



December 2007

Hello and welcome to our Christmas edition of the RAW newsletter

What a lot has been happening this past year!!! The RAW group have been really busy starting with the organisation of the summer event which was bigger and better than ever. They have also begun to plan next year's event which will be held on **Thursday the 24th of July 2008**. So book the date in your diary now. If you have any ideas for the day please let Sharon know so we can include these when we start planning for next year's.

As well as planning for the Summer event the RAW group also organised the achievement evening, have carried out presentations to councillors, staff and managers, have taken part in a local conference and finally took up their prize to Slovakia. Well done to all of you who have taken part this year.

We always welcome your input into the newsletter so if there is anything you would like to tell us or see appear in the next issues please contact **Sharon Buckley**

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

www.raw4us.co.uk

A reminder about our website which contains lots of information about what the R.A.W group have been up to, young people's poems and stories, some photos from the awards evenings and summer events, general information and useful websites. Please take some time to look round it and send us your feedback as we want the website to be young people friendly. We would welcome your input please let Sharon have any stories, poems and feedback.



Summer Activity Days at Randall's Farm

A number of young people attend the activity days with Sharon during the summer. We have great fun on these days here are examples of what we do.

We start the day with a quick name game; this is so everyone who is attending can remember everyone else's names, we then play some getting to know you games!!. We then have the opportunity to do lots of different things including:

Necklace making, Tee pee building, preparing hot chocolate in kelly kettles, whistle making, mini beast hunting, pond dipping, orienteering, fire building, having lunch, playing parachute games and tracking.

If you want to come along next holiday contact **Sharon** for details.

Orienteering



Bird Box Making



**N
e
w
s

U
p
d
a
t
e**



A big thank you to everyone who attended this years awards evening on 26th October at the 'civic theatre' in Bedford. The evening's theme this year was 'boogie nights' and was very well attended and once again over 100 people attended.

The evening kicked off with nibbles and champagne (non-alcoholic!!). The evening's entertainment started with introductions to the awards by the Director of Children's Services Malcolm Newsam. Following this The Urban Funkee Munkee's performed a 'Boogie Nights' dance routine. It was fantastic to see such a wide age range of fabulous dancers and their dances blew us all away, check out www.raw4us.co.uk for more pictures.

This year our fantastic R.A.W members Aaron, Sam & Kerrie presented the awards with support from George & Vickie, who really were very glamorous assistants.

Awards for the RAW members were given out by Councillor Gillian Howard. Who later encouraged all of the councillors to get up on stage to 'strut' their stuff to AJ's disco, who kept us entertained for the rest of the evening. Everyone had a fantastic time and we even got the chance to perform some dance routines of our own.

Once again the evening was a huge success and it was really heart warming to see so many special young people receiving awards. The RAW members can't wait until next year's event. Let them know what your ideas are for next year's theme.



The RAW members trip to Slovakia

The RAW group finally undertook their trip to Slovakia when we first got to our Hotel I could not believe how big the complex was we were surprised to find the Aqua Park was part of the hotel !!!

After we arrived and settled in we had our first meal and then we all went off to explore the facilities at the Aqua centre. The group split into two, both groups found different facilities. We found the Olympic size pool which was massive; there was a coloured pool which was split into 4 smaller areas all with Jacuzzi's!!! There was an outside swimming pool with slides the water was really warm and was heated from underground springs we were swimming outside in the cold and dark !!! There was even a swimming pool with a bar where we enjoyed fruit cocktails !!!

At 9 o'clock each evening there was a laser light show in the coloured pool it was spectacular !!! It was done with lights, smoke and water droplets which made amazing shapes including animals and people and amazing patterns you would have to be there to understand just how wonderful it was !!!! It was a great experience.

I spent loads of time in the Jacuzzi's and Steam Rooms. There were 8 different types of steam room including an ice room which was freezing I even went in the ice tub this was an amazing experience, I felt really good for having done this !!!

My trip to Aqua – City was pretty impressive it was much better than I first thought I just thought that it would be swimming and probably boring how wrong was I ???
By Aaron Scholes



sharon.buckley@bedcc.gov.uk - 07748335052