



FESTIVAL REPORT 2024

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INTRODUCTION

The annual Celebrate Festival 2024 returned to Manley Park – its regular home in the heart of the Whalley Range community, on Saturday 8th June between 12 noon and 6pm - celebrating its 27th anniversary! June 8th 2024 was the UN Day of Oceans and we chose our theme to be *Crossing Oceans* to celebrate the concept of migration and explore wider climate issues.

Manley Park once again provided 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 each based in a corner of the park. Support came from Manley Park Primary School who offered their playground to run the 'Big Bike Revival' and site the portable toilets - and Community on Solid Ground who provided access to necessary electricity points from their Play Centre. Two local residents also offered access to their domestic electricity supplies to power the stages. Our Celebrate volunteers and the Hare Krishna temple prepared and served food for volunteers.

Two marquees in the park hosted Age-friendly/Health and Wellbeing and Arts and Crafts. The main stage was positioned in the Northeast corner of the park, with the raised hill used as a viewing area for attendees, and the smaller stage, now called the Jo Rose stage, (previously known as the Glade Stage) was again located Southeast close to the entrance on Clarendon Road.

Inflatables were positioned next to the Play Centre and there was a Climbing Wall on the grass next to the kick pitch. Community information stalls, arts and craft sellers and food traders were positioned along the main diagonal path through the park. We had two large food vendors -Tibetan Kitchen positioned by the York Avenue entrance, and Souvlaki Express, who were positioned backing onto the Play Centre. Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue had a fire engine parked outside. The Information point was located in a small marquee by the Clarendon Road entrance, while volunteer food and First Aid were based in the Play Centre.

This year we commissioned Lotte Karlson, who has worked with Celebrate for many years, to create the Ocean Waves installation. Flags were provided again by Travelling Light Circus, and the ever-popular deck chairs were positioned at both music stages this year. The outcomes from our pre-festival activities with local groups and schools were showcased in the Arts & Crafts, Health & Wellbeing marquees and the Kick Pitch.

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.

ABOUT CELEBRATE FESTIVAL



To enable community capacity-building, local people are recruited to run our art, music, and workshops as well as showcasing work at Celebrate, which is entirely run by volunteers from the community, members of Whalley Range Community Forum, Whalley Range Youth Opportunities Association, both based at the JNR8 Youth & Community Centre.





Celebrate aims are:

- **To celebrate the talent, diversity, and resources of Whalley Range**
- **To promote a positive image and improve the quality of life in Whalley Range**
- **To encourage participation of different communities within the area and work from an anti-discriminatory framework**



THANK YOU!

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

A huge 'thank you' to our team of dedicated volunteers old and new - without whom the festival would not happen.

Many thanks to all the musicians and artists, Manchester City Council, Community on Solid Ground, Alexandra Medical Practice, Whiz Youth Project staff and volunteers, Whalley Range Community Forum, Age Friendly Whalley Range, Manley Park Primary School with special mention to Darren (the caretaker for multiple schools), the Whalley Rangers and the Hare Krishna team.

Thanks to all the local businesses and supporters who took out adverts in the festival programme, and those who donated raffle prizes: the Coop, Russell Garage and Tasogare Massage, as well as donations from the Alexandra Practice and the local community.

Funding for the event was generously provided by National Lottery Awards for All, Manchester City Council (via WRCF) and MCC Neighborhood Investment Fund (Whalley Range Ward), and the Big Bike Revival.

Celebrate – pre-festival activities:

Celebrate worked with a range of local artists who provided pre-festival activities for a range of groups and local primary schools. The artist in residence at St Margaret's Primary, Lydia Northall, was instrumental in creating four large banners with year 6 students which became a centre piece of the site decor and later in the exhibition.

Thea Luckcock made salt dough clay sea creature creations, Tony Curry turned migration stories into art with the Time to Change initiative at JNR8. Aoife Greenham made migrating birds with Y6 at Manley Park Primary, Nayna Lad created hand held flags with Our Lady's Holiday Club. Aysha Yilmaz made bunting with Chit Chat Chai and Carrie Williams delivered a vocal workshop at Montessori House. JNR8 hosted kazoo and fairy making with Mez from Mad Sustainable Design, a banner making workshop with Freya Wysocki, a guitar workshop with John Diver and collage making with Hollie from Jive Prints. Hollie also ran a workshop at Manley Park Community Centre for the Whalley Range Women's Group. JNR8 also welcomed Chloe Fisher's chair yoga and mindfulness, a concert by the Happy Tuesdays and a Let's Talk Clean Air banner making workshop at the Leg Up Club. Big Bike Revival ran two Fix and Ride bike sessions in Manley Park ahead of the festival.

