

Report Summer half term 2008

Play in the Park Project

Ilsington - 27.5.08, 10am – 12pm

The half term week got off to a wet start and the playing field was abandoned in favour of the village hall for this banner making workshop. However, we found the hall was undergoing some modernisation with live cables sticking out of walls and scaffolding towers which meant the environment wasn't safe! So, back outside to the millennium garden where we erected the gazebo to give us some cover and positioned long tables side by side to decorate the banner on (pictured below).



The Parish Council had suggested a banner and flags workshop as they particularly liked to display the children's banner at the annual flower show. They wanted it to depict the local points of interest around the parish e.g. Haytor Rock, Liverton Pottery etc.

Sally Fisher and Michelle Lane led the workshop and had pre-prepared the banner and came with pictures of ideas for the children to choose from or inspire them.

11 children and 6 adults attended, and all appeared to enjoy adding their own individual design to the parish banner; some late arrivals were just in time to fill in the remaining gaps with colourful plant and animal prints. Once everyone had made their contribution the children had fun making their own flags to take home with them. The banner was transferred to the hall to dry at the end.

Evaluations:

Some of the feedback comments related to enjoying working all together in a group. Others simply had fun making and mixing brown paint from clay!



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Starcross – 27.5.08, 2-4pm

Another banner making workshop had been requested at Starcross, our next stop – again led by Sally and Michelle. This time the local community had asked for a playful theme – suggested images depicting the children in the park playing on their favourite equipment or playing a game, or simply having fun.

They had also asked if weaving could be involved in the session, having been impressed with our hazel weaving screens workshop at Haldon Forest for National Play Day in 2006. So I took the screen along for them to use and Michelle helped people make wands, dream catchers and rackets and pom-pom balls which some then played games with.

So as such a large group came along, 40 children and a dozen adults, Sally and Michelle split the activities between them. Due to wet weather we were in the school hall, fortunately a big space, which was just as well because of the number of younger brothers and sisters who had been brought along; with a roll of paper and pens they were happy creating their own banner!

Evaluations:

Most enjoyed making things – weaving was a new activity for many. Others enjoyed everyone being together and painting pictures on the banner.



Above photo: Weaving screen





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Dunsford – 28 & 29.5.08, both 2-4pm

The local community felt having 2 sessions over two days in the village would maximise the benefit for families during the holidays.

On Wednesday we held a general Scrappy Daze art and craft workshop led by Sally & Michelle. Sadly, the weather meant we had to be indoors again so we used Dunsford village hall. The space was just big enough for the activity – 42 children and about 12 adults came. They enjoyed making a variety of crafts from model trains, telescopes and kites to dreamcatchers, bows and arrows; many loved just painting pictures using brushes, and blocks for printing designs.

Evaluations:

The emotions people felt at this workshop were – happy, good, excited, great, proud and clever.



On Thursday the heavy rain continued and the games were unfortunately indoors too – but only 20 children and 6 adults meant it was manageable, although younger brothers and sisters wanting to join in challenged us to adapt many of the games as we went. We offered a selection of games from warm-up, circle, chase, team, story and cool down games.

Evaluations:

The parachute games proved the most popular but everyone liked something!





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Ide – 30.5.08, 10am - 12pm & 1 - 3pm

After much consultation and discussion about which activities to choose, the local community decided on weaving craft for the morning and den-building in the afternoon. First choice had been to make a willow dome but as the best time for this is late winter/spring the workshop leader advised against the activity in case of failure to take.

The weather was brighter but unfortunately, due to road closures caused by a car accident and bank subsidence in the lanes, both I and the workshop leader, Cat Rance, were delayed in reaching the village, and due to unforeseen circumstances she had not been able to bring any den-building materials.

However, things quickly got underway with the willow craft and everyone was happily weaving fish mobiles using rushes and different types of willow, led by Cat, and weaving daggars with co-leader Angie. Of the 32 children and dozen or more adults who came, many had brought a picnic lunch and stayed all day in the park (in the sunshine!).

Although a couple of the children were disappointed not to be den-building in the afternoon, they seemed to enjoy making and painting masks and some continued weaving various creations from flowers and trees to bracelets, whilst others were happy playing in the park on the play apparatus or making up their own games using the props they had just made. Some younger children had fun playing with a few bits of equipment from my previous games workshop.



At the end we discussed the possibility of the third workshop involving den-building and willow planting - t.b.a.

Press coverage: Express and Echo

Evaluations:

All feedback was about how much they enjoyed making things with willow and weaving with rushes which was also a new activity for them.

