



# FESTIVAL REPORT 2011



Compiled by Chris Ricard, July 2011



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*Images: Lewis Harrison-Mount, Anthony Morris, Phil Reed, Alison Chisholm, Chris Ricard*

# Celebrate community arts 2011

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## Contents:

1. Introduction
2. About Celebrate
3. Event Overview: *Site & Security, Radios, Health & Safety, Accessibility*
4. Festival Facilities
5. Festival Attractions
6. Featured Acts
7. Festival Fun, Workshops and Activities
8. Organisation & Publicity
9. Further Recommendations and Feedback
10. Treasurers Report and Accounts
11. Get Involved!



*Special thanks to everyone who made the Celebrate event possible this year.*

*A big 'Thank You' to our team of dedicated volunteers,  
without whom the Festival wouldn't happen.*

*Thanks to Gary Handforth, Head teacher and Susan Bradley, Site Manager of Manley Park  
Primary - for use of the school grounds this year and the  
Hare Krishna Community for providing delicious food once again for  
volunteers and performers.*

*Thanks to everyone involved for help and support, including Caryl, Barbara, Bill, Carol, Drew,  
Rick, Mike, Phil R, Conor, Janet, Cath, Heather, Phil H, Alison and many more!*

# Celebrate community arts 2011

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## Introduction

Our 14<sup>th</sup> Celebrate Festival with the theme 'Access All Ages' was kindly hosted by Manley Park Primary School in the beautifully redeveloped grounds of the Junior site on College Road.

Celebrate is traditionally held on the May Day bank holiday, but due to the late Easter break we decided to hold the event on a Saturday in June - anticipating kinder weather...

The gates opened at 12 noon and lots of people arrived from the outset. The sun was shining - and initially the sky was blue. By about 1pm the clouds had gathered followed by lightening, thunder - and an amazing hail storm!

Of course most people were prepared: umbrellas were out for about an hour and the remainder of the day was reasonably sunny!

Two entrances to the school on College Road were used for public access; the smaller pedestrian gate leading to the amphitheatre and solar stage - and the main car park gates which led to the playground where the information desk was sited. Visitors received their copy of the festival programme on the way into the event at the gates which were attended by a rota of volunteers. The information tent featured lots of local information and the opportunity to buy raffle tickets - and for volunteers to sign in.

For this year's event we had several accessible areas for a variety of activities. The playground was the main hub of the event which featured the information stall, art and crafts marquee and the main stage. Rick's suggestion of tables and chairs in the playground and near the stage was a big success - creating a café area which also meant the bands got more of an audience.

The 'Sports Zone' was a separate big playground featuring the popular climbing wall, bouncy castle, football and parachute games.

The second (solar) stage was situated by the college road school entrance in the grassy wildflower area that also features an amphitheatre with seating, 2 permanent gazebos and a storytelling area.

The school has a sculpture park with a wildflower garden: a Celebrate sculpture workshop took place here: the work produced at the festival is a work in progress and will be added to over the year to produce a permanent piece of art to commemorate the festival venue.



# Celebrate community arts 2011



## About Celebrate:

To enable community capacity-building, local people are recruited to run our art, music and dance workshops - including council funded workshops - in our schools, to showcase work at Celebrate, which is entirely run by volunteers from the community, members of Whalley Range Forum, Whalley Range Youth Opportunities Association, Whalley Range Action for Health and Sustainable Living - and all of the projects based at JNR8 Youth & Community Centre.



## ***Celebrate aims to:***

- ❖ Celebrate the talent, diversity and resources of Whalley Range
- ❖ Promote a positive image of the area and improve the quality of life
  - ❖ Be low cost and barrier free
- ❖ Increase participation in the arts, particularly in Whalley Range
- ❖ To encourage participation of the different communities within the area and work within an anti-discriminatory framework
  - ❖ Be none party political



# Celebrate community arts 2011

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## **Event Overview**

**Site & Security:** This year, as the event was held on a Saturday, the toilets were delivered on Friday, during the afternoon while the children were in school. The marquee company was delayed due to a bigger local event: the 2 marquees and the stage cover were set up by around 9pm.

The Site Manager lives in the school grounds: we didn't need overnight security.

