



# The Box

## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2009

www.TheBoxEpping.org.uk

MARCH 2009

SERVING  
YOUNG  
PEOPLE IN  
EPPING

- Social Space
- Information Point
- Education Centre
- Counselling

What the young people say:

**“I can get away from all the shouting here”**

**“People listen to me here”**

**“You lot never get angry because you’re Jesus followers”**



## “More than we would dare to ask ...”

**“Now glory be to God!** By His mighty power at work within us, He is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask **or hope”.** Ephesians 3:20

Four years ago, none of us could have foreseen (or dared to hope for) the extent to which God’s work through The Box would develop and grow. Neither did we understand the extent to



which his hand would reach out to some of the most vulnerable, hard-to-reach young people and their families living in the wider Epping area.

But our God is a god of mighty power and

accomplishment and of infinite love and care for the forgotten and the lost.

We firmly believe, as we look forward to entering our fifth year of working with young people in Epping, that God will continue to show his infinite love and care for hurting and needy young people and their families in ways we can’t imagine and almost don’t dare ask!

**“Now glory be to God!”**

## Numeracy, Literacy & Cups of Tea

Drawing in talented and caring staff is just one of **the signs of God’s rich** provision for the work of The Box.

New staff  
We stepped out in faith last September when we believed God was calling us to offer a salaried post for an extra teacher for the Alternative Education Programme.



Shanne Woodhouse has taken up that post with enthusiasm. Her experience, skill and care for the students we work with have made her a perfect addition to the teaching team. Working alongside Lindsey Brown and Alison Dolan, Shanne has helped to deliver a tailored curriculum and a stable, caring environment for our students.

Fitness and drama  
In the autumn term our nine students completed a 6 week

fitness programme at High Street gym, Concept Fitness, culminating in designing their own circuit. More recently, four drama workshops, delivered by students from East15 drama school, led to the production of a documentary-style radio script.

Counselling  
Since welcoming Angie Pearson on to the staff team as our counsellor last year, we have been excited to see the blessing her work has been to so many young people and their families. Her time now includes an extra day a week of counselling dedicated to our Alternative Education students, all of whom have the opportunity to spend time with Angie to tackle the deeper issues that may be affecting their progress, such as family conflict, anger, addiction and low self-esteem.



Wider Knowledge  
As well as studying to complete qualifications in Maths, English, PSHE and other life skills, students are encouraged to broaden their knowledge in other curriculum areas. As part of a project on the First World War, students visited the Imperial War Museum in London. The museum was appreciated by all, but it is telling that in one young **person’s reflection, his** favourite part of the day was sharing a picnic lunch with staff and other students. We are reminded that the cups of tea, shared birthday cake and friendly chatter that punctuate education sessions are as necessary to these young people as their academic work. One student told staff that they were like **‘a bunch of mums’** - we took this as a compliment!

## Fair Trade, Fashion and Funds for The Box

Lindsey Brown is passionate about all three! As well as a talented and dedicated volunteer teacher on our Alternative Education staff team, Lindsey is also a powerful local advocate for fair trade and justice for the poor.

An array of beautiful people, both male and female, spanning the generations

presented fair trade garments to an audience of over 90 people at the Fair Trade Fashion Show, organised by Lindsey and hosted by Epping United Reformed Church. The

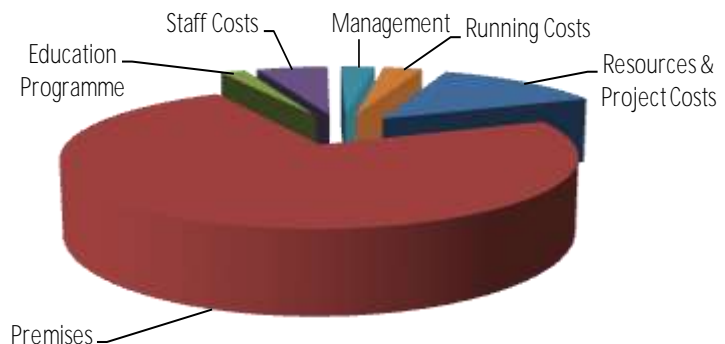


show was followed by an auction of donated prizes which boosted funds raised to a fantastic £1,000 - and with a reminder to all of us to make our fashion purchases with justice and fairness in mind.

A big thanks to all supporters.

## Where does all the money go?

TOTAL INCOME for The Box in 2007-08 was £68,375, a 44% increase on the previous year. 86% of this income was donated by local individuals, churches and other organisations. The Box receives no funding from statutory sources. This chart shows a distribution of costs for The Box.



## Christmas Tree Festival Raises Funds for The Box

Almost £2,500 was raised for The Box at the annual **St John's Church Christmas Tree Festival**. Young people at The Box decorated one of the 60 trees. The **tree, called 'Hold on to your Hat' focused** on emotional wellbeing with the young people decorating individual hats with slogans and advice for maintaining emotional health. Thanks to all involved for their continued support.



Christmas puddings sold to raise funds for The Box this year made £450 - we hope our supporters enjoyed them as much as we did!

AFTER-SCHOOL AND EVENING OPEN SESSIONS continue to attract large numbers of young people who come not only to meet friends but to access the services on offer.

We are pleased to develop strong partnerships with other agencies to widen our services:

- Connexions personal Advisors now offer a weekly drop-in to provide information and advice on matters such as education, employment, training, benefits or legal issues.
- The West Essex Primary Care Trust now deliver Chlamydia testing and other sexual health advice fortnightly.
- Various agencies working with vulnerable young people have joined together to run **an Anger Management course open to students identified and referred by St John's School.**



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The Box is managed by The Koinonia Youth Trust  
Charity No. 1088038

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