

Merthyr Tydfil Global Village 2010

The Merthyr Tydfil Global Village Festival was established in 2005 to celebrate the cultural diversity and heritage of Merthyr Tydfil. Initial discussion took place within the Multi Agency Diversity Forum (MADF) – a partnership of local statutory and voluntary organisations that meet to address issues of diversity and hate crime.

Global Village is in its very essence about participation: a coming together of the various groups of people that live in the borough to celebrate diversity and difference. The festival uses music, dance, art, voice and performance in an inclusive and celebratory context. The array of activity means that there is something for everybody; people can develop their creative side and widen their cultural horizons.

In the two weeks leading up to the festival we hold workshops in various locations.

This year, the 6th Global Village event, took place once again in the tremendous setting of Cyfarthfa Park in glorious sunshine.

Attendance

Attendance was in the region of 3,500 people. In addition, an average of 11 people attending 34 workshops in the community in the two weeks leading up to the final event. Workshops were held in various venues in Bedlinog, Treharris, Merthyr Vale, Town Centre, Penydarren, Dowlais and Trefechan.

What did people think? Some of the feedback we received included the following:

Leighton Edwards	Glais, Swansea	Thank you for a wonderful day - it gets better every year
Katelyn O'Connor	Troedyrhiw	Female Dancers were brilliant
Rajee Divakav	Llanishen	Art & Culture - A good mix of culture
Kim Polistina	Aberfan	The Choir - Merthyr Aloud were fabulous
Christopher Williams	Pandy Close	the friendly atmosphere
Steve Williams	Penydarren	Gatka Group
M Donovan	Twynyrodyn	Indian Hoop Dance
Angela Bevan	BTW	An excellent day - really well attended
Sian Hamilton	Aberdare	Craft Stalls
Rachel Mlgnarczyk	Galon Uchaf	The Childrens Dancing
John Davies	Museum	Fabulous
Jay Robertson	Aberfan	Food, Music, Dance
Jarrad Owens	Twynyrodyn	The Unison of Cultures & races
Andrew Davies	Gurnos	Crafts & entertainment
Heather Murray	Troedyrhiw	A Fabulous event thanks to the hard work of the organisers
Julianne Martin	Castle Park	The different stalls & Cultures
Rebecca Wall	Penyard	Bring all different people together
Carol Green	St Davids Cl	Variety of organisations
Mandy	Pontygwaith	All different information available

Saran Bevan-Jones	Bargoed	I enjoyed all the different activities at the event
Elaine Williams	Cefn Coed	All the different stalls & Music/dancing
Sophie Price	Galon Uchaf	I thought it was entertaining and fun
Stuart Thomas	Penydbryn	I enjoyed candle making and making an ET Badge
Kian James Davies	Galon Uchaf	I thought it was so much fun and entertainment can wait to come next year
Lyndsey Davies	Galon Uchaf	I thought it was entertaining and fun

What was on offer?

Workshops prior to the event

Community workshops averaged 11 participants per session, with sessions in: Bhangra dance and song, Bhangra drumming, Welsh love-spoon carving and copper-smithing, face-painting, using themes from global cultures, voice workshops, Welsh language harp sessions, India Dance Wales, digital photography and editing, Polish cooking, Salsa dancing, Belly-dancing, Indian beauty including henna tattooing, art and crafts, including making a Chinese dragon/tiger.

And some feedback from the workshops in the two week lead up period; These comments are only a few of the many collected and have been selected as a general overview of the sessions.

Bhangra Dance	Dowlais	I will come next week if my mam lets me I enjoyed myself. Bobby [the tutor] was so funny
Bhangra Dance	Dowlais	Fun & good exercise. I preferred the dance to the singing
Global Faces – Face painting	Dowlais	Good and met new friends
Bhangra Dance & Indian Beauty	Trefechan	We would love to have this activity on a regular basis within Trefechan
Bhangra Dance & Indian Beauty	Trefechan	An enjoyable time. A nice few hours with a different culture, with something for everyone.
Bellydancing	Trefechan	Thoroughly enjoyed the activity. Would attend weekly sessions if run in the community. Learned a lot and good enjoyable fun way of keeping fit. Thanks for putting it on
Bellydancing	Trefechan	Brilliant
Voice workshops	Town Centre	Excellent. Would do again. Good as have always felt that I could not sing
Voice workshops	Town Centre	Excellent. Heather [tutor] worked very hard and everyone joined in the activities and it was much enjoyed
Polish cooking	Penydarren	All was good

Workshops on the day

We had three workshop tents this year (in previous years we have had two). These housed art based workshops, performance based workshops and craft/skill demonstrations. Workshops included: Ceramics, Chinese calligraphy, Chinese paper-cutting and Chinese craft making, Indian Rangoli art, Bollywood make-overs, henna tattooing, balloon sculptures,

Gambian wood carving, welsh slate carving, copper-smithing, bangra dance, Indian dance, didgeredo workshops, percussion workshops, voice/singing workshops and more.

