

IS THIS WHAT YOU THINK?

Last year, the University of Northampton asked a lot of young people (aged 8 to 18) what they thought about various things. That included 105 people from East Northamptonshire (which includes Rushden, in case you didn't know). Here is some of what they found out from within East Northants:

- **East Northants is the least loved of the seven districts in the county.** Only 7% of its young people said that they loved it, compared with 31% in South Northants, for example – and 15% in Corby.
- **It's also the most dangerous district after dark.** 65% of people said that 'everywhere after dark' was dangerous, higher than the 63% in Corby and much higher than the 25% in Northampton.
- **But it's also less lacking in youth groups than any other district.** Although 60% thought there weren't enough, the figures were higher everywhere else – with Daventry being top, at 85%.
- **Only 21% of young people had been to a youth club more than once in 2006;**
- **49% are often bored after school;**
- **The top four dislikes were**
 - Gangs (disliked by 47%)
 - Having nothing to do (also 47%)
 - Bad people (37%)
 - Dangerous streets (also 37%)
- **67% said that there's no point saying what they think, because no one listens.** This is higher than the 60% in Corby and much higher than everywhere else (all under 30%).

Do you want to help get things better? Why not ask your youth leader or teachers about getting involved in a youth panel, or on a youth council? There are quite a few of them about these days.

Youth News is brought to you by RACY (Rushden Area Christian Youth).

To submit items, or ask for it to be e-mailed to you each month, please e-mail youthnews@whitefriarschurch.org.uk



RACY Rushden Area Christian Youth presents...

YOUTH NEWS

Issue 133: June 2008



The dodge ball tournament [or perhaps just 'torment', from Higham's point of view – read on to see why... - Ed] on the 9th May was a big success. There were 5 teams that entered: 2 from Rushden Full Gospel, 2 from Higham and 1 from Rushden. The games went really well and it was really tense. The best bit about the dodge ball was the fact that Vince (of St Mary's Higham) was so confident that his teams were going to win. The final scores were:

- 1st place - Rushden Full Gospel team 1
- 2nd place - Higham team 1
- 3rd place - Rushden
- 4th place - Rushden Full Gospel team 2
- 5th place - Higham team 2

Everyone enjoyed the night and had a great time and my youth group winning was an added bonus

Kerry Spence
Powerhouse Youth Group
Full Gospel Church, Rushden



Peter Kay's universal truths:

Triangular sandwiches taste better than square ones. At the end of every party there is always a girl crying. You've never quite sure whether it's ok to eat green crisps. Nobody ever dares make cup-a-soup in a bowl. You never know where to look when eating a banana. Its impossible to describe the smell of a wet cat. Rummaging in an overgrown garden will always turn up a bouncy ball. You always feel a bit scared when stroking horses. Everyone always remembers the day a dog ran into your school. The most embarrassing thing you can do as schoolchild is to call your teacher mum or dad. Some days you see lots of people on crutches. Old women with mobile phones look wrong! Its impossible to look cool whilst picking up a Frisbee. Driving through a tunnel makes you feel excited. You never ever run out of salt. There's no panic like the panic you momentarily feel when you've got your hand or head stuck in something. No one knows the origins of their metal coat hangers. Despite constant warning, you have never met anybody who has had their arm broken by a swan. The most painful household incident is wearing socks and stepping on an upturned plug. Everyone had an uncle who tried to steal their nose. In every plate of chips there is a bad chip...

Auntie Agnes's Advice

Question: I don't *belieeve* it! East Northants Council isn't allowing Rushden Town Cricket Club to put up a few practice nets unless the club spends £2,000 on a survey to prove that local residents won't be upset, even though none of the residents have complained, and several have signed a petition *in favour*. Daft things like that usually happen a long way away. Why are they now happening here in Rushden?



Answer: I only wish I knew the answer to that. Sometimes, things like that happen when people realise that their job gives them power over other people's lives, and they like to make the most of it, no matter how odd their behaviour might seem to other people. But that may not be the case here. Beyond that, it's true that more and more people seem to be behaving as 'fundamentalists' in all walks of life. That is, people who seem to be obsessed with getting other people to behave in a particular way, and whose minds seem to be closed to debate about what they are doing. Religious people were at one time thought to be most likely to be fundamentalists, but now it seems more usual to come across people who are anti-smoking fundamentalists, health & safety fundamentalists or pro-recycling fundamentalists etc. This might be because – as the Bishop of Rochester has said recently - a 'moral vacuum' has been created in Britain over the last forty or so years, as lots of people have moved away from having Christian beliefs – and found their lives to be so empty that they have to find other things to believe in and get passionate about – and that could include a passionate belief that noise pollution should be avoided at all costs in this case. Although it sounds a bit cheesy, the best way forward is to focus on Jesus instead of earthly niggles, perhaps by singing the old Christian song:

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face,
and the things of Earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of
his glory and grace.*

In addition, many people are unfortunately driven in their actions by fear these days – such as fear that things will go wrong, or that people will suffer as a result of their decisions, no matter how unlikely in practice. A Christian response to this is to remind people that "*perfect love casts out fear*", when talking about God's love as in 1 John 4: 18 in the Bible.

Q: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JUNE (& a bit of July)?

A: lots of things. So much, in fact, that it won't all fit into this little column. Please look at the separate insert sheet.

Have you visited the RACY website recently?

It's at www.racy.org.uk.

Why not invite a friend to try your Youth Group?

Lauren Houlihan recently joined the Fruit Youth Group and said that there was "*something really different about it and I will definitely recommend it to my friends*".

Lauren's comment is very perceptive, as there really is something special and fantastic about our RACY Youth Groups – imagine how you would feel if someone invited you?! Go for it!

WHAT A WEIRD & WONDERFUL WORLD!

Confused Quotes of the Month

- 1) Carol Groome when trying to remember the name of the cool young band called 'Quake' that have played at Passion&Glory, guessed a slightly bizarre 'Crash-out?'
- 2) Stephen.E commented that 'at least the English have got something right – their food'... whilst munching on a bowlful of Chinese Take-away at Fruit Youth Group.
- 3) Lily Capewell was trying half-heartedly to remember the name of a Chelsea Striker called 'Drogba', and guessed two particularly poor attempts of 'Jodhpur' and 'Drodger'
- 4) Chelsea Rolfe was frustrated at not being able to find a bin at Moor Road, and exclaimed 'Where's the bin?!' ... at the time her right leg was literally touching a large and obvious bin.

Unusual claim of the month: Labour Deputy Leader Harriet Harman MP has said that it's good that more couples are separating, because that means that there is a 'greater choice' for them. Not sure if any children of the family would quite see it that way...

Oh...you like you Youth News to be politically unbiased? Don't worry, because the above quote is neutralised by Auntie Agnes's fairly harsh words about the strange actions of a Conservative-controlled council not far from here.



Annie Marsden-Allen asks...

WANNA JOINA BAND?



The (RMB) Rushden Mission band is here! We are a brass band, and we rehearse every Thursday night from 7:30 till 9:30 at the Mission Church, Wellingborough Road, Rushden. During our band practises, we play a wide range of pieces, from marches to theme tunes in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. If you already play a brass instrument, or are a percussionist and would like to join, don't hesitate to contact Roger Dear on (01933) 652516.

Want to learn to play? Come along to the Rushden Mission Training Band on Tuesday nights from 7:30 till 8:45. This band offers the opportunity to learn to play a brass instrument or be a percussionist with people of a similar ability. If you would like to join, contact Tony Boddington on (01933) 664628. Or, visit our website: www.missionband.com

Feel the music, read the music, be the music!