**Gates:** The Gates were opened for Traders and other Service Providers who were checked in by security staff between 9am and 11am, with restricted access after this time.

The Festival gates were opened at 12 noon and 2 extra security staff arrived. At least 2 volunteers were on duty at the gates and one security staff member. There were no reported problems.

One member of staff patrolled the event and one stayed at the Upper Chorlton Road gate. This gate was opened to provide access for providers of the Sports Zone attractions - a Climbing Wall and Inflatables - and for workers from the Hare Krishna temple who brought hot food for the Volunteers tent.

**Radios:** Radios were assigned to individuals at strategic points of the festival;

- Co-ordinator ( Chris Ricard) WRYOA (Carol Packham) WRF (Bill Williams) Information Point (Stewards/Volunteers)
- Sports Zone (Rick Walker) Stage area (Mike Ricard)
- Solar Stage (Des Basterfield)
- Security (Pedestrian entrances, vehicle gate and General security)

**Health & Safety:** A Risk Assessment was carried out by the Festival Manager and copies of the printed document were issued to the Security team and the PA Companies. A First Aider was present throughout the event to administer medical treatment on site; there were no reported casualties.

**Accessibility:** The school playground and solar stage were accessible; wheelchair accessible toilets were provided at the event. The Sports Zone, Volunteers food tent and an art and planting activity were accessed by steps: wheelchair users could bypass the steps using a side gate for access to these areas when required.



# Celebrate community arts 2011

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## FESTIVAL ATTRACTIONS

The 2011 Festival theme: 'Access All Ages' aimed to promote respect and participation between people of all ages at the event and funding was received from Mosscafe and My Generation fund (Community Foundation for Greater Manchester) to provide activities designed to encourage people of different ages to work together. The workshops included a clay animation film project, a planting activity and sculpture workshop. A Bowler hatted DJ played Dance Hall Jazz and Swing music on an old HMV style sound system. A Swing Dance Instructor came along to teach people the dance style. This was aimed to be an intergenerational activity but sadly the rain disrupted the workshop, although links have been made with a group who attended Celebrate and put on regular successful Tea Dances locally: we plan to hold a dance in Whalley Range over the coming months - check the website for updates.

**The Art & Crafts Marquee** featured urban art and intergenerational quilt design workshops, glitter tattoos, Mendhi (henna) and Facepainting - for younger and older visitors! The quilt squares are in the process of being joined together to be displayed at future events - and a local school has requested a photoshoot with the finished product as children and teaching staff took part in and really enjoyed the activity.



# Celebrate community arts 2011

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## **FESTIVAL FACILITIES**

### **Information and Health Marquee**

Sadly, due to the event being held on a Saturday, many people who had planned to attend couldn't take time off work or find people willing to come and promote their services. However, our Information Marquee was busy throughout the day, with stalls and consultations around parks and volunteering, signing in of volunteers, programme distribution and raffle ticket sales.

The JNR8 projects were promoted in the Information tent including Keep Fit classes and Basic English classes for women, funded by Manchester City Council and facilitated by the Whalley Range Forum. There was also the opportunity to find out more about the role of the Forum and to take away a copy of the bi-monthly publication - News & Events, produced and distributed to the community by the Forum worker and volunteers. The newsletter promotes local events and groups and residents are encouraged to contribute by sending in articles and news of interest to the Whalley Range community. Activities for young people were promoted and a survey was circulated by the Whiz project to promote volunteering for young people and to find out what is important to young people in Whalley Range.

**Information and Market Stalls** Our busy market area in the Playground included interactive crafts, books, plants, a local library service - and information and fundraising stalls from local groups and branches of established environmental and self-help organisations.

**Food Stalls** Our International food court once again featured a wide variety of delicious food and Fairtrade drinks, ranging from vegetarian snacks to salads, curries and spicy snacks, meats and fresh fruit and popular cakes and fresh donuts. And of course there was an ice cream van...

As Celebrate was held on a Saturday this year, we didn't have as many stalls as usual - a lot of local stallholders are committed to regular work at the weekend so couldn't attend. Lots of our residents and traders have suggested that we return to our traditional May Day for Celebrate 2012.

