

Celebrate Festival Whalley Range

FESTIVAL REPORT 2018

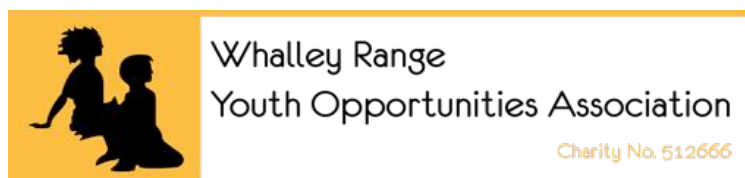
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Celebrate Festival Whalley Range

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- - - INTRODUCTION - - -

The 21st annual Celebrate Festival returned to Manley Park in 2018 for the third year in a row, held on it's traditional date, the May Day bank holiday. It's fantastic for the event to have found a new regular home in such a central location in the Whalley Range community.

This year's theme was 'Harmony' – as a response to events of the past year that have encouraged the wider Manchester community to come together in solidarity, and this was evident in the festival's audience - a wide cross-section of the local community showcasing the diversity of the neighbourhood. With activities and workshops for all ages, music and performance to cater for all tastes, and a variety of international food to tantalise the tastebuds, as well as last minute collaborations and additions to the programme, everybody involved in the Festival embraced the theme with enthusiasm.

Manley Park provides an excellent home for the festival, with the layout and facilities perfect for the festival's needs, enabling us to programme two stages of live music and a local DJ sound system each based in a corner of the park, surrounding the kick pitch and playground which host a range of activities and workshops for children and young people. The proximity to, and support from both Manley Park Primary School and the Play Centre also adds additional value and opportunity to the festival.

Two marquees in the park hosted the Age Friendly tent and the Arts & Crafts tent, with additional gazebos used for stalls and information stands. The main stage was positioned in the North Eastern corner of the park, with the raised hill used as a viewing area for attendees, and the Garden Stage was located within the grounds of the Play Centre. The DJ sound system was located in the South East corner of the park close to the main public entrance on Clarendon Road. Inflatables were positioned next to the Play Centre, and a range of multi sports activities for young people took place within the kick pitch, as well as Circus Skills workshops on the grass. Community information stalls and food traders were positioned along the main diagonal path through the park, and volunteer food and first aid were based within the Play Centre. The range of site décor, installations, flags, and bunting installed by Travelling Light Circus, along with the ever popular deck chairs filled the whole site with colour and character.

Visitors received their free copy of the festival programme on the way into the event at both gates, where they were also able to purchase raffle tickets and make donations towards the festival - with some fantastic prizes donated by local businesses.

Pre-festival workshops took place with the British Muslim Heritage Centre, Manley Park Primary School, and the WHIZ girls group. These workshops led to a very successful community lantern parade around the streets of Whalley Range.

- - - ABOUT CELEBRATE - - -

To enable community capacity-building, local people are recruited to run our art, music and dance workshops as well as showcasing work at Celebrate, which is entirely run by volunteers from the community, members of Whalley Range Forum, Whalley Range Youth Opportunities Association, 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 YOUs! - - -

Special thanks to everyone who made the Celebrate Festival possible this year. A huge 'Thank You' to our team of dedicated volunteers without whom the Festival would not happen - you know who you are!

Many thanks to all the musicians and artists, Manchester City Council Neighbourhoods Service, Manley Park PTA, Age Friendly Whalley Range & Chorlton, Community On Solid Ground, WHIZ, Whalley Range Community Forum and Chorlton Scaffolding.

Funding for the event was generously provided by the Big Lottery Awards For All, Co-op Local Good Causes, and Manchester City Council.

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

- - - PRE-FESTIVAL EVENTS & WORKSHOPS - - -

Celebrate Spring – pre festival activities:

This year we are running a variety of activities throughout the year, both in the build up to, and following the festival itself. It has proved difficult to work with local schools in class time, but we have managed to work with eight different groups, across different ages and settings. We will continue to run workshops during the school holidays and have another Celebrate event in October.

