



4TH CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL HAILED AS A GREAT SUCCESS

Organisers have hailed the **2009 Bridgnorth Children's Festival** as a great success **breaking all records for attendance** over the Sunday & Monday of the August Bank Holiday at Oldbury Wells School.

It was anticipated that the Festival – the largest free-entry family-based event in the West Midlands – would attract large crowds and despite the weather large crowds turned out both days.

Stephen Derges, Children's Festival Chairman, said,

"Although the weather was not great and it was very windy, amazingly over the whole event we only had a little drizzle for a few minutes and we were delighted with the crowds who came.

We estimate that at least 5,000 visitors attended over the 2 days – a 10% increase on last year – cementing our reputation as being one of the most popular events in the area.

Feedback both at the Festival and subsequently has been extremely encouraging with many people commenting on the fantastic value for money. All the entertainment, sports and arts activities were entirely free of charge and of course there was no entry fee, unlike other recent events in the area."

The event organisers have been quick to thank the many people involved in enabling the Festival to run smoothly.

Mark Gibbons, Festival Co-ordinator, said,

"Although we only have a small organising team of seven there are so many people without whom we could not run a Festival of this size. Over 80 volunteers helped providing and supervising activities, running the Refreshment Zone, assisting in the setting up and taking down of the equipment and ensuring the site was clean and tidy. We owe them a great deal of thanks for giving up their time and energy.

Several of the entertainers and other activity organisers gave their time free of charge. As usual Bridgnorth's very own Disco Daddy was compere of the Entertainment Zone and others in the Arts Zone also helped out without charging us for which we're very grateful."

The Organising team are now evaluating the feedback from the Festival and looking at areas where improvements or changes could be made. They would value any observations from those who came and this can be emailed via the Festival website.

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As for the future Stephen Derges comments,

"Once we've had time to get our breath back we'll sit down and look at what may happen next year. We would be delighted if anyone wishes to get involved and assist us plan for the future. Just use the links on the Festival website to contact me."

And the Children's Festival will also be looking for additional volunteers to help with the practical tasks in setting up and taking down and during the Festival itself. Again more information is on the website or by telephone from **Karen Gibbons** on **01746 764151**.

[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:

Contact	Position	Telephone	Email
Stephen Derges	Festival Chairman & Media contact	07929 835796	stephen.derges@childrens-festival.co.uk
Mark Gibbons	Festival Co-ordinator	01746 764151	mark.gibbons@childrens-festival.co.uk
Karen Gibbons	Volunteers & Secretariat	01746 764151	karen.gibbons@childrens-festival.co.uk

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