

PRESS RELEASE 16<sup>TH</sup> October 2008



## Warming up the community

A focal point for young people in Alston will be much warmer this winter thanks to a community initiative to install central heating in the "Scran Shed". As part of their nationwide community support activity, British Gas has just installed the central heating free of charge - thanks to joint effort between Eden Housing Association (EHA), Eden Youth Work Partnership and Eden Community Outdoors.

The Scran Shed is a café in Alston, managed by the youth committee 'Youth with Altitude'. It was renovated and opened earlier this year by Youth with Altitude in conjunction with Eden Youth Work Partnership (EYWP) and Eden Community Outdoors (ECO). The central venue has already made a huge difference to Alston's young people and the teams supporting them. Installation of central heating means they will all be able to use much more of the building.

Chelsea Shephard, a Youth with Altitude committee member said "It's just such a nice gesture and it shows that we matter, now we can sit back and enjoy the warmth instead of huddling round cups of hot chocolate!"

Eden Housing Association has been working with British Gas to install and upgrade central heating in some of their 1550 homes. It was at one of their review meetings that Jimmy Campbell from their property maintenance team highlighted the need for central heating in Alston. Stephen Currey, Development Manager for British Gas volunteered to support the Alston community by installing central heating in the café free of charge because of its valuable role as a Youth Centre for Alston.

The Youth with Altitude management committee has been raising funds to renovate the centre since it opened in February, but the huge sum needed to pay for heating was too high a target to hit before this winter and they are delighted that they don't have to huddle around one small heater. The free installation, worth over £3000, means any funds raised in the future can be used in other ways to develop their youth centre.

The Scran Shed on Front Street in Alston is open after school and in the evening on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and is staffed by Eden Youth Work Partnership, Eden Community Outdoors and Eden Housing Association.

Anyone interested in being involved with young people in Alston should contact Rebecca England from Eden Community Outdoors on 01434 381 548.

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Pictures: The Scran Shed in Alston

Sarah Bisson (EYWP) Paul Riley and Stephen Currey (British Gas), Jimmy Campbell (EHA) and Rebecca England (ECO) as the heating system is installed.



*For more information or high res pictures contact Tracey Errington at Market Sense on 07799 640 290 or email: [tracey@marketsense.net](mailto:tracey@marketsense.net)*