Pendulum Wave workshops

A Science Week grant resulted in us running three workshops during science week, one with Older People, one with members of the Whiz youth project and the third with the Time to Change mental health group. The feeder events combined visual, auditory and kinaesthetic learning to encourage participants with fascinating facts about natural rhythms. They shared ideas about heartbeats, footsteps, lunar and solar cycles and the tick-tock of the clock, and learned about simple harmonic motion and the properties of pendulums. Each of these workshops resulted in the group making a



'Pendulum Wave Machine', with 7 pendulums. The machine is a perfect example of how science meets art to create beautiful, mesmerising patterns that appeal to all. They can be appreciated for their simple elegance and rhythm, and enjoyed on a different level with a little bit of underpinning scientific knowledge. The intention is to return to the groups with the completed pendulum and to demonstrate it at other community events.

Lantern Procession

Celebrate received a grant from the Cooperative Community Fund, to run a winter lantern procession and preceding workshops to make willow and tissue lanterns. Workshops were held in February and March with the Girls Group at the British Muslim Heritage Centre, the WHIZ Girls group and the Manley Park after school group. All three groups combined with Whalley Range families for a workshop leading to a lantern



procession on the 8th March with local MP. Afzal Khan. Two drummers led the procession through the streets, finishing at the BMHC with drumming and fire juggling performances, and refreshments.

Following the success of the workshops and procession, a Festival Parade workshop was held before the festival day, facilitated by Thea Luckcock and Bridget Hines of Manchester Wild Wuns. The workshop involved making fish out of toilet roll tubes and tissue paper to look at the theme of 'harmony' as they are animals who swim together in unison. The fish provided a good tool for play as the participants invented their own fish characters, and looked at choreographed movement with a "follow the leader" game. The workshop ended in an impromptu 'Britains Got Talent' of dancing fish routine and shaker performances. Publicity could have been stronger, and more connections could have been made in advance with local play centres and schools.



Pre Festival Day Workshops

Four weeks of spray paint workshops were held at the WHIZ youth project leading up to a day long workshop at the Celebrate festival. Similarly a mask making session was held with the Girls Group at WHIZ prior to the festival then carried out on the festival day.



- - - EVENT OVERVIEW - - -

Site & Security:

Security was provided by SOS who provided three security officers during the event, along with a manager who dropped in at various points throughout the day. We had one officer arrive at 7am to oversee the event set up, with two additional officers starting at 9am. For the duration of the event they managed both public entrances into the park, and were on hand to deal with any lost children or emergencies. Prior to the event, security staff were responsible for vehicle gate security, only allowing access for the marquee company, stage company, traders, bouncy castles and participants with limited mobility. After the event, they were once again responsible for monitoring the vehicle gate, as well as providing security whilst stages and structures were being packed down. They were released at approximately 7.00pm, when the majority of vehicles and structures had left the site.

The security staff were very proactive, supportive and friendly to staff, volunteers and the attendees. They were very responsive on radios, with regular hourly radio checks with each gate, the information tent, First Aid, etc. They managed vehicle access to the site very well, especially at the end of the event, when the park was still busy with members of the public while vehicles were packing down and leaving, with security guiding each vehicle as it moved around the site.

Although volunteers encouraged attendees not to bring bicycles on site, the fences on the inside of the park quickly filled up with locked bikes.

Access:

The festival had two public gates, with the main entrance located on Clarendon Road and a secondary entrance on York Avenue near Manley Park Primary School. Following advice from previous years, we again decided to close the gate near the corner of York Ave & Clarendon Road, which was kept locked with a chain, with the key held by the festival team in case access was needed. The size of the site is perfectly manageable with two public gates, and the short distances to the other entrances meant that there were no major issues. The third gate was used prior to the event going live, for quick access to the Play Centre to deliver volunteer food and to bring equipment onto the site, for example.

The Gates were opened for traders and other service providers who were checked in by security staff to unload goods and equipment between 7am and 11am, with restricted access after this time. The Festival gates were opened at 12 noon: at least 2 volunteers were on duty at both public gates along with security. Stallholders and performers were encouraged to use the northern York Avenue entrance to avoid a build up of traffic on Clarendon Road. The information point and main entrance for the public was on Clarendon Road, which included sign in sheets for artists, crew and volunteers. Programmes and raffle tickets were available at each public gate.