Site & Security:



Securivision security returned to the festival again as our preferred, local security service provider. Noor was very co-operative both in our pre festival communication and on the day. He arrived on site for a walk around with the coordinator at 6.30am. We went through the site plan, risk assessment and production plan including radio policy. At the last minute we requested to add another member of security staff, this was actioned by Noor who was accommodating, amenable and got him up to speed.

A registry of expected vehicles was relayed to Noor and the team and was managed very well. There were a couple of additional vehicles that the coordinator had to communicate at the last minute, the team responded well to this. Most vehicles were offsite by the 11am cutoff, however, there were a few additional vehicles who arrived later than expected. Communication between the coordinator and security meant that every vehicle was offsite by the 12pm public access deadline. The security team were at their posts all day and I would like to take this opportunity to give special mention to Adil whose supervision of the security of the event was outstanding. The closing of the event is strictly 6pm to allow time for stallholders, vehicles and production crew to access the site unencumbered for public safety reasons. Due to the success of the event the public were reluctant to leave the site. Securivision and the coordinator had a conversation about how best to handle this, in a seamless manner as to be in keeping with the positive atmosphere and community spirit of the day. We concluded that the best way to navigate this was for the coordinator and some of her site crew to approach the groups of people, explain the situation and that it is in the interests of public safety that they adhere to the terms of the curfew. A recommendation for future events in the park is to encourage the public to access the playground on the York Avenue side of the park.

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. A previous report suggested closing this gate, however it was crucial to the production and security teams and we had a table with volunteers and programmes which although less busy than the North entrance, proved to be an important hub for the Security supervisor, coordinator and site crew.

The gate near the corner of York Ave & Clarendon Road, was kept open. Although this wasn't used much, there was a missed opportunity by not having a table at the gate with volunteers handing out programmes and taking donations.

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 to the public at 12 noon: at least 3 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 buildup 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 provided and managed by Songsmith Solar Sound System. This year we recruited two music programmers, Ben Price for the main stage and Chia Norris for the newly named Jo Rose stage, renamed in honour of the much loved local musician who had stage managed the Glade Stage in previous years and sadly died earlier in the year. Advance communication with most performing artists was handled by Ben and Chia, with Verity doing some liaison with Amanda from GA Dance on the main stage and Tom from St Margaret's Choir and Tony Curry on the Jo Rose stage.

Once again we had the curved top stage as the Main Stage, located in the Southeast corner of the park. Once again, Des from Songsmith took on the role of engineer and MC for the Main Stage, with Emma from Songsmith providing the stage management. Ben Price as programmer was also on hand to do artist liaison and also as a performer.

The Main Stage performers line up was packed with a variety of local acts; some who have performed previously and some new performers. The jam section at the end of the day was a huge success with local children and adults joining the band to sign and perform. The hosts were local icons Yemi Bolatwa and Kemani, joining a backline of professional session musicians; John Diver, Dave McCarthy and Ben Price.

The small and intimate Jo Rose stage hosted a variety of smaller acts and poetry care of Tony Curry and his poets. Programmed as an acoustic / spoken word area, this stage provided a more relaxed space for music and easy listening, with deck chairs provided, and well used all day due to the lovely weather. Chia provided artist liaison at the Jo Rose stage, alongside Adrian, of Songsmith crew, as sound engineer. Chia also performed the final set on the JR stage.



As always, Songsmith Solar were a pleasure to work with, being punctual, professional, and highly proficient. Power for the stages was kindly provided by two residents, one being a member of the WRYOA committee, for which we extend our thanks.

