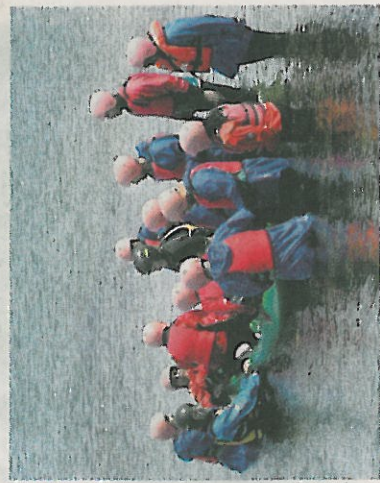


ACTION-PACKED PROGRAMME: Pictures show some of the Mitalee activities, including youth forum, cycle safety, team-building, table tennis and radio broadcast training



Mitalee mightily good!

A POPULAR summer school for Luton's youngsters has been shortlisted for a respected national award.

Mitalee Summer School Project is up for a youth alcohol gong and a prize of £10,000 for its work in telling young people about the perils of booze.

The awards are organised by Mentor UK, an alcohol and drug misuse prevention charity, to recognise the country's best projects working with children and young people, 14 years or under, to prevent alcohol misuse.

Mitalee has been shortlisted, along with three other outfits, in the communities category of the awards

£20,000 to £25,000. It will help us to train more volunteers and support the subsidised programme we offer."

The Mitalee Summer School Project, now in its 18th year, is run by young people for young people and runs for five to six weeks during every summer holiday.

Each year 20-25 young volunteers are recruited and trained in areas such as first aid, project management, cycling proficiency and radio broadcast.

These volunteers then go on to work with more than 300 young people, offering them a range of training programmes, workshops on drugs and alcohol awareness, drama and film production, radio broad-

cast and various sporting and recreational activities.

The judging panel said it was particularly impressed with Mitalee's strong sense of engagement with children and young people from a wide range of community and cultural backgrounds and its commitment to involving them creatively in all aspects of decision making.

Mentor UK's chief executive Eric Carlin said: "The media constantly bombards us with negative images of young people - especially around the misuse of alcohol.

"The Mentor UK CHAMP Awards prove that there are alternatives and that there are great projects out there helping young people make

sensible choices and live healthy lives." Mitalee youngsters will now make a special video of the summer school's work, which will form part of a presentation to a judging panel of children and young people.

The judges will be looking particularly for the most creative and innovative entries and award winners will be announced at a ceremony at the Royal Institution in London in November.

Winners will each receive £10,000 this year, and up to a further £10,000 worth of mentoring and consultancy support in 2009.

>> For further information please visit www.mentorfoundation.org/uk/awards