



Youth team on a royal wavelength

A YOUTH group from Luton is to receive the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Services.

The Mitalee Youth Association, which is based in Waldeck Road, was established 20 years ago with the aim of helping young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

It is unique in that it is run by young people for young people. Its main objectives are to provide information on opportunities and raise the profile of issues that affect young people. The group also helps youngsters to develop personal, social and prac-

tical skills and promotes activities that encourage social inclusion, tolerance and understanding of differences.

Since it was set up the group has been involved in a wide range of short, medium and long-term projects. These include the setting up of Diverse FM, which has been running on a restricted service licence for the last four years.

The association also provides football coaching and indoor sporting activities; it has also produced and stage educational dramas to raise awareness on issues such as drugs, crime and forced marriages. For the last 13 years

the Mitalee Youth Association has been involved in organising summer projects for young people aged between eight and 25. It has also organised four international youth exchange programmes, the last of which included a trip to Bangladesh.

The Queen's Award was originally set up to mark the Queen's Jubilee year and is designed to give recognition to the unsung heroes of communities across the country.

Mitalee was selected from a total of almost 700 entries nationally and was felt to have made an invaluable contribution to the community. The award is also only given to those groups whose



ROYAL DATE: Members of Mitalee Youth Association.

volunteers have regularly devoted their time to providing an outstanding level of help to other people.

As part of the award, Mitalee will receive a certificate signed by the Queen as well as a commemorative crystal.

Three members of the group have been invited to a reception at St James's Palace to be attended by the Queen and other members of the Royal Family on July 19.



newsbrief

Pedal power

PEDAL power is coming to Dunstable today with a special free event for Bike Week. Adults can try out cycling in a session at the Ridgeway Avenue Recreation Ground this morning, from 10am to noon.

Dunstable Town Council and Beds County Council officers will be there with bikes and helmets to give adults a chance to try getting back in the saddle.

Appeal rejected

A MOVE to win permission for proposed windmills at a Dunstable property has failed. South Beds District Council refused an application for planning permission for six and rear dormer windows at 27 Norcott Close. Mr A. Noblett appealed against that decision, but has been dismissed by planning inspector Jane Miles.

Here comes the judge -

to help out motorists

DWP Department for Work and Pensions

Is there