

ACT news, reports and events

Stapleford's tenth birthday



On 7 June 2008 staff, supporters, friends and service users gathered to celebrate The Stapleford Centre's tenth birthday.

Confused? Those who remember reading an article by Alison Farnell and Rupert Kaye entitled 'Happy birthday Stapleford: celebrating 25 years of Christian work in education' (*ACT Now*, Autumn 2005) may be! Let me explain. This year's event marked the tenth anniversary of ACT and The Stapleford Centre separating to

form two distinct organisations with complimentary ministries.

Guests were invited to think about Stapleford's past, present and future.

Looking at the work of the Centre under different directors gave a sense of development over time. John Shortt, Trevor Cooling, Alison Farnell, Ben Jones and David Pepper shared their recollections of the transformational thinking that took place under their tenure. David recalled the days when the Centre had one

computer! The Centre's current director, David Morton, then outlined how he would like to see the ministry develop over the next few years.

The whole celebration was filled with prayer and worship, giving a sense of God's presence on the day, and serving as a powerful reminder of the important role played by the prayers of Stapleford's staff, friends and supporters over the years.

EurECA 2008: Hope for the planet



This year's European Educators' Christian Association conference attracted 62 participants from 16 countries. The event was held in Graz, Austria, during Ascension Weekend (1-4 May).

Dave Bookless (A Rocha UK), the keynote speaker, challenged delegates to consider the meaning of 'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it' (Psalm 24:1) as he spoke about 'Christian education for a sustainable future'. Dave's opening presentation was entitled 'The state of the planet'; his second, 'Biblical overview', focused on God's purposes for the earth and the role played by humans; his final talk, 'What can we do?', gave practical hints on how Christian educators should approach the topic of the conference in their daily lives as well as in their teaching practice.

ACT behaviour event

On Saturday 31 May 2008 Rupert Kaye led a training day entitled 'Seven tips for highly effective behaviour management' at Bridge Chapel Centre in Liverpool. Andy Langton, ACT Local Contact for Merseyside, hosted the event.

The morning sessions – 'Seeing the world through children's eyes' and 'The DOs and DON'Ts of rules, boundaries, sanctions and rewards' – contrasted a Christian understanding of humanity with a humanist/behaviourist worldview. The afternoon sessions – 'Healthy relationships and positive routines' and 'Stopping bad behaviour; starting good behaviour' – involved role play and group discussion.

The day opened and closed with prayer and was an encouragement and a blessing to all who attended.