

NEW PRESIDENT AND DEPUTY TAKE UP THE REINS

Following the death last November of long serving President Andrew Rowe, we are delighted to announce that Edwin Boorman, OBE DL and Mrs Sheila Rowe have accepted the appointment as President and Deputy President respectively of the charity.

Edwin says, "I am honoured to become Kent Youth President. I do not have Andrew Rowe's wonderful connections despite serving Kent Youth for more than 30 years. I am more than conscious that his will be a difficult act to follow. However, Sheila Rowe has kindly agreed to support me as Deputy President. She will be an enormous help. I welcome her with enthusiasm."

Sheila is, of course, Andrew's widow and we are absolutely delighted that she feels able to continue the family association with us. Since her appointment, she has met staff and has spent time with young people in their clubs.

We look forward to welcoming them both at many events and special occasions in the future and extend our grateful thanks to them both for agreeing to support us in this way.



WELCOME FROM EVE JOHNSON, DIRECTOR OF KENT YOUTH

My first year as Director is swiftly drawing to a close and it has been an extremely active one for the staff team as you will be able to see from this issue of Kent Youth Matters. This autumn has seen the start of our partnership with the Lions Clubs SE through the Adopt a Youth Club scheme; it has also seen our established disability inclusion projects grow from three to five. I am conscious of how busy it continues to be for our 200+ affiliated youth clubs and organisations. Our volunteer leaders contribute well over 100,000 volunteer

hours every year and we hope that the forthcoming Christmas period will give them the opportunity for a well earned rest with their families. Thank you all for everything you do for our young people here in Kent & Medway.

The current financial climate isn't an easy one in which to raise money as many of you will appreciate. However, our aim is to continue to develop and build on the services and programmes that we offer to both affiliated clubs, through our Connect affiliation, and direct to young people through our peer programmes to ensure that our children and young people have every opportunity to reach their potential.

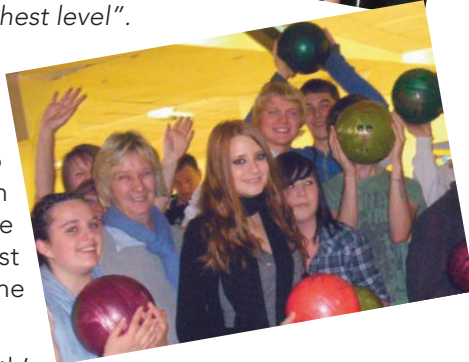
Providing services for our affiliated clubs is right at the heart of what we do at Kent Youth, ensuring children and young people have access to quality, safe places to go at the heart of their community.

As well as offering training, advice, activities and CRB checking to clubs we often help them secure much needed funding. One avenue for this is **The Variety Club of Great Britain Awards**. Four clubs from Kent & Medway have received grants over the past few months – Barming Youth Club, United Youth, Tri-Star Twirlers and Walderslade Judo Club.

Eve Johnson, Director, visited Tri-Star Twirlers in Tunbridge Wells to deliver their cheque for a grant towards the provision of new competition costumes. Troupe Leader Martin Hibbert said *"We need to change our costumes. The new costumes will really inspire members to perform to the highest level"*.



Club visits provide valuable support for leaders as well as the young people being able to show off their achievements. Our new Deputy President, Sheila Rowe, has been keen to get to know our work so went out to visit Barming Youth Club and also joined Silver Cross whilst they were on a club bowling outing in Maidstone. Whilst there, Sheila presented certificates to some of the older club members.



Partnership working is a key part of Kent Youth's approach and so we are very pleased to announce a joint initiative with the Lions Clubs' International District 105SE. The two organisations have joined forces to pilot an **"Adopt a Youth Club"** scheme, offering additional support and skills to youth clubs in Kent & Medway. The initial pilot project will involve 10 clubs and will run for 12 months up until January 2011.