Stage line ups:

Main Stage

12:00 13:00 Chorlton Rock Out School Showcase from local youngsters
13:10 13:35 Ellen Beth Abdi Purveyor of wonky, soul infused pop, vocal loops and pokey synths
13:40 14:10 Indian Pale Male Celebrate good times, come on!
14:20 14:40 GA Dance DANCE FITNESS FUN ENERGY INCLUSIVE
14:45 15:15 Thai Boxing Demo WRYOA/ WHIZ Youth Project
15:15 15:45 Bim Williams & Alex Hillman A guitar battle to victory!
16:00 16:30 Richard Kankodo Music, storytelling, improvisation and dream setting
16:45 17:00 RAFFLE Lots of amazing prizes
17:00 18:00 Celebrate Jam with Kemani & Yemi Local musical heroes join together for a super special Celebrate finale

Jo Rose Stage

12:45 13:00 St Margaret's C of E Primary School Choir Angelic voices, rocking songs
13:00 13:15 Tony Curry & Poets Local hero Tony Curry presents fresh new talent...
13:15 13:45 Mosaic Fusion duo creating musical poetry
13:45 14:00 Tony Curry & Poets More fresh new talent from TC

14:00 14:30 Paulo Fushchi Soul blues artist
14:30 14:45 Tony Curry & Poets Even more fresh new talent from TC
14:50 15:20 Kid Katharsis The grungier side of R&B acoustic folk
15:25 16:00 Rosebud Captivating melodies casting jazzy spells
16:10 16:20 Special Guest A tribute
16:20 16:50 Gib Lyn Pop songs of love and life
16:55 17:30 Chia Kali Soul, truths, grit, heart, jazz-tongue

“All went smoothly from our side of things both pre event with liaison etc as well as running things on the day. Both stages had a good range of acts on them. Chia and Ben were both positive forces and easy to work alongside throughout. Great to have two stages, gives options/placement for a range of acts both in size and experience. We had positive feedback on the day from acts, organisers and festival goers.” Des, Songsmith Solar

Marquees:

The marquees and other structures were provided by Matt from Festival Marquees, who delivered and installed the Health and Wellbeing/ Age Friendly and the Arts & Crafts marquees. They also delivered furniture, including round and trestle tables, folding chairs, deckchairs and pedestrian barriers that was distributed across the site efficiently on the festival day. Our thanks to Community on Solid Ground for providing overnight storage.

Radios:

Radios this year came from Manchester Radio Hire which was a new appointment from the Coordinator. The quote came in less than previous years with delivery and collection included.

Three of the radios would not hold their charge and needed to be switched during the event. After the event, the radio company were quick to offer a discount for the faulty radios.

All event comms took place on one channel, everybody had an earpiece. No emergency code words were used during the event, indicating a safe and smoothly run event.

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 Rick Walker in the days before the event, when all event procedures and principles were run through.

First Aiders from North West First Aid were present on site all day, which was detailed in the programme. All staff, security and volunteers were briefed on how to contact them via the radios.

Publicity:

The festival's flyer and poster were designed by installation artist, Lotte Karlsen and the programme was designed by Alison Chisholm. A5 Flyers and A4 & A3 posters were printed and distributed ahead of the event, and programmes were distributed on the day.

Printed publicity was distributed via the local primary schools: Manley Park and Our Lady's primary schools all had flyers delivered, for distribution to all pupils. St Margarets have introduced a paper-free policy and so social media was their preferred means of promotion.

The posters were put in shop windows and on trees in the area by committee members and volunteers - who also distributed the flyers to local businesses, households, and schools.

The previous year's PVC banners were repurposed using vinyl date stickers and located at strategic points around Whalley Range, along with banners from previous years which were adapted and positioned at entrances to the park for a week prior to the event.

Most of the online promotion was through the Celebrate and Whalley Range Community Forum Facebook pages and the Forum's website, coordinated by Chris Ricard with regular posts and photo montages of what would be happening at the festival scheduled in the run up to the event.

The response to these posts were good and the Facebook page gained new followers while the event page had many 'interested' in attending.

Local Community groups and artists shared social media posts and digital posters. Information was sent out to the 40+ Mutual Aid WhatsApp groups that were started during the pandemic to support residents. All of this provided a moderate increase in engagement and had an impact in reaching a wider audience. There is room for improvement with the online aspect of promotional work and it may be worth considering more dedicated resources next year. The Bike Revival initiative would have benefitted from more promotion as they are slightly off site, located in the playground of Manley Park Infants school. Not all print promotion was distributed in advance; and there were a significant number of printed programmes left over after the event. This has been discussed in the post-event evaluation meeting.

More could be done to attract visitors that haven't been before or heard of the festival. The Forum's webpage could be a better promotional resource. The programme was finished two weeks in advance of the festival and feedback was given after the event by one of the stall holders that more information could have been sent out earlier. So, in the future, it's advised that the programme is shared with anyone working at the festival as and when the digital version is completed.

