

#### FESTIVAL REPORT 2013

Compiled by Chris Ricard, Festival Co-ordinator July 2013

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Images: Anthony Morris, Phil Reed and other contributors!





# Celebrate Festival



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# INTRODUCTION:

Our successful 16<sup>th</sup> Celebrate Festival took place on June 22nd, 2013, with the theme 'Active Minds and Bodies'.

We struggled this year to find a host venue for the Festival; local schools have been unable to accommodate the event for a variety of reasons - including reseeding the school fields and building work - so we were very grateful to Rev. Robert Boulter for agreeing to let us hold Celebrate 2013 at the St Margaret's Social Centre on Brantingham Road.

We were able to use the hall inside and the grounds outside of the building, which included the car park for the food vendors and the age-friendly marquee - and the large sports field where the main marquees were sited and the play activities took place.

Additionally we had access to a grassy area at the side of the building where the solar powered stage for performers to showcase their work was situated - along with stalls and activities.

The kitchen facilities enabled us to prepare and serve volunteers food by way of a hatch which opened from the kitchen to the grounds of the building.

Space was also available inside the centre for a variety of stalls, activities and a changing area for the performers.

We were also able to use the inside toilets and facilities which included a wheelchair accessible toilet - and a changing room traditionally used by the sports teams/scouts who use the building on a regular basis was available for performers.

The main field featured a stage for music and performance, the play zone which included fun activities - including bouncy castles, a climbing wall, a cueball pool activity with fun competitions and quizzes people of all ages - and radio controlled cars housed inside a small marquee with a track for racing the cars.

# 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, and in partnership with the projects based at the JNR8 Youth & Community Centre:

Whalley Range Community Forum, Whalley Range Youth Opportunities Association and Whalley Range Action for Health and Sustainable Living.



#### Celebrate aims to:

- Celebrate the talent, diversity and resources of Whalley Range
- $\diamond$  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 - who once again worked tirelessly to make sure the event ran smoothly.

Thanks also to Robert, Claire, Phil, Amanda, Noel and Dave from St Bede's College, Gershom,
Natalie and the Youth on Solid Ground team, Ian, Janice, Deene, Ujjal,
Tracey, Paul and Elaine.

Thanks to the Hare Krishna Community for once again providing delicious food for volunteers and performers.









Event Overview

Site & Security: The event was held on Saturday and one of the benefits of using this venue was that we had access to set up some of the core facilities in the days preceding the event. The marquee company delivered the tables, chairs and marquees two days before the event as they had lots of bookings for marquees in the Northwest - and used our venue grounds as their base. They stayed overnight in the grounds of the venue on the first night; on the second night we hired two security staff who stayed overnight; there were no incidents and the staff left at 8 AM when the Festival Co-ordinator arrived. At 9am, 3 relief security staff arrived and stayed for the duration of the event, allowing access to traders and generally patrolling the Festival venue. The security staff are responsible for gate security to allow traders and participants to access the site and to ensure all vehicles leave the site before the gates open to the public at 12 noon.

**Gates:** As usual 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 large information gazebo was set up just inside the gate - along with signing in sheets for volunteers - so they were able to receive a free meal voucher.

Raffle tickets were also on sale at the gate.

Event visitors were handed programmes by volunteers who were stewarding the pedestrian entrance. The programmes contained information about the event, including a map directing people to the Festival activities.

Radios: Radios were assigned to individuals at strategic points of the festival; the Co-ordinator, roving staff and volunteers at the information desk - and people who were responsible for the two stages were provided with radios.

Security staff were also issued with radios to ensure we were all on the same wavelength in case of any problems - and so that security could liaise with the event Co-ordinator to check names and details of stallholders and service providers who drove onto the site.

Health & Safety: A Risk Assessment was carried out prior to the event - and distributed to members of the team by the Festival Manager.

Two St John's ambulance staff were present at the event - and an area was set aside in the building in case of emergency/need for treatment.

One resident twisted his back and received an assessment and painkillers from the first aiders - there were no other problems reported.



Accessibility: The grounds and entrance to the building were fully accessible and a wheelchair accessible toilet was available inside the building: there are 3 toilets in total in the building. We also hired an additional wheelchair accessible toilet and a regular toilet which were sited in the grounds.