The partnership was the brainchild of retiring Lions International District Governor Jacquie Prebble who will continue to steer the initiative for the Lions as Chairman of their Youth committee. Jacquie says *"Lions Clubs International has always had a strong affiliation to working with young people. Our members are made up of volunteers from all walks of life with diverse skills who can offer additional experience and knowledge to augment the often stretched resources of these clubs."*

Medway Lions have adopted Chattenden Youth Club and recently visited the club to make

a presentation of some equipment. Mike (Chattenden) said "We are really grateful to the Lions for contributing because we live in an area where there is not a lot of spare cash so when people help us it is much appreciated!"

Photo – John (Lions President Medway) presented Chattenden YC with a 19" Flat Screen TV and a Nintendo Wii.



Part of our support to clubs is to provide a comprehensive Activities Programme, both within the individual club environment and at venues across the county, giving young people the opportunity to socialise and network with other young people.

Activities enjoyed within the clubs have been many and varied including games and craft workshops, smoothie making and, most popular of all Djembe Drumming.

Outside of the club environment we also encourage participation in nationally run youth activities such as **Clubs For Young People's National five a side Football Tournament**. The Kent round of the competition took place at Strood Leisure Centre on 24th October. Winning teams in each category then went on to represent the county in the next round on 7th November and we are pleased to announce that Christchurch Youth Centre (XC Youth Centre) from Ashford won their way through to the National Finals on 5th December. We wish them all the very best of luck!

Extended Services – ensuring quality provision

Over the last year Kent Youth has been working in partnership with KCC Extended Services to train and support external providers that wish to work with schools as part of the Extended Services agenda. These providers include voluntary groups, community interest companies, and limited companies with specialisms ranging from individual sports through to arts, crafts and theatre based projects. All of the providers are looking to widen the range of services available to young people in the local community. The training ensures that organisations wishing to work in partnership with schools are aware of minimum common standards, including safeguarding, and explores successful relationships with schools. This work has a natural synergy with our quality assurance Connect affiliation programme that ensures that groups working with young people meet a minimum quality standard.

"It has been great working in partnership with Kent Youth. Together we are meeting the needs of external providers to ensure quality delivery to young people in out of school hours learning" – Martin Turner – Extended Services Lead Manager.

ME2 – AIMING HIGH FOR DISABLED YOUNG PEOPLE

Our me2 project trains young people as peer mentors to enable them to support disabled young people through to inclusion in mainstream youth clubs and organisations.

As a result of a successful bid to KCC for funding through Aiming High for Disabled Children and the continued support of BBC Children in Need, we are delighted to be able to expand our current projects from three to five across the county between September 2009 and August 2010. The Aiming High for Disabled Children Fund enables us to repeat a me2 project in Maidstone and deliver a new project in Dover. The BBC Children in Need grant is funding three new projects in this, the second year of their support.

What a difference a peer mentor makes – Emma, a young person who has a spatial perception disorder from Maidstone, had always wanted to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme but felt unable to. Emma needed someone to work with her so she could build her skills to take part in the expedition part of the award. She had tried many times to complete this, but her confidence had always failed her. Me2 paired her with Claire, a fully trained peer

mentor, who worked with Emma to set goals and targets that slowly helped build confidence and self esteem and go on to develop the specific skills she needed for the expedition. Emma achieved the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award and Claire was able to withdraw her support. Emma is now considering the next step – the Gold Award!

Who can help other disabled young people achieve gold? The me2 programme relies on youth clubs and projects coming forward to be trained and supported to receive disabled young people into their clubs accompanied by peer mentors. We also look to mums, dads, teachers, doctors, social workers and young people themselves to refer disabled young people to this service. And we need young people to volunteer to undergo extensive training and support to

become excellent supportive peer mentors. Me2 needs all of the above in order to succeed, so if you want to be part of this inspiring project at any level, we are currently running in Medway, Folkestone, Dover, Maidstone and will soon be in Tonbridge.

Please email angelame2@kent youth.org for further details.



