



in association with
Scripture
union

Youth clubs have restarted, and we give thanks especially for Angus' health in Kyleakin.

Two new **prayer groups** have recently started in Plockton High School.

The weekend to **Alltnacriche** is booked for 20th March. For the first time ever we have a waiting list.

The **COOL Annual Report** will soon be available — visit the website for a copy.

The **7th Annual Celebration** is on 27th February, this year in Dornie Village Hall. All ages welcome.

The Autumn term has seen a lot of spiritual interest amongst our young people. We are particularly excited that at last we have a weekly student prayer group in Plockton High School. The 60 Second Club meets during a break time and about ten pupils have been coming regularly since October. One of the prayers was that the staff would form a similar group, and they too now meet monthly with about half a dozen attendees, although I think that meeting regularity is likely to increase this year.

Our work can often seem to be insignificant or secondary within our school and youth communities, but occasionally we see real blessings and encouragements. The ten minutes at the 60 Second Club is so exciting each week, there are numerous

opportunities and an increased openness to talk about spiritual matters with young people, and we have reports of the conversion of one of our first year university students. One young person recently told me:

"[God] has provided some amazing and encouraging friends. I thanked Him and now you for being one of them. You're an answer to prayer."

As ever, I'm reminded at the start of this new year that the work God has given us matters in the lives of individuals and I am privileged to be able to be a friend to a few during their teenage years.

Dave.

You are invited to
**The Seventh Annual Celebration
for the work of COOL**
7.30pm Friday, 27th February
Dornie Village Hall

www.coolscotland.org.uk

COOL is an interdenominational Trust employing a youth and schools worker to share and support young people with the Christian message. COOL is a part of the Scripture Union Scotland Associate Worker Scheme and is a Recognised Scottish Charity (No. SCO31455)

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Since the summer, we've had another busy time including a trip to Rome with the Art & RME departments, a lecture by Professor John Polkinghorne in Achiltibuie, the usual round of assemblies and schools' input, as well as a training session delivered by Dave for ministers on current legislation for Religious Observance in Scottish Schools. During the holidays, Dave was also involved in teaching the Bible overview for SU Scotland, with Chief Exec. Andy Bathgate.



LADHAR
DOR
RHEINN

January 2009

...news in brief...

JANUARY 2009

As we enter 2009, COOL is entering its eighth year of activity in the schools in our catchment area, and involvement in various other youth activities. We continue to have the privilege of Dave working for the Trust, and he has become a well respected and well known face in all of the schools, and many of the church congregations.

As chairman, I wish once again to express my thanks to everybody who makes the work of COOL possible. As always the focus of all our thanks goes to God who has given us a mission to continue to fulfil, following His son, Jesus, coming into our world, and His death and resurrection. Inspired by His compassion and love, we continue to seek in the power of the Holy Spirit to spread the good news of His gospel, so that all may have the opportunity to live life in all its fullness.

My gratitude goes to all those who pray for the work of COOL, and provide financially for the work, as well as the many head teachers, and other staff in the schools who allow Dave access and make him so welcome. COOL is also so grateful to the charitable trusts that have contributed the work over the past years, specifically the Lloyds TSB Foundation and the Church of Scotland Parish Development Fund, and also the Co-op community dividend fund which has given us grants for specific items of equipment. I also wish to thank all the members of the Management Committee, the various sub committees, and the other trustees for all the work that they do to ensure the smooth running of the trust. Jill Clayton, our secretary and trustee since the inception of COOL, 'retired' during the year, and I wish to thank her especially for all the work she has put into the

project over the years. As I think Dave put it, "COOL would not be where it is today without Jill's tremendous input over the years." My thanks also goes to all the volunteer helpers who work alongside Dave during the year.

COOL continues to be associated with Scripture Union Scotland, and we appreciate their on going support, and especially the support of their local regional worker, Colin Carmichael, who will be known to many of you.

The main grants we have been receiving have now come to an end, and COOL is seeking to fund the work entirely from the local area. In the coming year, based on the previous year's income, expenditure is likely to exceed income by some £7,000, which will have a very detrimental effect on our bank balances. We would like to encourage all those who support us at present (individuals and church congregations) to review their giving in the light of ever increasing expenses. Also, perhaps there are individuals and church congregations who are reading this newsletter who do not give to COOL regularly, and would like to consider doing so. Our treasurer or myself would love to hear from you!

Full reports of the work that COOL has been doing over the past year through Dave can be found in our Annual Report, which is due to be published in February 2009. If you would like a copy of this report, please contact me, or alternatively it will be able to be downloaded from our website.

In the January 2009 edition of the magazine 'Youthwork', it states (with evidence backing the statement up) that 'a great schools worker can make a massive difference to a school'. It goes on to say, that following a survey of schools, that a great schools worker:

a) Tries to meet the schools agenda first, rather than their own.

b) Has one priority – the well being of the students.

c) Must be trustworthy, have integrity and be humble.

d) Be a great listener, a good role model and committed to unconditional acceptance of everyone in the school.

The article goes on to say that things like presentational skills came very low as a priority, and it was all about character that mattered most! With these thoughts in mind, may I encourage you to continue to pray for Dave, as well as the many other volunteers who work amongst our young people, that God will enable them to fulfil such a high calling.

Every blessing to you all in 2009.

*Malcolm Gardiner
(Chairman)*

When you pray for COOL and Dave's work, please...

give thanks for

- the 60 Second Club
- PHS Staff prayer
- commitments to Christ and an openness to the things of God
- a fully booked weekend away in March
- the role COOL is able to play in the lives of young people

pray for

- Roddie Rankin as he prepares the teaching for Alltnacriche in March
- the possibility of running another Easter football school
- our young people facing bereavement, depression and difficult home lives
- God's guidance for the summer ministry
- God's provision for the financial and volunteer needs of COOL

Cut your COOL bookmark along the line

