

One World Festival – Annual Report 2015

This year we celebrated 25 years of the One World Festival (OWF) on July 4th. The sun was shining, High Lea Park was full of people of all ages enjoying the music, entertainment, food, drink and the stalls. This year we asked for comments about the OWF, this is what some people had to say:

'Lovely weather (again), great music (again), loved the silent disco dancing and this year we even won the tombola raffle draw; a jar of pickled onions AND a bottle of low cal ginger ale. Result !! Thanks OWF. Look forward to next year.'

'Great family atmosphere, excellent mix of bands. The younger acts were amazing and drew in lots of families. Bar seemed to encourage more steady drinking?! Very tasty too and good price. Activities for kids worked well.'

'This years event was excellent, well done for organising good weather!! I took friends who'd not been before and they really enjoyed it. Bubble man is THE BEST! The bar was great, good to support local breweries. White band man brilliant as usual.'

'We had a great time, it was fab.'

'Fantastic day, congratulations to all involved'

The OWF committee (Tina, Patty, Barbara, Alan) started to plan the celebration of 25 years of the OWF in October 2014. Each year there is a need to fundraise, publicise and develop a theme with small-scale projects to reflect the values of the festival. The festival would not happen without the help of many volunteers and we are very grateful for their continued support.

This annual report shows the reach of the OWF within New Mills, the High Peak and beyond.

Fundraising

So that the OWF can happen we need to raise money to cover our costs and finance small projects – see treasurer's report.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) – we decided to alter the format of our AGM which was held at The Torrs on March 14th. After the business was completed we had a social evening with music. We raised £190 from a raffle and donations, much of which was donated to purchasing New Mills Festival banners. Patty put together a video of photos from 25 years of the OWF, this was backed by White Van Man's, One World Song. Thank you to Jilah for a great venue.

QUIZIT – we raised £94 from a QUIZIT night at The Peaks on 26th March.

New Mills Under the Hammer – we jointly organise this event with New Mills Young Women's Group. The event took place at the Beehive on 25th April and we raised £921.

New Mills Town Council – we received a grant of £450.

Donations – stall holders are asked to make a contribution towards their pitch at the OWF,

we have buckets for donations on the day, we raised just under £,1000 from buckets this year

One World Festival Tea Stall – as popular as ever the tea stall made £458. Thank you to Andy and Dave for organising the stall, to volunteers on the rota and to everyone who donated cakes.

Projects

25 years 25 canvases – this project involved schools, artists, businesses, voluntary agencies and individuals. 25 canvases were produced on the theme of memories of the OWF. The result was an inspiring testament to the talent and energy of people of all ages in New Mills. The canvases were displayed on the day of the festival, at the New Mills Festival Big Weekend (September 2015) and at the Heritage Centre (January/February 2016). Visitors to the Heritage Centre commented on the how the canvases were uplifting and made them feel happy, especially on cold winter days. The canvases have been photographed, at no cost, by Tim Hensel (New Mills professional photographer). Patty has made a video of them, the background music is the song, *Brighter Days*, commissioned by the OWF. We now have to decide the next steps for the canvases. So far we have had postcards made, we welcome ideas that will not incur too much cost. Deborah Pitman's canvas has been selected for our 2016 poster and leaflets.

Brighter Days – Adam Hutchins, a New Mills professional musician, and Take Part in the Art collaborated to produce a song to celebrate 25 years of the OWF. Thanks to Adam, the organisers and young people of Take Part in Art we now have a beautiful song that celebrates New Mills and the OWF. The song was performed again at the pantomime at New Mills Art Theatre.

Knit for Peace – New Mills Volunteer Centre and OWF worked together to produce three knitted blankets to go to Syrian Refugee camps via Knit for Peace, a national charity. Another blanket of 80 x 6 inch squares is currently being made.

Food, Drink, Music, Entertainment

Food – we had several food outlets serving a range of different foods, all did well on the day and made generous donations to the OWF.

Drink – the beer tent was new for this year and proved to be very popular. Howard Town Brewery from Glossop, served good quality beer and other beverages, their marquee and seating area created a great place to chat and listen to the music.

Music – thanks to John Patterson and his team who again provided us with a great line up. The OWF finished on a high with lots of people dancing in the marquee. A big thank you to all the bands who played and volunteers who kept the show on the road. Also thanks to Rachel Walker for being our fantastic MC on the day.

Entertainment – we are grateful to stalls that put on a tombola or games for children. We really valued the contribution of High Peak Community Arts and their silent disco in the Yurt and also The Bubbleman - both were busy all afternoon.

Stalls

There were 28 stalls representing many different charities and interests; names of organisations can be found on the OWF website. Most stallholders told us that they had been able to get their message across and there was a lot of interest in their work and causes. We were very grateful for the donations from stall holders especially those who actually took very little on the day. We are challenged with how to integrate the stalls now that the OWF takes place at the top of High Lea Park and we continue to work on how to

bring the mass of people in the park into closer proximity with the stalls. This year we had a conversation tent rather than speakers, stallholders were invited to book a time slot in the tent when they would be able to speak to a small but interested audience – participation was quite limited. We need to review the effectiveness of the conversation tent and think how to improve for this year. We invited local businesses to have a stalls but our offer was declined mainly due to the OWF being on a Saturday, a trading day. However, local businesses do contribute in other ways. Pulse Café attended and Oxfam closed for the afternoon both made a great contribution to the day.

Volunteers

The OWF could not take place without the help of many volunteers before and on the day. We need volunteers for leaflet distributing, helping with the auction, helping on the day (tea stall, traffic management, bucket collections, helping setting up the marquee and sound system, setting up and clearing up -the day before and after and marshalling). We pay several young people to help set up and clear up and we are pleased with their commitment.

Publicity

Posters and leaflets - we want to thank Karl Sinfield for designing our beautiful 25th OWF poster and leaflets. We are also grateful to shops and businesses in New Mills that display our leaflets and contribute by donating raffle prizes and tea and coffee for the tea stall. We rely on committee members, volunteers, family and friends to help put leaflets in shops and elsewhere – we leaflet for each event that we organise.

Social Media - OWF website, blog and twitter account are used extensively to inform our supporters and stimulate new interest. Thanks to Russell Hindley for website support.

Stockport Express – thank you to Izaak Cole for writing an article about 25 years of the OWF and getting it published in the Stockport Express

High Peak Radio – thanks to High Peak radio for giving us a slot

Data Base – we have details of volunteers and stall holders who we regularly e-mail to keep them up to date with OWF developments

Photography – Thanks to Catherine Butler for taking photos on the day of OWF 2015, these will be of great use for future publicity and are a fantastic record of the day.

Resources

We are grateful to High Peak Community Arts for the use of High Lea Hall for the weekend. We are fortunate that the Town Council are happy for the OWF to take place at High Lea Park each year – a great venue. We borrow tables and chairs from New Mills Town Hall and New Mills Festival. We use St Mary's church car park. We hire a Marquee and PA system using most of our funds for this. A van is needed to transport tables and chairs too and from where they are stored.

One World festival Committee - March 2015

ONE WORLD FESTIVAL 2016 – July 2nd High Lea Park



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

Theme: UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development
www.globalgoals.org

We would welcome your ideas for creative and fun activities
that get the global goals message across.

OWF 2016 Poster image designed by Deborah Pitman and
poster layout by Lyn Bannister

AGM - 19th March at The Torrs with Gypsy Jazz
and Emilie Lee

Promises Auction – May 14th at The Beehive

VOLUNTEER: Please contact Patty Doran if you want to
volunteer

info@oneworldfestival.org