Stages:

Both live music stages were managed by Songsmith Solar Sound System, and programmed by Dave Taylor. Advance communication with all performing artists was handled jointly by Dave Taylor and Des Songsmith, and the Festival Coordinator. As always, Songsmith Solar were a pleasure to work with, being punctual, professional and highly proficient.



Following positive feedback from last year we again had the curved top stage from Songsmith as the Main Stage, which was located in the North East corner of the park, where Songsmith provided all staging, PA, sound engineer and stage management. Power for the stage was kindly provided by a member of the WRYOA committee who lives in a neighbouring house, for which we extend our thanks. An armoured power cable, suited to outdoor use, was provided by the Festival Coordinator. Des from Songsmith acted as stage manager and sound engineer as well as providing music in-between the acts. It was noted that there were fewer live performances than in previous years, and we could have done with a couple more acts, although this did mean that the stage ran to schedule throughout.

For the second year, we used the Play Centre's permanent stage structure for The Garden Stage, with mostly solo acoustic acts, and PA and sound engineer again provided by Songsmith Solar, power coming from the Play Centre. Programmed as an acoustic / spoken word area, The Garden Stage provided a more relaxed space for music, with seating hired in. In order to make the area surrounding the stage safe, there were panels of heras fence erected to stop the public using a treehouse and trampolines that are part of the community centre grounds. The fencing was provided by the Play Centre, and was erected early in the day by the festival team.



The Garden Stage had a much better audience than last year, following efforts to make signage more obvious, and perhaps because the area provided some shade from the sun. Many of the volunteers ate their meal while watching the stage, and we received good feedback from performers, volunteers and the audience.

At the very last minute, there was the addition of a third stage, a sound system provided by local DJs Wayne Mantrax and Matt Blakk, which provided a sound track of eclectic electronic music. There were some concerns that this may drown out other stages, but this was carefully managed by the Coordinator and the DJs were very cooperative. Although this was a very last minute decision, it added another layer to the programming, and helps to cater for a wider audience. The DJs would like to be considered for involvement in future festivals.

Stage Line Up:

Main Stage

- 12.30pm: Rock Out School - tutors and their pupils from Chorlton
- 1.30pm: Open Voice Choir - local legends, a large group who meet every week in Whalley Range, welcoming all to join in
- 2.00pm: WHIZ Thai Boxing Demonstration - accompanied by live drumming.
- 2.30pm: Canter Semper - Chorlton-based acoustic group featuring female harmony vocals
- 3.30pm: Oak - Whalley Range duo, spoken word, programmed backing and live singing
- 4.00pm: The Range - four local WR musicians, blending beatboxing, keys, rap and singing
- 5.00pm: Get Shaw-Tee - local jazz/funk band who host fortnightly jam sessions at Jam Street Cafe

Garden Stage

- 1.00pm: Mikulele - Mike plays ukelele and sings- often seen at the Nip and Tipple
- 1.30pm: Dave Taylor - local guitar and vocal- soul, blues and country covers
- 2.00pm: Rose Niland - very impressive singer-songwriter
- 2.30pm: Dave Lim and Pat O'Reilly - expert Irish traditional pipes and guitar
- 3.00pm: Nelson Poblete - Chilean singer/guitarist, living locally, surprises with his Celtic cover versions
- 3.30pm: Calypso George – legendary local guitarist and host at Jam Street jams
- 4.00pm: Steph Grant – local singer/songwriter, accompanied by Ben on guitar

Marquees:

The marquees and other structures were provided by Festival Marquees, who were able to deliver and install on the morning of the event, removing the need for overnight security. They also provided all tables, folding chairs, deckchairs, ped barriers, and additional gazebos.



Radios:

Radios were assigned to individuals based at or covering strategic points of the festival; the Festival Coordinator, Main Stage, WRYOA committee members, the Information Point, the Volunteer food kitchen, First Aiders and with Security at each gate. Radios were hired from Nine Hundred Communications. The security team

undertook regular radio checks to ensure everybody still had access to the radio. All event comms took place on one channel, everybody had an earpiece, and no emergency code words were in operation. Security had their own additional radios on a separate channel.