In total between 900 and 1,000 people took part in workshops. This figure was derived from hourly spot counts. This figure (350) was then tripled to take account of the fact that most workshops were 20 minutes in duration. Individuals who took part were delighted to have something to take away from the festival as a memento whether that was a new skill or artwork. Both the Gambian wood carver and the slate carver donated an artwork to global village.

Comments from workshop facilitator evaluation forms are included in the comments below.

Nigel Mason, the didgeridoo man – *“Thank you for yet again asking me to be a part of the wonder event ‘Global Village’. I think this was my 4th year and each year seems to get better.*

To me the whole concept of Global Village brings together those from different backgrounds, ages, faiths and then in a village way all become part of the same community. Community is something that breaks down the barriers that sadly divides society and the Village breaks those barriers.

The didge workshop went , I felt extreemly well with 10-15 people of different ages and backgrounds laughing and talking together whilst trying to blow down some hollow wooden tubes. It was wonderful teaching 9yr olds next to those of, lets say the older generation.

Yet again the performance of my Marmite Music was fun to peform and what was great about it was people coming up to me after whilst I was walking around to ask me about the various instruments I used.

I must say that you always seem to attract excellent supportive community projects which provide vital information for many of the population. As I work in mental health I was particularly interested in the Hafal table.

Please could you also pass on my thanks to all your staff who did such a wonderfull job smiling and being helpful throughout the day”

Artist, Pa-Modou Sowe - *“Gambian Arts and Culture Exchange Wales is a newly emerging organisation that offers a comprehensive range of African Arts, Cultural Workshops and Performances. We were booked to perform an African wood carving demonstration. Our intention was to carve a statue with a public demonstration and finish the carving before end of the event. This is to prove the possibilities that you can carve a statue in one day or hours of work. My objectives are to share knowledge and creativity with the general public? People visiting me at the Global village were able to learn about the African Arts and*

*Culture, my family history, take leaflets about our work and information about The Gambia. I think about 50 to 70 visited me, I'm not sure, maybe more. People made enquires about possibilities for joining in my wood carving workshops and if I may provide workshops for families. I would like to explore possibilities for me to provide you with Gambian Mask making workshop next year for families. **Above all well done its wonderful event with Global inspiration.***

Rajee Divakar – *“I tried to create an awareness of Rangoli, Indian design, explaining the concept and giving participants hands on experience in doing the art. Over 60 people participated in my workshops; they had information on Indian Rangoli, posters to read and a card with the Rangoli to take back.*

GV has grown leaps and bounds in the last 3 years. The marquee was much more spacious and the day was absolutely fabulous. My stall was very busy and I did not get the opportunity to see much of the other activities; however I managed to see a few workshops and they were brilliant. There are a lot of varied events and each of them is a true learning experience and I enjoyed my day. True to its name, it was truly GLOBAL!! Thank you all in the organising team – great job!”

Number and type of organisations

Exhibitors

SNAP

Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association

MTCBC Road Safety

Polish-Welsh Mutual Association

Merthyr Tydfil Library Services

Cyfarthfa Castle Museum

Bridges into Work

Merthyr People's First

MTCBC Rights of Way

Merthyr Tydfil sports development unit

Canolfan a Menter Gymraeg

Glamorgan GATES

Merthyr College

MTCBC Waste Management

Mudiad Ysgolian Meithrin

Otter people

MTCBC Biodiversity

MTCBC Social Services & Social Regeneration

Rugby demonstrations

Futsal demonstrations

Careers Wales

VAMT

Talk Training

Youth Information Service

Crown Prosecution Service

Llamau
South Wales Police
BTCV
Workers education association
Safer Merthyr Tydfil
SMT - Boroughwide Youth Participation Forum
H4A
Blissful soles

Café Area

Exotic Foods
Cig Mynydd
Talking Leaves
Daffodil Bakery
Hapus Ice Cream
Fathaz Caf

Craft Stalls

New Earth Sanctuary
Enterprising Art and Business
Gofal
Su-Y Ltd Thai Jewellery Tak Jones
Fair Trade Forum
Bag Lady
Crystal & Shell Jewellery
Gurnos Workshops Ceramics
Hafal
Beverley Robins Ty Hafan stall jams, chutneys, beers
The Body Shop
The Craft Club

We asked exhibitors, food vendors and crafters what they thought of the event and whether the event had met their expectations; this is what a few of them told us.