Nonetheless we had a varied selection of fantastic products including books, hand-made jewellery, bric-a-brac, exotic cakes, plants and shrubs and vibrant clothing for sale and a number of stalls representing local branches of fundraising and charity organisations.

**Toilets:** We provided 4 toilets this year, including a wheelchair accessible toilet, situated against the car park school fence; there were no complaints.

**First Aid:** A First Aider from a private medical company attended the event due to unavailability of the Red Cross/St John's Ambulance: thankfully there were no reported casualties.

## Staging, PA and Marquee hire

**Stages & PA:** Our regular local staging company provided treads to the stage, steps, crowd barriers for the gate and a fenced-off area to prevent access to the back of the stage. The main stage was situated in the playground as part of the main festival hub, featuring dance, performance and live music throughout the day.

As a result, this area had a lot more visitors - which meant a bigger audience for the stage performers.

Our solar powered PA stage was situated in the wildflower and amphitheatre area and provided acoustic entertainment for people throughout the day including traditional Irish music, Jazz and Blues and interactive hip-hop with young people from a local urban music collective.

**2 Marquees** - Due to the layout of the event we ordered 2 frame marquees and a traditional marquee and canopy for the stage, which were delivered on Friday the day before the event. The company also provided fire extinguishers, tables for stallholders and workshops and additional tables for the café-style area near the stage.

## Free Volunteers Food & Drink



Our volunteers and performers at Celebrate are local people who contribute to the running of the event and do not receive payment.

We provide vouchers for a hot meal and drink for every volunteer who works hard to make the event run smoothly.

We are grateful to the Hare Krishna community for providing delicious freshly cooked food for Volunteers this year and Caryl Clavering from Body Positive North West/Whalley Range Forum/WRYOA for trays of freshly prepared sandwiches. Fruit, snacks, hot meals and drinks were prepared and served by a team of volunteers from the volunteer's tent.



## **Festival Entertainment: Music Dance and Performance**



The main stage was situated in the main playground and featured a variety of music and performance and between performances compiled and played by our MC. Stage two was powered by a solar sound system: details about each of the acts are featured below.

### **MAIN STAGE:**

- ❖ Dirty Jack: <http://www.myspace.com/dirtyjackmetal>
- ❖ Bedlam
- ❖ Ltia's community school of dance: Fantastic Street dance performance and acrobatic moves once again from young people/children from this popular Moss Side/Hulme based community school. Choreographed by dance teacher, Latia.
- ❖ The Outer Party: [www.myspace.com/theouterparty](http://www.myspace.com/theouterparty)
- ❖ Pleasureland: [www.myspace.com/pleasurelanduk](http://www.myspace.com/pleasurelanduk)
- ❖ Celebrate A Song - Children from St Margaret's, Our Lady's and Manley Park Primary Schools: exclusive performance of the Whalley Range Anthem!
- ❖ Kamal Arafa and the Moonlight Band [www.kamalarafa.co.uk](http://www.kamalarafa.co.uk)
- ❖ Open Voice Choir: Whalley Range choir who meet on Wednesdays @ St Margaret's Church, Rufford Road during term times. Listen at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/whalleyrange/5029775845/in/photostream>
- ❖ John Player Specials: Ska music: [www.myspace.com/johnplayerspecials](http://www.myspace.com/johnplayerspecials)
- ❖ The Hymek Manoeuvre [www.myspace.com/thehymekmanoeuvre](http://www.myspace.com/thehymekmanoeuvre)

### **SOLAR STAGE**

- ❖ Ltia's community school of dance (See above)
- ❖ Ronnie C. Hoyte <http://soundcloud.com/seed-studios/ronnie-c-hoyte-i-saw-this-lady>
- ❖ The Fridge Poets [www.myspace.com/thefridgepoets](http://www.myspace.com/thefridgepoets)
- ❖ Cafe Assassin [www.myspace.com/cafeassassin](http://www.myspace.com/cafeassassin)
- ❖ Phil Reed: [www.tinyurl.com/PhilReedMusic](http://www.tinyurl.com/PhilReedMusic)
- ❖ Hare Krishna Chanting [www.iskconmanchester.com](http://www.iskconmanchester.com)
- ❖ Edwin Williamson [www.myspace.com/edwin.williamson](http://www.myspace.com/edwin.williamson)
- ❖ Riognach Connelly aka Honeyfeet [www.riognachconnolly.com](http://www.riognachconnolly.com)
- ❖ Manchester Urban Music Collective [www.britishurbancollective.com/city/manchester](http://www.britishurbancollective.com/city/manchester)



