



Watford 2012 – Saturday 21st July *Knutsford Playing Fields*

Watford Community Housing Trust's Community Action Group created a very special community event close to the opening of the Olympics. This was a brand-new enterprise, and many partners and WCHT tenant groups were involved, organising the logistics, running the performances and manning the stalls at the event.

Luckily, Saturday 21st July was a beautiful sunny day and the Watford community turned out in force to find out what was going on!

The Hertfordshire's Five Gold Rings team was asked by WCHT to provide some musical items. We all discussed carefully what these were to be. In the end, we decided upon some music for the Opening Ceremony, plus a Gateway to Music Tent where children could try out instruments and meet talented young musicians. Five brilliant young brass players from The Purcell School, plus an outstanding young saxophonist and percussionist were invited to be the musicians for this event

Cutting the Ribbon!



Trusty the House, Chief Executive Tina Barnard and her team from WCHT cut the ribbon, accompanied by celebratory brass fanfares. Watford 2012 was launched!

For half an hour after the Opening Ceremony, the brass players continued to entertain the audience, performing lively rousing musical items!



Gateway to Music Tent

While this was all happening, Nick Denham, Head of Participation and Inclusion from Hertfordshire Music Service was busy setting up a tent full of drums, brass and woodwind instruments for the next musical project. The weather was beautiful, so he was able to use the grass outside the tent to put a circle of drums.



After a short break, the musicians came to the tent and started to encourage children to try the instruments. There was a lot of interest, and some children in particular came back to the tent over and over again to try instruments!





There were trombones, trumpets, saxophones, flutes, djembes and more to try out! The children and musicians had a wonderful time – and plenty of talent-spotting took place. Children who had some experience plus others who had never played an instrument before took to the instruments like ducks to water!

The instrumentalists, George, Phelan, Louis, Fabian, James L, James C and Ollie were amazed to see how quickly some children could grasp basic techniques!

Many children from Watford Central Primary School approached the tent. Their interest in music had been awakened by the IMPULSE Outreach Training Programme at their school, also supported generously by Watford Community Housing Trust.



Young Music Leaders in Year 6 at Watford Central Primary School working with IMPULSE Mentor Hannah Morgan (oboe)



Nick Denham speaking to parents about musical opportunities

Nick Denham from Hertfordshire Music Service was able to speak to parents of all children who showed a particular interest in or aptitude for the instruments on display. He told them all about the excellent range of opportunities available

through Hertfordshire Music Service, gave them contact details and encouraged them to seek the means to follow up musical training for their children.



The young brass players spontaneously formed a procession, and walked around everywhere playing lively music, raising awareness for the 'Gateway to Music' tent. This was a great idea! Stallholders clapped and cheered as the brass procession walked past their stalls!



This event was yet another of WCHT's splendid community initiatives! Hertfordshire's Five Gold Rings would like to thank them very much indeed for kindly supporting these musical projects – and for helping run many others too!

