

# AMICAN

*The Amicus  
Project Newsletter*

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Serving AMICUS Nationwide

No.6, May 1997

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## MAJOR SUCCESS

Unlike the recent General Election where there was no 'Major success', there were cries of "What a brilliant weekend!" after the weekend of 4th & 5th February when 45 people gathered at Felden Lodge.

This was the last stage in the detailed review of the Amicus Pilot Scheme. Leaders and young people worked in focus groups to explore all aspects of this important project. Issues such as age range, logo, Christian input and programme management were included, in at times, a very lively debate. The views of all those who came along are proving very important in the writing of the final report. A big thank you to all who gave up the time to take part.

The weekend also included two sessions led by The Brigade Secretary, Mr Sydney Jones, as well as lively worship, free time and the World Ten Pin Bowling Championships - well the Amicus Review Weekend Championships. Needless to say the Amicus Project manager's team walked away with the imaginary trophy - not of course that winning was at all important.

Although the final written report is now well underway, nothing really changes in the short term so don't start worrying about the future of the scheme. And who's silly idea was it to discuss the issue of Christian number plates and fish?

*Well Nick, talking of number plates, lots of the review teams did spend a long time thinking up personalised plates for God & Jesus.....here we go!*

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## FOCUS

*We're going to be introducing a number of new items in the next few editions of The AMICAN. FOCUS is an opportunity for us to find out more about other groups, starting with.....*

We are the 1st Enfield Amicus Group and we have been asked to write about who we are and what we get up to! Firstly, to give you an idea of where we are, Enfield is in North London just inside the dreaded M25.

We are a fairly new Amicus Group - we started in September 1996. At the moment we have about nine members who attend regularly. Even though we are a small group we still have a good laugh. The ages of our group members are mainly fifteen and sixteen. Our group leader is Chris who is expertly assisted by four other leaders/helpers.

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Well that's who we are - now for what we get up to. We usually meet on a Sunday night. We have a varied programme including such things as outdoor adventure, canoeing and video nights, not forgetting some of the activities from the Amicus Activity Book!

Well that's about it - a brief glimpse of Enfield.  
Bye for now!

*Naomi Randall*

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# INSIDE STORY

*Leesa Bridge from Bournemouth AMICUS writes...*

"We always look forward to our annual BB camps, and Porthcawl in Wales 1986 and Axmouth in Devon 1987 were no exception. On these two occasions Duncan Dyason was our Camp Chaplain and over those years we grew to love him as a friend. He introduced us to his love of Jesus with the aid of a pet puppet monkey called 'Albert' - a winning double act!

We came to know Duncan through his studies at Moorlands Bible College in Christchurch near Bournemouth, and through his helping us regularly with our Sunday morning worship. Duncan left Moorlands in the Autumn of 1987, soon to become a full-time Anglican youth worker.

In 1992, Duncan, his wife Jenni and their young daughter Katelyn went to work with street children in Guatemala. They were there for approximately three years. On their return, having been so moved by the plight of the children in Guatemala, Duncan and Jenni formed the TOY BOX Charity. Its aims were to bring the children off the street, give them security, an education and to show them the love of Jesus.

In the beginning a day centre was opened, but this only catered for the children's day time needs. More provision was obviously required. Money was raised and a home was built to house 8 boys.

After completion of the first house, the charity set about raising more funds to build a house for the girls. Additionally money was required to employ and train workers for these homes.

At this point we asked Duncan to come and speak to us at one of our monthly worship evenings. Having spoken to us and shown us pictures of the children and streets of Guatemala, we felt inspired to help TOYBOX and I became our Company & group co-ordinator for the charity. As our first venture, Duncan asked us to sell some "shop returned toys" which we had cleaned, sorted and repaired.

The sale happened one Saturday in early November last year. We managed to raise £400 through the sale of toys and lunches. We still have many toys left and are planning to have a car boot sale in the near future.

If any groups are interested in hearing about the work of TOYBOX, Duncan would be only too pleased to come and talk to you and your group/church. He can be contacted through me on (01202) 510114."

*Leesa Bridge*

## A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF...

Hi. I'm Dean Ayres. You may know that I am a member of the AMICUS Support Group. I'm also a full time youth worker employed at St. Paul's Church Camberley. Yesterday was Sunday. I got up, had breakfast, and went to Elmhurst school, where I was leading the service they have every Sunday at nine o'clock. Elmhurst is a local boarding school specialising in ballet and performing arts. I like going to Elmhurst on Sunday mornings, even though they're the only times I know what it's like to be up at 9am on Sunday!

