



ROCK NEWS



The ASBO Generation

What do **Goths, Emos, Neds and Moshers** have in common? If you don't know, you should have been at the **RE-FRESH Seminar**, where the Rock Youth Team of Gemma, Laura and Neil, had the task of providing insights into the mind of today's young people. A straw poll of the audience revealed that Stirling adults were no different from adults elsewhere - their views of young people were 90% negative. The seminar explored the extent to which this negative perception is justified.

Stereotypes and facts

Factually, most ASBOs are handed out to adults (the recent shocking scenes in Manchester after the UEFA Cup Final featured mostly mature adults). In contrast, on a Saturday band night in The Rock Centre there can be up to 80 teenagers from all over Stirling, and in the past two years, police have been called only once. But facts don't stop adults stereotyping teenagers on the basis of their appearance or the most recent media reports.



Mature Scottish adults in Manchester, May 08

A vicious circle of disrespect

Some recorded vox pops from Rock young people proved that they were well aware of the low opinion adults have of them, so clearly the adults they know make no secret of it. This might have been shrugged off by the audience until it was pointed out how adult negativity creates the need for young people to support and affirm each other in



Immature young people in The Rock

identity groups, which adults then find impenetrable and threatening - a vicious circle of disrespect.

The citizens of tomorrow

As well as getting help with facing up to their own personal and family issues such as bereavement, family disruption and alcohol abuse (alcohol

is a far bigger problem than drugs among this group), The Rock provides its young people with opportunity to play a full part in national and local youth initiatives such as Scottish Youth Parliament and Stirling Youth Partnership, reaching across the social or geographical identity groups, helping them prepare for citizenship now and tomorrow, and carrying out into society the positive Christian values which underpin The Rock.

The Rock and the Church

Asked from the floor if young people progress from The Rock to the church, Gemma replied, "I wouldn't say church is attracting them. We don't evangelise our young people. That's not why we're here. They know some of us are Christians and sometimes they ask us about it and come to church things. Sometimes they like it and sometimes they don't. But we focus on loving all 'our kids', meeting them where they're at and supporting them through the issues they're going through." (*A Youth Alpha group runs in The Rock for anyone interested. Ed.*)

Opportunities @ The Rock

- **Heart to Heart:** volunteers welcome.
- **Pray** for the community: Wednesdays 7.15–8.00 am in The Rock Centre.
- **REFRESH Seminars:** Welcomers, catering team, reception, programme planning, chairing. First Thursday the month except school holidays.
- **Money Matters:** Budget coaching, presenters (training provided).
- **Website Administrator.**
- **Marketing**
- **Start-Up**
Donations of household goods welcome. If you have a few hours a month to spare, Start-Up needs you
- **Youth team (CAST):** sport, art, dance, music, getting to know the youngsters.

The Rock Needs YOUR Support
Become a member.
It's FREE.

Interested? Contact Christine.

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June 2008

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