Health & Safety:

An Event Management Plan was created and sent to the council before the event. Communication took place between the council's representative and the festival coordinator in the days before the event, when all event procedures and principles were run through. First Aiders from St. John's Ambulance were present at Manley Park Play Centre throughout the event, which was detailed in the programme. All staff, security and volunteers were briefed on where the First Aid point was, and to contact them via the radios. First Aiders were called twice for minor incidents.

Publicity:

The festival's flyer and poster were designed by Thea Luckcock, and the programme was designed by Alison Chisholm. A6 Flyers and A3 posters were printed and distributed ahead of the event, and 700 programmes were distributed on the day. A second run of flyers was printed with an amended design following feedback from the Festival Committee that the key information needed to be easier to read. Printed publicity was distributed via the local primary schools: St. Margaret's, Manley Park, Our Lady's and St. Bede's primary schools all had flyers delivered, for distribution to all pupils. The posters were put in shop windows and on trees in the area by committee members who also distributed the flyers to local businesses, households and schools. New PVC banners were produced and located at strategic points around Whalley Range, along with banners from 2016 which were adapted (for a Monday rather than Saturday event), and positioned at entrances to the park for a week prior to the event.

The majority of online promotion was through Facebook, and coordinated by Thea Luckcock with regular posts, photo montages, short videos and information scheduled in the run up to the event. There was a good response to these posts, with 535 'attending' or 'interested' in the Facebook event, however 'Likes' of the 'Celebrate Festival Whalley Range' Facebook page received only a modest increase compared to recent years, from 401 to 451. Thea also launched a Celebrate Festival Instagram page, which can be utilised more to promote future festivals.





There is room for improvement with the online aspect of promotional work, (although a significant number of the audience stated that they had heard about the event online during volunteer surveys). All print promotion could have been distributed earlier in order to maximise impact, and more could be done to work with local radio stations like BMHC's Heritage Radio, Legacy FM and Unity Radio to promote the event in their community bulletins.

Accessibility:

Manley Park, Manley Park Primary School, and the Manley Park Play Centre are fully accessible and a wheelchair accessible toilet was available to the public.

Information:

At each public gate, as visitors arrived they were given a programme with details of the aims of Celebrate, our supporters, and a schedule of what would be happening where, as well as given the opportunity to buy raffle tickets. 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.

Volunteers:

As always, 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 greeting attendees at the entrances, handing out programmes/selling raffle tickets, setting up and clearing away tables, serving food to performers and other volunteers, helping out in the play areas, managing the inflatables, and giving out information to the community.



It was felt that more volunteers would have benefited the event, particularly in the morning to help set up, and in the evening to help pack down after the event has closed. This year all volunteers were coordinated in one central timetable, including the inflatables volunteer schedule, which was easier to manage. In response to a shortage of volunteer food last year, an increased amount was ordered this year.

We also had a team of young people from JNR8 who were volunteering at the festival as a contribution to their Duke Of Edinburgh award. They helped manage the information stand, served volunteer food, supported workshop artists, and did some festival photography.

Diversity:

Most committee members felt that the audience was as diverse as ever and broadly representative of the communities we serve. Although there was no systematic monitoring of equalities information from festival goers, and estimates vary in different areas of the festival, estimates based on the customers at the inflatables are as follows: 45% white British, 2% Irish, 5% white other, 4% mixed ethnic background, 1% Indian, 23% Pakistani, 1% Bangladeshi, 1% other Asian background, 4% African, 5% Caribbean, 2% other black background, 6% Arab, 1% other ethnic group. However, we accept that the music at each of the stages drew a less diverse audience.





- - - FESTIVAL ATTRACTIONS - - -

Arts & Craft Marquee:

The Arts & Craft tent featured a range of workshops for young people, with sessions run by local artists including Joe Ford, Jane Goetze, Samina Bukhari, Beetlefelt, Manchester Wild Wuns and more, along with the ever popular facepainting and glitter tattoos. The marquee was quieter than in previous years, perhaps due to the great weather which encouraged people to stay outside. There were also fewer workshops than in previous years, or workshop facilitators decided to move their workshops outside, which meant there was less of a 'buzz' inside the tent.

