

TEPEE Play in the Park workshops – Autumn half term 2007

Kingskerswell

A session was eagerly requested by the Parish Council during Autumn half term week, Mon 22nd October, 2-4pm for 8-14 year olds. They also requested sessions at February half term and Easter and are keen to have wood working, den building and mosaics for the library which has just been saved.

Following their consultation with the local community, for this session they wanted us to provide general art and craft, to include: scrappy workshop with clay modelling and wooden badge making.

We also had a wet weather contingency - the use of the pavilion which has indoor facilities with toilets and a kitchen.

The Parish did a lot of publicity beforehand - Adele emailed them a flyer and details went in the Parish magazine - October edition, as well as local papers, and they will put out a follow up article too.

Several Councillors were at the pavilion during the session and assisted us by photocopying registration forms and providing juice, biscuits and hot drinks, which were very welcome as many of the activities were held outdoors. Our thanks for their great support.

Several families attended including a variety of age ranges. Everyone got 'stuck in' to the recycled art and craft materials provided by workshop leaders Michelle Lane and Sally Fisher from Scrappy Daze, creating all manner of objects from aeroplanes to tennis rackets - and leaf balls to use them with – which were tested out in the park!

Many of the children enjoyed using the woodworking tools to make their own badges amongst other individual creations.

Although we had a gazebo, we also offered indoor activities (for the less hardy!), including clay modelling and jewellery making.

Evaluations

The session was enthusiastically received, they were wanting to make yet more things after the workshop had ended – some even took materials home to continue unfinished projects! Feedback comments included:

Ideas from participants for next sessions were “more of the same!”.

Broadhempston

Our contact for the Parish Council was on leave until 1st October which left little time for preparation, but luckily she managed to consult with the local community and arrange a date in the half term to fit in with our other holiday activities – Mon 22nd Oct 10am-12pm. They asked us to provide a den building workshop for 4-14 year olds.

The session was led by Adele, Sally and Michelle and was extremely well attended – 35 children? registered, with many parents and carers accompanying as they had under 8yrs (which made for light work when it came to clearing up!), but children of all ages took part.

The families organised themselves into about 8 groups and were really geared up for the activity, and needed little guidance. Each group built something totally unique, and all materials were completely used up! The play area is fortunately quite spacious although more tarmac than grass, and some of the surfaced areas under play equipment were very slippery which I warned them about during safety briefing.

Parish also concerned about this and asked for advice on who to contact about best materials for resurfacing – I signposted them to devonplay, RoSPA and TDC parks dept, although she also mentioned the school use it, so suggested she discuss with them too, as they must have specific health & safety requirements.

Half time refreshments of juice and biscuits were supplied by the council, but many had come prepared with their own snacks and picnics, and were generally self-sufficient!

Considering the numbers involved, it was an extraordinarily calm den building workshop! That is, until nearing the end of the session, when the children had finished building and were enjoying playing in their dens, interacting with other groups, role playing and creating adventures around them.

Being a village they are a small community and they appear to be very close-knit, which created a lovely easy and friendly atmosphere.

Evaluations

Feedback comments included:

Some of the parents asked if we could help them create a permanent natural structure in the play park at future sessions – e.g. using willow