Andrea of Andcrafted Jewellery, told us, *“To sell and get feedback on my new business; I brought my stock to show and sell to people. I don’t know how many people visited my stall but I did well. I had many people express an interest in my Jewellery and how it was made and out of what gem/ products. It was my first time at the event and I was impressed particularly by the craft events for children – next year if I am invited back I will try to incorporate something in my stall - Making your own bracelets perhaps?”*

Steve smith from BTCVC, *“We came to the event to show the people of Merthyr we are out there and to get new volunteers. We made candles and badges and we gave away over 300 of each and talked to lots of people. Hundreds of kids visited our stand and how many others, I have no idea. We had information on*

what we do and ways we have helped people both in Merthyr and across Wales. It showed people of Merthyr we are out there and we are there to work with them to help in their own communities; Time will tell, but at them moment we have had a number of people who now wish to volunteer with BTCV”

Carla Reynolds from Enterprising Arts & Business,- *“Many Thanks to you and all the GV team! A fantastic Event!! It is a great opportunity for our project and clients to exhibit at such a fabulous event! There is such a strong sense of community spirit! A big thanks to all from Taste of Enterprise Team and Clients - Looking forward to next year already!!”*

Hafal Merthyr Tydfil told us *“We came to the Global Village event to raise awareness of serious mental health and promote our service; we chatted with over 100 people giving them information and leaflets on serious mental health. We have made many useful contacts and had 5 people offer to volunteer. I don’t think it can be approved the day was just wonderful.”*

Lesley Jones, MTCBC Youth Service – *“We wanted to provide an opportunity for involvement for young people to become more aware of their own heritage and other cultures. We organised recycling and regeneration workshops during the two weeks in the run up to Global Village with a display of all works completed at the event. The young people paraded a Chinese Tiger/Dragon that they made for the Chinese New Year through the event and wore medieval costumes that they made using recycled materials. The young people were very interested in the performances, the outdoor workshops such as canoeing and climbing and some took leaflets and promotional items from a variety of stands. The workshops were very positive and young people are now more aware of what they can recycle and that recycling can be fun. The parade helped boost their confidence and it was nice to see that the young people felt proud enough to show off their hard work. Two youth clubs worked together on the project which enabled the young people that were involved to meet new friends and widen their social circle.”*

Llamau – *“We wanted to raise profile of the services we provide in Merthyr. We gave away freebies, games for children to play, leaflets and info about our projects, free cakes, chatted to people and informed them of our services. Lots and lots of people visited our stand – everything went! We explained how our services work and how to access them. It is important for us to be involved in the local communities in which we work and to inform people about our services and we felt this happened. Being part of the event helped other local organisations find out about Llamau and vice versa so was very useful.”*

R.O.C.K Church – *“We are a church, for people who have never been to church, and it’s an opportunity for us to raise awareness of our organisation. Our intention was to use the opportunity to give a vocal performance, meeting & building relationships with organisers, other performers & public. Networking, and getting to know our community. All these things help us to give a flavour to those that see us perform, and meet us, which we hope will be attractive to the demographic who have never been to church. This was our first experience of GV. We had a great time – Thank you for inviting us.”*

MTCBC Sports Development Unit (SDU) – *“we hope that the event would help us raise awareness of the work of the SDU. We estimate that we engaged with between 300 and 400 people during the day. We gave away free posters, booklets etc. and provided information on coaching education and fund opportunities available within MTCBC area plus fun rugby activity sessions throughout the day. We were given the opportunity to create greater public awareness of our role within Customer services area of MTCBC. We have achieved our objectives for the day! We are already receiving enquiries.”*

Anthony, Express Yourself, solar powered coffee vendor – *“our objectives for the day were to supply good quality coffee at very reasonable prices and good customer service. We sold in excess of 1,000 drinks and provided people with information about what is involved with making a good coffee and about our solar powered van. People have already been asking about me doing other events. I thought the day was fantastic; it probably could go on longer into the evening.”*

Merthyr Tydfil Library Service – *“We have come to this event for the last few years and always find it very worthwhile - our main aim is to publicise the wider range of services we have at the Library - things that people don’t always know about - such as mobile stops, computer services, online services, story and rhyme, family history etc.*

We take along a wide selection of books for sale as well as calendars and postcards produced by the library and featuring local authors

It is also a useful exercise in finding out what our colleagues on other stands are doing and how the library can fit into any of their events. We had book start packs - with free books, puzzles and games. We had joiner packs, softplay, colouring sheets - but most importantly we had time to chat to people about the library.

We had a stand inside the marquee and the library bus outside. The day was very busy from start to finish - I would estimate about 200 people came to the stand – some just browsing at the books and others with specific questions etc.

We gave out info about opening times at the library and branches, details of family history help sessions and computer courses. We publicised the mobile routes and details of the Saturday van at Pentrebach. Many people were able to go on the van and get a flavour of what stock was kept on there.

I would say that our objectives were fully achieved - Mary had the computer so was able to join people up on the spot - she had over 30 joiners and ran short of forms towards the end of the day.

I spoke to many more people than the year before - it was sunny and the free entertainment was fabulous - the event has managed to build up year on year. Everyone involved must have worked very hard all year. It was an excellent opportunity to spread all our wares in front of the public - in a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere."