



**SHAFTESBURY
YOUTH CLUB**

OUR NEW WEBSITE
Is live at shaftes.org.uk

NEWSLETTER MAY 2016

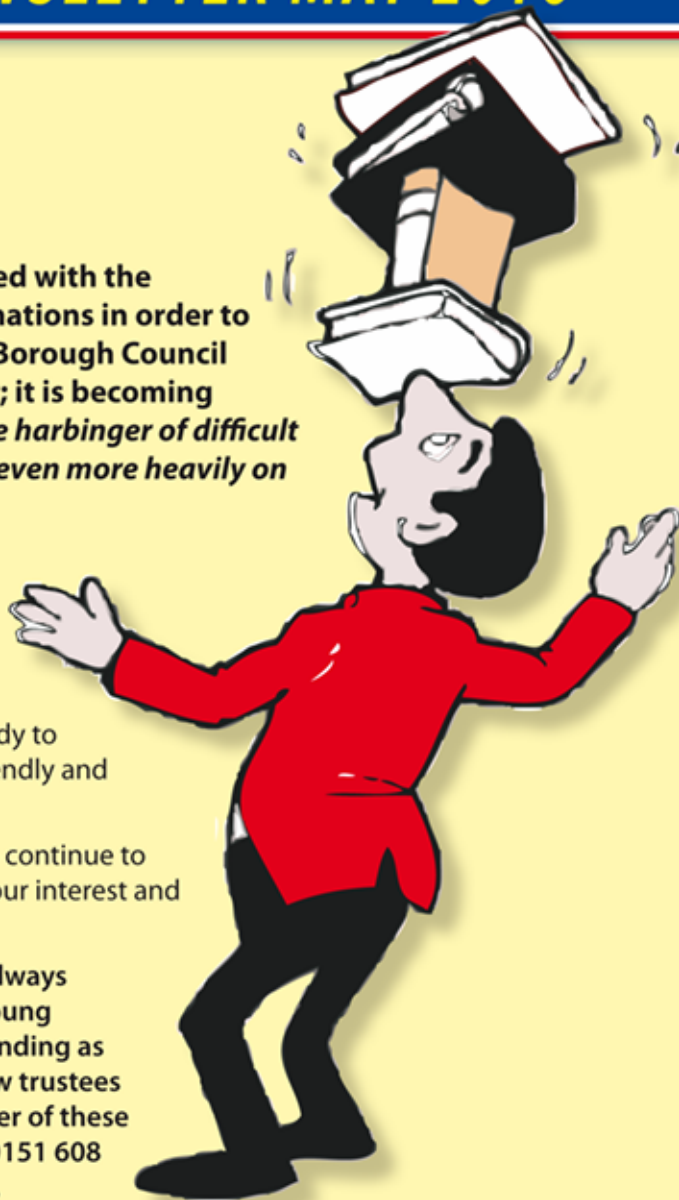
DID YOU KNOW?

Shaftesbury Youth Club is an independent charity registered with the Charity Commission. We depend heavily on grants and donations in order to be able to undertake the valuable work that we do. Wirral Borough Council has reduced the contribution it makes to the Club this year; it is becoming increasingly difficult to cover our costs. *This, we know, is the harbinger of difficult times for the Club; if we are to continue we shall have to rely even more heavily on fund raising and donations.*

We have faced many difficult times in our long 130 year history and intend to do the very best to continue to provide our invaluable service to our young people who now, more than ever, need our support as they face an uncertain future with the shortage of secure jobs and affordable accommodation. Our club house is open on most days, all day and evening, and our staff are always ready to welcome and offer support, as well as to provide a wide range of friendly and healthy activities.

We appeal to our friends, donors, sponsors and members' parents to continue to give their invaluable financial help and as ever thank all of you for your interest and support.

