

CELEBRATE COMMUNITY ARTS 2012
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF WHALLEY RANGE YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES ASSOCIATION



FESTIVAL REPORT 2012



Compiled by Chris Ricard, July 2012

**Celebrate, c/o JNR8,
82 Cromwell Avenue, Whalley Range, Manchester M16 0BG
Tel: 0161 881 3744**

Websites: www.whalleyrange.org

Email: info@whalleyrange.org

Images: Anthony Morris, Phil Reed

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Celebrate Festival 2012

Introduction:

Our successful 15th Celebrate Festival theme was 'Co-operation' in recognition of the UN International Year of Co-operatives. The event took place on May 7th 2012, at the JNR8 Youth & Community Centre/Manley Park Methodist Church - using the grounds outside and the space inside the JNR8/MPMC and the Welsh Chapel buildings.

Struggles with funding - including late decisions to award the little funding we did secure - had a big impact on the scale of this year's event.

Our original planned venue was unavailable at the last minute as it took a few months to find out if our attempts to fund the festival were successful - so a decision was made to go ahead with a scaled-down event with limited resources at our base on Cromwell Avenue.

We reverted back to the traditional May Day bank holiday to hold the event, but didn't advertise as widely as usual because of health and safety concerns in terms of the size of the venue - and the fact that the event was held in a residential area.

The gates opened at 12 noon and lots of people arrived from the outset.

Heavy rain was forecast for M16 at 1pm - but luckily we got by with just a few showers and a fair bit of sunshine - although temperatures were not high - and fortunately, having access to the building as well as the Arts & Crafts marquee and several gazebos meant we were 'covered' in the event of rain.

Two main entrances to JNR8 on Cromwell Avenue and the Church on Egerton Road were used for public access; the inside of the building housed stalls, access to the toilets and volunteer's food. The solar stage was set up in the Church hall.

Visitors received their copy of the mini festival programme on the way into the event at both gates, which were attended by a rota of volunteers.

The information tent featured local information stalls and the opportunity to buy raffle tickets - with some fantastic prizes donated by local businesses - and for volunteers to sign in. A considerable lack of funding for this year's downsized event limited the space available for activities. The JNR8 grounds on Cromwell Avenue was the main hub of the event with the information stall, art and crafts marquee and several stalls run by local traders.

We only had one marquee this year and one stage situated inside the building.

The bouncy castle was situated on the Egerton Road grassy area at the side of the Church; several stalls also utilised this space featuring Greater Manchester Fire Service advice and information, Hare Krishna stall and chanting and several food stalls - who suffered somewhat due to the smaller venue and didn't make any profit after paying a donation for their stalls.

The weather wasn't kind to us: the ice cream van reported selling 2 ice creams...

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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 the 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 non-party political



THANK YOU!

Special thanks to everyone who made the Celebrate event possible this year. A huge 'Thank You' to our big team of dedicated volunteers without whom the Festival wouldn't happen: you know who you are!

Thanks to Russell, Pete, Molly, Dave Perry, Majid, Ali and local resident Kevin Roache of Old Trafford TV who came along and filmed the event to feature on our website!

Thanks to the Hare Krishna Community* for once again providing delicious food for volunteers and performers: *www.iskconmanchester.com

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Event Overview

Site & Security: Due to reduced funding and limited space we hired one marquee for the Arts & Crafts activities and other workshops.

The marquee company delivered the tables, chairs and marquee on the Sunday before the event which meant we needed to provide overnight security.

Originally one security officer arrived for the overnight patrol - but she called for back-up as a few young people were gathering around the building and in the marquees and she was concerned about damage to the equipment.

The staff patrolled the area overnight and explained to residents who parked vehicles outside the gate that traders would need access to the venue early the next morning and advised them to park elsewhere. There were no security issues: the overnight staff was replaced at 8am by 2 more staff members who stayed for the duration of the event, allowing access to traders and generally patrolling the area.

Gates: The Gates were opened for traders and other service providers who were checked in by security staff to unload goods and equipment between 9am and 11am, with restricted access after this time.

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

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

- Co-ordinator (Chris Ricard)
- WRF (Bill Williams) Information Point
- Stewards/Volunteers (Gates/road closure)
- Bouncy Castle (Rick Walker)
- Security staff x 2

Health & Safety: A Risk Assessment was carried out and distributed to members of the team by the Festival Manager. There were no first aid casualties.

Accessibility: The JNR8 grounds and entrance to the building were fully accessible and a wheelchair accessible toilet was available: there are 3 toilets in the building.

