserts were the sponsors of a new event this year, a recipe competition with fabulous prizes. The winner was St. Mary de Lode G.F.S. member Wendy Stockwell, who had a fantastic weekend in London where she had to prepare her recipe before a panel of judges.

The event, which overlaps the normal club year is being repeated and at the girls event Toni Collier from Stonehouse Youth Club won the County competition, and progresses to Regional, and we hope National Finals in London in October. We reproduce her recipe below, and can thoroughly recommend it.

#### Chocolate Swiss Mousse (serves 4-6)

- 1 Chocolate Swiss Roll.
- $\frac{1}{2}$  oz Gelatine
- 3 Tablespoons Water
- 2 oz Plain Chocolate
- $1\frac{1}{2}$  oz Cold Bird's Custard.
- 1 Dessertspoonful of Rum
- 1 Sachet Dream Topping.

#### Decoration

Whipped Cream  
Cherries & Angelica.

#### Method

1. Thinly slice swiss roll and line sides and base of a loaf tin.
2. Soak gelatine in water, then dissolve in a basin over hot water.
3. Melt chocolate in basin over hot water, stir in custard, rum and gelatine.
4. Prepare Dream Topping, stir into chocolate mixture, then pour into sponge-lined container.
5. Chill to set.
6. Unmould and decorate.



## ARTS & CRAFT COMPETITION

Section winners in the Arts & Crafts and Cookery competitions which were held at 66 Star Youth Centre were as follows:

N. Phillips - Elmore Club, L. Heather - St. Mary de Lode GFS, C. Miles - Quedgeley, R. Bell, L. Bird, N. Buffin - So So Club, D. O'Brien, J. Sullivan, P. McDermott, N. Gillings and C. McGrath - Salesians, S. Turvey - Stonehouse, J. Morgan, H. Wright, W. Johnson - Forthampton, P. Luckman - Roxburgh House.

A special award was made to Roxburgh House for their team work on a painting of a modern scene of the story of the Good Samaritan.



PIED PIPER

Winning exhibit in ceramic section at the Arts & Crafts Competition by Paddy McDermott of the Salesian Youth Club.

## GIRLS EVENT

Just before the winners of a beauty or talent contest are announced, the compere always says the judges had a difficult time choosing - and I can now endorse that from personal experience!

I was invited by the Gloucestershire Association of Youth Clubs to be one of the judges for the annual Miss GAYC Senior and Junior contests at the 66 Star Centre Club in Seymour Road, Gloucester.

As the girls paraded in front of the judges, dressed delightfully and neatly made-up, we had to start marking them - taking into account their looks the way they presented themselves and their personality, all in a matter of a few minutes.

Obviously, most of the girls were shy and slightly embarrassed by the whole occasion and certainly the judges were more impressed by a girl who smiled and looked cheerful than one who looked miserable.

Eventually, the marks were totalled up and none of us had any idea who the eventual winners were until they were announced.

It was, however, quite pleasing to realise that I had given my top marks to the eventual winners.

BETH LANGDON - GLOUCESTER CITIZEN





## FESTIVAL EVENT

For the first time since its inception the Festival Event was moved by the activities committee from Cirencester Park to Tewkesbury School. Perhaps this was the reason why the entries for the event were lower than in previous years, or maybe it is just the cost of transport catching up on clubs, having to cope with the effects of inflation.

The stars of the event this year were Fairford Youth Club who managed to win three events, beating the colourful punk teams from Wotton Under Edge into second place in both the rounders and the tug of war. The youngsters in the It's A Knockout had a great time and by the end of the day it didn't really matter who won; it was merely a case of enjoying themselves and drenching all and sundry including the umpires.

Our thanks must go to Dave Langley and Tony Clements at the school who with their staff gave us much support.

### WINNERS

<u>Rounders - 'O' 14's</u>	1st St. Catharines	2nd Wotton
<u>'U' 14's</u>	1st Salesians	2nd Tewkesbury

<u>Tug O'War</u>	1st Fairford	2nd Wotton
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<u>Chess</u>	1st D. Razell (Salesians)	2nd N. Johnson (Arlingham)
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<u>Netball</u>	1st Northway	2nd Tewkesbury
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<u>It's A K.O.</u>	1st Fairford	2nd Stonehouse
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### 5-a-Side Group Winners

Senior Boys	- Longlevens, Frampton.
Junior Boys	- Northway, Frampton.
Junior Girls	- Fairford
Senior Girls	- Hartpury

## NATIONAL FINALS

Three teams from the county won through to the National Finals and all three were a credit to the Association. The Blakeney team carried on the tradition that Gloucestershire has established in Tug Of War - their team of three boys and three girls were beaten into second place only by an almost invincible team from the North West that have lost only once in six years.

