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| PLEASE PRAY | For our work to improve opportunities for voluntary organisations e.g. through Brent Council | Mon |
| | For our work with parents, which we pray will help them to be the best parents they can be | Tue |
| | For existing contacts (e.g. St Luke's) and increased working in partnership with local churches | Wed |
| | For opportunities and resources to engage more children and young people in Christian faith | Thur |
| | For those young people whose behaviour means we have had to ban them from coming to Club | Fri |
| | For attracting new young people able to find support or opportunities to grow through Club | Sat |
| | For our work with local police to help them improve their relationships with young people | Sun |
| For wisdom in reviewing policies and procedures to ensure good practices and frameworks | | |
| For our funded work to support smaller children, and youth organisations in the local area | | |
| For sufficient resources, wisely deployed, while we are less able to depend on public finance | | |
| For workers able to engage with an increasing number of children through activities and clubs | | |
| For the personal, social and spiritual development of all children and young people we meet | | |
| For workers able to engage with an increasing number of children through activities and clubs | | |
| For help to introduce accreditation methods in a way helpful and attractive to young people | | |

Environmental projects

In the prayer letter last Christmas, I told you about the 2 grants we'd received to install solar panels on the roof of the Club (from EDF Energy's Green Fund, and the government's Low Carbon Building Programme Phase2, who each contributed half of the £42,000 system costs). Well they were installed in March, and, so far, as you can see from the impressive figures on this page, they're working really well! This year we've also placed recycle bins throughout the Club, and we've been encouraging everyone to make sure they put things in the right ones. We received another grant from the Four Acre Foundation, which was partly to continue to fund our gardening project. At the start of August we held a 'Green Day' at Club, which included the official launch of the solar panels (see picture in Keith's section). The Green Day was also a chance for the community to sample some of the produce home-grown in our garden by young people.

On a slightly different note, I'm leaving! After 8 years here, mostly living in CHH, I want to say what a privilege it's been, and of course that I'll be around as a volunteer.

Jeff Nottingham
Administrator

£1800

CLUB ELEC BILL DEC, JAN, FEB BEFORE WE HAD THE PANELS

£37

CLUB ELEC BILL MAR, APR, MAY AFTER THE PANELS STARTED WORKING

view of the solar panels from Craik Court



We try to send out these prayer letters twice per year—but as you may have noticed, this doesn't always happen, and we tend to manage one at Christmas and put a lot of detail into it.

But now, for those of you who have an email address, we have devised a new way for you get the latest Club news direct to your inbox. All you have to do is go to www.okclub.org.uk and click on **NEWS**. This will take you to our brand new 'blog', where there is a box to enter your email address, and sign up to get an email whenever there is Club news. This means you'll know about things like the prayer breakfast much further in advance.

**NEWS REGULARLY UPDATED AT
WWW.OKCLUB.ORG.UK**

www.okclub.org.uk/news



Prayer letter

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

2009 has been an extremely eventful year, and Keith has described many of its highlights in his message over the page. Rather than run the risk of repeating what Keith has said, I thought it would be nice to keep my piece short this year and instead ask Sue Turner, our wonderful (and thus long suffering!) hon. Treasurer, who has been serving the Club since the early 1980s, to take a look back, and reflect upon why she still finds herself drawn to serve the Club.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Becky Foreman Chair of the Management Committee

Meeting Sue Turner

Hi Sue, how did you become involved with Club, and when?

I became interested in "Inner City" Youth and Children's work through helping on a holiday play scheme in Camberwell organised through ISCF (Scripture Union) in the Summer while I was in 6th form just after I became a Christian. A couple of years later I met Roger and Di Smith at Greenbelt. They were Warden and Juniors worker at the OK Club. When they discovered I was at Oxford Poly they invited me to come and help with the Friday night Junior Club. I came up regularly from 1983, helping Pete Wallace with the Tigers (the very aptly named boys 7 year olds team!). I remember my first club night was November 5th 1982 when we went to a fire-work display at Alexander Palace by minibus and I nearly got left behind! Then I studied in the USA for a few years, and in January 1986 returned to volunteer full-time at club and live at CHH before starting a PGCE in London. I continued to volunteer at Junior and Senior club for several years, living at CHH and then locally in Kilburn. I stopped doing club regularly in 1994 when I was expecting my first child. I have been the club Treasurer since 1990 and still live locally. My children have attended the Toddler Group and the Children's church, and still enjoy coming with me on the annual Staff weekend in Kent!