Accessibility:

Manley Park and Manley Park Primary School playground are fully accessible. Toilets were situated in the playground for the public and included a wheelchair accessible toilet. We recognised that we needed a mixture of chairs and deck chairs at the stages to help all levels of ability.



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 being 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 in various areas, managing the inflatables, and giving out information to the community.

An increased number of volunteers attended on the morning for set up. We could have done with more volunteers in the evening to help pack down after the event closed. For 2025 establishing a set up and take down Rota a month in advance would be advantageous.



--- FESTIVAL ATTRACTIONS ---

Art Installation by Lotte Karlson

“Oceanic Currents” drew inspiration from the legendary Japanese ink wash painters who captured the sublime beauty and power of marine landscapes using just brush, ink, and masterful minimalism. Large turquoise satin panels were meticulously suspended and draped amid the tree canopy, undulating gently with the passing breezes. The shimmering fabric refracted light in patterns reminiscent of underwater refractions on the ocean floor. Children were particularly fascinated by the movement of the material.

Lotte chose to install the work in a large tree in the north west of the park and close to the Jo Rose stage. We were careful to not impose or impede the sightlines of the stage but add some colour and a sense of beauty and serenity. This year we employed a local, qualified tree surgeon, Charlie Garson who was able to safely use the scaffolding tower and harnesses to get up onto the branches.



Arts & Crafts Marquee:

The Arts & Crafts marquee featured a range of free workshops for the whole community with sessions run by local artists including bunting making with Aysha Yilmaz, collage making with Hollie from Jive Prints, sardine windsock making with Mandy Cleveland from Curious Crafty, national flowers from Gulnaz Fatima, Ann Knowles from Rainbows and salt dough pottery with Thea Luckcock. Montessori House had a table in the A&C marquee as did the Hare Krishna groups. This was partly due to a lack of gazebos/ tables and chairs and as the weather was a bit unsettled for the beginning of the day; although improved significantly by the end of the day.

The graffiti workshop by Jamie Rennie (JmeDzynz) was positioned behind the Arts & Crafts tent as it needed to be clear of any food vendors and in a position with some protection from the wind. Jamie was busy most of the day with 30 individuals creating canvases; unfortunately the wind proved to be too disruptive and Jamie finished a little earlier than expected / planned at 4pm.



Kick Pitch:

This year the Kick Pitch was used by two groups; the Manley Park Primary School PTA / Colour Our Street collective in the north of the pitch and Mez Daniels from Mad Sustainable Arts, running the inaugural Art-Cherry session which proved to be a big success with all ages.

Inflatables:

As always, the inflatables were extremely popular and for the second year running were free. Large queues built up by mid afternoon and continued until 6pm. There was an ocean theme with a Pirate Ship obstacle course, a smaller Baby Shark castle and a Helter Skelter. The inflatables were managed entirely by festival volunteers. This year we recruited a paid supervisor to manage the queue system for the inflatables, Steve Burrell.

Climbing Wall:

A free climbing wall was set up and managed by Just Climb, and proved very popular all afternoon, giving local children the chance to try a new experience and learn a new skill. The climbing wall staff managed the long queue.

Site Art:

There was plenty to feast your eyes on, with artworks from the schools, community groups and artists sessions from pre-festival workshops, the Celebrate Festival flags and bunting, all adding colour and spectacle to the event, helping to create a fun and positive ambience from the outset.

This year we also employed a Site Engineer, Dave Allan, who is experienced in festival installations. He was a huge help all day, arriving on site at 7am to help with the marquees and leaving with the coordinator after 8pm. Dave was able to install site art such as the flags and poles, banners and various larger pieces of art. He was on hand to baton things down; replace any pegs, screws etc. He also helped to tidy and pack down the site



Health & Wellbeing and Age-friendly Marquee



The Health and Wellbeing and Age-friendly Marquee for the 27th Celebrate Festival was well attended and busy throughout the day. Noticeboards were displayed in the marquee, featuring details of the Whalley Range Community Forum and Age-friendly Network, advice and signposting to mental health support, the Leg Up club: a social group meeting weekly at JNR8 aimed at supporting and welcoming people with leg conditions and mobility issues, information and volunteering opportunities from local community groups - and healthy living booklets to take away.

The stalls featured the classes and activities of JNR8 and other groups, and people were given printed guides of what's on in the local area and invited to get involved.

