

BIG GREEN GATHERING

Information for people
with disabilities

GAMA [Green Access
and Mobility Area]
Welfare & Emergencies
Kids Area



**Are you hoping to come to the Big Green Gathering?
Are you wondering about amenities and access for children and adults
wth disabilities?**

We welcome people who have physical difficulties and/or learning disabilities, families, friends and carers. We want you all to enjoy and be part of The Big Green Gathering 2007.

This leaflet tells you about the GAMA [Green Access and Mobility Area] camping field, support and emergency services and how to contact us. For families we have included information on the Kids Area.

The Big Green Gathering has asked all areas to plan improved access and communication for people with physical and/or sensory impairments so we hope you will feel welcome and able to join in a wide range of events and activities.

You can view this leaflet on your computer using free Adobe Acrobat software or print it out on A4 paper. We have also put an illustrated easy read guide in the same .pdf format on the Accessibility page. There is a lot more information on the website which will be updated whenever necessary.



Green Access & Mobility Camping Area

What we provide in the GAMA Field

You are welcome in all camping areas but we offer you extra facilities in the GAMA field. We have a disability rights co-ordinator and a team of thirty helpers to organise facilities including a marquee, drinking water, sinks, showers and wide access toilets. This year we will have a changing room for people who need space and privacy for personal care.

The GAMA marquee has an information desk and a coffee bar. There are power points for charging wheelchair batteries. In the mornings there are activities for children and in the evening there is live music for all ages.

Fires As camp fires are not allowed anywhere in the GAMA camping area we build a fire pit in an open area for everyone to enjoy. You can cook on a charcoal barbeque.

Arriving You can arrive on any day from Wednesday to Saturday but we cannot reserve camping spaces. When you arrive we will help you to choose a space to suit your needs. The top of the field is very quiet but further from facilities. If you are arriving by bus let us know if you are going to need help carrying stuff.

Vehicles in the GAMA field You can bring a vehicle into the GAMA field if this was arranged when you booked. Parking next to where you are camping is available with an on site parking permit. Blue Badge holders are not charged for parking vehicles. You will need to provide proof of your blue badge entitlement when you book your ticket to get an on site parking permit.

Getting around The Big Green Gathering is on a sheep and dairy farm so the surfaces are farm tracks and pasture. Some busy paths have temporary metal surfaces. Most events, stalls and entertainments are within half a mile of the GAMA field.

You cannot drive vehicles, including quad bikes, within the Big Green Gathering site. People using electric wheelchairs are welcome. There are horse-drawn carts and rickshaw bikes to carry people around. We can arrange a pass if you need to drive off-site and return. There are buses to Cheddar and Weston-Super-Mare.

Carers' tickets If you are bringing a carer with you, and you qualify for the High Care Component of the Disability Living Allowance, the Upper Rate Component of the Mobility Allowance of the D.L.A., or the Independent Living Allowance, you will not be charged for a carer ticket. Proof of entitlement must be provided when applying for your ticket. If paid workers or volunteers come with you, check the rules of their organization for pay, expenses, working hours and safety.

Care We cannot provide medical or personal care, people to push wheelchairs, or child care. Make sure you have the support, medication and equipment you need and safe storage. Vulnerable children and adults need to be well supported and should know what to do if they get lost or feel ill.

Healers As the healing field is up a hill we have invited some healers to provide workshops and private sessions in the GAMA field.

Animals No pets are allowed. Contact us when you buy your tickets if you need to bring a trained assistance dog.

Children in the GAMA field

We try to create a safe and friendly atmosphere for children and their parents.

There is space to play in the marquee and on the grass between tents. In the morning there are activities in the marquee.

Because vehicles are allowed in the GAMA field, and a busy lane is nearby, children need to be supervised at all times.

Children remain the responsibility of their parents. Don't assume another adult will keep an eye on your child if you need a break unless you make specific arrangements.

We will not serve unaccompanied children with drinks other than water in the marquee.

Children who have conditions or allergies which could need emergency treatment need to carry relevant information. Contact us if you want to discuss medical arrangements.