### Festival Fun, Workshops and Activities

## Celebrate Sport Zone Report 2011

As a venue Manley Park has its limitations, one of which was that it took a while for the audience to discover the Sport Zone in the urban playground. The fact that we had the violent hail storm just as the public were starting to trickle in hammered our takings. If we used the school again, the public would get the idea of where things were more quickly, especially with better signage. Having said that, the space worked better than I feared. The inflatables were popular in spite of being wet, and the climbing wall was busy once the thunderstorm had passed. The football activity could have been more structured, either as a mini tournament or as soccer skills. It was nice to have the parachute games, and more could have been made of them too. We tried to arrange for the Red Eye sound system to get down, which would have attracted an audience of young people. In the end they were unable to get hold of a generator, and I could not work out a way of getting power from the school. In view of the storm, it was probably just as well. We were also expecting a graffiti art workshop, which did not happen. In future we should timetable things properly, and it should go in the programme. There were some unexpected problems. The hailstorm and wind brought down a lot of debris from the trees onto the inflatables, mainly small conkers (choking hazard) which took ages to clear. And the gates onto Upper Chorlton Rd had a tendency to blow open, leaving children with access straight onto a busy main road. I was pleased that one of the security stayed throughout, partly because of cars coming through to get to the volunteers food.

We hired inflatables from ACE Leisure again, in spite of the difficulties that had arisen with a recent event locally. There were no major problems this time, although the weather played havoc. One of their extension leads blew, largely because it was not adequately protected from the rain. And there were some disagreements with the ACE team on safety and how long they were prepared to go on. In terms of the inflatables themselves, the slide was great, the big bouncy castle was smaller than expected and so less attractive to older kids, but the ball pool was massive. In general, the age profile of the children seemed younger than in years gone by, with a surprisingly high proportion of very adventurous Asian girls!

The climbing wall had barely been used before the storm, and the staff were reluctant to start up again until absolutely sure that the thunder and lightning were not going to return. For some reason they seemed to think that encouraging children to climb up a metal structure, supported by metal wires, posed some sort of hazard in an electrical storm.. It is hard to argue with this, but I thought they were pushing it a bit.

The graffiti workshop took place in the Main Zone, so there was no attempt to provide art activities in the Sport Zone, although there was some sculptural activity in the garden next door.

## Celebrate community arts 2011

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This year we only had 8 inflatable volunteers in all, largely because all we were doing in the main was taking the money and minding the small castle. I think in future we will go back to a system of taking money for each inflatable separately, even if the inflatable company are there to supervise. Takings were better than I expected at 1.00. At that point we had taken less than a fiver, and when the heavens opened I thought that might be it for the afternoon. However, things picked up and we were turning kids away at 5pm when the inflatables packed up. The takings on the climbing wall could have been higher but for the weather, but they only deal with 4 climbers at a time, an absolute maximum of 48 in an hour. Given that they only really operated at full capacity for about 2 and a half hours, the maximum take would have been in the region of £120. In a full afternoon they might have taken £200. So we were never attempting to get our money back. The figures indicate that 83 children had a go on the wall, while 360 used the inflatables (although there was some repeat business.)

