

CELEBRATE FESTIVAL 2015



Celebrate Festival

LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE!

REPORT 2015

Compiled by Chris Ricard, Festival Co-ordinator July 2015

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Images by Anthony Morris & other contributors including Alison, Dominique, Anthony and Lorna Downer, Angeli Sweeney and the friends of Nello James!



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

Whalley Range Community Forum and Whalley Range Youth Opportunities Association

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



CELEBRATE FESTIVAL 2015



Our 18th Celebrate Festival took place on Saturday June 27th, 2015, with the theme 'Light up Your Life' - in recognition of the global 'International Year of Light Festival 2015'.

We are grateful to Rev. Robert Boulter for agreeing to let us hold Celebrate 2015 at the St Margaret's Centre and Playing Fields on Brantingham Road.

The original plan was to hold the event during the solstice with 6 different themes representing dance, faith, the environment, learning, space and participation, but due to venue unavailability, the date was put forward a week. Nonetheless we went ahead as planned - and the sun shone on the beautiful grounds of the St Margaret's Centre.

The original Festival plans aimed high - but the event was scaled down when we hit a few problems in terms of low funding and changes to the original date.

We then launched a crowd funding project and appealed to members of the community and local businesses to donate towards the event costs for the large marquees and stage for workshops, information and performance. The project was a success - the goal of £2178 was reached - many thanks to everyone who supported the initiative!

Unfortunately, the event fell during Ramadan and attendance was affected in terms of availability of some of our group and visitors - but not to be deterred we offered some fantastic workshops, activities and entertainment for everyone in the local community who were able to come along.

There was lots of entertainment and activities for children and a popular Islamic Geometric art workshop with card and gift making, ideal for Eid gifts for friends and family.

We were able to use the hall inside the building and a small room for Indian Head Massage provided by Maryam - which was very popular amongst women who were fasting.

We were also able to use the indoor toilets - which saved money on portable toilet hire.

We utilised the grounds outside of the building, including the car park for the food vendors and the marquee - and the large sports field where the main marquees were sited and the play activities took place.

The main field included a stage for performers to showcase their work - along with a bouncy castle and giant inflatable slide and traditional sports activities with Youth on Solid Ground. The kitchen facilities were used by the St Margaret's Centre workers to serve food and drinks by way of a hatch which opened from the kitchen to the grounds of the building. Volunteers were also able to get hot drinks from this area.

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Space was also available inside the hall for stalls and a workshop for young people. Kids in Space kept the children occupied while parents/carers sampled a delicious range of snacks and refreshments from the kitchen, relaxing in the café seating area. The hall featured an acoustic stage - so visitors were entertained by musicians and poets; this indoor area was also used for a singing workshop, a Tai Chi session and Age-friendly Whalley Range provided a chair based exercise for people with reduced mobility. We were also able to use the inside toilets and facilities which included a wheelchair accessible toilet - reducing our hire costs - and a changing room traditionally used by the sports teams/scouts who use the centre was available for the Indian Head Massage. The main field featured a stage for music and performance, and a play zone which included fun activities - including bouncy castles, hula hooping and traditional sports.

Event Overview

Site & Security: We hired three security staff to arrive at 8am to oversee the traders delivering their equipment and to direct vehicles onsite. The staff then stayed for the duration of the event, generally patrolling the Festival venue. There were no incidents and the staff left at 7pm, after ensuring the people who attended the event and all traders had left the venue safely. 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 and to ensure that all visitors received their Festival programme. 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 based at or covering strategic points of the festival, including the Co-ordinator, roving staff and volunteers at the information desk. Security staff were also issued with radios to ensure we could all communicate 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 in advance of the Festival and distributed to security staff, who came along to a pre-event site visit - and to members of the Festival team advance of the event.

First aiders were present and an area was set aside in the building in case of any emergencies or the need for treatment. There were no problems reported.

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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 Work clubs and learning hubs was provided by the same company and funded by a Grundtvig lifelong learning contribution.

