Cullercoats Festival Newsletter April 2026

Don't forget to SAVE THE DATE for our free family and community Festival on

Saturday 13 June 2026

The theme is **Communities Together.**



Charity Concert | Songscape: A Love Letter to the North East Coast

Tickets are still available! Pay as you feel.

Over 60 singers from more than 40 choirs singing a brand-new arrangement of sea songs, traditional songs and shanties linked by specially written pieces from our Musical Director Penny Kempson. All accompanied by Tim Hone on the St George's organ. This will be very special!

Saturday 18th April | St George's Church | 6.30 pm

Tickets available on the door – PAY AS YOU FEEL as a donation
In aid of St George's Church & the Cullercoats Festival

Please do what you can to promote this – it's for a very good cause.

Projects

App@Cullercoats Festival A group of keen students from Tyne Met College are in the middle of making a digital trail for participants to follow around Cullercoats. This will cover the events on the day – but also have an element of scavenger hunt / quiz! Looks like fun! Thanks to the **High Sheriff's Fund** for a grant to support this project with some amazing young people.

CommunARTies Together: Several art groups are working on art to display on the seafront railings on the day – a bit more sophisticated than just bunting! Get in touch if you'd like to contribute some art.



Dance Project - Mini Congress

Our Dance strand offers free tasters for everyone, all day on 13 June, at Cullercoats Methodist Church. There is yoga to complement (8 am on the beach plus children's sessions at the school!) and pop-up dance demos and interactive sessions on the seafront.

A massive thank you to **the Sir James Knott Trust** for their support in the form of a grant. This enables us to involve a wider range of local and international styles such as: Ballroom, Belly, Blues, Break, Highland, Irish, Kizomba, Salsa, Street, Tango and maybe even a paid performance. More details will follow.

Many thanks also to the **National Education Union** who have given us a small grant to support the Festival. Also, thanks to the **Sarah Morgan Foundation** www.sarahmorganfoundation.org for the award of a grant to allow us to offer the Choirs Together workshop free to singers. St George's have generously provided their beautiful church for the Choirs event: donations to maintain it are welcome!



The Cullercoats Play: every Wednesday 6 pm

Come along and help create a brand-new play for Cullercoats with our Playwright and Poet Peter Mortimer. These workshops are FREE and all budding writers/actors are welcome. It will result in a performance at this year's Cullercoats Festival on June 13th 2026. Looking for someone to play Winslow Homer? Could be you?

Wednesdays 6-8 pm
Sea View Room - Crescent Club
You should try to as many as possible of the 8 workshops and be available on the Festival day 13th June. These workshops are aimed at adults.

Contact us on cullerfest@gmail.com or just turn up on Wednesdays.

Masks

Make a mask for the Festival to wear or display on the day!

Dates of workshops and stalls

Drop in and make a mask or For adults, families and accompanied children – or pick up a mask pack to make your own and bring back on Festival Day.

Tuesday 5th May | Whitley Bay Library | 1.30-5 pm

Saturday 9th May | North Shields Library | 9am-1.00 pm | Information stall

Saturday 16th May | Newcastle Building Society, Whitley Bay | 9.30-11.30 am

Saturday 23rd May | North Shields Library | 9am-1.00pm

Saturday 30th May | Cullercoats Library | 9.30am-12.30pm

Display at Cullercoats Library from May-June



There will also be opportunities on the day – Saturday 13th June – to make masks, then we'll all come together wearing or holding our masks, on the front at 2 pm, with prizes for the children.

Are you a business with premises? Can you host a Mask for our Mask Trail? If so, please contact us cullerfest@gmail.com

Seeking Volunteers and Sponsors

We are always welcoming to volunteers – whether to support us on the day, to join our Steering Group or to help out with the many different planning jobs for our popup events, fundraisers, or the main Festival. Even if you can just store equipment!

Be a stop on our Mask Trail – or indeed, there are a number of opportunities for businesses, organisations or individuals to sponsor the Festival. Please ask for a Sponsor Pack if you might be interested in this, or pass on the details to anyone who might!

Just get in touch

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www.cullercoatsfestival.org

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