

Report from Florence Park Community Centre Open Day on 17 November 2012, 12-4pm

Around 240 people came to the open day, and we raised £480 towards refurbishing the centre. People of all ages came, including many children, some disabled people and people from a range of ethnic backgrounds. Many connections were made among neighbours and people were clearly enjoying the wide range of activities:

- Bric-a-Brac table top sale
- Pop up café (hotdogs, homemade soup, tea and homemade cakes)
- Music: two local bands Matt Sage and Finches Green
- Zumba demonstration
- Aunt Sally demonstration
- A raffle with 14 great prizes donated by local businesses and individuals
- City Farm and Florence Park Orchard project: apple faces activity for children
- Art activity: making wands using recycled materials
- Upcycling demonstration and activity: making hen doorsteps and sock monkeys
- Information stalls: Florence Park 80th Anniversary project and History book; Oxford City Farm; Cowley Time Bank; Proposed Free School; waste reduction Information stall.
- Community services: children were shown the police van, the fire engine, and people were able to speak with the city council's community and neighbourhoods team and community response team.



Publicity for the day included leafleting 1,000 households in the neighbourhood with flyers and survey forms. A local primary school gave out flyers to each child. There were posters in key locations and the open day was advertised on Jactivities, Oxford Mail and Times, Daily Info, and we had a 30 second Radio Oxford advertisement on the day.



A small grant was received from Oxford City Council which paid for the printing and refreshments, and a European Waste Reduction Week grant from the county council paid for the waste reduction activities, information stall, and room costs.

50 survey forms were handed in. We are collecting and analysing the survey forms which will tell us what people would like from the centre. The committee will use this to review current activities and plan new ones. Eight new people applied for membership and paid their annual fee (total £60), many more people took membership forms away or picked up our website details to find out more.

At the open day a number of people proposed new ideas that they would like to run at the centre (e.g. Zumba classes, regular local musician's afternoon/evening, movement-creativity-relaxation classes, film night, regular after school games, etc).



The success of this open day was only possible with the amazing help of more than 30 people, plus local organisations which donated 14 raffle prizes.

A very big thank you to everyone!