Information/Health & Wellbeing: Stalls included updates from Alexandra Park, details of a new project aimed at supporting good mental health and wellbeing and 'Tell us a Story' an ESOL/literacy project coming up soon - and basic IT support and information.

Maryam provided much needed pampering in the form of Indian Head Massage particularly popular to a lot of local women who were feeling tired as they were fasting.

The Age-friendly Whalley Range team provided a popular chair based exercise and Tai Chi sessions in the centre and hosted a stall in the information marquee to promote and showcase the activities of the group, with information about local activities and a display board with details of how to get involved.

In addition to the use of the Centre - and thanks to the kind weather - we were able to use an area of the field for traditional sports activities by arrangement with Youth on Solid Ground, organised by their sports coaches and volunteer staff.

FESTIVAL ATTRACTIONS



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Traders Stalls: This year our stalls included toys, jewellery, cards and crafts, natural health and beauty products, food and clothing. Again as the event was held on a Saturday, a few local traders/groups couldn't spare staff for the event so early recommendations for future events suggest reverting back to the May Day bank holiday.

Consequently the stall income wasn't as high as it could have been considering the size of the venue: contributing factors include the fact that the event was held on a Saturday and that we unfortunately couldn't avoid holding the event during Ramadan.

Food Stalls: As usual we had a wide variety of delicious international food, including a variety of home-cooked curries and Dahl dishes, savouries and cakes from the St Margaret's Centre Bread Project, an ice cream van and a 'healthy' sweet stall!

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 served by a team of volunteers from the volunteer signing in area.

Hot drinks for the Volunteers were available from the kitchen.

Staging and PA/Marquee hire

The main outdoor stage was a new addition to the Festival: a local all-in-one trailer stage, PA and sound engineer - who also provided the indoor stage area PA system: all backline equipment was supplied by Manchester Bone Rooms who also donated £100 to our crowdfunding project.



Entertainment: Music Dance and Performance

The 2 stages featured a diverse variety of music and performance, with lots of participation from young people this year.

Acoustic Stage: Our smaller 'stage' was situated inside the hall in the café area of the building. This gave people the opportunity to relax with refreshments whilst watching some acoustic music and participating in some gentle activities including music from the Mad Donnas, performance poetry from Mark Abraham and Pennant Roberts - who was accompanied by his friend from the Corvidae family! People also had the opportunity to join in with Sing in the Park, Tai Chi with Kaz and an AFWR seated exercise session with Beatriz.

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The main stage was situated in the field where the majority of activities were taking place. The stage company provided their own power.

A bit of a freestyle karaoke session kicked off the proceedings with some great vocal talents from local young people and a great vocal performance from one of the Friends of Nello James - Angeli Sweeney, Singer/Songwriter/Poet, Youth Work Manager and Co Host Facilitator for Inspired Histories at MMU.

There was some fantastic Bhangra dance with Meenu and Shavani who were joined by one of our PCSO's (on his day off!) Bill, Jaz and Lorna and others were encouraged to join in!

Second up was the new WHIZ girls group demonstrating their skills in a Thai Boxing display.

Next up was Chorlton-based Rock Out! Music School, featuring some great Whalley Range and Chorlton talent by young performers who attend the school. (Details on page 16)

The team took to the stage for an hour of rock and roll from a variety of performers of all ages and then we were treated to some more Bhangra dancing from Meenu and Shavani.

The WHIZ boys Thai Boxing came next - followed by some great sounds from Mark Richard Sutcliffe, the Speed of Sound and Poppycock.

And finally to play us out, some quality tunes from George and Bob - aka The Calypso Twins. Details of performers are on page 16...