**Information**: As visitors arrived at the event they were given a programme featuring the aims of Celebrate, details of our funders and our supporters and performance information – along with a map of the site.

Raffle tickets were also available at the gate information desk where volunteers were signed in 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. In terms of information stalls, local initiatives were promoted at the event - including a recently launched basic computing class and work club at JNR8 which offers advice and guidance to residents who are seeking work, training and volunteering opportunities. In addition to the information available around work support, one-to-one sessions with an employment support life coach took place throughout the day.

Funding: This year we received funding from Awards for All, who relaxed their general rule of not funding repeat activities - which gave us the opportunity to apply for a grant to cover the operational costs of the event.

The Manchester City Council Valuing Older People team hosted a dedicated marquee to launch Age-friendly Whalley Range activities, funded by the British Society of Gerontology. We were also supported this year by the Equity Housing Trust with a last-minute application to their Equity Foundation grant which enabled us to hire a community film team to record aspects of the event, interviewing people and performers and showcasing local achievement.

This grant also enabled us to fund a roving solar PA system and DJ's which was used to provide the music in the arts and crafts marquee for the under fives performances, the karaoke/singing and entertainment featured outside the Age-friendly marquee - and also as a general portable music provision for use inside or outside the building on reguest.

In addition to the use of the Social Centre, we were also fortunate to be able to access a larger field for sports activities by arrangement with St Bede's college staff. We are grateful to the team for providing us with a key to access this field: unfortunately some of the planned sports activities from Manchester City Council's Active Lifestyles were unable to take place, so Community on Solid Ground and the Whalley Range Youth Opportunities Association Whiz project used the main field to run a variety of sports activities for young people organised by their sports coaches and volunteer staff.







<u>Watch videos of this year's event on our You Tube channel at:</u>
https://www.youtube.com/user/CelebrateFestivalWR/videos

### FESTIVAL ATTRACTIONS

The Art & Crafts Marquee: The arts, crafts and performance marquee formed part of the play zone and featured a number of interactive arts and crafts activities including mosaic making, mask-making and 2 small ball pools - paddling pools inflated by the bouncy castle staff - and filled with plastic balls for babies, a theatre performance incorporating crafts and a storyboard - and a dance and movement workshops for little ones.

One of the people who regularly provide a workshop at Celebrate commented that this year the marquee was the busiest it had ever been since she'd been working at the Festival - with lots of participation from people of all ages.

An African dance workshop was also held in the marquee - a vibrant activity that attracted a large number of people who both participated and observed.

WR 4 Wildlife ran a mini BioBlitz - to see how many species participants could find in the festival site in an hour.

This workshop included a search for birds, bugs, trees and wildflowers to raise awareness of just how much nature there is in our midst which often goes unnoticed.

Health & Wellbeing/Information: A great variety of community/information stalls and displays, including health awareness, environmental groups, promoting their work, encouraging participation and updating residents about their activities.

The advice and information stalls and market stalls were split between the age-friendly marquee, health & information marquee and the hall inside the centre.

There were lots of information stalls giving health advice, particularly around local support for older residents.

As the event was held on a Saturday, a few local traders/groups couldn't spare staff for the event (i.e. toy shop co-operative, cosmetics/health taster sessions)

Consequently the stall income wasn't as high as it could have been considering the size of the venue: some traders failed to show up which was probably as a result of the weather forecast - although the predicted rain held off until the following day!

Food Stalls: As usual we had a wide variety of delicious international food, including Spanish street food, a wide variety of home-cooked curries and Dahl dishes, lots and lots of cakes (!) And an ice cream van! There was also an opportunity to make your own smoothie with the Friends of the Earth's bicycle powered smoothie maker!

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 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 kitchen.



















Poppycock JudithUde MightySeaLionsBozHayward QuinceyMayBrown CafeAssassin UnityToyboxCircusPaulaDarwish

HareKrishna LtiasCommunitySchoolofDance
JazzyBonesandMisadventure Tantrick
RockOut CountryandEasternBand
ChorltonPlayers AngelaSmith
LoloBahOpenVoiceChoir
TeacupTheatre

#### Age-Friendly Whalley Range



An important feature of this year's event was the launch of the Age-friendly Whalley Range programme. A steering group have been meeting over the past few months to work together with residents and local businesses to encourage an age friendly initiative throughout Whalley Range. This project has been set up in partnership with the Manchester City Council Valuing Older People team.