Rick Walker



### Sport Zone Accounts

#### Income

Climbing wall	83.00
Inflatables	<u>179.09</u>
	<b>262.09</b>

#### Expenditure

ACE Leisure & Entertainment	295.00 (cheque)
" " "	100.00 (cash)
Climbing wall	<u>500.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>895.00</b>
<b>Loss</b>	<b>632.91</b>

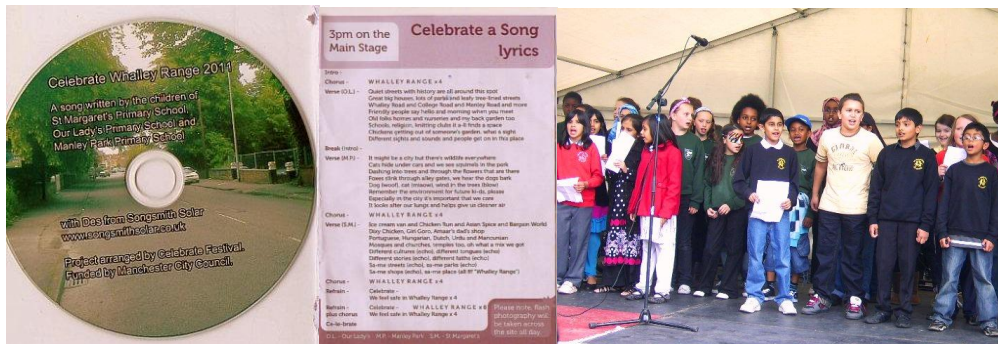
#### Sport Zone volunteers 2011

Vera Curtin, Kirsten Lamb, Nick Dixon, Chris Morris, Mick Walbank, Rick Walker, Anne Webster, Owen Webster  
 Stephen Pacey - football activity  
 Philip Hoyland and Heather - parachute games





# Celebrate community arts 2011



## Pre-Celebrate/Post-Celebrate school workshops

A City Council Cash grant paid for a 6 week programme of song writing workshops in our 3 Primary schools. St Margaret's, Our Lady's and Manley Park children wrote and recorded a Celebrate anthem about living in whalley Range which was performed at the Festival. The lyrics were printed in the programme and children from the schools sang along to a backing track of the song and the audience joined in...

Listen to the song: <http://whalleyrange.org/m/videos/view/Stop-frame-animation-Celebrate-2011>

The sculpture workshop and the planting activity are works-in-progress.

Funded by the Mosscaire Community Fund, the projects will be photographed at various stages; Lotte Karlsen will visit the school to continue with the permanent feature sculpture. The planting outside the Crimsworth Annex will be photographed in various stages of growth and a Calendar will showcase the project.

Participants at the Celebrate Clay Animation activity created a short film; this film can be viewed at link above: the Celebrate anthem was used as the soundtrack.



## Organisation & Publicity

**Volunteers:** Once again, a dedicated and tireless team of volunteers old and new worked hard all day to ensure the smooth running of the event.

Volunteers are given the opportunity to help in several areas of the Festival throughout the day, with specific tasks including handing out programmes/selling raffle tickets, to setting up and clearing away tables, serving food to performers and other volunteers - and helping out in the play areas - as well as giving out information to the community.

Everyone worked really well together; we made new friends - and everything ran smoothly again.

# Celebrate community arts 2011

## Publicity:

The festival was advertised in the June edition of the Community Index Magazine which was delivered door to door in the Manley Park area a couple of days before the event. Bulletins were sent out to in the weeks preceding the Festival, encouraging event participation, offering stallholders and new volunteers the opportunity to get involved.

Posters were printed and distributed to schools and local shops to publicise the event. Emails were sent to all local groups and high schools and displayed on the noticeboards in local parks and primary schools.

'Bookbag' letters were sent out to the children at the Primary Schools who participated in the school workshops by school staff and reminders to everyone in Manley Park/St Margaret's Primary (Our Lady's had a two week break so the school had given out Celebrate reminders before the schools broke up - particularly to the parents/carers of the children involved in the Sing a Song workshops)

Programmes were distributed free of charge to the public as they arrived at the Festival: local businesses paid to advertise services in this year's programme and businesses providing raffle prizes advertised free of charge.

BBC Radio Manchester visited the event: Celebrate was broadcast live across the airwaves!