SAFETY AND WELFARE

Security Our field is fenced. The GAMA helpers and their families camp here and Green Stewards are on duty nearby. A security team and police are on call. The Red Cross centre is close and is open day and night. Emergency services are here to deal with serious problems.

Extreme weather Bring warm and waterproof clothing, sunscreen and a hat. Nights can be very cold. We will open the marquee as a refuge if we have a storm. If we need to evacuate the GAMA field In an emergency stewards will assist people to move to the Red Cross barn.

Lost Children and Vulnerable Adults The Kids Area has a dedicated team of lost kids workers, who, when a child is lost or is reported missing, have a set of strict procedures that are followed by kids area, stewards, security and police on site to ensure the safe return of the child. The procedures take account of the severity of the situation, such as the age, ability, medical needs, or other factors that increase their vulnerability. These procedures are also followed when a vulnerable adult or adult with special needs is missing. It is really important that we can gain as much information as possible quickly to ascertain the situation, and suggest that some form of identification is carried – such as the mobile phone number of parent/friend/ and the name of the field that they are camping in. We recommend that names of children or vulnerable people are not normally visible.

Communication We want to improve information and access in all parts of the Big Green Gathering. Let us know if you need information on tape, CD, large print or symbol formats. We have BSL signers and some helpers have learned Makaton signs to communicate with visitors who use them.

Green Stewards

The BGG Green Stewards are on duty 24 hours a day in all areas of the Big Green Gathering. They have radio links with other services. Please ask the nearest steward if you need help or advice or are worried about someone.

.....

For more information

Website **www.big-green-gathering.com** has full details and a discussion forum.

There is a GAMA Frequently Asked Questions section and an easy read illustrated leaflet on the Accessibility page of the website.

We realise everyone has different needs and welcome enquiries and suggestions before, during and after this year's festival. If you require any help, advice or assistance, then please do not hesitate to contact the GAMA co-ordinator-

email: mikihall@hotmail.com telephone **01273565649** before Thursday 26 July

In an emergency, after 28th July we can be contacted by mobile - 07836781019, but please note that mobile reception on the site is not very good and is often quite unreliable.

We look forward to meeting you at the Gathering.

Miki and Penny
GAMA Coordinators

Big Green Gathering Kids Area

Children and young people with disabilities are welcome to join in all the activities that we offer in the Kids Area.

We welcome parents who have disabilities and will do our best to meet their access and/or communication needs.

The philosophy of the kids area is inclusive, and we encourage the children and young people with us to be helpful and inclusive towards others as well.

We are not a crèche and do not take parental responsibility for any child. Responsibility for each child remains with their parents /guardian/carers on site. We have no activities that exclude a carer/parent /guardian from being with the child and if a child is particularly vulnerable we would trust that an adult stays with them.

The Kids field at the BGG is fairly central with good access paths from all directions. The surface is grass over clay soil. Some activities are in tents and large marquees so we are open whatever the weather. We have no mains power so at night it tends to be quite dark.

There are wide-access toilets nearby and a water tap but no showers. We do not provide a nappy changing area, but we do have an on-site real nappy service. We generally have one or two cafés in the kids field selling vegetarian food suitable for children.

We have enforceable anti-bullying procedures alongside child protection and safe caring procedures. We do not discriminate on any level, and will not have any form of racism, abuse, verbal or physical violence within the area.

Events and activities for children from 0-18.

Each age group has activities specifically designed for their needs. Performances and some workshops are open to children of all ages.

Kids' Area Activities

In recent years we have offered arts and crafts, metalwork, woodwork, driftwood mobiles, pottery, performances, clown workshops, percussion workshops, face painting, bird box making puppetry, mime, science theatre, outdoor games, football, parachutes, yoga, meditation, environmental storytelling, puppet making, children's rights, traveller education, sandpit, toddler area, and book lounge.

In the teen space young people enjoy dance music and DJ workshops, video and film making, tug-of-war, fairy making and barbeques.

Check the web site for more information.

The discussion forum has a section for families.

Jos Colover:
Kids Area Co-Ordinator

