

Queenie Creswick Services to the Young Recognised

The work of Queenie Creswick in supporting the young people of Flackwell Heath has been acknowledged by The Wycombe Partnership who have chosen her runner up in the category of Senior Community Champion. There were 27 people nominated for the category which was for those who had been proactive in setting up or running a scheme to meet a particular social need. The work has to be of "lasting benefit to the community and set an example to other people in the area".

Queenie was nominated by Jane Routledge for the Methodist Church and Pam Mannering of the FH Residents Association. Pam told me that she had been put forward for "all her sterling work for young and old in the village. At last her hard work and commitment has been recognised and we are all delighted."

Queenie Cresswick is involved in Scouts, she helps with a Beaver Group and she runs the Methodist Youth Club with the assistance of Paul and Sue Bussey. She is a very ordinary, respectable lady of 63 but people who work with her say that for some reason young people are attracted to her. She believes that it is just that she is always there and rarely misses a youth club meeting – she provides the stability that many of the teenagers lack. I think the kids are more perceptive than that – they recognise that she likes young people, even (or perhaps especially) the ones other people find it hard to like. They also recognise a rounded personality who started running a Sunday School class when she was 13, enjoyed amateur theatricals and was a member of a professional singing group touring Europe - until their agent ran off with the cash. She raised a family and was for 17 years involved in the care of the elderly. She has always been involved in youth organisations; in her free time she loves to go swimming, grow vegetables on her allotment and she has an interest in fossils. You cannot help liking someone as interesting as that.

It is part of being a teenager that you want to meet your friends away from parents and the street corner is the best place to be. But you do not want to be there all evening and in Queenie's opinion young people need somewhere to go on to.

The FH Residents Association, The Methodist Youth Club and the British Legion are working together and they have made a start in meeting this need for a safe warm place to go and something interesting to do.

Queenie would like to see the young people have a café in the middle of the village where they could meet for an hour or so after school. The only things lacking are premises, finance and adults to take managerial responsibility.

The village is certainly not making use of the talent our young people have. As a former singer and actor Queenie would love to see young people given the chance to show their abilities as singers and dancers. If someone with an interest in theatre was willing to support a group to put on productions like concerts/ gigs or even a full blown production like Grease it would give the teenagers a centre of interest and an outlet for their talents and it would unite disparate teenagers from all parts of the village. It is not only the performers who benefit but also the young person directing the performance, the people who make the scenery and props, the people who do the make up and run the front of house. It makes a good contribution to their CVs and a good night out for the audience.

Perhaps we could start by having some singers and dancers perform at the Christmas cabaret on 3 December. If they drew in their parents and friends to watch we would begin to have a real village event. If you think you would like to perform or would like to help produce please contact Queenie 01628 528326 or Pam Mannering 01628 525317.

Tim Kendell