

RAW



December 2006



Hello and welcome to our Christmas edition of the RAW newsletter



A lot has been happening within the last few months including the fashion awards evening, the launch of the RAW website. A children's rights consultation at Escape and much, much more.

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 (contact details on reverse).

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

After months of hard work it is finally here the new **RAW** website.

www.raw4us.co.uk

The website 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 and contain all the information you need. We would also welcome any stories (fact or fiction), poems, etc. please send any feedback or information to Sharon Buckley (contact details on reverse of newsletter and website).



On Monday 4th December Sharon and Carly took 5 young people to Escape in Milton Keynes. Who were there for a children's rights consultation and also to do some fun activities. Here is Kerrie's low down on how the day went.

We all met up in Kempston on Monday morning to begin our day of fun. In the car we had to fill in cards about the green paper 'Care Matters' the paper has been written about how local councils are going to help young people in care, this didn't take long and we soon arrived at Escape.

We started off with a discussion with the director of children's rights for England, about index cards for young people. This is an idea that the government has about a data base for all young people who access social services, it will include their contact details and information about people and services they are working with, for example their doctor and social worker.

After this we all wrapped up warm and donned some gorgeous helmets for a spot on tobogganing. This was great fun and the more we did it the faster and wetter we got!

Afterwards we did my favourite part of the day, we all got dressed in giant jumpsuits, helmets and goggles and made our way to a giant wind tunnel where we all got a chance to sky dive. It was an amazing experience and I had so much fun.

After this we had a game of bowling which even Sharon joined in. Aaron won both games but I came a close second! Finally our day was over and we all went home really tired but happy after having so much fun. The day was a great way to encourage looked after young people to express their views as it wasn't just a boring meeting. It was also a great way to get young people from all over the country together. I hope they run more of these days in the future.

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A big thank you to everyone who attended this years awards evening on 27th October at county hall. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and once again we had over 100 young people attend.

The evening kicked off with nibbles and champagne (non-alcoholic!!). After that we all moved into the glamorously decorated council chambers for the evening's entertainment. First we had introductions to the awards by the Director of Children's Services Malcolm Newsam. Following this was a group of young dancers and their version of Madonna's Vogue, it was great to see such a wide age range of fabulous dancers and their routine blew us all away. After this the award giving began.

This year our gorgeous R.A.W members Aaron and Ceri were presenting the evening with support from Adam and Sam , who really were very glamorous assistants. As everyone walked up the black flower lined catwalk to collect their award one of the lovely assistants commented on their choice of outfit.

The awards were then closed by Councillor Sue Goodchild, known to most RAW members as spicy Sue!! After this we all returned to the reception room for more nibbles and drinks and also a disco. Everyone had a fantastic time and we even got the chance to do some more cat walk modelling for the photographer.

Once again it was a huge success and really heart warming to see so many special young people receiving awards. The R.A.W members cannot wait until next years event. Let us know what your ideas are for next years theme.



Aaron and Ceri cutting the cake!



KEE KE LEE LEE

The blue-headed Kestrel sings
A beautiful musical song
Kee-Kee-Kee-Kee-Lee
Hovering over the moors,
Tracking like a radar, questing for prey
Then he spies a hare,
he swoops down like a lightning strike.

The throbbing heart pounding faster and faster,
gyrating, he circles closer.
Suddenly, the Kestrel pounces
in a terrifying thrust.
He is a fusion of good and evil.

By Shane



Thanks again Shane for another wonderful poem. If you would like to see get a poem, picture, story or interview in the R.A.W newsletter please contact Sharon Buckley and we will make sure it appears in the next issue

We are currently looking for suggestions for next years summer event and awards evening. If you have any ideas or would like to be involved in planning or taking part in either event please contact Sharon Buckley.

Lets see if we can make 2007 even better than 2006!



If you want to know more about joining RAW and how to get involved please contact Sharon Buckley, Young People's Participation Officer on 01234 276768 or 07748335052 or e-mail sharon.buckley@bedscc.gov.uk