

## Event report

**Event title:** GL11 May Fayre  
**Date:** Saturday 16 May 2009  
**Time:** 2 to 4 p.m.  
**Location:** GL11 Community Project, Fairmead, Cam, Dursley  
**Staff:** Ann Wheeler, Jane McKerron, Mandy Bailey, Jacky Tolfree, Helen Jenkins, Zac McKerron  
**Volunteers:** Kirk, Maureen, Caron, Angie, Emma, Betty, Hayley, Daphne, Ivy, Paul, Liz, Dot, Marianne, Sparkles girls  
**Partners:** The Glebe Day Centre, Neighbourhood Wardens, Police Community Support Officer.

**Aim of event:** The purpose was to provide an afternoon of fun and entertainment to raise the profile of GL11 amongst the local communities. GL11 also offered for sale refurbished bicycles for adults and children through The Bike Shed.

This Fete provided the following:

- 1) An opportunity for a group of volunteers to work together in order to raise funds to help the delivery of services, training/education and drop-in groups at GL11
- 2) An opportunity for volunteers and staff to plan, co-ordinate and host an event for the entire community showcasing the work of GL11 and TLC (The Learning Community)
- 3) An opportunity to engage with the local community ahead of the event as they responded to requests for donations for a range of stalls and activities
- 4) Community engagement across all age groups as we welcomed existing and new supporters to the work of GL11/TLC
- 5) An opportunity for individuals to learn more about other community groups through, for example, a line dancing demonstration
- 6) New opportunities for members of the community, of all ages, to integrate and have fun in an informal way – and to learn through fun

**Preparation:** Flyers were produced in-house and hand delivered by staff to immediate neighbours to the GL11 Community Project advising them of the event. Posters were distributed by staff and volunteers throughout Cam and Dursley, and signposts were positioned 2 days before the event as additional promotion. A press release was issued 10 days ahead of the Fete and was included in the local Gazette.

Tents and gazebos were erected in the week leading up the Fete as we took advantage of occasional dry spells during a very unsettled week; the garden and outdoor play area was tidied up by staff and volunteers.

Risk assessments were undertaken prior to the Fete, all relevant signs within the premises were displayed, particularly reminding parents/carers they were responsible for their children's safety.

Regular meetings of the Working Party (staff and volunteers) were held to plan, feedback on progress, identify and allocate tasks to ensure a successful event.

**Format:** The event was opened at 2 p.m. by the Project Manager who welcomed everyone, and expressed sincere thanks to the volunteers and staff who have worked so hard preparing for the event. The programme for the Fete was outlined:

Traditional May Dancing by the Toddler Group parents/carers and visiting children will be invited to take part

May Dancing supported by an Accordion Player (via Fairshares)

Line Dancing Demonstration by the Sunset Stompers

Raffle – announcement of winners

There were approximately 200 people present. Stalls included:

Raffle

Teddies

Cakes

Several jewellery/beads stalls

Bric-a-Brac

Books

Name the Teddy

Children's Play Area

Children's activities: Face Painting and Paint a Pot

The Bike Shed – offering refurbished bikes for sale

All supported by refreshments of tea/coffee/cold drinks and cake; a Barbeque and Ice Creams

**Information Stall:** Display Boards promoting the work of GL11 and TLC were available and the staff included promotional literature in the form of posters, handouts and training timetable, for visitors to give an insight into the work of GL11 Community Project. Promotional literature from Parentline Plus was also available.

**Evaluation:** This was an excellent example of volunteers and staff working together for the benefit of GL11 Community Project. It was a really good example of multi-agency community engagement and involvement, with partners and other family members of many volunteers and staff making a real contribution to the success of the event.

We were delighted with the support of so many volunteers whose willingness to help in the week before the Fete, as well as early on the day, and in the clearing away at the end of the Fete, made this a true community event. It was also very encouraging to meet many new local residents who were making their first visit to GL11.

**Outcome:** A very successful Fete providing members of the local community a chance to get together informally, to have fun and to learn more about the work of GL11 and The Learning Community.

The event raised over £300 to support the continuing work of GL11, a proportion of which will help improve crèche facilities.

**Ann Wheeler**

**Project Manager**

5.6.09