



Issue 1 - Q4 2007

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Wombourne Youth Action Team

making young voices count

Anniversary Newsletter

WYAT Celebrates One Year

This November, Wombourne Youth Action Team celebrates one year representing the youth of Wombourne. Established in November 2006, WYAT has gone from 4 members to 13 and has already started to make a difference in the village.

This newsletter includes some articles from our members to give you an idea about what WYAT aims to do and our plans for the coming year.

What is WYAT?

The idea of Wombourne Youth Action Team is to enable the opinions of young people to be heard and encourage their active involvement in community decision making. We have a set of specific aims laid out that have the purpose of improving the community we live in.

Wombourne Youth Action Team, or WYAT, is made up of a number of volunteers between the ages of 14 and 21 who meet weekly to discuss issues important to young people in the Wombourne area. The organisation is still very much in the early stages, with the first meeting being held in November 2006. We have had a

lot of success in our first year, and have already started making a difference in the community.

If you would like to know more about WYAT and what we are doing, please do not hesitate to get in touch through our website.

Our First Year - What we have achieved

The first meeting of WYAT was held on 6th November 2006, at the Wombourne Civic Centre with some members of the Parish Council and youth workers.

By February 2007 WYAT had eight members and was having regular meetings discussing where we wanted the group to head.

In April, we received our first grant from the Community & Learning Partnership, this totalled £1000 and was used to set up the group. This was followed by another of just over £5000 from the v Project and Beacon Radio, which was used to provide training for the group and run youth

activities in the village. We have also received funding from the Youth Bank and Councillor Peter Timms. We are very grateful to receive this funding and to everybody else who has assisted us.

The first public appearance for the group was at the Wombourne Carnival in the Summer, where we promoted our first disco and gathered some views of the young people of Wombourne.

Not long after this, we held our first disco. This was a roaring success with over 100 in attendance. We then began organising two more

discos, one in November and one in December.

During the year WYAT have been on a few training residentials and developed relationships with youth groups across South Staffordshire. We have created a presentation which we regularly deliver to groups throughout the county to promote our cause.

In December 2007, we now have 14 members between the ages of 14 and 21. We have many plans for next year, all aimed at making life for people in Wombourne better. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please get in touch.

“the Disco has been well organised by the WYAT”

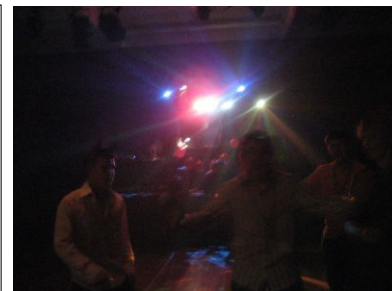
Halloween Disco

On Saturday 10th November, Wombourne Youth Action Team held its second under 18's disco, at the Wombourne Youth Centre. The Halloween themed disco was attended by about 50 young people aged between 12 and 18. The aim of the disco was to provide entertainment for young people in the village. The event was funded by a grant received by the group earlier this year from the V Project. Staffordshire Trading Standards supported us with their non-alcoholic

bar. They also spoke to the young people at the disco about alcohol related issues, the law and how it affects them. We also had an inflatable pole joust available which proved very popular.

PCSO Lorraine commented “the Disco has been well organised by the WYAT. It is a thing that should happen more often for Wombourne's young people”.

By Henry Cleaver



WYAT organized 3 discos in 2007.

Residentials



WYAT Members attended several training residentials.

On the 23rd to 25th of November WYAT went on a training residential, staying five minutes from Bridgnorth. We arrived on the Friday night at 7.30 pm.

On the Saturday after an early wake up call we started the day with team building exercises led by Closer to the Edge instructors Tony and Mel. We all joined in on all of the activities even when some of them were out of our comfort zone.

Each activity both in the morning and afternoon needed a team leader which we all had a go at, sometimes we were good at this but others we weren't.

After the morning activities we spent some time planning the disco and talking about taking over the running of the youth club. A lot of positive comments came from these discussions.

On the Sunday, after another

rude awakening we had more team building and leadership activities. We walked about 3 miles and completed several team-based activities on the walk.

Overall the weekend went well and we had some good points that we need to improve on. A big thank you to the Closer to the Edge team who helped us make the weekend enjoyable.

By Chris Smith

Upcoming Events

Valentines Disco - 9th February

Easter Disco - 22nd March

We have planned a Valentines under 18's disco on 9th February, from 7.30 till 11pm at the Community Centre

We have also made plans for an Easter disco on 22nd March, 7.30 till 11pm at the Community Centre.

Along with this we plan to organise another training residential for the members of WYAT to do some team-building and leadership activities to help us work better as a team so we can continue to produce these excellent results.

All upcoming events are announced on our website and

tickets will be available soon. Keep an eye on the website for more upcoming events.

By Joe Kelly

To get in touch, or if you are interested in joining WYAT, contact us:
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