



## **HORSHAM FESTIVAL**

*Inspiration through the arts*

The Horsham Festival is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Number 1165644) that has been formed with the express purpose of developing a broad and eclectic annual *festival of the arts and creative expression* for Horsham and district. We have more than thirty organisations associated with Horsham Festival a number of which take an active part as committee members. They represent a wide spectrum of the arts scene in Horsham and the district.

Through music, dance, drama, visual arts, literature and the digital medium we aim to provide opportunities for performers, creative artists, exhibitions, displays and other expressions of the arts. We will draw on artistic ability and creative expression primarily from the local area and, as we grow, also from further afield. It is our intention to encourage participation by individuals and groups across all ages, abilities, communities and ethnicities.

With the knowledge that an enormous amount of creative artistic talent exists within the area a further aim is to promote Horsham and district as a cultural centre for the arts and establish the festival as a significant experience in the south-east region. We aspire to achieving a regionally and nationally recognised festival of the arts and creative expression.

The desire and need to have a strong educational and developmental aspect has been identified. In particular this will focus on providing a chance for young people who are disabled, disadvantaged or on the margins of society to grow in confidence and enhance their skills through opportunities to develop both within and outside the span of the festival. Young people are already involved and engaged with the organisation of the Horsham Festival.

Formed in 2015 the committee successfully ran an inaugural festival between the 9th and 17th July 2016, show-casing some 65 events. We are delighted with the enthusiasm for this new festival and encouraged by the range of events and venues that we expect to increase in 2017. Until we have sufficient financial backing to put on our own events the festival will encompass a number of existing events together with others created for the festival by local organisations. Lessons learnt from the trial run will be taken forward to 2017 when we expect the festival to have a higher profile and attract greater interest.

Further information is available via the website: [www.horshamfestival.co.uk](http://www.horshamfestival.co.uk) the Face-book page: [www.facebook.com/horshamfestival](https://www.facebook.com/horshamfestival) and the Twitter Account: <https://twitter.com/horshamfestival> More publicity, an events list and a festival brochure will be made available in due course.

It is anticipated that the cost of running the inaugural festival will be met through membership subscriptions, sponsorship and grants. When fully established we expect to develop our own income streams and have significant support from major sponsors and funders of the arts.

Principal contacts for further information:

Paul Bellringer OBE  
Chairman  
[paul@floweringquarry.co.uk](mailto:paul@floweringquarry.co.uk)  
01403 260484

Andrew Bernardi  
Artistic Director  
[andrewbernardi@me.com](mailto:andrewbernardi@me.com)  
07710 024608

Gavin Hewins  
Publicity & PR  
[gavin.hewins@gmail.com](mailto:gavin.hewins@gmail.com)  
01403 738139