We received a small grant from the British Society of Gerontology for a dedicated marquee at the Celebrate festival - featuring a variety of information stalls relevant to older residents - and an opportunity to speak to local residents about their own thoughts about how we can make Whalley Range more age-friendly.

In addition to the information stalls the marquee featured a workshop encouraging people to participate in creating a mosaic based on the age-friendly logo.

Entertainment was provided in the form of singing from Elaine Heyward of Sounz Familiar. Another activity at the launch featured a local fitness instructor who provided a gentle seated exercise workshop for people with reduced mobility. This activity was fun and very popular - and around 20 residents participated. There are plans for regular classes to take place to address health and well-being and fitness and to encourage older residents who may have a mobility problem to meet with like-minded folk to exercise, socialise and have fun. Call Chris on 0161 881 3744 or Tracey on 0161 234 4299 to find out more, join the Age-friendly Whalley Range mailing list and to receive updates on the project.

Visit the new website at <a href="http://agefriendlywhalleyrange.wordpress.com">http://agefriendlywhalleyrange.wordpress.com</a>



#### Staging and PA/Marguee hire





**PA & Stage:** The main stage was situated in the field where the majority of activities were taking place. Power was taken from inside the building.

Our solar powered PA stage was situated on a grassy area at the side of the building: power was taken from the sun...

HMB Eco-Cart: Another solar-powered addition: 'Her Master's Beat' is an HMV style portable sound system hosted by DJ's which featured age-friendly karaoke singing, a wide variety of music to listen to and music for the workshops.

*Marquees:* This year we hired two large marquees which housed the arts and crafts activities and performance workshops, the general information and health marquee – and a smaller marquee dedicated to the Age-friendly launch was provided by the same company.















#### Play Zone Report

St Margaret's Social Centre may be a little off the beaten Celebrate track, but in many ways it is the best option now open to us. A large field, good access, a helpful neighbour who allowed us to plug the inflatables into his power supply and a new inflatables supplier who were early and extremely efficient meant that we were ready to go by 10.30.

We hired inflatables from King of the Castles, who also supplied an operator. He was not a huge help, but was there largely for insurance purposes. The company are sticklers for health and safety where the electrics are concerned, which presents a marked contrast to other suppliers. They were considerably cheaper than ACE Inflatables (now Bubbles and Bounce) for a similar set up.

In terms of the inflatables themselves, the obstacle course and the big bouncy castle/slide were both very popular. In general, the age/gender/ethnic mix of the children seemed representative of the community, with once again a high proportion of very adventurous Asian girls!

We were not overwhelmed with numbers, which meant that the rather chaotic admission system did not matter. In future we will fence off the attractions separately so that children cannot run from one to another, or admit groups for more defined periods of time. It definitely represented value for money for families, some of whom camped out for much of the afternoon.

The climbing wall was also popular, but not overwhelmed with numbers, which meant that, as with the inflatables, the children were on for much longer than they would have been if we had been busier. The guy operating it took the money as we had no volunteers available.

#### Activity Zone Accounts

<b>Income</b>	
Climbing wall	£179.00
Inflatables	£ <u>244.60</u>
TOTAL	£423.60
<b>Expenditure</b>	
King of the Castles	£280.00 (cash)
Cueball Crazy	£500.00
Climbing wall	£495.00
TOTAL	£1275.00



#### Entertainment: Music Dance and Performance

The 3 stages featured a rich, diverse variety of music and performance, celebrating the diversity of our community and were enthusiastically received once again - with lots of participation and positive comments.

#### Main Stage

- Thai Boxing Display from Whiz Youth Project
- Ltia's Community School of Dance -- Ltia's Community School of Dance has been running strong for over 10 years now, based at the Moss Side Leisure Centre, 1st Floor Dance Studio, Moss Lane East, Moss Side, Manchester, M15 5NN, every Friday from 6 8pm.
- \* Rock Out! Music School -- teaching guitar/bass/drums/vocals, age 7+
- Café Assassin --indie rock tinged with funk/soul/reggae
- Unity Toybox Circus --circus skills youth group share their progress
- \* Mighty Sea Lions -- praise the lord! rock 'n' roll lives again with Mighty Sea Lions
- Lolo Bah! --timeless thrilling music of West Africa
- ❖ Judith Ude --electroacoustic rock and soul sounds
- Paula Darwish & the Country and Eastern Band
- Poppycock: Cocky pop at its best...Facebook/album coming soon!

#### Solar Stage:

The solar stage was situated in the field at the back of the building 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.

- Hare Krishna -- Chanting and a small funny drama/skit promoting life values
- Phil Reed Music -- Irish trad tunes with live digital loops
- Chorlton Players --improvised street theatre and sketches
- ❖ Tantrick --plays an edgy mixture of tunes from himself and others
- Angela Smith --mildly eccentric, political and comical poet
- ❖ Abdul Khan & the Projections --spiritual, indie, lyrical, ukulele-led fusion
- Boz Hayward --thoughtfully crafted tunes with a dark underbelly
- Jazzy Bones and the Misadventure --guy from a small country with big ambitions, one voice, 10 digits and a guitar
- Quincey May Brown --intriguing vocals set over gorgeous harp https://soundcloud.com/quincey-brown



#### Whiz DJ Stage

Situated opposite the gate entrance one of the Whiz volunteers who is a professional DJ brought along his DJ equipment and played music for the duration of the event, along with many announcements about the acts and raffle draw etc.

**Inside the Centre:** Open Voice Choir: Whalley Range choir who meet on Wednesdays @ St Margaret's Church, Rufford Road during term times.

Listen at: <a href="http://goo.gl/ynhCN">http://goo.gl/ynhCN</a>









#### Festival Fun, Workshops and Activities:

The workshops this year included:

- Mosaic making workshop
- Sports activities
- Mask making, general arts and crafts
- BioBlitz, Bee crafts and bike smoothies
- African Dance workshop with Lolo Bah!
- Theatre and craft
- Dance movement workshop
- Seated fun mobility exercise session
- Sing-a-long with Elaine
- · Cake decorating
- Hook-a-duck
- Climbing Wall and Pool games with prizes
- Remote controlled car racing
- Inflatables





#### Some of the FEEDBACK From visitors, volunteers and performers

Venue: Green, Spacious, good size and split between hard standing/grass and building, grassy!

General: Great mix of activities, stalls and acts, good mix of partners, professionals,

volunteers and public, well planned and run event, adults/young people's activities: trampolines?

Food: Good Variety, should use more biodegradable products, more organic, cheap food

Music & Performance: Diverse, Céilidh dance would be good, Wicked, Need bigger site map

Stalls: Nice selection of products, Need toy stalls, Not enough variety, Interesting selection

Security: Helpful, friendly, no problems

Art & Craft Marquee/Workshops: Great mix, Lots to do, Busier than ever, Good choice

Bouncy Castles/Climbing wall/Pool/Cars/Sports: Great mix for all ages

Information/Health: Good mix for all ages, Need more taster sessions, Very positive event

**Publicity:** Need to publicise earlier. Programs looked great. Facebook listing good, Lots of attractions/draws, Need more coordination of door-to-door leafleting

Further Recommendations: Smaller events/fundraisers in preceding months to spread the word, Promotional pics for those involved to use on their own social media pages/websites.

SCHOOL PUBLICITY

#### CELEBRATE COMMUNITY FESTIVAL SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> JUNE



#### 12:00 - 6:00pm @ St MARGARET'S SOCIAL CENTRE, BRANTINGHAM ROAD M21 OTU

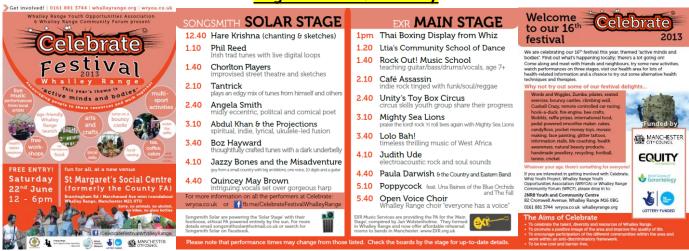
Come to our 16th Festival for everyone in the community!

Live music, dance, theatre and circus skills, mosaicing, arts & crafts, drumming, Pilates, Zumba and bioblitz nature workshops, stalls, food and drink, information, work club, face painting, bouncy castles, climbing wall, cueball crazy, sports, fire engine, remote controlled cars, glitter tattoos, hair braiding and more!!

Also featuring the launch of Age-friendly Whalley Range!

**Call Chris on 881 3744 for more information** 





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: Banners displayed at venue, on Withington Road and top of Brantingham Rd.

Bulletins were sent out across the ward 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 the venue and attached to trees/lampposts/noticeboards.

A Press Release was featured in the Community Index magazine and delivered to thousands of houses across the Ward. Flyers were also sent out door to door and small leaflets were printed and sent out via children's bookbags in the 3 local primary schools.

On the Festival day, Programmes were handed out to everyone at the gate: local businesses paid to advertise their services - and raffle prize donators advertised free of charge. See Videos and photos of Celebrate on Flickr: http://tinyurl.com/6e5x79z,

WRCF website: www.whalleyrange.org and Facebook: http://tinyurl.com/64dyy4u



#### **Treasurers Report 2013**



This was the 16th year, of the festival, and once again the community, supporters and volunteers were keen to be involved in the festival, which proves a great way of networking, and information sharing.

We are very appreciative of the free use of the St. Margaret's social centre and fields which reduced costs in relation to marquee and toilet hire.

The use of a kitchen also meant that we could provide an area for volunteer's food and hot drinks to be provided by a dedicated team of volunteers.

We were not able to raise sufficient grant funding to run pre-festival workshops in schools, but small grants allowed us to run several workshops on the day.

As every year, we discussed whether to have a raffle, as the effort of collecting prizes is always daunting, however the great selection of donated prizes from local people and businesses and financial donations brought our 'takings' up on previous years raising approximately £475.00.

In addition the small charge made for the commercial stalls raised £340.00.

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, Equity Foundation, Awards for All 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 compares 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

#### **Celebrate Funding & Expenditure 2013**

(AfA) = Awards for All, (EF) = Equity Foundation, (MCC) = Manchester City Council, (BSG) = British Society of Gerontology \* (\*MCC Valuing Older People Team/BSG funded a Marquee for Age-Friendly Whalley Range)

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Awards for All	£9447.00
Equity Foundation	£400.00

Equity Foundation	£400.00
Total Income:	£9887.00
Expenditure:  Marquee hire/tables/chairs  Toilet Hire  PA/Stage Management  HMB Roving Solar PA  Staging/Stage Barriers  Bouncy Castle  Climbing Wall/ Pool Activity  Volunteers' food & drink/Sundries  Van Hire  Hare Krishna Volunteers Food	£1878.60 £216.00 £1100.00 £200.00 £843.60 £285.00 £995.00 £143.69 £ 50.00
Programme/Publicity/Stationery Security & Radios	£551.84 £630.80
First Aid	£147.84
Co-ordinator/Programmer	£2000.00
Co-ordinator/Programmer  Subtotal	£2000.00 £9092.37

Total Expenditure

£9886.27



# VOLUNTEERING WITH THE CELEBRATE TEAM IS A GREAT WAY TO MEET NEW PEOPLE. SHARE SKILLS AND RESOURCES AND GAIN NEW SKILLS!

#### Celebrate Festival Opportunities include:

- \* Event Planning
- \* Fundraising
- \* Poster Design
- \* Performance Showcase
- Running a Workshop/Activity
- Art Display
- \* Promoting your project
- School Workshops/Participation
- · Festival Venue Hosting

#### Celebrate 2014 Volunteering/Participation Opportunities

We are always looking for Volunteers who are willing to assist in a number of ways. If you would like to get involved please complete the form below and return it to us or give us a call on the number below.

WRYOA, one of our partners, has also set up a Gift Aid scheme, so there are lots of ways that people can help, particularly as WRYOA are under threat of closing due to lack of funds. We are always looking for participants for the day, stallholders, performers etc. so please contact Chris at 881 3744 and we will add you to our Volunteer's database.



Please return to: Celebrate Community Arts, JNR8 Youth & Community Centre 82 Cromwell Avenue, Whalley Range, Manchester M16 OBG Call 881 3744 or Email <a href="mailto:info@whalleyrange.org">info@whalleyrange.org</a>

#### **Celebrate Community Festival 2013**















