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special appeal for you, Linda, as you live near the sea yourself and probably know from first-hand experience the sense of exhilaration and spiritual release that it can give. That's how you could share this experience so fully with David.

Others felt closest to David in his more down-to-earth moments as just an 'ordinary' adolescent like themselves. Fourteen-year-old Sandra Henshall of Kidsgrove, Stoke-on-Trent, explained:

"I think why I feel close to David is because he has gone through growing up as I have. In fact, all of us have to face problems like parents, school, drugs... have had to make decisions about the future. Although obviously David is different from us, these things show that he is human just the same. Other situations David has had to face are his parents' divorce, the death of his idol Jimi Hendrix, and the death of his friend through drugs.

"I find that a lot David has to say about these problems can help. For instance, I was going to skip a lesson at school. I had a test, none of my friends were at school and I felt really miserable. But I remembered that David once said, 'It's no use trying to run away from things. It's better to face up to them. Nothing is as bad as it seems at first.' Well, I went to my lesson, did well in my test and made a new friend."

Your letter really cheered us up, Sandra, because—as well as showing us the strength of your love for David—it proved how a love of this kind can help someone to mature and find strength and will-power inside themselves.

In the same way, there have been people in David's life, who he's been able to rely on and turn to when he needed help and advice. So it's good to know that he can take his turn now in helping others the same way.

You see, Sandra is far from being the only person who wrote to us about the help David has given her without even having met her. Rosemary Gee, in her portrait of David as a person, offered to share with other fans the very special (David Cassidy) secret for losing weight!

Rosemary, who lives in Banbury, Oxfordshire, wrote:

"From that day I began to worship 'Keith Partridge'. He was my idol and at that time I never even realised that David was a different person altogether from the part he played. It took me about 18 months before I realised that David was real and Keith wasn't. But I came to know David for who he really was, for himself, and the true person that he is.

"I've come to understand him, and my affection for him has changed. I don't fantasize about him now, because he's real, and not just a pretty face on a pin-up; there's much more to David than his looks and his voice. It's David the man I respect and admire. I can't remember when I realised how much David meant to me... I think it was his honesty in his interviews, his reaction to his fans, the way he sings: it seems to carry a message to all of us.

GAINED CONFIDENCE

"David unknowingly has helped me in more ways than anyone else could have. I've gained a lot of confidence and a newer understanding of the world by his own attitude to the world and to people.

"Also he's helped me to lose weight (from 14st. 7lbs. to 9st. 7lbs.) and stopped me biting my nails. But David's not only helped me. He's helped millions of people all over the world. He's made lots of people happy wherever he goes."

I'm sure every single reader will second Rosemary on that! And if you'd like to join her as a 'new' slimmer DC Fan Club Member, turn to page for full details of her 'Slimming For David' tips. Congratulations on your fantastic weight loss, Rosemary! You'll be receiving a special £2 prize for your letter and all the bright ideas. Perhaps you might put it towards the lovely new, slim-size clothes you're going to need to buy now!

Karen Pickin who comes from near Urmoston, Manchester, began her letter on David like this: *"David appeals to everyone in a different way. For some it's his eyes; for others it's the dynamic way he gets across to his audiences and the strength and power of his voice. Whether he's crooning some soft romantic*



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