Nevertheless, all workshop leaders reported good attendance over the course of the day. Following feedback from previous years, we had two facepainters on site for the duration of the festival to cope with demand; Samina Bukhari brought her team down and they did a great job. As always, the aim was to keep the price low to ensure it was accessible for all members of the community.



In the park grounds we had renowned local artist Dan Birkbeck return with his ever popular 'space painting' workshop, which was kept separate from the Arts & Craft marquee due to the use of spray paints. This year we had Duke Of Edinburgh volunteers from JNR8 supporting Dan in managing the queues, in a response to how popular the session was last year. This was well managed and there were no complaints.

Inflatables:

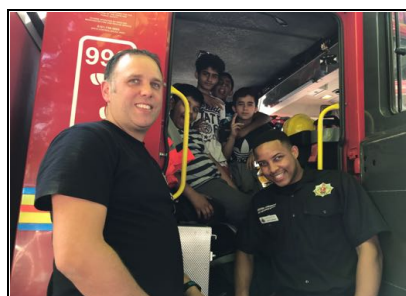
As always the bouncy castles were extremely popular, with a bouncy slide along with a smaller castle for younger children. They were both busy from start to finish and we received record takings again. The bouncy castle was managed by festival volunteers alongside the King Of The Castles staff. The inflatables took a record £321 on the day but didn't quite cover the hire costs.

Circus Skills:

Free circus skills were provided by our 2 local circuses – Higher State returned to Celebrate with their highly popular aerial skills lessons for young people, and Travelling Light Circus provided hula hoops and poi spinning workshops for 20+ people at a time. Both groups provided a great service whilst adding colour, interest and movement to the site as a whole.

Site Art:

All site décor and interactive art was provided by Travelling Light Circus, which included a variety of interactive curiosities, Whalley Range Festival flags, and bunting. The flags along with the Festival's welcome banner definitely add colour and spectacle to the event, helping to create a fun and positive ambience from the outset.



Fire Engines:

This year we were very lucky to be visited by the Fire Service with two fire engines. Children and young people were able to meet the officers and have a look around the vehicles.

Sports Coaching:

The all-weather pitch provided a great space for some of our best local sportspeople to offer free lessons, practice and games with organised tennis lessons the main feature along with some impromptu football and sports day activities.

Health & Wellbeing and Age-Friendly Marquee:

It was a busy day in the Health and Wellbeing Age-friendly marquee - with continuous intergenerational arts and crafts throughout the day, information sharing, health & wellbeing activities, health checks and displays/freebies and refreshments. Along with displays from Whalley Range Community Forum and Age Friendly Whalley Range and Chorlton, there was a variety of health and wellbeing information promoting local groups and initiatives, as well as the following services and activities on offer:

Health:

- - A local pharmacy provided blood pressure, weight and height checks and showed short films around specific health issues
- - NHS Active Case Management team: health checks and monitoring: interviewing older residents to discuss health issues and concerns
- - Manchester LGBT centre: services supporting older lesbians, bisexual women and general info
- - Reiki treatments
- - Macmillan stall with advice/information
- - GMP information leaflets and freebies (alarms, bike marking, window locks etc)
- - Interactive Chair-based exercise for low mobility
- - Survey for older residents to identify diet and nutrition info requests for upcoming JNR8 Age-friendly events/presentations

Activities:

- - Paper crafting (free/in kind activity)
- - Alexandra Arts Pankhurst in the Park free workshop: drawn from a pre-festival workshop with the JNR8 based Conversation & Crafts over 50s wellbeing group – looking at the suffragettes and protest.
- - Painting eggs: blown and filled with coloured powder paint, and writing messages on them, then throwing them at a canvas as a statement art piece
- - Intergenerational arts and crafts from Tiny House– making family and friends

Refreshments & Stalls:

