



CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL PLANS FORGE AHEAD

Plans for this year's Bridgnorth Children's Festival are forging ahead with a range of superb activities almost finalised despite the difficult financial climate.

The Festival – the largest free-entry family-based event in the West Midlands – will be held at Oldbury Wells School on the Sunday & Monday of the August Bank Holiday weekend and organisers are expecting bumper crowds again for the fourth year in a row.

Stephen Derges, Children's Festival Chairman, said,

"One of our primary aims in organising the Festival is that it should be as low cost as possible. That means we have to raise substantial sums through grants, sponsorship, donations and fundraising activities.

We know that local businesses are finding it tough and whilst some have been very generous we are aware that cutbacks have been made. However we're determined to make sure that the Festival is as enjoyable as it has been in previous years although if anyone wishes to help us financially details can be found on our website."

This year as usual there will be arts, entertainment, sporting, fun and community zones together with a secure area for Under 5's. As well as a great variety of bouncy castles there will be some more spectacular inflatables and other fun items such as Sumo Wrestling, Gladiator Duel and other new activities.

Mark Gibbons, Festival Co-ordinator, explains,

"Each year we've tried to bring in new activities for families to try out. Last year we had a Climbing Wall for the first time and this year, thanks to the Army Cadets, it will be free.

Supplementing the inflatables provided by Bridgnorth Bouncy Castles, our friends from Xtreme will have a 4-ring Bungee Trampoline. It's always been a favourite and this year it will be even more spectacular.

In the Entertainments Zone, Bridgnorth's very own Disco Daddy will be linking a range of storytellers, magicians, dance and circus skill artistes. We'll have Petwise Zoo and the Animal Woman plus Birds of Prey and Donkeys from the local sanctuary.

And in the Arts area the Crazy Comic Club are returning and we've linked up with SP8 for Art - the Mark Speight Foundation

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who will be helping to develop creative works. Plus we've pottery, card and T-shirt making and the usual Big Art activities.

There's something for everyone at the Festival."

Although there are charges for some of the activities, these have been kept to minimum and all the sports, entertainment and skills workshops are free.

Comments Stephen Derges,

"Last Thursday we had a marquee at Burwarton Show where we were able to showcase what we have to offer and meet some of the families that have been to the Festival in previous years. I was overwhelmed by the positive comments we received as people confirmed that what we are doing offers families a wonderful weekend of activities for very little outlay.

We're also going to be at Chorley Show this coming Sunday with Bridgnorth Bouncy Castles – so come along and find out what's going to be on offer."

The Children's Festival is also looking for additional volunteers to help with the practical tasks in setting up and taking down and during the Festival itself. If you would like to help please log on to the website or call **Karen Gibbons** on **01746 764151** for more information.

[ENDS]

Notes for Editors

The Children's Festival will take place on **Sunday 30th and Monday 31st August 2008** (the Bank Holiday weekend) at **Oldbury Wells School** site.

The organising team includes senior teaching professionals, members of the business community, youth workers and advisors. County, Town and District Councillors have pledged their support.

The Festival website is www.childrens-festival.co.uk. Photos from the website may be used by the media on condition that they accompany Festival reports.

All of the schools in the local area have pledged support for the Festival.

Individuals working directly with young people as part of this initiative will comply with CRB checking processes.

The Children's Festival is organised by a charitable company.

Who to contact:

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