

Thorpe Edge Community Project
CD Case Study

Thorpe Edge Summer Festival

The Festival came about initially from consultation with the Community Forum which highlighted the need for a summer event to bring people together from across the estate in celebration and help local groups to promote themselves, raise funds and recruit new members.

The CD worker had a key role in setting up and facilitating a steering group of local people and representatives from local organisations to plan and run the event. They were able to help the group to set realistic goals, identify resources, make new contacts, develop ideas and a vision of the event. They also helped the group to engage and organise local volunteers and groups to run activities, stalls, attractions and raise funds. With CD worker support the group was able to produce a programme and publicity material that was included in flyers, posters, community newsletter and social media. The group organised the distribution of the newsletter to every household on the estate and posters throughout the area.

The event, held in Thorpe Edge Community Garden, involved local schools, local churches, community groups and organisations, Bradford Credit Union, local councillors, Rockwell Community Centre, Pharmacy and Medical Centre, St John’s Parish and Newlands Inspire. It was officially opened by our local MP Imran Hussain.

It included performances from The Peace Artistes, local troupe ND dance and Rockwell Young Leaders. The traditional Community Games including Space Hoppers and Sack Races and Tug-o-War proved to be very popular as did the Beach Area, interactive stalls such as Hook-a-duck, Wet Sponge, Shark Attack, Wild West Game and Tombola. The Giant Inflatable Slide and Face Painters were non-stop from start to finish. All the activities were provided at low-cost or free, which we felt was very important given the number of families on low-incomes living in the area.

Over 1000 local people of all ages attended and local groups including the Thorpe Edge Disabled

Action Group and Rockwell Soft Furnishing Group were able to raise enough funds to make them sustainable for another 12 months. The Credit Union engaged over 20 potential new members. The Rockwell Café raised over £700. Rockwell Young Leaders recruited 10 new members. Overall we were engaged 57 new people who have subsequently become involved in ongoing groups or activities related to the Rockwell Centre, Lunch Clubs, Creative Arts, St John’s and Thorpe Edge Roots & Fruits Community Allotments project.

Following on from the event we are organising an Autumn Fest during the October half-term to reach and engage new people with a view to developing more self- help groups.

