

BIDFORD-ON-AVON YOUTH CLUB/ THE SHACK

from **DIANE BENNETT**

In June of 2012 Bidford Youth Club was in a very sorry state. The building was looking very shabby and run down; we had low attendance, low staff morale and no money.



In fact we thought that by the end of July 2013 we would be announcing that the youth club would close its doors, after over forty years on its current site.

However, twelve months later and the story could not be more different. In June of 2012 we approached Bidford Youth Action for help and were given a grant that enabled us to start a refurbishment programme at the youth club.

An article was written for the BIG newspaper and the community of Bidford and local area, swung into action. Over the next few months we received donations from Bidford Parochial Charities, Bidford Community Group, Bidford Community Choir, Bidford Christmas Lights and

Bidford Parish Council. We also received help in the form of building materials, paint, flooring, tiles, blinds, kitchen units etc., from members of the community and also local businesses and shops.

The members, youth workers and young leaders of the youth club along with members of the local community spent many hours, days and weeks working at the youth club and turned it into a virtually new space for the young people of Bidford! We had a constant flow of people bringing in drinks, refreshments, biscuits and cakes for everyone. People would just call in saying they had a spare hour and what could they do to help. Special thanks to members of Bidford Community Group and The Jolly Tea

Pot for publicising the project and for their very practical support.

During this period we have developed a Facebook page, which originally was used to show people how the refurbishment was progressing and giving appeals for the materials and help needed. Now we use it to show what activities are going on at the youth club and to communicate with our members/parents and the community.

In September 2012 we re-opened after the summer break with most of the work done and held an Open Day at the end of the month. We publicised this in the local schools and also invited everyone who had helped, volunteered, donated etc., to show everyone what had been done and to say thank you. Budgens very kindly sponsored the day and donated food for a buffet. We had a fabulous day with over 120 people coming along. Since then, attendance at the Junior Club on Wednesday nights has increased dramatically: we now have an average of 35-45 young people, and have even reached the dizzy heights of 56! The Junior Club is for young people aged 9-13 and is very programme based. Activities include sports, arts and crafts, issue-based activities, quizzes, outdoor activities, cooking and trips out.

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ORBIT HEART OF ENGLAND

ORBIT is the principal Housing Association in this District, and on the last Tuesday morning every month, a Specialist Adviser from Orbit attends in the Library (next door to Bidford School) from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon to give help and information on Housing and related questions. Orbit have particular links with the District Council, and are well placed to answer questions of all kinds related

to living in Bidford (or anywhere else in the district if need be). They offer a wide range of services for everyday life, not just in the housing field. These include fuel-saving and advice on suppliers' tariffs. They are equipped to advise on welfare benefits and reforms being made to the system, and can facilitate connections with organisations such as the CAB if required.

Community Housing Officer Jacqui Duggan was the officer on duty in July. Her e-mail address is jacqui.duggan@orbit.org.uk. The phone number is **03458-500-500**, and if in need it is well worth calling them. The range of service information at their fingertips is amazing, and the advice and assistance they can give could take a great weight off your shoulders.

BIDFORD SCAN

SCAN has had an interesting series of meetings this year. The March meeting had the engaging title of "Tax, Care and Toy Boys", and covered the accidents that can happen to family wealth when the elder generation dies, and the family heritage is lost through the arrival of new beneficiaries in the shape of second wives (or husbands) who finish up scooping the pool. Returning to day to day reality, the May meeting welcomed the Fire, and Mobile Library Service. The latter speaker explained to its users how the Mobile Library service is being reorganised, while the Fire officers

gave a comedy performance with a serious purpose: domestic fire safety. Since May, they have been around the village checking the effectiveness of home fire alarms. Last month, Donna Ranchhod from the new Healthwatch organisation explained the purpose of Healthwatch as the NHS users' advocate, and invited SCAN members to join the team.

SCAN has also signed up to an Age UK (formerly Age Concern) campaign to get a higher quality, more personally centred service for older people from their Local Authorities. A Manifesto drawn up by AgeUK in April, was adopted by

SCAN in July, and sent to Stratford and Warwickshire Councils asking for a commitment to a more inclusive service for older people living in rural areas. It is a lifestyle commitment, incorporating improvements to public transport, housing support services, and the alleviation of poverty. It may be a difficult time to make demands of this kind, but the "elder" proportion of the entire population is increasing rapidly, and plans must at some time be made to cope with its implications. SCAN hopes that our authorities in Warwickshire will be alert enough to rise to this challenge.

BIDFORD MEDICAL CENTRE

After 10 years of hard work, building work has begun to create a new health centre for patients of Bidford Health Centre. The former Crabtree nursery site is being converted to become a state of the art health centre which will be the focus of what we hope will be a very exciting health related development to serve patients in Bidford and the surrounding villages.

