

What is different about the Sidmouth Folk Festival this year?

This year, due to the Covid pandemic, we are running a Celebration of the Sidmouth Folk Festival. This is a far smaller event than a normal Sidmouth Folk Festival and we will only be using outdoor spaces at the Blackmore Gardens and the Ham and currently no indoor spaces.

For this year only there are no season tickets to purchase, just event tickets for the evening concerts we are holding in Blackmore Gardens. All other events we are providing within Blackmore Gardens and the Ham are free with donations to collectors encouraged.

All paid for events are taking place in the open air within Blackmore Gardens. For Blackmore Gardens please note:

- you will need to bring your own portable seating, rug, be prepared to stand or sit on the grass;
- there will be designated areas for the placement of seats in order to ensure good sightlines for all;
- after the end of the afternoon entertainment you may be asked to fully vacate the concert arena whilst we prepare for the evening concert;
- for the evening shows we will not be able to allow picnics or pop-up tents within the concert arena.

Please follow the instructions and guidance of Festival stewards at all times.

We will be running a Covid-Safe event following all appropriate procedures relevant to us at the time.

The current allocation of tickets is limited and, whilst we hope to be in the position to release more at a later date, we are currently being cautious over what will be permissible within Covid legislation. Please sign up to our Festival Mailing List so that you can be notified automatically when more tickets are released. Please see the website for further ticket information.

For this year only there is no Festival Car Park and we advise using the parking facilities at either the Cricket Club or the Rugby Club.

We have only been able to offer camping to a very small number as we have had to use an alternative camping site. **THERE ARE NO FURTHER CAMPING SPACES AVAILABLE** and if you were fortunate enough to be able to pre-book camping with us you will have been sent the details separately.

We are not operating a Festival Bus service this year.

The Festival Box Office this year will be located within Blackmore Gardens opening at 12noon on Wednesday 28 July.

2020 Rolled Over Tickets

If you rolled over any ticket from 2020 to this year these will automatically be rolled over to 2022. You don't need to do anything and you will receive a new ticket confirmation email in the coming weeks. Please bear with us whilst we process these. However, we appreciate that this might not be suitable for everyone and we have contacted all rolled over ticket holders with details of how to obtain a refund on any rolled over ticket.

What if I have access issues?

If you are disabled or have mobility issues please direct all your access related enquiries to 'access@sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk'. Please note that free Personal Assistant tickets are bookable via the website. These are collection only and the appropriate evidence of entitlement (see the ticket page for details) will need to be produced when collecting from the Blackmore Gardens Box Office.

Where does the Festival get its income and what happens to it?

Normally approximately 70% of the festival's income comes from ticket income. The balance is made up of trading and catering income, craft and music fair, merchandising, grants, sponsorship, collections, programme adverts etc.

However, this year and last year are very different and we are very grateful for the financial assistance of the Arts Council England/DCMS' Cultural Recovery Fund, the EDDC Discretionary Grant Fund and the many donors and pledgers who have supported us during these difficult times.

Any surpluses achieved are invested in the festival. No dividends are paid to the company directors.

What are fringe festival events and who runs them?

Fringe festival events are part of The Sidmouth Folk Festival experience, complementing the main festival but not organised by it so Sidmouth Folk Festival is not responsible for it. Collections at these venues are an important part of the festival's income and the venues are active supporters of the festival.

For 2021 we are not yet sure who will be running Fringe events.

"Sidmouth Fringe Sessions" is not part of The Sidmouth Folk Festival.

What about the Esplanade?

East Devon District Council control trading on the Esplanade and benefit from the income generated. The Festival negotiated larger dedicated performance spaces in 2016 in order to preserve the atmosphere generated by informal performance and programmed dance displays.

How can I identify which of businesses around the town actually support the festival?

Many of the town shops and businesses support the festival through sponsorship and advertising. These businesses display a Sponsor or Business Supporter poster in their windows and so are easily identified as supporters. They really appreciate your trade. Please do support them as well as Official Festival Traders displaying the Festival Trader poster on our sites such as Peacock Lawn and Blackmore Gardens.

Please note however, that there are many stalls and trading areas that spring up during festival week taking advantage of the opportunity the festival creates. These have no connection to the festival, are not our responsibility and contribute nothing to the festival. They also take trade away from businesses that support the festival. Some areas including the Masonic Hall and the Seafront may look very much part of the Festival but aren't!

We ask our audience to help the Festival by spending with our sponsors, advertisers and official traders. Thanks for your support.

How is the festival organised and who runs it?

The Sidmouth Folk Festival is organised by Sidmouth FolkWeek Productions Ltd which is a non-distributing trading company. There are two Company Directors John Braithwaite and John Heydon, neither of whom are paid for their work for the festival. Three other members of the festival team, Alan Bearman Music, JR Event Services and Knight Time Music are contracted for their roles in Artistic and Marketing, Event Management and General Management respectively. Colin Trussell and Mike Norris are also part of the festival team as advisors. There is also a Development Board working on new ideas for the future of the festival. The members are Charlotte Rich-Griffin, Cat Shearer, Elion Budden, Heather Moss, Gemma Khawaja, Sarah Coxson, Anna Braithwaite, Chris Campbell, Charlotte Dover, Florence Bearman and Rosie Hood.

Are dogs allowed?

Please note that we have had a policy of no dogs allowed within festival venues, except for assistance dogs, for a long time and it is contained within the published Terms & Conditions. Whilst it may have not been strictly held in force for Blackmore Gardens previously, for 2021 please be aware that the way the festival is using the Blackmore Gardens is changing and that there will be noticeable differences from how things have operated before. We apologise for any inconvenience or upset that this may cause.