See Videos and photos of Celebrate on Flickr: <http://tinyurl.com/6e5x79z>

and Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/64dyy4u>

# Celebrate community arts 2011

## FEEDBACK From visitors, volunteers and performers

**VENUE** Beautiful grounds but needed to know where stuff was happening/  
Site too split/Fantastic Solar Stage/Good performance area/Great new venue

**FACILITIES** Clean toilets/Need signs pointing to toilets

**FOOD:** Friendly donut man/lovely volunteers grub/Vegetarian food sold out  
early/Great to have tables and chairs set out to sit, eat and chat

**MUSIC & PERFORMANCE:** Music too loud in main playground/Great mix/solar  
stage area beautiful/More dance acts/need more interactive music/dance

**STALLS:** Good but not enough variety (Holding events on Saturdays difficult  
for Traders to get cover to attend)

**SECURITY** Friendly security men, well located on site

**ART & CRAFT MARQUEE/WORKSHOPS:** Art workshops good/Quilt squares  
lovely/Sculpture/planting needed to signposted/Clay Animation  
film/making/model making good fun/Dancing/dressing up workshop really fun

**BOUNCY CASTLES/CLIMBING WALL/PARACHUTE GAMES/FOOTBALL**  
Great fun, Football needs to be more organised/Music needed in sports  
zone/Art activity would be good in sports zone/area needed more signposting

**INFORMATION/HEALTH:** Not enough health information/ need more  
participation/tasters/no WRAFHSL presence/more participation from groups

**PUBLICITY** Good publicity leading up to the event but banners should be put  
up earlier/Advertise for more stallholders

## Further Recommendations

- Need 'A' boards with times of attractions on each stage; more signs showing what's on, more health tasters, more audience participation acts/performance; go back to May Day for event, Venue: BMHC?
- Encourage more school/youth group involvement
- Less bands/more interactive performances







# Celebrate community arts 2011

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## Treasurers Report

This year, we have not been able to access so much new funding, no doubt the competition is growing for resources. However the costs of the festival in the main were from the Whalley Range Forum, our own fundraisings and donations from the day, £1,357 this year, plus previous years, and a CASH grant from Manchester City Council, which covered the costs of the pre-festival workshops.

We are appreciative of small grants received from Mosscafe and the My Generation Fund, and for the large amount of time that the Forum worker contributes to fundraising applications. In relation to expenditure, again to ensure safety professional security guards and stewards were employed for the day.

Also as a result of previous years poor weather it was decided to provide more marquee space for workshops.

We also occurred additional costs by hiring a climbing wall, which again proved a great attraction, but in line with our policy of keeping charges low or nil, we only received a quarter of the hire costs in takings.

Following the success of last year's festival gate rota it was decided that we would have two pedestrian gates at which programmes and raffle tickets sales/donations could be made. Our large team of volunteers meant that we were able to have 3 volunteers on at a time. However our takings were down £50 on last year at £330.

I would recommend that we suggest that people are asked to pay a £1. entrance as is now the practice with other local events, and perhaps do away with the raffle which is time consuming, or just give people tickets if they want to be entered and put the numbers on the web site.

Our policy of not paying performers on the day still remains, however workshop leaders who have responsibility for supervising children, and the stage managers and comperes have been paid on the day.

We are also appreciative that our event does not cost additional money for insurance as we are covered as an external event through another organization.

We once again produced a festival programme and raised some income from advertisements.

As with the last 2 years, due to the difficulties and dangers of providing volunteer's hot drinks in the volunteers food tent we arranged this year that volunteers and performers would be able to get access to free to drinks through a voucher system. The cost of volunteer's food increased this year to reflect the large number of schools involved who had large groups of young people to be fed!

Our own fundraising is not sufficient to cover the costs of the festival day and if we want to hold another event the core costs and those for workshops must be obtained again through grants etc.

The festival would not be possible without the teams of volunteers who staff the paying attractions and sell raffle tickets etc.

Many thanks to all.

**Carol Packham**

3pm on the  
Main Stage

## Celebrate a Song lyrics

Intro -

Chorus - WHALLEY RANGE x 4

Verse (O.L.) - Quiet streets with history are all around this spot  
Great big houses, lots of parks and leafy tree-lined streets  
Whalley Road and College Road and Manley Road and more  
Friendly people say hello and morning when you meet  
Old folks homes and nurseries and my back garden too  
Schools, religion, knitting clubs it a-ll finds a space  
Chickens getting out of someone's garden, what a sight  
Different sights and sounds and people get on in this place