Hardymans, our building contractor, are hard at work and fingers crossed we will be opening the doors around Easter 2014. This is a very exciting time for us all but there is still a long way to go. One of our main issues is being able to provide modern equipment for the new surgery when there is no "NHS funding " for this anymore. Some of our patients have offered help in

various respects and we are very grateful to them.

We are currently forming a charity called "Friends of Bidford Health Centre" which will be the cornerstone of all fundraising activities. Six patients have kindly agreed to be trustees of the charity and once registered as a charity, the patient participation group, the practice staff and anyone else who would like to volunteer ,

are planning to organise many fundraising activities. More details to come of this exciting diary of events !

For more information on any aspect of the new health centre we would recommend our website www.bidfordhc.nhs.uk If you would like to be involved in any respect with our new project, please contact us either at the surgery or via the website.

Finally, we are very grateful to many of you that have helped us get this far particularly our parish councillors and district councillors whose support has been very much appreciated.

COMING SOON TO BIDFORD RURAL CINEMA...

Refreshments available sponsored by your local



A partnership between Bidford on Avon Parish Council and the Crawford Memorial Hall Management Committee

THE CRAWFORD MEMORIAL HALL, SALFORD ROAD, BIDFORD-ON-AVON B50 4EZ

TICKET OFFICE OPENS 6.30pm • FILMS START AT 7.00pm



Friday 6th Sept.
• 130 minutes plus interval



Friday 27th Sept.
• 1209minutes plus interval

LOOK OUT FOR THESE FILMS COMING SOON...



Tickets: Still only £2.50!

For further information telephone **01789 778653** or **07718 628925** or see www.bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk

NEXT DATES: OCT. - Friday 4th & 25th NOV. - Friday 1st & 22nd

BIDFORD-ON-AVON YOUTH CLUB/THE SHACK CONTINUED...

We are planning another Open Day with a provisional date of 28th September 2013. We also plan to run some fundraising stalls at the same time, to raise much needed funds for the youth club.

As we have the benefit of a new kitchen, we have developed a youth café style evening, running two or three times a term, which has proved very popular with our members. With financial support from Bidford Parish Council and support from Targeted Youth Support in Stratford, we held some taster sessions and meetings with young people with the intention of re-starting a senior section at the youth club. This commenced in November 2012 on a Monday evening 8.00p.m. – 10.00p.m. We have around 20 members with an average attendance of 10-12. The group call themselves Overs (as they are over 13). The group do not have a planned programme, choosing a

more informal and relaxed approach, but activities have included trips to laser quest, youth café nights, cupcake decorating, pizza making, pancake making, arts and crafts. Budgens have again supported the Youth Club by nominating us as one of their charities for the community token collection from January-June 2013. We have recently been presented with a cheque for £401.11, which has been given specifically to purchase a new table football and also some giant outdoor games. We continue to explore opportunities to be involved in the local community and to also undertake some fundraising activities. The youth club needs around £5,000.00 a year to run the youth club, so we continue to identify sources of funding/grants that we can apply for. Our goals for the next couple of years include:

- continuing to develop the Junior

and Overs Clubs

- holding another Open Day at the youth club
- fundraising activities
- involvement in community events
- re-establish the youth club management committee
- refurbishment of the computer equipment/it suite
- consultation with our members, youth workers and the community on 'where next?'

After the Open Day, attendance at the Junior Club on a Wednesday night increased quite dramatically. We now have almost 100 members with an average attendance of 35-45 on a Wednesday night, with our highest attendance being 56 young people.

ELECTRIC BLANKET CHECK

As in previous years, Warwickshire County Council Trading Standards Service is providing a FREE annual electric blanket safety testing scheme.

Please remember that a faulty electric blanket can be unusable and in an extreme situation can be lethal: it is, therefore, essential to have it tested! **Anyone requiring this service should contact Heather Gerrard on 778493 no later than Friday 26th September.** She has organised electric blanket testing for Bidford for several years, and the normal pattern is that the blankets are collected from Heather, tested, and returned within the day. If you are over 50, you regularly use an electric blanket make sure you contact Heather to arrange your Free Electric Blanket Test, on 778493.

THE STORY OF ELLA THE JAZZ DANCER BY Katie Bevan A young author from Bidford-on-Avon.



My name is Katie Bevan. I am nine years of age. I live in Bidford-on-Avon, which is a village in Warwickshire. I have not long ago written my first book: 'Ella the Jazz Dancer'. It's about a 15 year old girl called Ella who makes some magical friends-some of them not so nice! The race is on to get to the magic castle first! Will Ella get home safely-or not?