After the service, I went on to my own church. Usually I stay in the service, but yesterday I was asked to speak to the children at 'Big Noise'. Big Noise happens on the first Sunday of each month. All the Sunday School children meet together, sing songs and jump up and down a lot. In the middle of this, some poor soul is supposed to get them to sit still and listen to a five minute talk. Yesterday I was that sucker! It was more fun than the usual



service. I wonder if anyone will notice if I wear short trousers, suck my thumb, and sneak in at the back next month?

After a delicious lunch of roast lamb round at a friend's house, I dozed for an hour and dashed back to the church for the evening service. This wasn't any old service, but one led by the young people. We had been practising for a fortnight, and the service could have gone really well. It could also have been a real disaster! 6.30pm arrived, and I sat in church feeling very nervous as the youth worship band kicked off with 'More than Oxygen', a song that most of the congregation

didn't know. Everyone soon picked up the tune, and started singing along. It was one of the most exciting evening services we have had in a while. I went to bed tired but happy.

*Dean Ayres*

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*Thanks to all who contributed number plates - sorry there's not room for them all.*

## **HEADLINE PROGRAMME IDEAS** PART ONE

One of the highly beneficial parts of the AMICUS review weekend, other than the staff team winning at the bowling, was the session dedicated to exploring each other's programme ideas. Over the next couple of editions of The Amican we're going to share those ideas. They're all in 'headline' form so you might like to develop them to fit your own group. Let us know how you get on.

### **AWARENESS OF DIFFERENT FAITHS**

Give everyone a whistle stop tour of alternative faiths. Essential to invite an expert. Avoid too much, too frequently - perhaps half an hour every second week in your programme.

### **TEAM SCRABBLE, TRIVIAL PURSUIT, TABOO, Pictionary, CHESS ETC....**

All agreed that playing these in teams adds an extra dimension. Try chess with large pieces outdoors - perhaps your group can make the pieces.

### **PANTOMIME**

Not just for Christmas. Perhaps stage it for friends, church, Sunday School, or publicise it in the local community if you're feeling confident! Unless you have the manpower and resources, don't get too tied up perfecting script/set/costume etc. Equally don't let the preparation drag on for ever - people can lose interest.

### **SLEEPOVER**

any safe location - perhaps a country church or barn. Seek appropriate permissions, and let locals know your plans.

### **SIMULATION GAMES**

Formats for these are widely available. You can make up your own - Trading Game, develop a scenario for the group to act out (groups as different size companies manufacturing X product - selling power around world etc)

### **THEME NIGHT**

ie Mexican, French, Welsh night etc. This can include appropriate dressing up, music, food, activities, accents!

### **DEBATING TEAM**

Take up local issues and form groups into for and against.

### **THE HOT SEAT**

Again, local issues with someone connected in THE HOT SEAT (ie Councilor, Chief Constable, Local MP). This could be in preparation for an article prepared by the group for the church magazine or local newspaper. Never think that your group is not worthy of getting 'important' people in - they often want to be seen to be getting involved in the community.

### **MONOPOLY**

Played on the streets of London. In teams visit as many 'properties' in a set time (taking a picture/collecting something to prove the visit) and then return to go. You could always make up your own monopoly board for your local city/town. And, to make people familiar with the new locations, mock-up a board with the new locations and play games of LEEDS/OXFORD/BATH etc Monopoly in the weeks leading up to the 'live' game.

### **NIGHT WITH THE POLICE**

Not the band! Arrange with the local station to spend a night shift with them to see the cells, station, overnight activities and procedure - can be a very worthwhile experience (even if you need to go during an evening/day time)



AMICAN NEWS and ARTICLES.....

If you, and/or your group, would like to contribute something to the next edition of The AMICAN, be it serious or silly (!), please contact either Mark Blaney (tel/fax 01202 396105) or Nick Rowark at Felden Lodge by 15th July, 1997.

*Coming soon to a lodge near Hemel Hempstead*

# FRM FOUNDATIONS

**Friday 23rd May to Monday 26th May, 1997**

BB/GB/AMICUS members £36.00 (non-members £40.00)

*aka Phil&John Steve Legg Big Boss Faith Alone*

## MISS IT MISS OUT!

*workshop workshops seminars concerts activities camping*

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT 01442 231681