



## YOUTH CAFÉ BAR OPENS

Thanks to funding of £10,000 from the 'Scottish Executive's Youth Organisations Capital Fund 2006-2007', the Board of Directors have been able to fulfil a request by youth members to create a space where they can, in the words of one youth: "chill out, relax and not get stressed out".

The completion of phase 1, to create a 'Youth Café Bar' designed by youth members to "hang out" in the community involved gutting the existing table-tennis room. Laminate flooring was laid, flat-screen television installed, media projector and screen installed for large screenings of programmes like the Champions League final and New York style leather sofas purchased to create a really "cool" room for youth members to bring their friends.

In responding to concerns from young people that there was nowhere for them to "hang out" in the community, the Board of

Directors are now keen for the young people to set up a "Steering Group" to manage, promote and develop the café bar so that this, in itself, will enhance their skills and achievements.



*New Café Bar during youth club evening*

In doing so we hope that our members can develop an example of best practice in facilitating young peoples' aspirations and expectations and increase the number of young people that we have face-to-face

contact with as we reach out to them with the good news of Jesus Christ.

The total costs of phase 1 amounted to £12,000, which gave us a bit of a headache in how to meet the additional costs. However we were more than delighted when we received an unsolicited cheque for £2000 from the Aberdeen company Rotech. We give thanks to God for this undertaking and ensuring that we have a first class facility for our youth members and other users in the heart of the city.



Phase 2 will involve the gutting of the existing café serving area and install a non-alcoholic bar area for young people and students to visit after school to relax.

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## Students pitch in for new facility

A STREET football pitch is to be bought for city youths thanks to help from students on an army course.

Aberdeen YMCA was given £1,300 towards the cost of the sports facility allowing the group to take football to young people in their own communities.

The money was raised by young adults who took part in a course to prepare them for work in the army or civilian employment.

The students raised the cash by cycling from Dyce to Fraserburgh on a disused railway line in seven hours.

They chose to donate to the YMCA as the organisation offered opportunities for physical activities.

The course is run through a partnership linking Oaks Training, Scottish Enterprise, Careers Scotland and the British Army.

Oaks Training managing director Captain Stan Payne said: "The course enabled young people to overcome barriers to gaining employment."

"We were pleased the students raised so much money for a local charity."

**INTER-CHURCH QUIZ** Sheddocksley Baptist Church ran out the winners of the fifth annual Inter-Church Quiz in May 2007. After a close fought contest, 'Sheddocksley Crayolas' lifted the trophy for their fellowship for the second time, having won the inaugural competition in 2003. A great evening was enjoyed by teams from various churches and Christian organisations from the north-east under the watchful eye of the Quiz Master, Ali Michie. Thanks to Ali for preparing the questions and taking on the roll of Quiz Master.

Preparations are already taking place for the 2008 Inter-Church Quiz which will have a 150<sup>th</sup> theme in recognition of the YMCAs 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. Check out website for application form and entering team(s) from your fellowship



*Hon President John Fraser presents winning team with the trophy.*

**'OPEN DOOR' CELEBRATES ITS 5<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY:** Our 'Open Door' community coffee morning, which operates every Thursday morning recently celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! The brain-child of our Honorary President, John Fraser, the 'Open Door' offered to the community has a weekly attendance of 30 people come into the YMCA for "free coffee, free chat and free Christ". The voluntary team of 4, who are all retired and attend Gilcomston Church of Scotland, have been nominated for an award in the national 'Nationwide Volunteer Awards' for reaching this milestone.



*Congratulations to Isobel Walker, Evelyn Fraser, Sheila Mackie and John Fraser.*

**APPOINTMENT OF NEW DIRECTOR** The Board of Directors are pleased to announce the recent cooption on to the Board of Major Paul Rorie TD. Paul, when not directing Officer Training Cadets at the University of Aberdeen OTC is an Acting Depute Head Teacher at an Aberdeen City secondary school. Paul is married to Sandra and has 3 sons who all attend Sheddocksley Baptist Church.



**PATHWAYS YMCA HILLWALKING CLUB:** Pathways, our YMCA Hillwalking club for adults, will by time of print have reached the summit of 97 Munros in Scotland (Munros are hills which have their summit 3000ft above sea-level). This means that during the period of this newsletter they will overtake their first 100. Whilst this may seem impressive, Pathways still have another 42 Munros to walk just to reach half completion of the total 284 Munros in Scotland. The group are always on the outlook for new members to join them on walks on the last Saturday of each month. Walks are advertised on the website: [www.aberdeenymca.org.uk/hillwaking.htm](http://www.aberdeenymca.org.uk/hillwaking.htm)