**LOOK OUT FOR NEW
PROJECTS STARTING
IN 2010**

ACTIVE YOUTH – YOUNG PEOPLE LEADING THE WAY

Kent Youth was successful in early 2008 with a bid to the youth volunteering charity v for a grant over three years to run our brand new Active Youth programme. Activeyouth takes

coming forward to take part in traditional "Leadership" programmes. This is especially the case with hard to reach young people as it can be seen as being elitist and focused on high achievers. Sport, and specifically the activeyouth project, has and can attract and engage young people that would not normally enroll in traditional programmes. The activeyouth project, through the community placement with, often younger, young people and children, gives disadvantaged young people the chance to 'test out' their leadership skills and to 'have a go' in a safe supportive environment.



Kent Youth has worked in partnership with a number of organisations including PAYP (Positive Activities for Young People) to deliver activeyouth to some of the harder to reach groups of young people in Kent and Medway.

young people between the ages of 16 and 25 and trains them as Community Sports or Dance Leaders. The courses give them a nationally recognised qualification – either the Sports Leaders UK Level 1 Award in Dance Leadership or the Level 2 Award in Community Sports Leadership. As part of the programme, the young leaders complete 30 hours of volunteering in the community, usually within one of our affiliated youth clubs.

Activeyouth currently runs until March 2011 and we have recently received some additional funding (from Global Charities) to run a course in DOVER. Other courses are currently running in Maidstone and Gravesend with the possibility of one in Sevenoaks in the new year.

Volunteer placements will follow each course.

If you are either interested in taking part in the course or hosting a placement, please contact tom@kentyouth.org.

There can be stigma around young people

MOVERS AND SHAPERS – YOUNG PEOPLE SHAPING SERVICES!

Movers and Shapers is part of a national pilot project with DCSF (Department of Children, Schools and Families) and UK Youth that Kent Youth is running in partnership with Maidstone Young Families Group. A group of young parents are training in peer education and consultation skills and have used these to research local health services with their peers. The young people then aim to influence and shape services available to them through their local Primary Care Trust.

The project is based in Maidstone at the Sunshine Children's Centre. The group are currently looking at services provided by midwives, health visitors and sexual health education. They have started to work with specialists in sexual health, school nurses, midwives and health visitors to feed back on and improve services. Professionals from these services recently attended a seminar run by the group, and comments included:

"This group of young people have highlighted the importance and value of consistency of professional contact/support"

*"Brilliant! Extremely useful to know what is needed from services. – Thank-you
Health Visitor*

ME2YOU – LEADING THE WAY NATIONALLY!

Building on our established work supporting youth groups and schools to deliver the BTEC Level 2 qualifications in peer education and peer mentoring, Kent Youth is proud to announce that it has been selected to pilot two brand new awards in these core areas of accredited work with young people. The qualifications have been written by one of our two national partners UK Youth and Kent Youth is leading the way in this field. The new year will see Kent Youth exploring ways of making this opportunity available across the county.

We continue to support sites across Kent & Medway that continue to work with the existing awards in Peer Education and Peer Mentoring. During the courses, young people gain skills in communication and planning, increase their confidence and offer an invaluable service to the communities in which they work.

"Kent Youth have been involved in the Peer Qualifications since the development of the original BTECs which the new qualifications are based on. We are very pleased they are now shaping the new qualifications so that they can be used in a diverse range of projects." – Sarah Lewis, Education & Training Development Officer, UK Youth.

Kent Youth

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Charity registration no: 1063975

KENT YOUTH FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2009

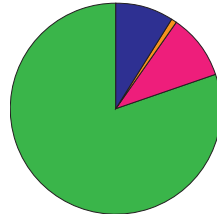
During the last financial year Kent Youth increased its income by a little over 3% which was very credible in the context of the general economic picture. We spent over £330,000 delivering projects and activities in support of the charities key objectives. This level of expenditure did result in a reduced level of reserves which at the end of March 2009 stood at just over £32,000. This reduced reserves number was depressed by our accounting policy which only recognises income on physical receipt of funding. We anticipate and have budgeted for a higher level of reserves at March 2010.

