

Community Fund 2017/18

Brunch on the Green

13th October 2018

High Kingsdown Community Association



High Kingsdown Brunch 2018

The event was to be an open welcoming event for students - who were newly arrived or who were returning to the Estate and nearby -for the academic year. In previous years this has also attracted many residents as well- which helps both groups to meet and mingle. It is supposed to break down the "them and us" attitude.

This Saturday in October was also chosen as the official opening of the Hight Kingsdown playground and the success of the day was linked to both of these events being well supported and by the activities that were provided.

The day started with the Grand Opening of the playground by the Mayor Cleo Lake - in full regalia - who was helped by local children to cut the tape. Watched by local residents and many who had helped the playground to become a reality, including Councillors, designers and supporters from many areas of the planning and design. The playground has been long in planning and its completion was an outstanding success.

The weather turned from being very windy and wet into one which dried up and eventually the sun came out. The numbers for the opening boosted the start of the Brunch.

The Circus Skills provided the link between the opening and the welcome brunch. Although these were expensive, the activities, which were aimed at younger children, proved to be a real success for the students and anyone prepared to have a go. The diabolo, hula hoops and juggling were amongst the successful activities which both attracted and then persuaded people to stay, play and then watch and talk.

The accordion player was also very well received as a very important background accompaniment and being a live performance also attracted attention from passers-by and then helped to encourage those attending to stay.

The food and drinks that were provided proved to be a hit too. There were sausages – both meat and vegetarian, and hot dogs provided by the Co Op were all used and restocking had to be done during the day. All were given away free, thanks to the grants we were given.

The outstanding success of the day was the engagement of the students in all of the activities. Lots passed by – casually dropping in. Others made a real effort to attend – some bringing their cupcakes [the mix provided free by Bristol University Community liaison for just such an occasion] and staying for food and drinks and -of course- the entertainment. Many students responded well to the door knocking the nearest houses [including Kings House] and they were aware of previous notices and came along. The bigger numbers also encouraged people to stay.

The two students who volunteered to help out on the day were a real boost. Both because they were lugging things around from first thing and their willingness to do small tasks which allowed committee members to concentrate on other tasks.

Success for the event has to be down to the hard work put in by so many people beforehand and on the day.

The purpose of the Brunch was twofold. To celebrate the amazingly successful playground refurbishment and to create a community event in which everyone- students and residents on the estate could participate. The day was successful in this and should be an encouragement for the future events. This is exactly what part of our charity status was based on.

The cost of the day was high, but this was mostly covered from the grant from Bristol University and from the Co Op store. Without it the event could not have taken place. We also had the loan of a very sturdy Gazebo from the University. It was easy to erect and kept the chefs dry during the start of the Brunch and was a bright and bold statement of what we were trying to do.

We asked for email addresses of attendees- many of whom were students and will be in contact with them regularly. One of whom attended our AGM in November and has agreed to be part of our committee until she leaves in July. She and another resident are starting a Facebook page aimed at students in the area – another source of contact apart from our newsletter and website.

We also paid for a Bristol student to take photographs of the day and we have a large number of pictures available of the event for publicity purposes.

We need to build up these student and resident contacts for the benefit of the whole area. Next year we are planning to do the same sort of event but if we could do this twice per year it would be much better.

We would like to thank Joni and the Community Team for their support – both financial and practical- both before the Brunch and on the day itself.

Shaun Wainwright

High Kingsdown Community Association.