The stage was situated in the Church; wheelchair users/parents/carers with buggies were able to access the hall through the JNR8 hall as the front of the Church has steps leading into the building (work is scheduled to make the Church accessible for future events)

Information: As visitors arrived at the event they were given a mini-programme with details of the aims of Celebrate, our supporters, raffle tickets and a programme of what would be happening where. Volunteers were signed in at the information desk and issued with a voucher for a free meal and drink. Local groups displayed noticeboards, leaflets and newsletters about news and activities in the area - and the opportunity to join our mailing lists to receive regular local news and information.

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FESTIVAL ATTRACTIONS

Health and Wellbeing

The JNR8 classroom was used as the designated Health and Wellbeing area, co-ordinated by one of our volunteers and was busy all day, featuring Indian Head massage, foot and hand massage and printed health and wellbeing information leaflets.



The Art & Crafts Marquee featured fun participatory workshops in Olympic Torch Making, Recycled Jewellery, Upcycle Knitting, Create a Maypole and Mosaic making.

A lot of materials for the workshops were collected throughout the year and donated by other groups - and the focus was on 'upcycling' (the process of converting waste materials or useless products into new materials or products of better quality or a higher environmental value) We had Facepainting, Glitter Tattoos and Henna (mehndi) and all of the workshops were really popular and busy for the duration of the event or until the materials ran out.

Information and Market Stalls



Most of the market stalls were housed in the JNR8 hall: a great opportunity to shelter from the rain! Other stallholders braved the weather and there was an option to buy Asian clothing and jewellery, exotic rugs and wall hangings, cruelty free cosmetics and natural skincare, books and toys from a local toyshop co-operative, colourful and functional baby slings and hand-crafted gifts and jewellery from local traders.

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Food Stalls: Again we had a variety of delicious international food and drink (no alcohol) including something for vegetarians, vegans and meat eaters - we also had a stall catering for people on gluten-free diets.

One of the volunteers had friends staying over and they hosted a stall selling delicious Thai deserts. Also available were delicious locally prepared Tibetan dumplings and stews, curries, barbeque chicken, salads and cakes and sweets of every variety - including a selection of flavoured hand-made vegan fudge from the Whiz fundraising stall. A local co-operative bakery sold a variety of vegetarian savouries and freshly baked products and of course there was ice cream...unfortunately the weather wasn't really suitable for cold ices...and only 2 ice creams were purchased!

Staging and PA/Marquee hire

PA & Stage: Our solar powered PA stage was situated in the Church hall and featured a local school steel pans band, acoustic entertainment and comedy, vocal and dance workshops throughout the day. Live entertainment also included traditional Irish music, blues, indie rock, an a capella choir and a soul and gospel choir.

Marquee: Due to reduced funding and space restrictions this year we ordered only one marquee which housed the arts and crafts activities, circus skills and a drumming workshop. The marquee company supplied fire extinguishers, chairs and tables and delivery was on the Sunday, the day before the event.

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: using JNR8 meant the volunteers could rest and eat inside.

We are grateful to the Hare Krishna community for again providing delicious freshly cooked food for Volunteers this year; fruit, snacks, hot meals and drinks were prepared and served by a team of volunteers from the JNR8 kitchen which served as the volunteer's seating area.



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Festival Entertainment: Music, Dance and Performance



The solar stage was situated in the Church hall and featured a rich, diverse variety of music and performance. The music was powered by a solar sound system: details about each of the acts are featured below.

- ❖ Manley Park Primary School Steel Pans band
- ❖ Open Voice Choir: Whalley Range choir who meet on Wednesdays @ St Margaret's Church, Rufford Road during term times. Listen at: <http://goo.gl/fLa9E>
- ❖ Zumba Workshop with Ayo Ogolo: <http://goo.gl/6dyxF>
- ❖ Sidiki Dembele - Drum performance with audience participation: <http://goo.gl/GLnN3>
- ❖ Jamaica Folk ensemble performance and audience participation: <http://goo.gl/jsouX>
- ❖ Phil Reed: www.tinyurl.com/PhilReedMusic
- ❖ Zacc Rogers: <http://www.myspace.com/zaccrogers>
- ❖ Big Comedy Shop Workshop performance: <http://www.bigcomedystore.com>
- ❖ Sing Out Gospel Choir: <http://www.singoutproject.co.uk>
- ❖ Cafe Assassin www.myspace.com/cafeassassin



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Festival Fun, Workshops and Activities: The workshops this year included:

- African drumming workshop with Sidiki Dembele and Yahs
- A performance and audience participation workshop with the Jamaica Folk Ensemble
- Circus skills including stilts, plate spinning, juggling with clubs and Diabolo
- A comedy workshop where participants worked on scripted and costumed comedy sketches and then performed on the stage to the audience
- Hip Hop/MC/DJ workshop in the Welsh Chapel with Abdullah - aka Brother D



Some of the FEEDBACK From visitors, volunteers and performers

VENUE : Small/Great local event/Egerton Rd activities need advertising

FACILITIES Indoor toilets and stage great

FOOD: Delicious variety/Bit pricey/lots of cake!

MUSIC & PERFORMANCE: Great variety/Cool steel pans/Great Drumming

STALLS: Not much space for large stalls/wider advertising of the event needed to increase variety/Stallholders didn't make much money/interesting mix

SECURITY: Seemed OK

ART & CRAFT MARQUEE/WORKSHOPS: Great Fun!/Lots of different art

BOUNCY CASTLES: Need a slide/more bouncy castles/climbing wall

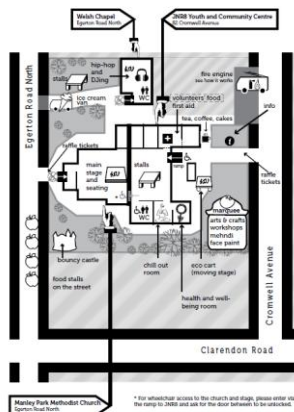
INFORMATION/HEALTH: Good massage/nice quiet room/more taster sessions needed. NHS blood pressure/health checks would be good

PUBLICITY: Didn't know it was on/good visibility of tree posters/nice poster design

Further Recommendations: Combination of indoor & outdoor space great, but the event is more suited to a bigger venue/larger scale to raise income to cover costs: the smaller venue meant we couldn't advertise as widely and as a result the traders and consequently our income from stalls suffered. Good to get all of the groups who are part of the building working together; fantastic community event and the inside space was well utilised. Food stalls should be closer together: some food traders didn't get much trade on the Church side. Not ideal as residential area: difficult to get residents to move cars. Closing road a bit problematic/boring for stewards.

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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.

Publicity: The event was put together at very short notice this year: we had to wait for decisions from the council.....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 local shops, neighbouring houses surrounding JNR8/Manley Park Methodist Church and attached to trees/lampposts/noticeboards. We didn't produce our usual festival programme this year: mini-programmes were printed at JNR8 due to reduced funding and distributed to the public as they arrived at the Festival: local businesses paid to advertise services and businesses providing raffle prizes advertised free of charge.

See Videos and photos of Celebrate on Flickr: <http://tinyurl.com/6e5x79z>, the WRF website: www.whalleyrange.org and Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/64dyy4u>



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Treasurers Report 2012

As a result of reduced funding support this year, the steering group was forced to decide between holding a festival at all and a scaled down event.

As we have been running for 15 years, and the community, supporters and volunteers were keen to have another event we took the scaled down option and at short notice pulled off a great event. The shortage of funds meant that we did not run any pre festival workshops with local schools, but two small grants allowed us to run several workshops on the day.

Using the JNR8/Manley Park Methodist Church buildings reduced costs in relation to marquee and toilet hire. The decision not to have a commercially printed programme also saved costs. The use of a kitchen also meant that we could provide a seated area for volunteer's food and hot drinks to be provided by a dedicated team of volunteers.

However the smaller venue and poor weather meant that we had very low income from the reduced number of stalls, participants and inflatable use etc. The gate/raffle donations were almost half last year, as were incomes from stalls and adverts.

Raffle prizes were donated by many local businesses.

We again decided that the open venue required overnight security, and we employed security personnel for the event to support our volunteers.

We are appreciative of small grants received from the City Council, Co-operative fund and Sport Relief, and for the large amount of time that the Forum worker contributes to fundraising applications.

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.

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

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Celebrating 30 years of Whalley Range Youth Opportunities Association and 15 years of Celebrate!



Whalley Range Youth Opportunities Association is a registered charity established in 1981 to widen opportunities for young people in Whalley Range.

We provide facilities and resources in and around JNR8 on Cromwell Avenue, including JNR8 under 12's Playscheme, Celebrate, Whiz Youth Project for 12-25's with cookery, Thai boxing, group discussions, job/training support and volunteering opportunities

The main aims of the project are as follows:

- To reduce the risk of youth nuisance, antisocial behaviour and drug misuse
- To create community cohesion and active citizenship
- To raise the aspirations, motivations and confidence of young people
- For the project to be as reflective as possible of the young people we serve and their needs.



Celebrate Festival Whalley Range

Celebrate Community Arts Festival 2012

We are always looking for people to get involved in our volunteer-led festival: 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 2013 - please get in touch.

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

Visit our Facebook page at <http://tinyurl.com/64dyy4u>

See photos of Celebrate events on www.whalleyrange.org



Celebrating Whalley Range Life at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/whalleyrange/>