Break (intro) -

Verse (M.P.) - It might be a city but there's wildlife everywhere  
Cats hide under cars and we see squirrels in the park  
Dashing into trees and through the flowers that are there  
Foxes slink through alley gates, we hear the dogs bark  
Dog (woof), cat (miaow), wind in the trees (blow)  
Remember the environment for future ki-ds, please  
Especially in the city it's important that we care  
It looks after our lungs and helps give us cleaner air

Chorus - WHALLEY RANGE x 4

Verse (S.M.) - Ice cream van and Chicken Run and Asian Spice and Bargain World  
Dixy Chicken, Giri Goro, Amaar's dad's shop  
Portuguese, Hungarian, Dutch, Urdu and Mancunian  
Mosques and churches, temples too, oh what a mix we got  
Different cultures (echo), different tongues (echo)  
Different stories (echo), different faiths (echo)  
Sa-me streets (echo), sa-me parks (echo)  
Sa-me shops (echo), sa-me place (all fff "Whalley Range")

Chorus - WHALLEY RANGE x 4

Refrain - Celebrate -  
We feel safe in Whalley Range x 4

Refrain - Celebrate - WHALLEY RANGE x 8  
plus chorus We feel safe in Whalley Range x 4

Ce-le-brate

O.L. - Our Lady's M.P. - Manley Park S.M. - St Margaret's

Please note, flash  
photography will  
be taken across  
the site all day.



# Celebrate community arts 2011

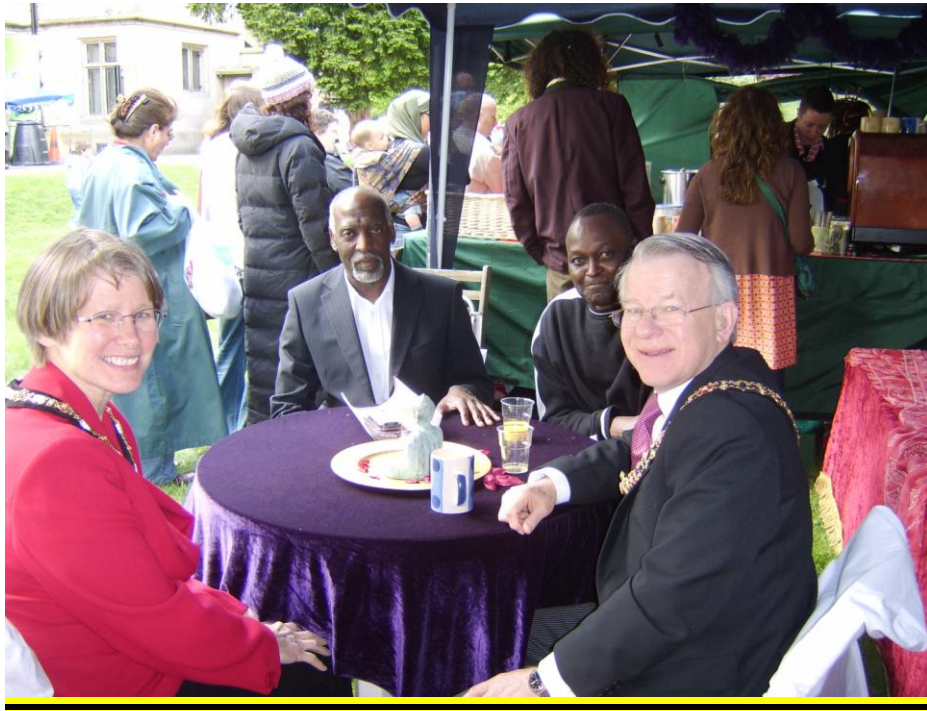
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## Some photographs of previous Celebrate Festivals...



# Celebrate community arts 2011

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## **Celebrate Community Arts Festival 2012**

*We are always looking for people to get involved in our volunteer-led festival and we also run Celebrate activities and events throughout the year.*

*If you would like to get involved in our Celebrate projects and the planning of Celebrate 2012 - please get in touch.*

*Call Chris on 0161 881 3744 Email [info@whalleyrange.org](mailto:info@whalleyrange.org)  
or pop in to JNR8 at 82 Cromwell Avenue, M16 0BG*