There are other ways of becoming involved with Shaftes. We are always interested in enlisting the help of volunteers keen to work with young people. You may have skills to pass on, which could include befriending as well as more practical activities. Also, we are looking to recruit new trustees to our board. If you would like to talk over what is involved in either of these possibilities please get in touch with Phil Nugent (Club Manager 0151 608 7165) or John Jones (Chairman of Shaftes Council 07921 609 996).



DO YOU REMEMBER?

So many people have a fond memory of the club, whether it was football, table tennis, summer camps or something else that brought you through our doors.

We would love to hear your story. Maybe we could put it on the website and share it with our members and supporters.

If you have a memory you would like to share, do contact us: Mendip Road, Prenton, Wirral CH42 8NU (0151 608 7165)

Web: www.shaftes.org.uk

GOODBYE, ALISON

Alison Cotgrave (formerly Hulse) said goodbye to Shaftes and to Merseyside recently, as she begins a new life with her partner in Macclesfield. Alison has been our cleaner for several years but like all members of staff at the Club has contributed so much more than her job title implies. She has helped out at many Club activities and functions outside of her working hours and always with such energy and enthusiasm.

The staff and Council would like to thank Alison for all her hard work on behalf of our young people and wish her every happiness and success in her new life.



All the Fun of the Big Top

Ride a unicycle. Juggle with balls and clubs. Skip with a giant rope. Keep a hula hoop spinning. All of these challenges awaited our youth club members one Friday night, when we had some very special visitors. Gail and Mike Curtis came along to organise an evening of circus skills, thrills and spills. Everyone was keen to try it out and the sound of their laughter attracted quite a crowd, all of them keen to join in the fun. Gail (who is a consultant at a hospital in North Wales) donated some hoops to the club. Many thanks to Gail and Mike who gave up their time for free and to Barry Eaton, who organised the event and donated some "thuds" (juggling balls) to the club.



Saturday Evening Club for Young People with Additional Needs

In partnership with the local youth service we started this new venture, especially for young people with special needs, such as moderate learning difficulties.

We are able to provide a variety of exciting activities. These include sports as well as arts and crafts. The giant inflatables are firm favourites, especially the giant 'sweeper'. Now we welcome a regular group of at least ten young people each week.

Football success

Our young football teams have been doing exceptionally well this season in the Eastham and District Mini Soccer League.

Our under-7s team (photo) reached the final of the under-7s league in May and gave a fantastic performance. Well done to all the boys and their coaches Andy Barker and Iain Brockway. As a reward, the team were taken to watch Tranmere Rovers on 2nd April. The tickets were kindly donated by Tranmere Rovers Football Club.



And all three of our under-9s teams won their league finals. Very well done to all the players and their managers: Dave Barker, Terry Williams and Jeff Bryers. The teams celebrated back at the Club with a barbecue and, as a special reward, had hours of fun playing on the inflatables in the gymnasium.

What's more, the under-11s reached their final. What a season!



Open Access Success

Numbers are growing weekly as the Saturday afternoon club becomes more and more popular. Thanks to Children in Need, we were pleased to be able to start this new group activity on Saturday afternoons from 1.30 to 4.30pm.

Our enthusiastic youth leaders Lea Ainsworth, Dougie Oliver and Oliver Nugent supervise open access football sessions, using the Astro pitches. The activities are targeted at 11 to 18 year olds and aim to develop social skills, through the language of sport.



Street Academy

Over the past year Shaftes has been pleased to be involved with a football project "The Street Academy" which is aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour.

In partnership with Everton F.C and Merseyside Police, the Club hosted football playing sessions open to all comers every Monday evening.

Everton FC employs young community coaches as part of its community outreach work and our youngsters enjoyed the association with the Premier League Club as well as their involvement in the games.

1886 News Golf Day

On Good Friday, former members of the Club's 1886 Association got together again. This time it was for golf at Eastham Lodge Golf Club on a day of fantastic weather for the 26 players. The competition took the form of a Ryder Cup style match, played by two teams, captained by Paul Turner and Lee Wharton respectively. They played an 18 hole Stableford team event, whereby a pair from each team played against a pair from the opposing team.

