



Holy Trinity nursery children dress for the occasion

Golden Memories

By Diana Cormack

The Queen's Jubilee has been commemorated at Holy Trinity School in an innovative and memorable way. Both staff and pupils have been involved in creating a Jubilee Woodland Trail through the trees at the rear of the school field. The project, led by Stephen Mackay, involved designing and making figures from natural materials using traditional skills.

Stephen came into teaching after working in industry as a chartered mechanical engineer. He taught Design and Technology at Edgware secondary school as well as being a head of year and part of the management team. His present role in rustic sculpture evolved through his involvement and commitment to social inclusion for which he developed alternative teaching strategies using the natural environment.

The wild wood

Each class in the school has worked out in the open air with Stephen, learning how to cut, shape and join "green" wood to create durable products. They have used tools which some of them had never even seen before, the names of which they have learned to spell in follow-up work! As well as learning about different aspects of wood, the work has involved problem solving and personal

challenges. One six-year-old boy said in his individual evaluation, "I didn't think I could do it but I did and it was good."

The children and staff were all equally enthusiastic about this long-term project. The animals they created are to be placed along the trail, part of which will be formed by wooden sleepers. Other aspects such as seating and plants will gradually be added to complete this feature, which will surely be unique in the children's memories of the Golden Jubilee



Pam Smith of Cherry Tree Road in regal pose at the Cherry Tree Wood celebrations.

Photo by Diana Cormack



The Old White Lion decked out in bunting.

Photo by Diana Cormack

Jubilee-ation at Strawberry Vale

By Daphne Chamberlain

Strawberry Vale has been celebrating the Jubilee in a big way at the Green Man Centre. The main weekend offered festivities every day, kicking off on the Friday with a party for the Parent and Toddler Group. This was so popular, says Centre manager Martin O'Donnell, that there have since been about 60 children attending the Group - an increase of 50%.

Martin described Saturday's party for everyone as "fantastic".

It was a multi-ethnic event, with food and dancing from around the world. The entertainment and 17 national dishes were organised by Strawberry Vale residents, with an added contribution from Kwateen, a Muslim women's social club. In return for assistance given them at the Green Man's regular bingo sessions, they provided chicken curry for 50.

Bingo on Jubilee Monday had an extra £50 in the kitty plus lunch for two at Windsor Castle - with the winners travelling no further than Church Lane!

Words and pictures

Disposable cameras were provided, so that as many people as possible could make their own record of the jamboree, while a more formal collection of memories and opinions is on display in the Green Man Centre's main hall. This exhibition features several Strawberry Vale residents describing their experiences of life on the estate and what the Jubilee does (or doesn't) mean to them.

Martin O'Donnell is delighted with the success of the weekend, quoting one resident as saying, "I'd never been to anything at the Centre before, but now I feel like a real Strawberry Vale-er".

Below: Children enjoy the festivities at Strawberry Vale.

Photo by Gary Connelly



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