- - Free cold drinks and snacks
- - Red Cross fundraising stall
- Manley Park Methodist church stall selling cakes and drinks to fundraise for the Generate our Kitchen initiative (almost £100 collected)

Age-friendly volunteer photographer Anthony Morris took a selection of festival photos which are available at www.whalleyrange.org

The Big Bike Revival:

The popular bicycle repair and information service returned to the Manley Park Primary School playground, coordinated by Liam Packham from Time To Change working with the Bike Hive. People could learn how to service their own bike and have small repairs carried out for free. The team of volunteers, trained mechanics and activity staff who ran the 'push pedal scoot' sessions worked hard all afternoon, repairing bikes, giving advice and giving out safety equipment. The mechanics repaired and serviced 52 bikes throughout the afternoon which is very impressive. Overall feedback was very positive, although the volunteers did mention that footfall was lower than last year. Some better signage, and announcements from the stage would have been helpful.

Catering: Food, ice-cream and coffee

The great weather and high turnout led to high demand for all the food and drink traders, with queues for the ice-cream traders and the Coffee Cranks stand being quite crazy for long periods. We had two ice cream traders onsite – a local artisan ice cream trader and a traditional ice cream van, and both were happy with sales. All traders felt that although they did reasonably well, sales were lower than the previous two years.



::: TREASURER'S REPORT :::

This was the 21st year, of the festival, and once again the community, supporters and volunteers were keen to be involved , as Celebrate proves a great way of networking, and information sharing.

As this is the 21st year are aiming to hold 21 events, and so far this has been helped by being chosen as a Coop Local Good Causes beneficiary, which paid for some pre festival lantern making workshops, with the British Muslim Heritage Centre, Manley Park Primary School after school Club, and the Whiz girls group. These workshops led to a very successful community lantern parade around the streets of Whalley Range.

We also obtained a Science week small grant and held workshops, led by Andy Benfield of Travelling Light Circus, with an older peoples group, Whiz young people, and the Time to Change group, to make a “pendulum wave”.

We were able to plan for another May bank holiday festival day following a successful Big Lottery Fund Awards for All application which covered most of the operating costs.

We were appreciative of the free use of Manley Park for the festival site, and Manley Park School for the use of the playground for our Big Bike Revival funded bike area, and for the use of Community on Solid Ground's building which gave us use of a kitchen to provide volunteer's food and hot drinks, provided by a dedicated team of volunteers.

The good weather and volunteers efforts on two gates resulted in donations totaling £660 (last year's, £639). As always we appreciate the donations of raffle prizes and payments for adverts in the festival programme, which contributes towards our running costs. The inflatable's took £321, which almost covered their costs. The other source of income on the day is pitch fees from the commercial stalls, mainly the food traders and ice cream vendors. The information stalls from community groups, health organisations etc do not pay.

Again we have tried to reduce costs, by using recycled materials e.g. for the banner props, and having marquees etc. erected on the morning of the festival, removing the need for overnight security costs. We continued our ethical policy by working with Emerge to deal with festival recycling and waste, and continued our relationship with St.John Ambulance who provide excellent first aid cover.

Our policy of not paying performers on the day still remains,(other than expenses and refreshments) however workshop leaders who have responsibility for supervising children, the coordinators, and the stage managers have been paid.

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. We are appreciative of a small revenue grant that has been obtained by the Whalley Range Community Forum towards year round Celebrate activities.

The festival would not be possible without the teams of volunteers who staff the gates and paying attractions and sell raffle tickets and collect gate donations, (this year successfully tailing a new recording system). Many thanks to all.

Carol Packham (Treasurer).

::: GET INVOLVED :::

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 2019 – please get in touch.

Call JNR8 on 0161 881 3744

Email celebratewhalleyrange@gmail.com or info@whalleyrange.org
or pop in to JNR8 at 82 Cromwell Avenue, M16 0BG

Facebook: Celebrate Festival Whalley Range

Instagram: [celebratewhalleyrange](https://www.instagram.com/celebratewhalleyrange)



Whalley Range Youth Opportunities Association is a registered charity established in 1982 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.



Whalley Range Youth Opportunities Association

Charity No. 512666



Supported by
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**MANCHESTER
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