

Event report

Event title: Dursley Town Festival – **Festival Day**
Date: Saturday 13 July 2008
Location: Dursley Recreation Ground
Staff: Ann Wheeler, Jane McKerron, Mandy Bailey, Viv Jones, Helen Jenkins
Volunteers: Steph, Caron, Jackie, Angie, Maureen, Sonja, Stuart
Helpers: Family members and friends!!
Partners: All organisations on the Dursley Town Festival committee

Aim of event: This event was on the final weekend of more than a week's entertainment, fun and activities for all ages which formed the 2008 Dursley Town Festival. It is one of the main opportunities for GL11/TLC to showcase its community work, and an excellent opportunity to network with other local organisations. This collective demonstration of what is available locally to the community is essential to generate new learners, volunteers, support local businesses, and raise the profile of our work and that of our partner organisations, to the residents of Dursley, Cam, surrounding area and much further afield .

Preparation: The organisation of the DTF is co-ordinated by a DTF Committee, chaired by Jane Manning. Viv Jones (TLC) has been a regular attendee at these meetings over many months of planning, and Ann Wheeler joined the Committee in April when she took up the post of GL Community Project Manager.

An immense amount of planning is required in order to pull everything together, and very many local organisations were actively involved and offered a varied and enjoyable programme which started on 4 July and concluded on 13 July.

The Festival activities were:

Friday 4 July: 60th Anniversary Exhibition by the Cam & Dursley Camera Club; Dursley Tabernacle Flower Festival.

Saturday 5 July: Dursley Street Market; Open Arts & Craft Exhibition; Jazz in the Garden; Open Day Skittles & BBQ;
6-a-side Football Competition

Sunday 6 July: Sculpture & Play Trail Launch at Twinberrow Woods; Race for Life

Monday 7 July: Lunchtime Half Hour Walk for Health;

Tuesday 8 July: Dursley Bird Watching & Preservation Society Walk

Wednesday 9 July: Dursley Heritage Walk

Thursday 10 July: Family Picnic; Evening Ramble

Friday 11 July: World Jungle Showcase; Cotswold Evening Ramble

Saturday 12 July: Carnival Day – including Procession; Evening Barn Dance

Sunday 13 July: Country Fair; The Big Quiz.

At the Festival event, GL11/TLC staff, volunteers and family members arrived at the ground from 9 a.m. and erected two large party tents which provided excellent cover from the occasional short, very sharp, showers we had during the day.

The Festival started with the procession at 1.30 p.m. walking through Dursley to the Recreation Ground where judging took place for the best entry in the procession. This was the launch for the afternoon and evening's events.

Format: GL11 was represented in the procession by staff, family members, volunteers and members of the Sparkles Group (GL11's teenage girls group). The Sparkles were true to the "Hollywood" theme and wore dresses they had made and decorated themselves with support of staff and volunteers. The dresses were various designs, but all black and white. Two very young members joined the Sparkles Group – these were children of our volunteer helpers.

Our volunteers organised and ran a Teddies Stall and Lucky Dip as fundraising activities – which proved very popular throughout the afternoon. Staff and volunteers ran our information stand which generated much interest in our work, and we added several new potential students to our courses list.

Our consultation with the community as part of TLC's work continued with many questionnaires being completed – all hopeful of winning the quarterly draw of a free meal for two at the Old Spot Inn.

Evaluation: This was a long day, but made easier by the collective contribution of staff, volunteers, family and friends of GL11/TLC. GL11 is a recognisable 'brand' by many within the community, but not all are aware of the work we do, and are very surprised at the range of courses, drop-ins and activities we provide for all age groups. The event offered us an opportunity to speak directly to about 60 residents, but to be highly visible and indirectly engage with in excess of 300.

Ann Wheeler
Project Manager
15 July 2008