

Commotion on the Common 2010

This year, as part of Hertfest, Young Life, FutureHope and other youth leaders in Hertford are putting on another Commotion on the Common over the weekend of 30th July-1st August at Hartham Common. Commotion on the Common is a free event for young people and families that is in its fifth year now. It is always well attended and in 2009 we had over 300 people enjoy our Family Fun Day.

This year we are looking to run the event over a weekend. Following its success in 2008 we will hold an X-Games competition on Friday 30th for skaters and bikers. Family Fun Days will run on Hartham Common on Saturday 31st between 11am and 4pm and again on Sunday 1st between 2pm and 4pm. There will be plenty of activities for all age ranges including crafts, bouncy castles, a climbing wall, football and the FutureHope Bus. We will also be putting on a youth service and open air church over the weekend.

As you can probably tell, we will need a lot of volunteers to help out over the weekend! We will shortly be sending out application forms, but meanwhile, if anybody is interested in getting involved then please contact Jess Turpin (FutureHope) email: jess@future-hope.org.uk. Tel: 01992 503333 and we're looking forward to hearing from you!

Current and planned Young Life activities:

- **Dex 'N Drugs** – we ran a third group over the past term with 4 lads taking part.
- **Bus outreach** - had a new high record of 92 young people on board over the course of one evening.
- **Drug Education at YMCA Youth Centre in Welwyn Garden City** – this has come to an end after one year. We have received very positive feedback from our time there and have helped the youth group to achieve some of its targets as well as improving our own skills and drug knowledge.
- **PSHE** – at Presdales and Richard Hale.

- **Youth Offending Team** – We have had our first referral from them in some time.

- **Cross-Pollinate** - Our grant has come through and we have started to use it to support other areas as they develop their own response to the needs of young people in crisis. In particular, we have been working with a group in Harlow. There has been interest in our work from Bishops Stortford and Frinton in Essex. We hope to be able to help them develop.

- **Church Visits** – We have been visiting churches in Hertford and Ware to update them on our work.

- **Dance 'N Drinx** – This group is due to begin on June 8th. It is aimed at 14-17 year-old girls and is a dance workshop with alcohol education.

- **New Volunteers** – We have just started our volunteers training course for this year's group of volunteers. They should be ready to begin volunteering from the start of 2011.

- **Rolling Group** - Plan for a group that we are launching in September which will be for 16-21 year-olds who are looking to cut down/cut out their drug and alcohol misuse. It will have a rolling programme so that people can join it at any stage.

- **Young Life** – We are looking at doing some drug education at Young Life

- **Church Links Programme** – We are starting a programme whereby we have a 'Church Link Person' in each church who will keep the churches updated on our work and act as a contact person for those who would like to get involved.

Longer-Term:

- **Extra Bus Outreach** – We would like to start taking the bus out more often, ideally once a fortnight, midweek at the end of the school day.