



## Evercreech Youth Club Dance Project

A consultation exercise, carried out in the village in 2008 to determine the needs of young people, found that the provision of a youth club was at the top of the list—a space that the young people could call their own, that they could take ownership of and demonstrate their ability to behave responsibly. A management committee was formed in January 2009 with 14 members, four of whom are young people, and they set about raising funds to purchase a redundant building.

The consultation also identified an interest in dance and in particular Break Dancing, Hip Hop and Street. A group from Cornwall put on a dance workshop and demonstration which led to requests to start up a regular activity in the village. Dance leaders were identified from amongst the young people and a local choreographer agreed to undertake their initial training so they can sustain the project in the future.

By encouraging young people to work together, using their energies in a creative healthy way, it is hoped that there will be a decrease in anti social behaviour, an increase in health and well being and improved relationships between the various groups of young people in the community, all of which will be hugely beneficial to the village as a whole.

The Somerset Community Foundation awarded a grant which covered the cost of hiring the village hall for a year, insurance, publicity and advertising, purchase of an acoustic music system, dance mats, protective knee, wrist and hand equipment.

The Evercreech Youth Club Community Dance Team launched themselves at their 1<sup>st</sup> Dance Show in the Village Hall on a Friday evening in July 2009.

The team, whose watchword is RESPECT, is highly disciplined and want to demonstrate to the village that conflicting groups can work together and also to increase the profile of young people when levels of anti social behaviour sometimes seem in the ascendance.



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