Cullercoats Festival Newsletter November 2024

Welcome to our first major newsletter for the Cullercoats festival. We hope to our plans for the next few months and the Festival leading up to 14 June 2025! There's quite a lot to report, so get yourself a hot drink of your choice and settle in a comfy chair!

The Festival Date is 14th June 2025
There will be events leading up to the date as well as on the day itself.
Our theme last year was Putting Cullercoats on the Map, and this year it is more about Cullercoats in its Context and Outreach to our neighbours.

Fundraising & events update

Our events have been a great success so far, with strong support from our Partners. In September and October the total raised net after expenses was £905.04. Our thanks to Sue and Yvonne for the hard work they put in to make this happen.

- **Bonkers Quiz Night**, Crescent Club: 26 Sep.
- **The Crazy Magic Show** on 28 Sep at Watch House
- **Halloween Adult event** on 31 Oct at the Crescent Club
- **Halloween Family Party**:on 1 Nov: Watch House: 6-8.30 pm . Special thanks to Anna for her invaluable contribution to this occasion.
- **Fashion Show with Marlow**: was on 7 Nov:at the Crescent Club. (Raised over £360)





Events coming up

- **Nutty Professor Fun with Science**:

Saturday 23 November | Cullercoats Watch House | 1.30 - 3.30 pm | £5 per child | Email myevents2025@gmail.com to reserve your ticket.

- **Introduction to Book Folding Workshop (for adults)**

Saturday 30th November | 10 am - 1 pm | Cullercoats Watch House | £10 per person or £13 to include mulled wine
Email cullerfest@gmail.com to reserve your tickets. Pay on the day. There will be a raffle also for the Watch House, who are our much appreciated venue partners.

- **Miggins Fiddle and Harry Gallagher** Friday 10th January | Cullercoats Watch House | £10 or donation
  (The performers are generously donating their time, and the venue the space - thank you very much.)

Funding news

We have made two applications for grants so far. One has been unsuccessful, and the other is pending. A team is meeting to formulate more bids. If anyone has any ideas for grant-makers or funders we could approach, please let Nickey know.

Cullercoats Festival NoticeBoard



The Cullercoats Crescent Club has very generously offered to host a noticeboard specifically for Festival notices and news. Take a look next time you're in! Copies of the newsletter will be available from the NoticeBoard as well as information about events coming up. Thank you so much to the Crescent Club.

Children, Family and Youth Strand

We welcomed Denize to the Steering group to work on children's events, particularly on the Festival Day, so that we can have an improved Children's Hub, having had some people let us down in June 2024. Denize will work with Sue and Yvonne who have already arranged some very well received family events in the fundraising strand.

We look forward to involving more schools in the coming year in community events, building on the fantastic involvement in the summer of Cullercoats Primary School. And also of course, to take part on the day itself - 14th June 2025.

Youth Strand

We've had a meeting with Stacey, the local police liaison officer, and others involved in working with young people, to discuss how to engage young people in decision making and coming up with potential ideas for the run up to the festival/on the day. (Ideally these ideas might help to target anti-social behaviour in the area, through co-ordinating with the police and others). This is something to consider specifically for funding bids and we are working some ideas up into bids.

Music Strand



We are very lucky to have Maurice and Marina from our music partners Phoenix Folk, jazz musician Keith and classical musician Bradley to work together on a music programme, as well as Andrea on the Choirs side.

The Music subgroup have already started discussing some events.

- Harry Gallagher and Miggins Fiddle Fundraiser 10/1/25 (see above)
- Friday evening Ceilidh 13/6/25 - Ticketed event managed by Phoenix Folk who cover venue hire and receive the takings. As was so successful in June 2024
- Festival Day 14/6/25 Saturday afternoon - Informal gathering to play tune and dance, free, managed by Phoenix Folk.
- Saturday evening 14/6/25 Phoenix Chamber Folk Ensemble concert.
  Ticketed event managed by Phoenix Folk Ltd. All proceeds to St Georges Church.

Pre-Festival they are working on a programme of workshops and performances: this may include a callout to “lapsed” musicians and a choir and workshop event with Mouths of the Tyne Community Choir, in early 2025.

Poetry Strand plus Calligraphy & associated Workshops

Like music, poetry events may be fundraisers with tickets sold. Performances may be poetry, music or both. They are looking at a number of potential venues on the fringes of Cullercoats for single events leading up to the Festival to include libraries, bookshops, community spaces and others.

Potential events not yet confirmed include:

- **Calligraphy Workshop - Tim Sokell**
  A workshop is planned (numbers 12 - 14) max for early next year (date to be confirmed). The theme will be around The Water’s Edge.
- **Haiku themed workshop**

Dog Show: Cullercoats Canine Capers

A new strand for the coming year, the Canine Capers are being organised by David Taylor, an experienced dog trainer, and Sue Moore. We are currently discussing the best venue with the Council. The Festival will donate a cup and the events will be supported by local businesses involved in Dog/Pet Care, who will have stalls.

There will be two core events:
Pre-Festival: May (11 to 3)
Pre-booked Trick training workshops (Spectators welcome)
Fastest recall competition
Assortment of games and stalls
On the Festival Day, 14 June (11-3)
Pre-booked Trick training workshops (Spectators welcome)
Fastest recall competition.
Dog show 1-3 finishing with prize giving, e.g.,

- Cutest dog
- Best matching pair
- Best trick
- Oldest dog
- Shortest legs
- Assortment of games and stalls.



Partnerships

We are very grateful to all our supporters and partners, many of whom are incredibly generous. We fully acknowledge our Partners as supportive of the Festival and we aim to also support their efforts in their own community objectives. These include:

- The Watch House
- The Crescent Club
- The various other venues
- The Cullercoats Collective
- Creatives, including those on our steering group and working on our strands (special thanks)
- Library
- Phoenix Folk

Cullercoats Festival has always been community led and community driven, and works as a collaborative network. We'd like to ensure we encourage the best cooperative practices for community engagement.

Website

The website at cullercoatsfestival.org (also accessible at cullercoatsfestival.com) is being revamped. The idea is that the website will drive traffic to the Cullercoats Festival social media platforms as well as be a showcase for the Festival's Partnerships through its use of images and information (past & present).
Here is some of the content we hope to make available. If you have any other ideas, please let us know.

- Calendar of events
- Fundraising news and how to donate
- Partnerships and thank yous
- About the Cullercoats Festival (last year's story and plans for this year: emphasis on community)
- Steering Group and Strand details
- Specific projects if they are funded independently
- Digital Story Map (which is ongoing) and the Cullercoats Tapestry / Textile Map with its display calendar
- 2024 Photo Gallery - highlights on front page (changing regularly) linking to full gallery
- 2024 Impact Report and feedback
- Blog - regularly updated news, events and photos

Social Media & Marketing

Do you know anyone who might help us with this as a volunteer?
Social media channels work together with the website.
Facebook is used to advertise events and thank supporters.

Next Steering Group Meeting

First Monday of every month.
Monday 2nd December 6 - 7 pm at Crescent Club.
See you there!

Contact us cullercoatsfestival@gmail.com **Website** www.cullercoatsfestival.org