

Greenwood

news release

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Ten Year Olds Enjoy Brierley's 10th Birthday Bash

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Last Friday (30th October) ten year olds living around Brierley Forest Park helped Brierley Forest Park's Visitor Centre volunteers to celebrate a tenth birthday of their own – for the visitor centre itself.

The centre welcomed its first visitor in October 1999, and has been the venue for many local and regional events in that time.

Brierley Forest Park, which is owned by Ashfield District Council and is a flagship park within the Greenwood Community Forest, welcomed minister Beverly Hughes for the regional launch of the Rural White Paper in 2001 and one of the original volunteers, Jessie Hickling remembers the day well. "We had put on a lovely buffet, but unfortunately Beverly Hughes had to leave immediately after the launch to get back for a vote in the Commons. She was looking at the mouth-watering spread, so I quickly made up a plate for her and her driver to take back to Westminster."

For the 10th birthday celebration, which was organised by the volunteers, the Greenwood Community Forest Team created a timeline of activities and momentous occasions around the walls of the visitor centre. They even named every single one of the 45 volunteers who have helped out in the visitor centre since it opened.

Gill Grievson, Community Liaison Officer for Greenwood, said: "It only seems like 10 months since the centre opened its doors, never mind 10 years. The timeline brought back a lot of memories for me including some lovely educational visits with local schools."

The success of the visitor centre is mainly due to the dedication and hard work of the volunteers, who keep the centre open week in and week out. Three of the original four volunteers were present at the event, and they were all presented with a plaque by local Councillor and Friend of Brierley Forest Park, Cllr Ray Buttery, to say thank you for all their hard work.

Outside, visitors enjoyed arts, crafts, storytelling and bat box making courtesy of Ashfield District Council before the Ripley Morris Men got everyone on their feet to have a go at Morris Dancing for themselves.

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Visitor Centre Volunteer, Pamela Nunn, said: “The day went exactly as we planned and was absolutely brilliant! I have really enjoyed it and want to thank everyone for making it so special. The children who came along had a whale of a time. Even the weather was kind to us!”

Ends

Photo: Local ten year olds help the volunteers to cut the visitor centre’s special birthday cake.

For further information contact Gill Grievson on 01623 827326.