

**First Friday every month at Cornerstone
Funday Club**
For families with children under 11yrs
4.30 – 6.30pm
Next meeting 7th September

IG-Nite
Crazy games, non-alcoholic cocktails, a bite-sized Bible talk,
Entry £1.50 Ages 11-18
7.30 – 9.30pm
Next meeting 7th September



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Hopeunlimited

Good news for the people of Grove
Issue 5 Summer 2012

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 **Grove Free Evangelical Church**
"Building a community of people who live out God's purposes"

**You are welcome to our
Sunday meetings**

10.30am and 6.30pm
Grove C of E School
Morning meetings include a Children's club & Youth group.

Contact Paul John on
(01235) 210037
www.gfec.org.uk

Confidential Prayer Line
(01235) 201067



Tel: 01235 772280
Savile Way, Grove, OX12 0PT

Open for drinks & cakes all day.
Sandwiches & hot food prepared
to order till 2.30pm.

Mon-Fri 9.30am-4pm, Sat 10am-4pm

Churches working together
serving the Community
Charity No 1048923

Hopeunlimited is published by Grove Free Evangelical Church (Registered Charity 283079).
If you have any comments to make or do not wish to receive further editions, please contact us on
(01235) 210037 or email hope@gfec.org.uk

'14 Club' at Fitzwaryn School

I've been helping as a volunteer at the '14 Club' for adults with learning disabilities for over 18 years, but the club has been going much longer - we celebrate our 40th anniversary next year.

The Club meets on Monday evenings and serves Grove, Wantage and surrounding areas. A team of volunteer drivers bring members who are not able to get there themselves. We organise a varied programme of fun and educational activities.

Regular favourites include bingo, cooking, craft and discos. However, many of the members simply enjoy the chance to chat to their friends over a drink from the coffee bar. Most of our members are relatively independent, but a few are more severely disabled and come to club with their own carer. We have a lot of fun and I have got to know some of the members very well over the years. The club is run entirely by volunteers and raises its own funds.

For me the club is an important part of our community. It amazes me that I see Club members out in Grove and Wantage more than any other group of people I know. For more details visit www.14club.org.uk. New volunteers and members are always welcome! *Andrew Harwood*

On your marks

It won't have escaped your notice that this month London hosts the 2012 Olympics. Almost 15,000 athletes from 205 nations will take part in 300 events across 32 Olympic venues.

These athletes will pit their various skills against one another seeking to win the prize of a gold medal for themselves and the country they represent. But they won't just turn up and automatically expect to receive a medal. Each will have made intense preparations over the last 4 years, honing their bodies to a peak of physical fitness in order to put in a world-class display.

The Bible has much to say on the subject of sport. It actually describes the Christian as a spiritual athlete. Writing to people in Corinth, the Apostle Paul says *'Remember that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize. You also must run in such a way that you will win.'*

All athletes practice strict self-control. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize'. (1 Corinthians 9:24-25 NLT)

The Isthmian Games were a Greek athletic contest held at Corinth and took place every two years. They were first held in 523 BC and resemble the Olympic Games except that the victor received a crown of wild parsley!

Paul uses this illustration to explain that the Christian life requires determination, discipline, self-denial, and grueling preparation. Becoming a Christian is about joining God's team of athletes. Being a Christian involves a daily discipline in order to run the race with vigour and stamina.

I hope you have a great summer and really enjoy watching the Olympic Games whether on TV or if you've been fortunate to get a ticket for one of the events.

Pastor Paul John





Every other Friday night Wantage and Grove Street Pastors (W&GSPs) can be encountered in Grove. The teams, usually four people, are building relationships with the people they meet around the village, helping vulnerable people, providing a listening ear and encouragement, picking up bottles and other rubbish which could injure people. We are known for providing lollipops to those who may have overindulged and flip-flops to those who, later in the evening, can no longer cope with their high heels. A big thank you to all who supported the recent W&GSP stall at the Jubilee celebrations at Grove recreation ground. It was great to meet so many Grove residents who are already aware of our work and to be able to share what we do with those who hadn't heard of us. *Yvonne Cavanagh*

They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize — Apostle Paul

Grove celebrates the Diamond Jubilee

On Monday 4th June 2012, 'WAG Jubilee' came to Grove. The recreation ground played host to a show arena, family entertainment area, craft tent, live bands, 'It's a Knockout' competition and various stalls. A firework display provided a fantastic finale to three days of celebrations in Wantage and Grove to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

Grove Free Evangelical Church (GFEC) was pleased to get involved in many ways. Barbie Margetts, one of our leadership team, has been involved in the planning of the Grove event for 18 months since she joined the Grove Jubilee Steering Group. Pastor Paul John from GFEC and Rev. Glyn Oliver from Wantage Christian Fellowship worked together in planning and leading the



Thanksgiving Service that 'kicked off' Monday's festivities. Members and friends of GFEC helped with many activities in the family entertainment area, provided a 'Make a Jubilee Crown' children's craft activity and gave away special Diamond Jubilee editions of the New Testament. Thanks to Vale Elim Church as so many

children enjoyed having their faces painted. Making their own crown and dressing up as a queen gave them their very own special photo opportunity.

As a church, GFEC don't yet have our own building, currently meeting at Grove CE School on Sundays, but we continue to use opportunities to get involved in the community here in Grove.

Debbie Hooker

Alex's story

I had a 'normal' childhood, enjoying sports and hanging out with friends. I came from a non-Christian household and didn't have any Christian friends at school, so whilst aware of Christianity, I never really knew what it was about.

It wasn't until sixth-form that I started to learn a bit more about Christianity. I went out with a girl whose family were Christians and they told me about their faith and encouraged me to go to a 'Glad you asked' course run by GFEC where a group of both Christians and non-Christians met and discussed key life issues. It was here that I learnt why Christians think the way they do. After 2½ years my girlfriend and I broke up and I was devastated. I couldn't understand how a relationship that I had put so much effort into could just disappear like that. It was then that I realised that all along I had been overlooking the perfect relationship, an everlasting one with God. That night I gave my life to Jesus Christ.



This totally changed my outlook on life. I have now been a Christian for over 2 years and have grown so much in that time. Instead of looking at the things I don't have, I am now able to see all the blessings God has given me and I can see how God has been guiding my life and looking out for me along the way.

I still love sports and hanging out with friends, but now I have something much greater in my life. God is good and my prayer is that when reading this you might discover for yourself the wonderful difference that a relationship with God can make in your life.

Alex Guest