Congratulations to: Paul Turner's team, who won the team event; Ross Rule for the best individual score; Keith Sadler for the longest drive.

Afterwards, the players enjoyed a hearty meal and prize giving in the clubhouse. They successfully raised £250 for the Club. This brings the total raised so far to £2500.

Thank you to all the Shaftes Old Boys for your generosity and continuing support of the club.

Two more golf days are planned for June and September. If you would like to take part in the next event please contact: Paul Turner at paul.turner@fozcs.co.uk or 07841996612.

As result of their recent efforts we have been able to buy an indoor hockey table, a curling set which is very popular with the Saturday special needs group and a karaoke machine which is particularly popular with our girl members.



Memorial Garden

A big thank you to the Probation Service for their help with creating our new Memorial Garden. They have begun clearing the site and will be completing the garden in the next few months. The garden is dedicated to Shaftes "old boys" who have lost their lives serving their country.



POEMS FROM THE PITCH

James (Jim) Dillon (*right*) and his brothers played football at Shaftes in the 1980s and, as well as continuing to be a keen amateur football player, Jim is also a published poet. His new book of poems (pictured below) entitled "*It's Raining (Poems From The Pitch)*", are all football related and Jim has very kindly donated the proceeds from his book to Shaftes. The book was launched on February 27th at a special Club function attended by about 40 people. An example of his work is quoted below.

The books cost £5 and can be bought from the Club any time during opening hours. As our Club President Nicola Palios says in her introduction to the book, "anyone who has played or watched the game at any level will find something in the poems with which they identify".



DEVOTION

*A tribal gathering, unanimous applause
An ancient ritual, a spiritual force
The beating of chests, a display of feathers
We rise up, we stand together
Bedecked in the colour of our team
The 11 on the pitch in pursuit of the dream
Every tackle, every shot, every pass
This is our religion, this is our mass
It's the heartbeat of our lives
The blood that flows through our veins
Men running after a pig's bladder
Through the wind and rain
90 minutes going through every emotion
No draw or defeat can dilute: devotion*



OUR FANTASTIC NEW WEBSITE IS LIVE! We can be found at shaftes.org.uk

The website is managed by Noel Morrissey and contains lots of information, photographs and news about the Club and our members. There is also a facility for online donations which we dearly hope will be used by as many of our kind readers as possible.

SYC

SHAFTESBURY YOUTH CLUB

A HUGE THANKS

to all our patrons,
friends, contributors,
and helpers, working to
support Shaftes and our
LOCAL COMMUNITY!

Mendip Road, Prenton, Wirral,
Merseyside CH42 8NU

Tel: 0151 608 7165

Email: pnugent@shaftesburyyouthclub.org.uk

Web: www.shaftesburyyouthclub.org.uk

SYC
SHAFTESBURY
YOUTH CLUB

inspiring young people to develop their full potential!

want to run a football team?
Under 13s team needs Manager/Coach for existing squad and additional Players for 2016/17 season. Training sessions on Wednesdays 6-7pm.
CALL US! 608 7165 FOR DETAILS OR TO APPLY

Ring Shaftesbury Youth Club today to book: 0151 608 7165

HOME

Welcome to Shaftesbury Youth Club

The Club building

Shaftesbury is a large purpose-built youth club which offers a great range of activities including sports, recreation, education and personal development.

Staff include a full-time professional youth worker, a team of qualified part-time workers and a large, diverse voluntary staff, under the governance of a voluntary management committee.

Membership is open to all young people between the ages of 8 - 21 years old on payment of an annual £2 membership fee and ninety 50p attendance subscriptions. Over the school year membership exceeds seven hundred, with an average group of 150.

It is also open at weekends for structured football organised in local FA affiliated leagues from Under 7 up to Under 18 age groups.

The Youth Club is open on weekday evenings from 6pm to 9pm.

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Click here to support your local community by donating to Shaftes

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