

## Hale Community Youth

*Harvey Rosenfield*

**No review of our community's history would be complete without a mention of a committee that was formed in 1980, lasted 10 years and raised substantial funds for the shule. Called 'Hale Community Youth' (HCY), the committee was formed to raise funds for the community's first shule building. There was a large deficit on the building fund to be cleared and there was much money also needed to finish off the new structure properly. (The name 'youth' was chosen because the future of any community is in its youth).**

The original committee members [see picture] were as follows: Rodney Gardner (Chairman), Gerry Berman (Vice Chairman), Roger Blaskey (Treasurer), Barrie Bloom (Secretary), Jonathan Avery-Gee, John Blaskey, Leon Dwek, Ian Keller, Peter Leinhardt, Ronnie Marks, David Mond and Phillip Taylor.

HCY put on some spectacular and amazing events that were not only very successful financially, but also provided a major social outlet for our fledgling community. HCY quickly built a reputation for putting on extravaganza type events as follows:-

*1980 – Dinner and Fashion Show at Tatton Hall  
Brown's of South Molton Street*

*1981 – Dinner and Fashion Show at Tatton Hall  
Harvey Nicholls Knightsbridge,  
London*

*Gentlemen's Evening with Vince Earle Comedian*

*1982 – Celebrity Dinner and Fashion Show at Tatton Hall  
Jimmy Tarbuck and Edelson Furs*

*Race Evening Sponsored by Stanley Leisure*

*1983 – An outing to Wimbledon  
Gentlemen's Evening with Bernard Manning*

*1984 – Gala Dinner and Ball at the Midland Hotel*

*Gentlemen's Evening with Bernard Manning*

*1985 – Dinner and Ball at the Midland Hotel*

*Gentlemen's Evening*

*1986 – Dinner and Fashion Show at Tatton Hall  
The new Lewis's fashions*

*1990 – Gentlemen's Evening with Bernard Manning*

HCY, I understand, was the first organisation to persuade Tatton Hall to hire out its rooms for an outside function. The fashion shows were also the first of their kind. Take, for example, the 1981 Harvey Nicholls Show. For the first time this London fashion house brought its latest fashions with its models to a show 'in the provinces.'

A different type of event was the trip to Wimbledon, which involved 90 people in 2 coaches.

Over a 10 year period almost over £100,000 was raised, which in today's terms is the equivalent to almost £250,000, and this was from pure social events.

Could such a committee operate today? I really don't know. HCY was certainly right for its time. When it started there were only 60 families in the shule so there definitely was a pioneering spirit that is no longer present today. The community has grown substantially and is more diverse, its called "progress." Further, as the committee members themselves would admit, 1 or 2 of their meetings (e.g. Gentlemen's Evenings) were somewhat controversial and perhaps weren't an appropriate event for a shule committee to undertake.

What is certain, however, HCY made a significant contribution both financially and socially to our shule in the early years for which the community should be very grateful.