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## **Holmfirth Arts Festival returns for another exciting year with FLOW as their festival theme.**

Holmfirth Arts Festival makes a welcome return for 2024, with an action-packed programme running across the Holme Valley, from June to September.

This year's Festival theme of FLOW takes inspiration from the importance of the River Holme in Holmfirth and the Holme Valley. Using FLOW and their location as inspiration, the Festival has invited the best local, national, and international artists to respond to the environment, the unique landscape and its wonderful people, in all their diversity.

The Festival kicks off on the 12 June with an Accessible Activities Amble for people with disabilities and their personal assistants. Following this is the Big Weekend of events taking place in venues across Holmfirth on the 15 & 16 June with outdoor entertainment and activities for families and people of all ages. Big Weekend events include workshops, exhibitions, the Dear Sunflowers Parade, live music, and world-class performances from companies such as Circus Raj, Mind the Gap, and Rogue Play to name just a few. There are also opportunities for people to get involved and participate in the Festival beforehand.

Following on from the Big Weekend is a series of events happening each week until the end of September. New Mill Male Voice Choir will be performing Let The River Run on 22 June, soul/blues diva Dana Ali will get audiences dancing on 27 July. A Brand new commission for chamber orchestra and choir, Requiem for a Fading World will take place on 3 August followed by Ukrainian concert pianist Daria Golovchenko on 17 August. Then on 7 September, comedian Kieran Hodgson presents his show Big in Scotland to finish up the festival.

Festival director Bev Adams said:

*"This year's theme of 'FLOW' is about our location in the stunning Pennine landscape, and presenting international, national, regional talent, plus an extensive community engagement programme at venues and outdoor spaces throughout the valley. It is also about the flow of ideas and people, and the hospitality of Holme Valley residents. We want our festival to be diverse, representative and accessible to everyone and have British Sign Language interpretation throughout the Big Weekend and a dedicated access liaison to assist with any access requirements throughout the Festival."*

The annual event, a firm favourite on the Yorkshire festival scene, takes almost a year of preparation and would not be possible without the generous support of funders - Arts Council

England, Arts for Impact, Creative Minds, Holme Valley Parish Council and One Community, with donations from individuals and local businesses, Longley Farm, Stotts Coach Travel and Unity Yard. It is also made possible thanks to the scores of volunteers and local organisations who help to run the events and welcome people during festival weekend.

Holmfirth Arts Festival takes place from 12 June - 7 September 2024. The full lineup of events can be found on the Holmfirth Arts Festival website:

<https://www.holmfirthartsfestival.co.uk/what-s-on>

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**Notes to Editors:**

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Hi-res images are available upon request.

**Relevant links -**

<https://www.holmfirthartsfestival.co.uk/what-s-on>

**About Holmfirth Arts Festival:**

Holmfirth Arts Festival envisions an extraordinary creative future for the Holme Valley by producing life enhancing events, inspired by the landscape, for everyone to participate in and enjoy.

Nestled in the Holme Valley, surrounded by the glorious Pennine Hills of West Yorkshire, Holmfirth Arts Festival celebrates creativity in the landscape by:

- Commissioning new work and supporting diverse artists
- Inspiring all communities to engage with the arts and their heritage
- Caring for the environment
- Connecting locally, regionally and internationally

The Festival has an extensive community engagement programme, with the main festival weekend in June and then a programme of events from July to September in rural venues and outdoor spaces across the Holme Valley.

Holmfirth Arts & Music Ltd was formed in 2007, becoming incorporated in March 2010. The company's major project is the annual Holmfirth Arts Festival (HAF).