Sue talking at Prayer Day in May

What's your best memory of helping young people in Club?

My best (& worst) memories are the holidays away with the young people and their families. I still meet people now (normally on the bus) who I got to know properly through those holidays. Pentrenant Hall in Wales was always amazing and sometimes scary especially driving down the Burway in Church Stretton - I remember one year when everyone was so worried they got out of the minibus and walked instead! The story times each day were also very special - acting out the Gospel through stories. I also remember Greenbelt where we went and camped but the

Young People never actually went in to any events/concerts. Then I met a couple of them recently and discovered they've been going each year ever since! Night hikes (Box Hill/Abinger Hammer) were also memorable, where big, tough, teenage boys suddenly wanted to hold hands with me because they were scared of the dark!

What has changed in club?

The precise ethnic mix of the South Kilburn Estate and consequently that of club has changed but I think that the club still attracts some of the most disaffected and disadvantaged young people in the Community. I think that there is less work with children now as opposed to young people, mostly due to funders directing their funds to specific projects involving older young people. The volunteers in CHH have also become more International which is a very exciting development.

Why have you stayed involved?

When I first did the play scheme in Camberwell we were invited to supper with different members of the local church each evening and they talked to us about what it was like living as Christians in their community. I remember one elderly couple saying that one of the problems was that people always moved out of the area to somewhere "better" and it was a struggle finding people to do things in the church. They also said that they thought that people were the pinnacle of God's creation and would rather spend their retirement looking at people made in the image of God, than looking at scenery (beautiful though it can be). The example of this couple and the fact that I felt that God led me to Kilburn through a series of people and events, and hasn't led me away yet, is what has influenced my decision to stay involved with club and live as locally as possible. The diversity of the community in this part of North London must be a foretaste of heaven; I love it!

christmas 2009

I am going to begin with a tribute to our Management Committee, which is quite exceptional in its commitment to Club and range of experience, both of Club in former years and in other walks of life. Becky, who has now been Chair for 2 years, has been particularly vigilant during some difficult times.

2009 has been a real roller-coaster of a year at the OK Club, starting with an incredibly busy three months dominated by many short-term projects from intergenerational work to developing youth participation in all the key local youth providers. We had some extra capital funding to build a booth inside our IT room, which has been very useful for housing an embroidery machine for a project that enables young people to put positive slogans on clothing. We also had a new music studio built free of charge by 'Pulse', who also replaced our largest external mural, a dark 'Sin City' design, with lively street art that celebrates popular music over our past 50 years, from the Beatles to Michael Jackson. We had several inputs from a firm of management consultants, including activity and clear-up days, the donation of a large back-screen projection TV, mentoring, and work on our fund-raising strategy. We give thanks that visiting funders have been impressed with all that they have seen and heard.

Our Prayer Breakfast in May heralded a new approach, with separate peripatetic groups praying in each room of the building, led by workers with a particular association with each room. In June two new young people began to make exceptional demands on our time and energy, raising questions about the extent to which we are prepared to help even when individuals are being very unpleasant, and to what extent we need to consider our own needs whilst trying to address the needs of others. We prayed for discernment concerning the plausibility of their almost daily difficulties, and gradually one of them was enabled to return to the Midlands where he maintains contact, now very pleasant. We still need prayers for wisdom in our response to the other, whom we have banned from Club but may yet pose a threat to our health and safety at work, along with one or two others also excluded. This has led to our reviewing the ways we work with older young adults, emphasising off-site work, taking advantage also of a natural lull in the involvement of over 18s on-site. Indeed, since a 16 year old boy was shot, not fatally, on the local estate at the beginning of the firework season, there

have been considerably fewer young people visible on the estate, caused by inter and intra gang conflict.