Stalls and activities included:

- Health staff from the Alexandra Practice and Princess Road Surgery: health advice and national screening campaigns: MMR/skin care/chronic disease management
- Hand and arm massage for wellbeing and relaxation
- Intergenerational Arts & Crafts - focused on our Crossing Oceans theme
- Let's Talk Clean Air Banner making
- Free home security and safety resources from our PCSOs
- Answer Cancer promoted the importance of following up on invitations to cancer screening
- KPS pharmacy gave blood pressure/inhaler checks and promoted Pharmacy First: a new service whereby people can get prescriptions for some health conditions without a GP surgery visit
- Tai Chi and juggling outside the marquee

Information displayed in the marquee included cost of living advice and support for people struggling with food and bills, details of our foodbank referral service - and other emergency food and debt support options.

Check out the Whalley Range Community Forum website at <https://whalleyrange.org> and [Facebook](#) page for news about our physical and mental health and social activities, support services and regular events at JNR8 Youth & Community Centre, 82 Cromwell Avenue, Whalley Range M16 0BG.

Call Chris/Kate on 0161 881 3744 or email wrcommunityforum@gmail.com for more information.

Contact agefriendlywhalleyrange@gmail.com to find out about our activities for older people and how to get involved with the Age-friendly Whalley Range & Chorlton Network. 😊

Written by Chris Ricard, Whalley Range Community Forum

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.

Catering: Food, ice-cream, and coffee:

There were two large food vendors in the park. Tibetan Kitchen were located by the Manley Park Infants school end; who also served homemade drinks. This year we invited local Greek-Cypriot food vendors Souvlaki which had a big queue all day. They were located in front of Play Centre as they had power requirements which couldn't be achieved at the usual food spot next to Tibetan Kitchen. Coffee Cranks, Exclusive Scoop ice-cream were located by the sports pitch with other stall holders.



Whalley Rangers stall hire:

For 2024 the Celebrate team worked in partnership with the Whalley Rangers, who hold regular monthly markets in Whalley Range. We hired 10 of their marquees for stall holders, which they transported, installed, and dismantled at the end of the day.

We had a good mix of information stalls that included

- Second hand book stalls
- LGBT Foundation: information share about the LGBT+ Extra Care housing scheme in Whalley Range
- Friends of Alexandra Park
- Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
- Urban Preserver (local jam producer)
- Hannah Haughton (incense, clothing, jewellery)
- Greater Manchester Tenants Union



Treasurer's Report 2024

This was 27 years since our first festival in 1998 and we were pleased to be back in Manley Park and school grounds. The community, supporters and volunteers were keen to be involved, as Celebrate is a great way of networking, information sharing and having fun. Whalley Range Youth Opportunities and the W/R Community Forum work jointly to raise funds from grants, as well as carrying out local fundraising from local businesses and on the day fees and donations. Both organizations contributed worker time, and volunteers.

A substantial donation allowed us to have two weeks of activities leading up to the festival day, with local groups, schools, with 'pop up' music activities. We received core costs from National Lottery Awards for All, a small grant from the Neighborhood Investment Fund, and Big Bike Revival funding for mechanics for the bike area, and pre-festival workshops in the park.

In line with Whalley Range Community Forum's City Council Supporting Communities grant for 'cost of living' work, part of the grant provided free pre festival workshops, and the activities in the Health and Well-being marquee.

In line with our aim of providing a low-cost accessible festival we made all activities free, not charging for entry, workshop activities, information stalls, face painting, and use of the inflatables and climbing wall.

Again, we have tried to reduce costs, by using recycled materials e.g. for the banner props, and, adapting banners from previous years, and being able to get waste managed by neighbourhood services

We were appreciative of the free use of Manley Park for the festival site, Manley Park School for use of the playground for portable toilets and Fix and Ride bike area, neighbours' power supplies for the inflatables, health tent, stages etc. and the Cooperative for donating food for the volunteers area.

We once again worked with our partners Community on Solid Ground for use of their building for the volunteers and first aid hub, power supply and overnight storage; the Whalley Rangers for gazebo hire and erection etc.; ISKCON for volunteers' hot food; the Bike Hive for delivering the Big Bike Revival activities.

We worked with local schools who provide performers, art works etc; the Climate Action Group to run Clean Air banner making workshops and check the sustainability of the festival; and the Alexandra Practice and local pharmacy for giving health advice and checkups.

