

# My Environment & Summer Fun



## Two empowering arts based projects for isolated Young Carers across Wiltshire

May—August 2008  
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Circular Arts were initially approached by Young Carers Wiltshire, in early January 2008, to discuss the possibility of providing a series of environmental arts based workshops being created for groups of isolated Young Carers in different regions across Wiltshire.

In the previous winter, Circular Arts had successfully included a group of Young Carers, based across Salisbury, into their huge Christmas **Lanterns for Salisbury** community building project and parade for South Wiltshire.

After agreement and further project discussions with Young Carers Wiltshire, Circular Arts successfully bid to **Sustain the Plain** for two separate grants towards two workshop programmes, one in late spring with Young Carers from West Wiltshire and another in August with Young Carers from North Wiltshire.



Young Carers Wiltshire would provide the transport costs and additional staff support towards the young people attending the workshops. They would also provide appropriate targeted discussion and support sessions before and during the arts workshops to enable extended and individual support to the young people. A picnic lunch or supper would also be provided (which always disappeared amazingly fast!).

A new partnership with Wiltshire Wildlife was formed (with the guidance of the Young Carers Wiltshire manager) to provide a location at the beautiful Langford Lakes for the late spring "My Environment" workshop programme. With another new partnership being formed between Circular Arts and Army Welfare, Salisbury Plain, for access to a large room and field at Bulford Army Camp for the "Summer Fun" August workshops.



The **My Environment** workshops started on May 7<sup>th</sup> 2008 and extended across the following nine weeks. Attendance was good, with the Young Carers being safely taxied in from all over West Wiltshire to take an active, vocal and at times very silly but fun part in creating some very unusual objects, from electronic sounds through to large batik flags and even a lovely willow house, to be left for pre school visitors to the Langford Lakes to further enjoy over the summer months.





The **Summer Fun** workshops started on August 4<sup>th</sup> 2008 and involved Young Carers from all over north Wiltshire again being safely taxed to Bulford Army Camp where the Army Welfare provided an excellent large room and facilities, with access to a large park-cum-field for outdoor workshops.



Again, a large number of unusual and beautiful pieces of work were created by the young people, who also had good support and other personal discussions with the Young Carers Wiltshire staff team.



These combined projects were very successful, with a large geographical range of young people in a caring for family situation given repeated sessions of respite, individual support and also artistic encouragement and development through the support of the Circular Arts professional artists and the Young Carers support team.

New links have been created between Circular Arts and Wiltshire Wildlife with even stronger bonds being developed between Circular Arts, Young Carers Wiltshire and Army Welfare (Salisbury Plain).

Young Carers Wiltshire and Army Welfare (Salisbury Plain) are now investigating working closely together for the benefit of army children in a carer situation.

