Cullercoats Festival

Impact Report 2026

The 2026 Festival – Communities Together

Cullercoats Festival, in its third year, took as its theme a key aim of the Festival: bringing "Communities Together". The weather was fair, if windy, and a good turnout meant that venues were at capacity all day. Indoor and outdoor activities were concentrated in venues around the Bay and in the village. A varied programme of participatory and audience events were offered, from craft workshops and stalls to art, theatre, music and poetry. Our Dance Together strand was enhanced and included dance taster classes indoors and on the seafront as well as performances.

The Festival celebrated and involved Cullercoats and North Tyneside's people and businesses, and showcased local and regional culture and leisure opportunities, lifelong learning and experiential activities. It was co-created by volunteers and community groups, local businesses, charities, schools, churches, organisations and residents.

This year, we are grateful to our guest Ray Laidlaw, to Joanne Wishart Artist, our sponsor, and to our partner venues, including the Cullercoats Crescent Club, to the many performers and facilitators who volunteered time and resources, and to Cullercoats Primary School Parents Association who joined in to hold their Fair as part of the day.

In a world of diminishing resources the Festival has managed, through the strength of its partnerships, to meet its objectives, and this year's work stands us in good stead to develop the Festival for the future. The Festival can focus on its key areas of strengths, including music and song, dance, spoken word, participation and discovery.

As a newish small community-run Festival, we should congratulate ourselves on punching well above our weight in making partnerships, engaging local people and producing successful projects.



Over 5000 visitors on the day with venues at capacity.



Contact Us

Website: www.cullercoatsfestival.com

Email: cullercoatsfestival@gmail.com

Facebook: Cullercoats Festival

Instagram: cullercoatsfestival

Thanks to our Sponsors and Grant awarders

joanne wishart

Community Foundation North East

SIR JAMES KNOTT TRUST

national education union

COMMUNITY FUND

Choirs Together

Songscape: A Love Letter to the North East Coast

In a one-day workshop on April 18th the amazing Penny Kempson directed 50+ singers from over 15 choirs to learn and perform her arrangement of traditional songs and new pieces in the inspiring St George's Church. We were lucky enough to have Tim Hone accompany on the organ. Thanks to St George's for this wonderful opportunity.

Cullercoats Adventure Trail App

Students from Tyne Met College Learning Development Department wrote a **Cullercoats Adventure Trail** using the Actionbound app. It's available now to download for a fun tour of the village! Thanks to Katy, colleagues & students.

Thanks to the High Sheriff's Fund for supporting this project.



Funds raised for good causes

£70+ for WaterAid UK incl. by The Bay Artists

£402 for St George's Church Cullercoats by Phoenix Folk Ltd.

£435+ for Women Perfect Vision by Momma Denim

£800+ for Cullercoats RNLI including from JLM Travel - Cullercoats raffle

£2300+ for the Cullercoats Watch House

Local supporters including:

Bay Artists Beaches and Cream Sea You There Bay Games

CBK Adventures Emma Solomon Photography Fire Service

Cullercoats Deli Radio Northumberland Creative Space NE

North Tyneside Council Newcastle Building Society Shore Yoga

Cullercoats Creatives & stallholders Dove Marine Laboratory

Primary School Parents' Association Cullercoats Watch House

Engagement with and by local businesses and retail increased. 25 took part in the Mask Trail: others stocked programmes & flyers

Thank you to our volunteers

CommunARTies Together

Co-ordinated by the Bay Artists

CommunARTies Together was an invitation to local artists' groups/classes to come together and display their artwork on the railings of the seafront, underpass and park in Cullercoats for Cullercoats Festival day. The groups were: Bay Artists, Beach Artists, Quarry Art School, St Hilda's Art group and the Methodist Church Art Group. Thanks to Sue and Laily.

Masks Community Project

Masks have always brought communities together to celebrate: anyone can make and wear one. We held 7 community workshops in libraries in North Shields, Whitley Bay, Wallsend and Cullercoats.

200 mask packs were also given out.

There were 30 mask hosts on the pre-festival Mask Trail around Cullercoats and Whitley Bay.




Photo: Tony Stevens



Dance Together

We gained £1500 funding from Sir James Knott Trust to enhance our Dance Offering. We were able to build on previous years to involve more dancers and have more opportunities for both classes and performance.

We were able to involve more young dancers this year. Our dance showcase included a cha cha from DANCE DISTRACTION, Irish dance by Nancy from Kelly Hendry School Of Dance, Maureen Slater School Of Dance - Slaters Stars Tots (Slaters came in their 50th anniversary year – congratulations!), Tango from Tango on Tyne and Scottish Highland from the Whistler School of Dance. The Showcase had a capacity crowd (400-500).