Moreton Youth Club reached the last four of the darts competition whilst the team from Tewkesbury went down fighting in the table football. It should be mentioned that Herefordshire won the It's A Knockout and Shropshire (who only just beat Pludds Youth Club in the regionals) walked off with the magnificent trophy for the Quiz. All in all an excellent finals for our region.

It was nice to see Jane Bradshaw at National Finals with a netball team from Jersey - Jane was introduced to youth work through the GAYC's Special Temporary Employment Programme two years ago, and is now running a successful club in Jersey.





## HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT VISIT

In March the Association was able to arrange for three groups of sixteen young people to visit their M.P. in the Houses of Parliament, and young people from nine clubs made up the party. Val George, Teresa Wright and Geoff Foster acted as group leaders, and the visit ran very smoothly indeed with the young people asking questions of their guides on the grand tour.

The whole day in London was nicely rounded off by a visit to the Prince of Wales Theatre to see the hit musical Evita and an outstanding performance by Marti Webb. On arrival back in Gloucestershire just before midnight it was a tired but inspired bus load of young people that returned to their clubs.



## BIBLINS WEEKEND

Eight clubs sent thirty young people along to the now traditional adventure camp at the Biblins during the first weekend in October. Opportunities were provided for young people to take part in canoeing, climbing, abseiling, walking and swimming and a night exercise.

The weather was not kind, particularly for the night exercise, for it started raining as the first team left, and continued to pour down until the groups arrived with spirits only slightly dampened at Symonds Yat, two and a half hours later. Despite the soaking everyone seemed to enjoy the weekend, and the team of instructors under Bob Perkins and Steve Powers did a fine job.

# Clubs Are TRUMPS

## FORTHAMPTON YOUTH CLUB

In the small picturesque village of Forthampton you wouldn't expect to find a thriving youth club. Yet, here with a small young population there are 25 regular members who turn up every Monday night.

The local members of our club have invited their friends from surrounding districts along and they have found the atmosphere so relaxed and friendly that they have become members themselves.

The club leisure activities include table-tennis, with two teams in the Gloucester League, darts, rounders and 5-a-side football. Four of our boys have formed a pop group called the LIDS who practice regularly at the club and often do concerts here and have had several other engagements.

Everyone agreed that the Night Hike was tougher this year and out of twelve teams our girls team did well to take third place and also our boys team fifth.

The club has also helped our local Church by going on a sponsored walk to raise money to restore the church organ.

Once again our girls excelled themselves in the Arts & Crafts competition, gaining eight certificates out of eleven entries.

We are all looking forward to next year when we hope to take part in a lot more events.



## NATIONAL STAR CENTRE FOR DISABLED YOUTH

Integration is a very important aspect in everybody's life, but people with handicaps find it much harder to integrate and become part of society. I have a handicap myself and understand most of the problems which prevent us from entering society.

The problems that face many of us may seem only minor to you but they stop us from going to activities and carrying out occupations like normal young people. I hope to explain some of these difficulties to you.

The main problem is that young people like yourselves don't know how to cope when faced with someone in a wheelchair or another handicap which sets them apart. Because someone's body is not perfect it does not follow that their brain is disabled also.

So why not try this out the next time you see someone who is different to you. Try to communicate. You may be pleasantly surprised.

Another major problem is that when you make contact how do you cope? Well just treat handicapped people as you would treat anyone else. Often when people make an effort with disabled people they become extreme. "What a good girl" and a pat on the head. This is wrong. We like to be treated as far as possible like you.

The fact that we are a minority group doesn't help at all. If I don't get on with the nearest disabled person then I am really stuck for friendship. You can pick and choose your friends. For me it is more difficult.

Clubs and societies are reluctant to take disabled people as members because of lack of confidence in their ability to cope. But if you are interested in starting your own club your local social services should have the names and addresses of local disabled people. There is plenty to be done but it is just getting the right people to start things up. 1981 is the year of the disabled, make it your year to communicate.

ALISON FRENCH

## SO SO CLUB, HOLY TRINITY, DRYBROOK

Since its formation in May, 1978, it has been quite a success story for the So-So Club, the youth group attached to Holy Trinity Church, Drybrook. That success has been largely due to the enthusiasm of the members themselves and the energy, drive and guidance of the leader, Mrs. Valerie Jones.

In the competitive field, the club won the West Gloucestershire Club of the Year award in 1979, an international cooking contest (with a Polish meal), the West Gloucestershire Netball tournament, swimming gala and table tennis tournament.

Community work has involved the staging of a fashion show which raised £100. towards sending a child suffering from Spina Bifida on holiday to Italy, and gardening for old people, entertaining at senior citizen homes, the donation of a large teddy bear and £30. to Gloucester Hospital children's ward and £15. to the NSPCC.

Members have also raised £52. towards a mobile home for the use of Spina Bifida sufferers and built their own puppet theatre to give shows at local fetes, children's parties, homes and hospitals.

Other club activities have involved the organisation of a cycle ride around the Forest of Dean, talks and slides by the Forestry Commission, a visit to Cheltenham Police Headquarters, ice skating at Bristol, visits to Staverton Airport and the US Base at Fairford, and car treasure hunts where the strong adult committee has assisted.

The club has also entered local carnivals in the float sections, organised a barn dance, enjoyed a visit to its headquarters at Holy Trinity Church Hall by police with a patrol car in attendance to show the young people its workings, and engaged in orienteering expeditions through the Forest of Dean. Six of them also took part in a 25 mile, weekend canoe expedition down the River Wye.



This year the girls have taken instruction in corn dolly making during club sessions and the boys have enjoyed making model aeroplanes.

The club has also supported The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme with six members so far gaining bronze medals. They are now completing the schedule for silver medals and making arrangements to achieve gold medal standard.

With ages ranging from 13 to 17 years, a happy spirit has been engendered into all its activities and the future augurs well for the So-So Club which gets its name from its motto - Serve Others, Serve Ourselves.



CLIFF DAVIES

### BLAISDON BUGLE

This excellent little magazine reports the activities of the club at Blaisdon, and we have summarized here some of their achievements - apart from success in GAYC events - this year.

In the Cadburys (formerly Kellogs) Exhibition of Childrens Art the group maintained their standard with four items accepted for exhibition, and eventually two first prize winners in Chris Barker and Tony Duffy.

This years pantomime was Sinbad, and the interesting thing about the way it is organised is that the main parts are played by different boys on different nights so that as many as possible get to take part.

Reports of visits to Wookey Hole, Staverton Air Display, the Gower Peninsula are all mentioned along with success in Judo, Orienteering and Table Tennis. All in all a most active year for the Blaisdon Hall boys.

### TREASURERS REPORT

I referred in my report last year to "significant change".

In the event, the change has been spectacular, both financially and productively to the cause to which we are dedicated. In a nutshell, we have moved in the past eighteen months from a hand-to-mouth existence for many years in rented accommodation, to the ownership and prestige of our own Headquarters containing a thriving youth opportunities enterprise. This culmination of several years of ardent preparation owes much to the tremendous response from our supporters, the Local Education Authority, and our internal membership. It means that two of the three segments of our whole operation are financially self-supporting.

The first of these, our headquarters building, is providing us with security of tenure for all our administration and ultimately with an annual income. Secondly, our Community Service Agency, funded and acclaimed by Manpower Services Commission, is a vehicle for real work and vocational training at an economic cost per youngster which would merit acceptance even by the most circumspect of business organisations.

Whilst we appreciate the firm foundation that has been built and is reflected in this year's Accounts, this is no time to rest on our laurels. We are seriously under-financed in the equally important third segment - our original and basic function, service to registered groups. The most intensive effort and enthusiasm is needed in this and future years to fund the club programme from one source or other, so that we can perform an expanding not a contracting service. The reduction of our borrowing commitment and the acquisition of further permanent income are therefore primary and urgent goals.

The recent Budget measures regarding Deeds of Covenant were designed "to provide the right conditions for substantial growth in the important relationship between voluntary service and the community". Their main effect is to make it more advantageous for people and businesses to make contributions to registered charities, and we are



hopeful that this constructive attitude of central government will contribute towards the solution of some of our problems.

H F A MAY - HON. TREASURER  
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### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1979

Captain Mark Phillips took the chair at the Association's Annual General Meeting for the first time in September 1979, the result being the biggest attendance for some years, with standing room only for late arrivals. Members and leaders were all very keen to meet the Association Chairman, and share with him aspirations for their clubs. Captain Phillips was quick to respond and spent a considerable time after the formal meeting chatting with many of the members and their leaders, learning much about youth work in the County.

We were very privileged to have as our guests at the College of St. Paul and St. Mary, the Mayor and Mayoress of Cheltenham - Councillor and Mrs. Dudley Aldridge, the Sheriff of Gloucester - Miss Freda Wilton, and the Deputy Mayor of Tewkesbury - Mrs. N. B. Arnold, who all assisted Captain Phillips to present the ever increasing number of trophies.

Amongst the awards were Long Service Certificates signed by Mr Angus Ogilvy, the National President, and these were presented to Len Agg of Parry Hall Youth Club, and Ivor Wakeman of Grosvenor Youth Club for over 20 years service to young people.

PROPERTY ACCOUNT  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1980

	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<b>INCOME</b>		
General Fund Receipts		2,100
Fund Raising		12,326
Rent Received		2,798
Interest Received		88
Grant - Gloucestershire County Council		500
		<hr/> 17,812
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Cleaning	478	
Light and Heat	483	
Rates	342	
Printing, Stationery and Advertising	-	
Insurance	87	
Depreciation	86	
Bank Interest and Charges	2,382	
Repairs and Renewals	16	
Sundry Expenses	45	
Industrial Fund Raising Expenses	1,292	
		<hr/> 5,211
<b>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>		<hr/> <hr/> 12,601



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GENERAL ACCOUNT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1980

	£	£
INCOME		
Fund Raising - Building		-
- General	4,111	
Donations from Smiths Charities	1,000	
Club Week Receipts	208	
Grants - Local Authority	5,833	
- N.A.Y.C.	600	
- N.A.Y.C. Lottery Grant	528	
- Silver Jubilee Fund	600	
Fees	582	
Interest Received	235	
Shoe Sales	68	
Premium on Conversion of British Savings Bonds	5	
Competition and Youth Services	2,015	
	<hr/>	
	15,785	

EXPENDITURE:

Discretionary Payments by Chairman	-	
Overheads:		
Administration Salaries	11,030	
Pension Contributions	604	
Office Expenses	197	
Rent, Rates and Cleaning	100	
Light and Heat	16	
Telephone and Postage	1,228	
Printing, Stationery and Advertising	1,060	
Grants, Subscriptions and Donations	50	
Motor Expenses	478	
Courses, Conferences and Competitions	1,636	
Accountancy	-	
Insurance	53	
Depreciation	79	
Bank Interest and Charges	293	
Field Officers' Expenses	410	
Repairs and Renewals	-	
Head Quarters Expenses	2,100	
Youth Services	704	
	<hr/>	
	20,038	
Less Overheads Received from Other Counties	1,073	
	<hr/>	
	18,965	
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME	<hr/>	( 3,180)

BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31ST MARCH 1980

	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
78 London Road, Gloucester		31,132
Office Furniture and Fittings		1,490
		<hr/>
		32,622
Less Mortgage from Bank		12,439
		<hr/>
		20,183
INVESTMENTS		
8 1/2% British Savings Bonds		-
9 1/2% British Savings Bonds		-
		<hr/>
		20,183
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank Accounts - Deposit	1,395	
- Current	290	
Cash in Hand	100	
Sundry Debtors	131	
	<hr/>	
	1,916	
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors	1,708	
Bank Overdraft	4,090	
	<hr/>	
	5,798	
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS		( 3,882)
		<hr/>
		16,301
		<hr/>
Represented By:		
GENERAL FUND AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	( 811)	
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME	( 3,180)	
	<hr/>	
		( 3,991)
BUILDING FUND AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	7,691	
Add Funds Raised	12,601	
	<hr/>	
		20,292
		<hr/>
		16,301
		<hr/>

We have prepared this Balance Sheet and the attached Account from the books, vouchers and information supplied and certify that they are in accordance therewith. We have carried out an audit of the accounts

DELOITTE, HASKINS AND SELLS

Gloucester 23rd July 1980 Chartered Accountants.



## ORGANISING SECRETARY'S REPORT

Training has always been an important element within the Association's work, and this year saw the conclusion of the first Jubilee Training Course. Twelve young people actually completed the course, and we are delighted that most are now heavily committed to service within their communities. The Liverpool weekend, which came towards the close of the course was an enormous success, and the young people stressed in their assessments how valuable it had been to spend a weekend in a completely different community to their own. It was pleasing that Hazel Wright, a member of the course, from the Forthampton Club was selected to attend the Five Nations Conference at Coleg Harlech, where she will share her knowledge of living in a small village with young people from Wales, Scotland, Ireland and Eire.

The Jubilee Trust have kindly agreed to sponsor a second course, and the Association is in the process of recruiting suitable students.

This year has seen changes with the Gloucestershire Training Agency under the chairmanship of the Rev'd Andrew Banfield, and the Association is to be represented on the Training Committee which will control the day to day work of the Agency. We continue to be actively involved in the work of both the Gloucestershire Council for Voluntary Youth Services and the County Liason Committee for Unemployed Youth in both committees the Association is held in high regard. As Organising Secretary I now serve on a number of National groups including the Sports Panel, under the chairmanship of Sir Denis Follows, and the Staff Conference Planning Group, whilst our Executive Chairman and Vice Chairman hold seats on the National Association of Youth Clubs Executive. In addition Neil Havard, the Rev'd Sidney J. Riggs and the Organising Secretary take an active role in the West Regional Council.

The Candlelight Carol Service this year was again a great success, and the young musicians from Beaufort School played some excellent pieces, particularly moving was the

duet from Clare and Nicky, whilst the Archdeacon of Cheltenham the Venerable Eric Evans delivered the Christmas address.

The Field Officers team were so glad to welcome Geoff Powers - active with the Association for many years - who took over in the South of the county, and Neil Havard, Jenny Cossor and Ray Kilminster continue to carry out sterling work in various parts of the county. Certainly our club visiting and the two way flow of information through Field Officers is vital to our success, and we are indeed grateful to these officers.

As we go to press sponsor money begins to arrive in the office from those people who worked so hard in this years Saturday Spectacular, and whilst the numbers involved were not as great as in previous years we are hopeful that those that did take part will have raised a considerable sum towards the Association's running costs.

Our sincere thanks must, as always, so out to the officers of the Local Authority, in particular to Peter Clarke and John Pedrette, and to our colleagues in other sections of the Youth Service who are a continuing support to us through Gloucestershire Council for Voluntary Youth Service and in many other ways.

BRIAN JAMES McCARRICK

### THE ASSOCIATION WISHES TO THANK

All of those that have supported us in the past year by their voluntary contribution of time and effort for the Association, or by financial gifts both large and small which are so vital to our continued existence.

We would in particular wish to place on record our thanks to Gloucestershire County Council, Trident Life Assurance Company Ltd., and the Trustees of the Smiths Charity - all of whom made very substantial contributions to our work.

PHOTO OF QUEEN MOTHER  
& COVER PICTURE BY KIND PERMISSION OF THE CITIZEN





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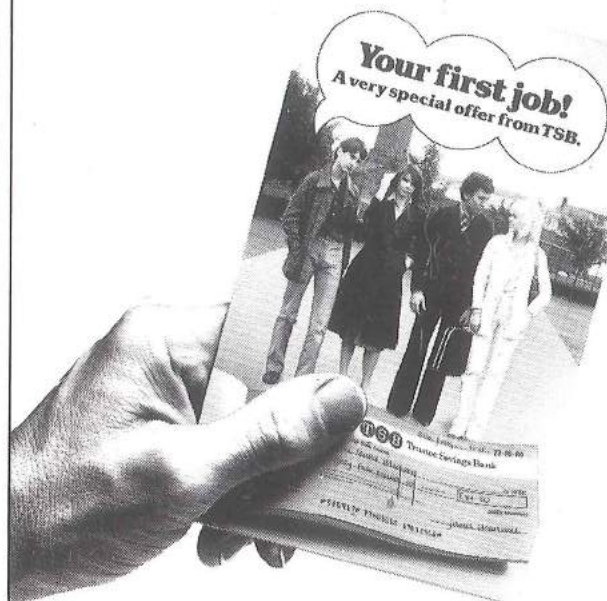
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