We have reduced the cost of governance and the cost of raising funds in both real and percentage terms which demonstrates the fact that the focus really is on delivering the positive outcomes which we have targeted as part of the long term strategy for the organisation. We have also introduced a much more comprehensive management accounting process which allows project analysis and control.

The charts below show how our income and expenditure have changed over the last 12 months.

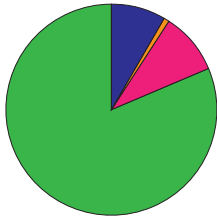
*Andrew Steel ACCA,
Honorary Treasurer*

KENT YOUTH INCOME BREAKDOWN



2008

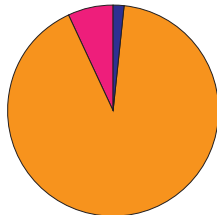
Voluntary Income	£28,272
Activities for generating funds	£2,314
Charitable Activities	£31,113
Grants and contracts	£247,320



2009

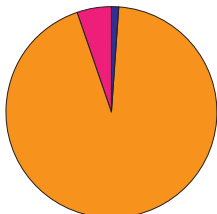
Voluntary Income	£26,664
Activities for generating funds	£2,873
Charitable activities	£30,363
Grants and contracts	£258,753

KENT YOUTH EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN



2008

Cost of generating funds	£5,209
Charitable activities	£267,588
Governance costs	£20,299



2009

Cost of generating funds	£4,470
Charitable activities	£330,993
Governance costs	£18,549

Over the past few months, Kent Youth has been involved in a number of fundraising events and has received support from a number of Kent based companies and organisations. These activities are very important to us as an independent charity and we are very grateful to everyone for this support.

Totally Wild Challenge 2009 – 5th September at Port Lympne

Several runners and riders took part in this event including our own Director, Eve Johnson and have raised around £750 for the charity.

Annual Golf Day – 16th September at Broome Park Golf Club

Thirteen teams braved very windy conditions to enjoy a great afternoon's golf at the course near Canterbury. Just over £2,000 profit was realised. Next year sees the event move to **Woodlands Manor Golf Course near Brands Hatch on 15th September** and we are pleased to announce that anytime team entering the event prior to 31st March 2010 will receive a "two for one" voucher for a round of golf at the course.

Medway Rotary Santa Fun Run – 28th November in Rochester

This inaugural event saw some 140 Santas, large and small – young and old, running a mile through the centre of Rochester prior to the switching on of their Christmas Lights. The Rotary Club are aiming to make this an annual event and were raising money for 4 local charities including Kent Youth.

Mayor of Medway, Councillor David Royle chose Kent Youth earlier this year as one of

his four charities and we have been supporting his efforts by the many events that are being organised through his office. The fundraising will continue until May 2010 at the end of his year in office when he will be presenting cheques to the four organisations involved. The big event will be the **Ball in the Corn Exchange on 13th March 2010** which is themed "A Night at The Movies". Kent Youth are hoping to take at least two tables at the event so if anyone is interested in attending, please get in touch as places are limited. Tickets cost just £35.

Companies supporting Kent Youth

The Civil Service Insurance Society, based in Maidstone, has donated £2,000 to us for the second time and **Go Ape**, who operate an aerial ropeway adventure at Leeds Castle donated £1,000. **The National Grid** who operate Grain Power Station has chosen Kent Youth as its Christmas charity and hopes to raise around £4,000 for our work.

We have also tried to make it easy for people to donate to us through an online facility run by **Virgin Money Giving**. You can also use this service to raise money through an event or sponsorship (e.g. running a marathon), using the power and ease of the world wide web to let your friends and colleagues know what you are doing and get them to support you. For information on this, please go to our website. www.kentyouth.org