



investing in children

Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

W.A.S.H. (Woodhouse Acting Silly Harry's)

As usual my annual visit to WASH (Woodhouse Acting Silly Harry's) was very lively and eventful. It was great to meet up with friends old and new. Jane Crawford still facilitates the drama group and continues to be supported by local volunteers. I visited WASH on the 8th May 2008 and on this occasion Carol, Marie and Shelley were around to join in, take part and help, supporting the young people to create their drama.

Evidence of continued dialogue and change is provided by all the young people who attended the session on 8th May.

They told me:

"We helped to revise the rules; we chose which ones to change and which ones to keep."
- **Becca**

"We planned the performance we did at Christmas, it went fairly well."

"We made our own props and stuff."

"I did some dancing and played my cornet." - **Sam**

(This was in the Talent Show which was a celebration event to finish off the Arts Festival.) During the Arts Festival in February this year, many of the young people created their own piece or performance.

"Me and my friends did a funny sketch." - **Sophie**

"I did a poem." - **Joanna**

Although Caitlin said she didn't get to choose what to do she did say "I didn't want to do anything but I did do the music because I wanted to!"

"We always get a say in what we do."

"We still do loads of improvisations." – **Becca**

"I like coming because it's fun" - **Sam**

"All our improvisations are based on whatever we want to be, sometimes Jane gives us an idea, like bullying, but then we think of what to do, and we have an array of different choices."

Shauna who is the smallest and youngest member of the group, told me she was "Jesus – and the wind was blowing!" The group explained that some of the members had been involved in 'The Crucifixion' for Good Friday and Shauna portrayed Jesus, they all agreed Shauna was 'really good'. **Although Shauna is a little younger than the age limit for WASH, the group took a vote and decided she could be a member.**

Holly told me, "I've just started, but I'm enjoying it."

Chloe said, "We did a play in December."

Christine said, "I love acting, me!"

Grace was 'some kind of fairy' in the Christmas play.

Abigail told me how she "ran off stage, 'cos I was scared."

Abigail said, "Jane was nice", "like all the staff" said Chantelle.

Holly continued, saying "The WASH group are all friends", and Joanna added "All of us work together, we are WASH."

Anthony still enjoys coming and like I have said in previous evaluations, Anthony's favourite is still Desperate Pan.

Grace said "We are like one big family, we all help." Chloe finished by telling me "when I first started I only knew Grace but now I have loads of friends."

The group continue their litter picking quest and 'the Rubbish Warriors' have two more challenges on Woodhouse Close in the near future. The group said they still enjoy doing it. "We have our own special stuff to wear to go litter picking."

All in all, the group continues to run in a relaxed and informal way. All the young people get to have a say in what they get involved in, how they perform and if they perform. They meet week after week for fun, chat and wild and wacky improvisation and enjoy time with each other and with anyone who visits and joins in their group. WASH are extremely entertaining and always keen to create drama to share with all. Therefore, I would like to recommend that WASH (Woodhouse Acting Silly Harry's) remain Investing in Children Members.

All of the young people that read the report with me agreed and signed below:

Thanks everyone.

Helen Mulhearn
Investing in Children
June 2008