

# PART 2

## Communities at Work

### LESSON 4 The Role of Communities in Society

#### GROUNDWORK

In this lesson we plan to:

- describe the role of communities in society.

#### DIGGING DEEPER

*How do the communities in our society help us to fulfil our needs?*



#### Key Concepts

Commitment/Service

### Commitment

**Commitment** involves a promise or pledge to do something. It requires time and attention. If we are to be committed to something, we have to make time for it and devote attention to it.

#### Record-Breakers – Commitment in Action

On 10 September 2005, 7,664 dancers took to the streets of Cork to set a new record for the Largest Irish Dance. Also in September 2005, the Titans Basketball Club from Galway set a new Basketball Marathon record of forty hours and three minutes.

On 26 September 2003, Macmillan Cancer Relief held the largest coffee morning, with 576,157 people attending over 26,000 meetings across the United Kingdom at the same time.

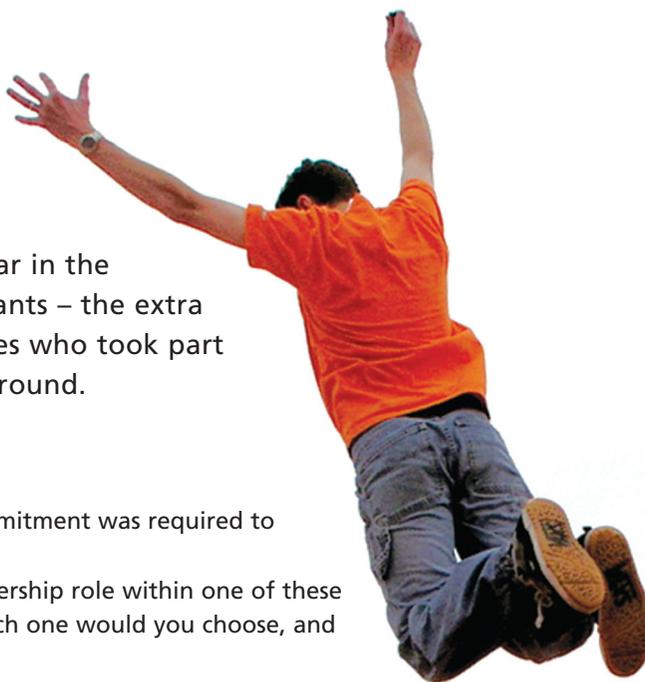
On 1 December 2002, a group of thirty-eight surfers rode the same wave simultaneously at Manly Beach, Sydney.

On 7 September 2001, 559,493 people began jumping up and down for one minute to mark the launch of Science Year in the UK. There were actually 569,069 participants – the extra numbers represent people with disabilities who took part by dropping objects onto the ground.



### KNOW HOW

1. In your opinion, what kind of commitment was required to achieve these results?
2. If you were asked to take the leadership role within one of these record-breaking communities, which one would you choose, and why?
3. Imagine that you have the opportunity to break a record with a group. Decide on the record and write four tasks that you need to carry out in order to achieve your common goal.



## Communities Call for Commitment

### Jamie's Story

The summer songs were belting out from the radio and Jamie was feeling g-r-e-a-t! He was working in the local café for July and August and was hoping to save enough money for his first electric guitar. He reckoned his dad might get him a good deal on a Squire Telecaster.

Jamie had a laugh with all the customers. He particularly enjoyed the banter with old Mrs Murphy, who came in for her tea and scone every Friday morning after collecting her pension. Jamie shared his plan with her, and she smiled as she told him that she loved to swing and dance at the carnivals when she was his age.

Jamie was part of a local band that played pop rock. All the gang were mad into them and at this stage they were kinda famous, well in Galway anyway. From the day Jamie joined the band, he felt part of something good. He was committed to the group and wanted to work hard to make them the best they could be. All the lads practised together and hung out together. They were all waiting for Jamie to get his new guitar. Jamie was doing fairly well on the tips front this week, so maybe Saturday would be the day.

### Katie's Story

Katie loved being part of the sports club. All the members had a major laugh together and every weekend meant another team to play against and another place to travel to. As vice-captain of the basketball team, Katie helped Jenny, the captain, to get the team organised for each match. Sometimes this was hard work, especially getting the kits washed and ordered, but most of the time the team members

