

# Heaton Festival

Firstly, let me say thank you for funding Heaton Festival, because of your generosity we were able to create an amazingly successful event that brought together the community, and leaves a lasting legacy in Heaton.

The festival increased in size vs. previous years and we estimate we had between 10 and 15,000 attendees (although a precise estimate is difficult to make).

We were able to extend our scope in all areas, and whilst not an exhaustive coverage of all the activities covered at the festival, the following gives some highlights of what was available.

Performance and Stages - we increased from 2 to 3 stages and had 35 performers from the local community. Our main stage was for established performers, our village green stage for a'capella groups, dance acts and drumming groups and our King John's Palace stage for new groups of typically teenagers, given a chance to perform in front of an outdoor crowd.



Stalls - We had about 50 stalls including small community businesses, community groups making people aware of what they do, and small business advertisers. The feedback from all the groups was that they were very successful and would return to future event.



Children and Youth - As well as the always successful inflatables and craft tent, we added animal petting and the TA running paintball. We also created an all new Youth area with events aimed specifically at teens around the King John's Palace stage.

Sportszone - We had 5 new sports teams involved in the sportszone encouraging people to have a go, and potentially sign up and get involved on an ongoing basis.



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Community Art Project - we worked with a local artist to create lasting sculptures which will remain in Heaton Park and on local streets as a lasting reminder of the community engagement in Heaton Festival. The artwork was created in several pre-festival workshops, by many people on the day and will be finished and installed by the artist by the end of August.

Food - with the increasing event size we increased the food provision to about 15 stands, bringing even more local food vendors to the event and getting their name known across the community. We also provided our own tea and cake tent, for which all the churches provided all the cakes.

Peace Walk - With the events in Manchester and London fresh in the memory one of our vicars worked with a local school and Mosque to organise a peace walk with hundreds of participants starting from the Heaton Mosque and received in the middle of the festival that made the local news.



Faith and Outreach - We continued to push a gentle evangelical message at the festival. We added a prayer wall and a 10m<sup>2</sup> map of Heaton where visitors could put a flag where they came from and on it answer the question "I am..." encouraging them to talk about their feelings and how Christianity might play in that. We also had several other events around the festival based on Prayer and bible parables as well as a festival information stand that shared what the churches do on a regular basis.

We will be following up in post festival surveys to assess the ongoing benefit to all our attendees, so that we can see the lasting effects of the event. I've attached a few quotes that we've already received to give you a flavour of their responses.

Once again thank you so much for your support, we plan to run the event again in 2 years time and as not for profit event, we will rely on support of groups such as yours, and we hope that you will feel able to support us again.

**Mark Ridyard**

Heaton Festival Co-ordinator

## Feedback - Providers

" just to say of behalf of Northstar, what a really well organised event it was and we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves" *Pete - Northstar band member*

" great Festival. Thanks for the invitation. The 3 hour planned session became a 5 hour one. Non stop until the second bag of clay ran out! " *Will - Kids Kabin, mobile pottery wheel*

## Feedback - Attendees favourite bits

The bigger size that you are this year and how you use the space; Seeing the community out together; Everything is fab, fab music great stalls and atmosphere; The sense of community