The main beneficiaries of this are a number of groups of young people that maintain regular contact. We often comment in our prayers on the huge privilege we feel in working with such young people, and the difference we know we make in lives often marred eg by poverty, or by alcohol and drugs. We thank God for the young people He brings to us, the lessons that are learned on all sides, and we earnestly pray that we can give maximum attention to the needs of those that rely on us week after week, who respond as loyal Club members, and in many cases, future helpers and junior leaders. We are indeed proud of a large number of them as they blossom as individuals, support Club and each other, and we pray, increasingly learn how to play highly constructive roles in the local community. Most notably, I would like to mention the positive work of a young person who applied for, and got, funding for the embroidery project and who dedicates himself to its success, working long hours. His example, as someone who might otherwise succumb to more negative influences, has inspired our funding agencies and the police, and other young people, who have asked us for similar assistance. Memorable moments were also provided by a young person who gave a presentation and answered questions, including from former 'enemies' concerning his recruitment to the army, by young artists who produced Christian imagery, and by individuals who intervened to prevent or defuse conflict.

We have truly been blessed again this year with some exceptional staff, residents and volunteers. We had frequent helpers through Rob and Hannah as our

Director's message

representatives at Oxford Christian Union. Linda who also came to us via OICCU provided excellent support to secure the embroidery project. Fenton is greatly and deservedly respected by even the most challenging young people, contributing to the Club ethos, and coaching regularly in off-site football sessions every Tuesday and Wednesday. We could not have managed the busy workload of the first quarter without the assistance of Craig. Pratik gently and very ably provides much practical assistance, particularly with electrical equipment. It is great to be able to report that Shane, now at Uni,

is back to provide skilled weights supervision. Harry is now in his second year, has taken on additional responsibility at St Peter's but is much loved for his contribution to our junior football teams and the Shalom Club. Guthrie, also from St Peter's, came on many Thursdays when not at University, helping to think about ideas for a new rugby team. Ivy has completed a great year through Careforce, eg admin, schools, cooking, yo-yo, children's and young women's groups, and plans to return in January when she will undertake an MA in IT systems. Fiona did an NVQ child care placement. Naomi and Philip now run an excellent parent and toddler group. Sarah was in much demand for helping children with keyboard tuition. Our resident band, the four Kinbeats, have continued tuition sessions twice weekly, and will be joined again by Natalie in the New Year. Three more Germans, Christopher, Manuel and Vera, have made a very significant impact over the past three months, in art, music, children's work, administration and working closely with a family. Another musician, Ilie, also helped with IT, cooking and swimming together with Jay. We pray Ilie will return to the house in the New Year to help with accredited IT and other courses. John also left the house but will re-join his Oasis course

shortly, and will continue to reach out to the older young people and particularly assist with off-site activities. Stuart, now in his fourth year as a resident, continues to be invaluable in art, drama, film nights, breakfast club & general youth work and grapples diligently with stringent requirements of his Centre for Youth Ministry course.

Len has gone from strength to strength in spite of long-term illness, most recently leading excellent taster activity sessions for children during half-term, as a prelude to increasing after-school activities. Len has sustained daily activities in a school for children with special needs on the autism spectrum.

Andrew maintained a heavy workload, and has now reduced his hours, but not his infectious energy, and has been able to engage with many young people likely to grow in the Christian faith. Andrew instigated a number of residential trips with the 'Tall Ships' organisation in recent months.

We celebrate extra hours created for Rosie as Personal Adviser funded by Connexions since December. Rosie has a clear faith & high commitment to young people in & around Club. Rosie ran a second young women's residential in Oxford & helped run kid's activities in Cambridge.

We are also highly privileged to welcome Tom as Senior Youth Worker. Tom has made a name for himself through his previous work in Liverpool, and is now working closely with me during induction. Tom plans to introduce a number of accredited or structured programmes, & faith-based DVDs. We cannot let the opportunity of this Prayer Letter go by without recognising the huge contribution made by Jeff to the OK Club over several years. He has become almost synonymous with its ethos. From finance & administration to breakfast club & video production plus oversight of CHH, his work is invaluable, particularly helpful to me as Director. We congratulate Jeff on his marriage to Magali, and on starting an MA in the New Year. Jeff unusually combines writing and people skills with practical skills. He is very difficult to replace.



official launch of solar panels in August

"we thank God for the young people He brings to us, the lessons learned on all sides"

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music tutoring with The Kinbeats

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Keith Lunn Director