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Live art
sketches by
Akinyemi
Oludele



View photos and videos of Celebrate and Whalley Range events over the years at:

www.flickr.com/photos/whalleyrange/ <http://tinyurl.com/qfg7wnn>
www.facebook.com/CelebrateFestivalWhalleyRange

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Festival Fun, Workshops and Activities



Play Zone

Featuring Traditional Sports activities from Youth on Solid Ground, glitter tattoos and inflatables: this year some of our regular volunteers had other commitments, so to ensure the smooth running of the play area we hired a Bouncy Castle company who manage and take the money for the inflatables themselves - giving us a percentage of the takings at the end of the event. We chose a giant inflatable slide which was popular and a regular bouncy castle.

Interactive workshops/activities: The workshops this year took place in the hall, marquee and in and around the Festival site and included:

- Mosaic making workshop featuring our theme: 'Light up Your Life'
- Red Light Photo Workshop: A light-themed Workshop facilitated by a local historian included a pre-festival walk around Withington Rd for keen local photographers (amateur or otherwise) to help create Red Light, the first art gallery celebrating Withington Road's unique heritage in a different light!
- Candle holders, jewellery boxes, clay pots, general arts and crafts from Jaz
- Upcycled Festival bunting with Stitched Up using a sewing machine
- Islamic Geometric Card Making: great Eid gifts and cards for family & friends
- Kids in Space - featuring space information and technology and a 3D printing workshop
- Seated exercise session for people with reduced mobility
- Tai Chi session for all ages/abilities with Kaz
- Indian Head Massage from Maryam

Some of the FEEDBACK From visitors, volunteers and performers

Venue: Good venue/lovely weather/Great venue/nice open space
Food: Enjoyed food/bit pricey/no cupcakes! / Lovely as always
Music & Performance: everyone enjoyed and joined in dancing/Good variety
Stalls: quite good – especially sweet stall!/Good but not enough stalls/nice natural cosmetics for gifts
Security: helpful/do we need them or could stewards do their job?/Really nice staff
Art & Craft Marquee/Workshops: made jewellery box/ sewed flag and bunting on sewing machine
Bouncy Castles/Sports: hard getting up slide but good fun, sports was fun/busy/Loved the slide/castle
Information/Health: need more stalls/don't hold during Ramadan/great massage
Publicity: good – note in bookbags/poster outside my school (Our Lady's)/posted through door

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Organisation

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 before and during the event to make sure everything ran smoothly.

Thanks also to Robert, Claire, Fauzia, Phil, Subash, Nakib, Friends of Nello James, Mike, Dave, Ahmed, Wayne, Eve, Danny, David Marsh and the Youth on Solid Ground team.

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

Thanks Teun, Anne, Faye and Toby for help with the Crowdfunding -
And a massive thanks to everyone who contributed to the Crowdfund:
the event wouldn't have been possible without you!

See details of the fundraising (and the Celebrate Anthem!)

www.spacehive.com/WhalleyRangeHappyFeet@Celebrate

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.

See how you can get involved in future events on page 15!



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Treasurers Report 2015

This was the 18th 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 for our community.

We are very appreciative of the free use of the St. Margaret's centre and fields which reduced costs in relation to marquee and toilet hire. The centres kitchen area also provided volunteer's hot drinks, to supplement the volunteers food area at the information stall, 'peopled' 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.

This year the Whalley Range Community Forum carried out most of the fund raising prior to the event, and we are very pleased that our coordinator, the Forum worker Chris Ricard has managed to continue and expand local housing association support for the festival.

This was also supplemented by a City Council cash Grant.

However the lack of funds prompted Chris to try a 'crowd funding' initiative, and a campaign to raise the needed funds through donations was launched. We appreciate the many small donations, and support from local businesses, that helped us reach our goal of £2326, to pay for many of the larger items (e.g marquees).

The festival coincided with Ramadan, so we had a reduced number of stall holders and attendees, this meant that our overall takings on the day, (from donations, the raffle, and stall holders), came to £432 (our previous event at St. Margaret's in 2013 raising £614 on the day).

However we saved funds by employing a marquee company who would erect on the morning of the event, so not requiring over night security, and having a smaller marquee.