Gate donations and raffle receipts were £597 (£520 last time in the park in 2022). As always we appreciate the donations of raffle prizes. Payments for adverts in the festival programme totaled £420 which contributes towards our running costs, and the production of the programme.

The other income is 'pitch' fees from the commercial stalls (this raised £285).

Musicians performing at pop up gigs in the run up to the festival and on the day were paid modest fees, and workshop leaders, the coordinators, and the stage managers are paid according to our sessional and day rates.

We thank performers and volunteers with a system of food vouchers, for a meal etc. in the volunteers food area, which provides a welcoming space for volunteers to socialise.

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.

Carol Packham (Treasurer).

Celebrate 2024 Exhibition



Celebrate 2024 Exhibition
in collaboration with
Manley Park Methodist Church
JNR8, 82 Cromwell Avenue, M16 OBG

You are warmly invited to see workshop
creations, photos, music, art & more!

Thursday 18th July
2 - 5PM

Friday 19th July
10 - 4PM

Communi-Tea Party!
Food, music, art & celebrations
Saturday 20th July
12 - 3PM



This year we added an exhibition to show the work created for the festival. After a conversation with Russell from Manley Park Methodist Church we decided to collaborate and install work in the Hall at JNR8 and in the Church. Russell and Verity met a few times to discuss how it would work.

We launched the exhibition on Thursday 18th July at 2pm and stayed open until 5pm. We were open to the public again on Friday 19th between 10am and 4pm and later in the evening for Time to Change. We were treated to some live music from Lewis on Friday afternoon in the Church when he played the piano for an hour in the afternoon. On Saturday we delivered a Communi-Tea Party with food from Mother May I and live music from the Vibe Bombers (Alex Park drummers).



Additional payment was made to the coordinator to curate and manage the install and a budget for materials and food. The Church were very generous with their time and also baking many delicious cakes which were available for people over the three days. Chris Ricard was also very helpful (as always!) and had some great ideas for the exhibition. We had approximately 120 visitors to the exhibition over the 3 days; it was great to be able to invite the different groups who use the centre, for example the Warm Hub, and Time to Change.

Evaluation

Evaluation was carried out in several ways. A sample of attendees (2.5%) on the festival day completed a brief evaluation form, carried out with the help of the Duke of Edinburgh students from WHIZ and gate volunteers. 57 forms were completed.

Findings showed that 68% lived in Whalley Range and only 21% had come by car. Half had not attended Celebrate before. Three quarters had heard of Celebrate through personal contacts.

Overall the festival was well received particularly in relation to community involvement and positive atmosphere. All respondents wanted the festival to happen again, and were very positive particularly that it had been free. Many said 'same again', some made suggestions, e.g in relation to the variety of food stalls and some long queues for attractions.

Participants, such as volunteers, workshop leaders and Celebrate staff were asked to complete a more detailed evaluation form, and to attend an evaluation and recommendations meeting. Twelve people completed this qualitative process. Participants were asked to feed back on the organisational processes and to make recommendations for improvement. Areas discussed included ongoing funding (how to get this), publicity (more use of social media and between coordinators), festival attractions (balancing free activities with some people's desire to make donations), festival workshops (great that all three primaries had been involved and some very successful workshops held with community groups and on the festival day), suggestions to improve involvement in the festival (work with young people to increase evaluation eg ask those attending workshops and JNR8 groups to complete evaluation forms).

Additionally, an 'exit' meeting was held with the Coordinator and key members of the steering group, with a view to giving feedback on what worked well, and could be improved. This gave us the opportunity to evaluate the Celebrate exhibition. A new initiative, that was an additional cost to the budget. This was generally thought to have gone well particularly in helping participants understand the relationships between the partner organisations, history of Celebrate, the choice of themes, and see what was produced through festival workshops.

Key partners WRCF, WRYOA, Bike Hive, Manley Park Methodist Church, WR Climate Action Group, Ward Officers, GPs practices etc. all carried out separate evaluation discussions at their groups meetings and fed back to the Celebrate steering group. All were positive about their involvement and wanted to be involved again in 2025.

