



Registered Charity Number: 1199194

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Leyburn Community Arts Festival – Wednesday 21st – Sunday 25th June 2023 **Briefing Bulletin – number 1, 16.03.23**

Hello and thank you for taking a moment to read our first update on the idea of holding a Community Arts Festival for Leyburn and surrounding area which celebrates creative and performing arts in The Dales.

Firstly, a huge thank you for the positive responses, conversations and offers of support Judith and our Trustees have had so far – it has taken a while to get things off the ground and your encouragement has provided the momentum needed for us to take a leap of faith for 2023 and hope everything else falls into place to cover the associated costs. Yes, we are literally starting with a zero budget but oodles of goodwill to make it a reality!

Background

During the Pandemic, BlueBoxt celebrated its 30th anniversary. Our celebration plans, as part of Make Music Day, to bring different community groups together fizzled due to the restrictions. Since then, we have gained registration as a Charity and it's time to finally celebrate the hard work and dedication of the many volunteers who give their time to participate and keep creative and performing arts activities thriving in our local communities.

During our initial conversations it quickly became clear that such an event should be a celebration of all aspects of creativity which contribute to our social and cultural heritage in the Dales. From art, crafts, spoken word, dance to music making and everything in between. From individuals who might not share their work very often to those who regularly take part in groups, exhibitions and concerts – there are opportunities for everyone be part of the Festival.

Initial plans

Our aim is to make use of community spaces within the Town (this list is provisional and adaptable).

Arts and Community Centre - Dance performances | Cinema | Exhibition space | Refreshments.

St. Matthew's Church - Live performances of music and drama | Stalls and refreshments.

Methodist Church Hall - Art, photography and craft exhibition | Refreshments.

Methodist Church - Spoken Word, Creative Writing, demonstrations and talks.

The Wonky Tree Book Shop – Story telling | Meet the author talk/ event(?)

Thornborough Hall - Craft Fair (?) (subject to demand and room availability) | Story telling in Library.

Initial programme

Wednesday 21st June

Make Music Day is an international celebration which takes place annually on the 21st June. While the main Festival will take place over the weekend – the launch will be a collection of online presentations via social media. These can be recorded in advance and scheduled to be broadcast during the day.

Thursday 22nd June

Exhibitions set-up or open? | Afternoon concert/ talk?

Friday 23rd June

Exhibitions open (10am-4pm) | Coffee morning at Methodist Hall | Cinema
Afternoon/ Evening programme of performances/ talks/ demonstrations.

Saturday 24th June

Exhibitions open (10am-4pm) | Craft Fair(?) | Tea and scones, activities, and fund-raising stalls with Leyburn Band – St. Matthews car park if weather is kind (indoors if wet).
Programme of performances/ talks/ demonstrations.

Sunday 25th June

Faith services | Exhibitions open (11am-2pm) | Craft Fair(?)
Programme of performances/ talks/ demonstrations.

Groups/ individuals approached so far include [(c) confirmed, (p) provisional]:

Leyburn Band (c), Dale Community Pop Choir and Northern Young Voices (p), Yoredale Strummers (c), LADS (c), BlueBoxt (various) (c), Patrick Green (p), Kim Ralls (p), Wensleydale Camera Club (c), Wensleydale Rotary (c), Diana Hartley (inc. WTSong, Singing for Pleasure, Gilbert and Sullivan, East Witton Male Voice Choir) (p), Joan Danvers (p), Dales School of Dance (c).

This list is by no means complete and we need to identify the current contacts and make approaches to them including Art groups, Organists, Church Bell and Hand Ringers, and groups we might not be aware of.

We need your help

We are a very small team of volunteers and in order to ensure the Festival is a success we need your help. This might be stewarding, helping with refreshments, identifying community groups and individuals to be involved, coordinating one of the exhibition spaces, helping to distribute and deliver posters, spreading the word, sharing on social media, sharing information with your group or mailing list, holding a donation bucket, taking part as a performer or exhibitor etc., the list is endless! Please share this briefing paper with anyone in your network who you feel will be able to offer their support. Thank you.

If you have any ideas, queries or thoughts please get in touch.

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