We are appreciative of the small grants received, and the donations made by many individuals and local businesses to the 'Crowdfunding' appeal, and for the large amount of time that the Forum worker contributes to fundraising applications, and the Forum treasurer spends making payments on our behalf.

Our policy of not paying performers on the day still remains, however workshop leaders who have responsibility for supervising children, and stage managers have been paid on the day. Our own fundraising is not sufficient to cover the costs of the festival 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, and students on placement from MMU, who staff the information and food stall, and gate, and sell raffle tickets/take donations etc.

Many thanks to all.

Carol Packham

Celebrate Treasurer.

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Celebrate Accounts 2015

(YHG) = Your Housing Group, (MH) = Mosscares Housing,
(MCC) = Manchester City Council, (AW) = Arawak Walton
(SHCF) = Spacehive Crowd Funding

Funding/Fundraising

YHG	£1000.00
MCC	£2100.00
Mosscares Housing	£250.00
Arawak Walton Housing	£250.00
WRCF/Grundtvig	£144.00
WRYOA/Celebrate	£500.00
SHCF	£2326.00
Stalls/Gate collections	£432.00

Total Income:	£7002.00
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Expenditure:

Marquee hire/tables/chairs	£1350.00
Toilet Hire	£222.00
PA/Stage Management	£250.00
Staging	£1450.00
Volunteers' food & drink/Sundries	£148.52
Hare Krishna Volunteers Food	£50.00
Programme/Publicity/Stationery	£ 410.50
Security & Radios	£521.20
Van Hire	£ 50.00
Spacehive costs/fundraising	£143.42
Event Co-ordination	£1775.00

Subtotal	£6370.64
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Expenditure Workshops (Festival day – including materials)

Mosaic Workshop	£75.00
Candle Holder/Arts & Crafts Workshop	£75.00
Islamic Geometric Patterns Card Workshop	£75.00
Kids in Space Workshop	£75.00
Red Light Photo Gallery Workshop	£75.00
Massage/Healthy eating/food for volunteers	£80.00
Stitched Up Bunting Workshop	£55.00
Materials	£108.09

Subtotal of Celebrate workshops/materials	£618.09
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Total Expenditure	£6988.73
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Volunteering and participating in the Celebrate Festival 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 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 Celebrate at 881 3744 and we will add you to our Volunteer's database.

I would like to offer to help in the following ways:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Gate Rota | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Raffle Ticket Sales | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Volunteers Food Tent | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Raffle donation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Programme Advert (£25) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Regular Donation | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Name..... Telephone Number.....

Address..... Email.....

Please return to: Celebrate Community Arts, JNR8 Youth & Community Centre
82 Cromwell Avenue, Whalley Range, Manchester M16 0BG

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Links and Contact Details

Whalley Range Youth Opportunities Association: www.wryoa.co.uk/category/whiz/

Whalley Range Community Forum: www.whalleyrange.org

Age-friendly Whalley Range: www.whalleyrange.org/category/agefriendly/

Community on Solid Ground: www.yosg.org.uk/

St Margaret's Centre & Playing Fields: www.st-margarets-centre.co.uk/

The Friends of Nello James: <http://nellojames.com/>

Whalley Rangers: www.facebook.com/groups/thewhalleyrangers/

Chorlton Rock Out! Music school: www.rockoutschool.com/locations/chorlton-manchester

Mark Abraham: <http://mark-abraham.blogspot.co.uk/>

The Mad Donnas: www.facebook.com/ChorltonMadDonnas?fref=ts

The Speed of Sound: <http://thespeedofsounduk.blogspot.co.uk/>

Mark Richard Sutcliffe: www.markrichardsutcliffe.com/

Poppycock: www.facebook.com/PoppycockMusic.UK

Angeli Sweeney: www.youtube.com/user/TheAngeli369/videos

And Calypso Twins, Singing in the Park, Pennant Roberts and the fantastic Bhangra dancers, Meenu and Shavani with Julie, Lorna, Ahmed and everyone else who joined in!

Call Chris on 0161 881 3744 for more details about Celebrate and other local groups.

