

Camden Road the Musical

May 2008

Over the next 12 months, a number of community events will take place in Camden Road, culminating in a community play in May 2009. These events are being organized and led by the local community in partnership with Claque Theatre. Claque is a professional theatre company with 30 years experience in productions of this kind. This newsletter gives details of the different projects that will take place in the lead up to the play, as well as details about how you can become more involved.

Camden Road in Camera

This project has had a wonderful response from the local community and we now have over 400 photographs. Our team of volunteers who have been working on this are now looking at everything we have collected and putting the exhibition together. The outdoor exhibition will take place between 5th and 21st July along Camden Road and the streets around it the launch event will be on Saturday the 5th July - please keep this date in your diary and we will send out more information nearer the time.

The Courier has been very supportive - we have had full-page articles in four editions over the last six weeks so hopefully you have all seen some of those. We have also had a very good response from the traders, most of whom have displayed posters for us. About 30 also took part in the project with St Barnabas School (see below).

St Barnabas School Project:



Children from St Barnabas School have been taking part in a project as part of their work on local history this term. Mrs Rowland's class wrote letters to all of the traders on Camden Road asking their permission to take a photo of them outside their shop and conduct a short interview about what it is like to trade on Camden Road, and whether they know anything about the history of their shop. We ran a day's workshop in school working with them on interview techniques and how to frame a photo, then took them out in small groups to meet the traders. The results will be shown in a display at school and also as part of the main exhibition in July.

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THEATRE



Camden Road in Perspective

We are expecting a decision regarding the funding for this project any day now. As soon as this is in place we will start the research that will go towards the script for the play. If this is a part of the project that interests you and you have ticked the research box on your volunteer form we will be in touch again soon.

We will also start putting into place our plans for the Lantern Parade in December. The aim of this parade is to celebrate the diversity of the area, and we will engage professional artists to work with different groups on designing and making lanterns to represent their section of the community. Do you belong to a group that would like to take part in this? If so, please contact Cath using the details overleaf.

Continuing our work in local schools, we are looking forward to working with St James' Infant School on this project, as well as St Barnabas'.

Camden Road the Musical

We have received confirmation of our first lot of funding!
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has just approved our application for £3,500. This is great news, and knowing we have the support of the local council will also help with our other applications.

The Steering Committee

*Andy Brett, Su Collings, Veronica Jones, John Marshall, Mike Morrison, Candy Prodrick,
Dave Prodrick, Stephanie Salter, Rod Taylor, Father Ed Tomlinson*

The entire Camden Road project is run by this group of local volunteers. Helped by Claque Theatre, they are making the funding applications, running the bank account, organising publicity, venues, and dates of events and making every decision associated with this huge project. As the project progresses we will form sub groups to take on fundraising, outreach and access issues, health and safety etc.

Would you like to be part of this committee or one of these smaller groups? Would you like to represent your section of the community on the committee? We would be particularly interested in hearing from you if you are under 21 or if you could represent one of the minority or ethnic groups, as we are keen to work with every different group in the local community to make sure that this project represents us all. No experience necessary - just a willingness to give some time to this wonderful community project. Claque will hold a management-training day in September and are there at every committee meeting to provide support and guidance.

Call or email Cath (details overleaf) if you would like to join the committee or discuss this further.