I like writing because I get to use my imagination properly. I chose a children's story because then both children and adults can enjoy it together. I'd like to write a second book in the future called 'Talise the Tap Dancer'.

My favourite part of the book is when Ella, the talking rabbit and Harriet the horse, fight Tustis the evil rat. But do they win the castle? I also like the ending where Ella finds a note on her pillow. Also if I can write a book and I'm only nine, so can others if they work hard and put their minds to it. They could become an author one day just like I would like to be. I am also looking for a publisher to get my book published.

I am selling my book for £4.95 and for each book I sell I will be donating 40p to my charity that I have chosen which is the Northampton and Warwickshire Air Ambulance. So please help me to raise lots of money for them by buying my book, as YOU may need the Air Ambulance one day.

MAYHEM IN THE LIBRARY

Bidford Community Library has witnessed mass scenes of invasion by children since the beginning of the summer holidays.

Once again we are taking part in the national Summer Reading Challenge, where children are challenged to read a minimum of six books and receive various rewards along the way, culminating in a certificate and a medal. Last year we were by far the most successful of all the Warwickshire community libraries with around a hundred children completing the Challenge. This year the theme, 'Creepy House', has even more appeal to both boys and girls and they have been coming along in droves.

We have also put together an exciting programme of activities and stories based on haunted houses and all things scary. Children from four to nine years of age have been creating Creepy Hands, Spooky Lanterns, Scary Skeletons and other spine-chilling items.

Pop in to see our brilliant displays! It may not be too late to sign up for the remaining sessions but if you can't attend we are also offering a competition for the best story or poem about what (or who!) you might find in a Creepy House, using a maximum of 500 words. Entries have to begin by 27th August and there will be prizes in different age groups

Our volunteers have coped brilliantly with this year's huge numbers of participants, both for the Reading Challenge itself and for the activities and we have been particularly grateful to Georgina and Louisa, our two youngest helpers who have proven invaluable to us. Our volunteers

range in age from 13 to 83 and are the lifeblood of the library. Come and see what we have to offer; books from the library are free to borrow and we also have low cost internet access. We are on the site of Bidford Primary School and are open Mondays and Tuesdays 10-4, Fridays 10-6 and Saturdays 10-1.



...working to include all ages and walks of life in our Community

**C/O Parish Office
Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon.
Tel: 01789 778653**

Email: info@bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk

COMPUTER COURSES ARE BACK THIS AUTUMN!

Following the success of the computer course taster in the Spring, BCL is continuing the popular courses this Autumn. It is also offering specialised courses for small businesses or for anyone thinking of starting on their own. **Full details in the leaflet inside this newsletter!!**

BIDFORD-ON-AVON PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

The Trustees will again be making grants to people living within the boundaries of the Parish of Bidford-on-Avon (which includes Barton, Broom and Marlcliff) who will be furthering their education at University or College for the academic year commencing in September.

If you would like to be considered for a grant, please write a letter of application (there are no forms) giving full details of your course, nature of qualifications, subject, year of study, name of University or College etc. to: **The Clerk, Mrs. Joy Keeley, 30 Icknield Close, Bidford-on-Avon B50 4BZ.** Grants will be considered and made at the end of October.

SOME SUMMER SKIN TIPS

KEEP THE SKIN HYDRATED

Use moisturising masques once or twice per week. Drink 8 eight-ounce glasses of plain water every day to help maintain body moisture balance. If you drink coffee or tea, you must triple the amount of water you take.

SOOTHE OVER-EXPOSED SKIN

Super soothing botanicals and cooling gels can help prevent peeling and reduce redness and inflammation.

REPAIR AND TREAT SUN DAMAGE

UV light causes photoaging in the form of brown spots, coarse skin and wrinkles. Bombard your skin with age-fighting treatments to help undo any damage, and to protect it from the aging effects of UV.

MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER

- Tuesday 10th @ 10.00am** Alcester/Bidford Community Forum at the Crawford Memorial Hall
- Monday 16th @ 7.30pm** Planning Committee Meeting, Parish Council Meeting Room, Bramley Way
- Monday 30th @ 7.30pm** Parish Council Meeting, Parish Council Meeting Room, Bramley Way

OCTOBER

- Monday 14th @ 7.30pm** Planning Committee Meeting, Parish Council Meeting Room, Bramley Way
- Monday 28th @ 7.30pm** Parish Council Meeting, Parish Council Meeting Room, Bramley Way

NOVEMBER

- Monday 11th @ 7.30pm** Planning Committee Meeting, Parish Council Meeting Room, Bramley Way
- Monday 25th @ 7.30pm** Parish Council Meeting, Parish Council Meeting Room, Bramley Way