Recommendations for 2025:

- Increased signage around the site particularly to the Big Bike Revival, toilets, food.
- Provide a wider range of food stalls, **with more affordable food available.**
- Ensure the power requirements were communicated earlier with neighbours have someone dedicated to managing the power on the day, ie for the two stages, food vendors etc.
- Clear information given out, signposted, or communicated at gates regarding bikes, scooters and dogs being brought into festival site e.g., dogs on lead and bikes should not be ridden.
- More volunteers to be recruited throughout the year to support long-standing volunteers eg on Steering group. This is key to the longevity of the festival - and to recruit more volunteers to help with set up and wrapping up - at least a month in advance of the event.
- Festival funding must be secured at an earlier stage so there is sufficient time to recruit coordinators, so they can start programming well in advance in preparation for promotion.
- Issuing of contracts to music, food, and workshop providers as soon as possible after confirmation, to ensure minimal 'dropouts'. To make things easier for some, contracts can be sent out via Google forms to be digitally signed.
- Dedicate a portion of the funding towards social media management to take advantage of all the different platforms. It's advised that they all have the same short and memorable handle/name so it's easier for people to find the festival across all platforms. Social media channels may be a useful way to target possible volunteers.
- The Celebrate coordination team or a dedicated social media volunteer needs to make use of the established Celebrate, Forum and WHIZ websites/social media platforms and promotional resources, putting content together in advance and leading up to the festival.
- Improved monitoring/feedback of festival attendees to ensure we are attracting an audience which represents our community.
- Encourage people to use the playground and Kick Pitch once the festival has finished and vehicles require access.

::: 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 2025 – please get in touch.

Call JNR8 on 0161 881 3744 | Email celebratewhalleyrange@gmail.com

or pop in to JNR8 at 82 Cromwell Avenue, M16 0BG

Facebook: Celebrate Festival Whalley Range

Whalley Range Youth Opportunities Association (WRYOA) is a registered charity established in 1982 to widen opportunities for young people in Whalley Range. We provide activities and resources in and around JNR8, including the under 12's Playscheme, Celebrate and WHIZ Youth Project for 12-25's with cookery, Thai boxing, group discussions, job/training support and volunteering opportunities.

The main aims of the WRYOA 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, motivation, and confidence of young people
- For the project to be as reflective as possible of the young people we serve and their needs.

<https://www.wryoa.org>

Email: info@wryoa.org

Whalley Range Community Forum (WRCF) is a voluntary representative residents group formed in 1995 to facilitate and improve communication between members of the community and those who serve/represent Whalley Range. The Forum acts as an umbrella organisation, bringing residents and local services together to address local issues through promoting consultation and community cohesion – and encouraging participation. WRCF supports new community groups to access funding to set up their own groups.

WRCF is a foodbank referral service and hate crime reporting centre - and addresses resident's priorities by facilitating health & wellbeing classes/courses at JNR8 in term times.

<https://www.whalleyrange.org>

Email communityforumwhalleyrange@gmail.com

Whalley Range Community Forum and Whalley Range Youth Opportunity Association invite you to join them at

Celebrate Festival 2024
'Crossing Oceans'
Saturday 8th June 12 noon – 6pm
Manley Park, Clarendon Rd, Whalley Range, M16 0AN

June 8th is UN Day of Oceans and our theme this year is 'Crossing Oceans', celebrating the diversity of Whalley Range and exploring wider climate issues. We look forward to seeing how our artists, performers and stall holders explore these ideas.

This is the 27th Celebrate Festival and our principles remain the same. We bring together a wide range of community partners in Whalley Range to put on an exciting day of free activities celebrating the very best of our fantastic community, with a focus on fun, creativity and wellbeing, but also looking at serious issues. In the run up to the event we run workshops and pop up events in schools and a wide range of community settings.

The festival is run by volunteers from the community and staff from WRCF and WRYOA, working with partners from other local groups, businesses, schools and statutory services. However we are grateful for the professional assistance of our project coordinators and artists. Our Festival Coordinator this year is Verity Gardner and our Music Programmers are Chia Norris and Ben Price.

The festival is made possible by donations from individuals and local businesses, fundraising by volunteers and grants from funders including National Lottery Awards for All and Manchester City Council.

No alcohol, dogs or bikes in the park please

The Aims of Celebrate:

- To celebrate the talent, diversity and resources of Whalley Range
- To promote positive image and improve quality of life in Whalley Range
- To encourage participation of different communities within the area and work from an anti-discriminatory framework.

If you want to get involved with Celebrate contact us at:
celebratewhalleyrange@gmail.com or call 0161 881 3744

Celebrate, c/o JNR8 Youth & Community Centre, 82 Cromwell Avenue,

Whalley Range, Manchester, M16 0BG

Tel: 0161 881 3744