



Another memory from Roy and Jayne Draisey (Bilbrook)

Well our memories are of the old Codsall Youth Club which was sited on the High School Grounds, where the Air Cadets Building stands now. Roy got a job as a part time youth worker at the club in 1979. He worked for the Late Bob Douglas who was in charge of the Centre. The club opened 4 nights a week and had table tennis, a Pool table, dart board, Coffee Bar and TV room. It also had the famous 'Bolt Hole' which was a small cubby hole with a record player inside. Members would bring their records to the club and take turns at playing them for us all to listen to. Jayne did her youth leader training and became a leader at the club in 1980. You had to be 21 years old to become a youth leader and training took place over a period of about 12 months. So we were only about 5 years older than the eldest club members when we started.

The youth centre (Youth Club) was a friendly place where kids from the area would get together to socialise, and although not strict, the leaders would ensure that everyone behaved reasonably and they were available for any supporting discussions the young people might want to have.

We would have visits to other clubs in South Staffs for games nights and football matches. Winners would represent South Staffs in the County competitions. The County Darts Finals were held at 'Jollies' in Stoke where the World Darts Finals used to be held. So players could experience playing on the same stage as World Champions.

We also ran trips for club members and went to Blackpool and had a week long holiday in Devon, staying in an old school.

Sadly the club closed a few years ago, along with many youth clubs in the area, and has since been demolished to make way for the Air Cadets building.

We have fond memories of Codsall Youth Club and it's members over the years. Between us we had around 30 years as youth leaders at the club. When we got married in 1982, and because we had taken so fondly to the villages, we bought our first house in Bilbrook. We still live in Bilbrook now, and we continue to be friends with a lot of the young people who came through the Youth Club over 40 years ago.

After we started our own family Jayne became a Child Minder, and has minded children for over 30 years now. Several of those she looked after were the children of youth club members that we first met all those years ago.