Our Dance Supremo Mary also worked with a group of Year 2 pupils from the local school in a dance for the Cullercoats Play. We doubled the number attending the taster sessions (including Salsa, Tango, Capoeira, Ceilidh dance, Ballet, Tap and Swing) in our main dance venue at Cullercoats Methodist Church (up to 200), plus a lot more dancers involved in outdoor tasters. Being able to involve more people helped us raise the profile of the Festival among the local dance community as well as interest local residents in dance. *(Photos: Phil Currell & Steve Murray)*







Music

Bay Uke The Creels North Tyneside Steelband
Phoenix Chamber Folk Ensemble Miggins Fiddle
Spanish City Rollers Mouths of the Tyne Choir
Mariners and Marras Watch House Shanty Crew
Hoodoo Blues Cullercoats Primary School Choir



Poetry & Storytelling

Harry Gallagher, poet-in-residence
Dawn and Maureen and friends
Pauline Plummer
Storytelling with Martin Manasse



The Cullercoats Play

Over 8 weeks, a group of locals met together with local playwright and publisher Peter Mortimer to workshop ideas for a drama about Cullercoats and write the play. The play shone a spotlight on Cullercoats' past, present and future and included Northumbrian Pipes and the much loved song "Cullercoats Bay".

We met two Cullercoats fishwives, school children danced, Winslow Homer returned to discuss with his muse, Maggie, the changes since the time he painted Cullercoats, and stories were told of the faerie caves and the Watch House mouse.



Sports, wellbeing and crafts

Yoga on the beach & at the School Sound Bath
Martial Arts Tasters Masks Workshop
Cullercoats Primary School Fair & Children's Hub
SUP and paddleboard discounts Board Games
Artisan handmade fair Traders' Market



Yoga on the beach at 8 am with Shore Yoga

North Tyneside Steelband



Sheerlight Photography (above and right)



13 venues in 2026

Burns School of Blackbelts 2
Cullercoats Crescent Club
Cullercoats Library
Cullercoats Methodist Church
Cullercoats Primary School
Cullercoats Watch House
Dove Marine Laboratory
The Smugglers at the Queen's Head, Cullercoats
St George's Church
St George's Church Hall
The brae and beach at Cullercoats Bay
The Adamson Fountain on the seafront
The Fishermen's Mission, Cullercoats

Feedback

Fun, friendly and fantastic!

Very enjoyable can't wait to go to the next one!

Dawn Flutterbuys
15h ·
Thank you to everyone who came along to support us today at Cullercoats Festival. With performances from wonderful writers and friends. We had a great event and received lots of laughter and lovely feedback.

Momma Denim
1h ·
What a lovely way to spend a Saturday morning . Thank you **Cullercoats Festival** for the invite and a big thank you to all my sewers and Ruby for all her amazing help - Total now stands at £3200 !!!!!! For @womensperfectvision amazing thank you



It was a wonderful day helped by the weather. well done to all involved!

Nancy danced her legs off and loved it. She got lots of compliments and some requests about joining Irish dance which is a win! Performer

It was really nice having more visual presence outdoors to add to the festival feeling eg the art on the railings outside the watch house and the bands on the bay.

ShoutAbout Local - Tynemouth & Wh...
20h ·
Some of the artwork on display, with a pretty impressive backdrop.



DANCE DISTRACTION
Sue Rowley · 3h ·
THANK YOU Dancers for coming out today, we were BLOWN away with the numbers.

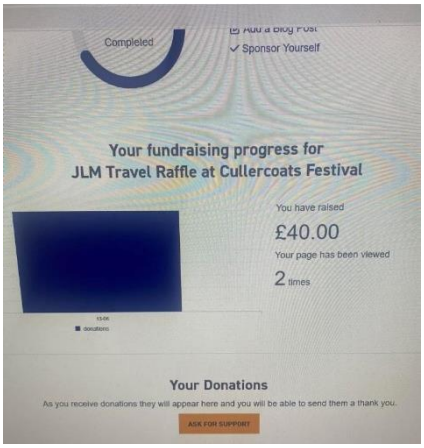


Harry Gallagher

Harry Gallagher
9h ·
Cullercoats Festival today!

Morning has arrived
in t-shirt and sunglasses,
it's smiling and waving
at the lads and lasses
who are gathering themselves
at Cullercoats Bay.
Get yerselves up and join 'em -
we start at 10.30 today.

JLM Travel - Cullercoats
50m ·
Thank you to all and the £40 has now been donated!



Cullercoats Watch House
Just now ·

💙 THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING WATCH HOUSE VOLUNTEERS 💙

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped raise an incredible £2,325 for the future of the Watch House.

Whether you gave your time serving, baking, preparing food, welcoming visitors, or helping behind the scenes, every contribution made a difference.

Our fantastic volunteers:
Joyce J, Liz, Pat M, Josie, Gill, Simon, Lorna, Christine, Frank and Maureen Bell.

Our wonderful bakers:
Brian (our pie man!), Joyce W, Peter Kendal, Barbara and Elsie.

Helping with both preparation and the event itself:
Mick, Pam, Tess, Pat W, Cath, Yvonne, Ollie, Alison T, and John.

And last but certainly not least, a special thank you to Sandie, one of our regular Monday visitors, who was a tremendous help at Fish Quay.

Your generosity, hard work and community spirit continue to make the Watch House such a special place. Every pound raised helps secure the future of this important local heritage building for generations to come.

Dance with Jo is at **Cullercoats Bay**.
11m ·

What a lovely day we had at Cullercoats Festival 💃🏌️

It was so nice to spend the day teaching, dancing with CannìSalsa, meeting new people and bringing a little bit of our Whitley Bay salsa joy to festival-goers.

A special thank you to everyone who came along to the workshops, and especially to those who bravely joined us for the outdoor pop-up Rueda by the sea 😊

Days like this really remind me how lucky we are to have such a wonderful dance community.

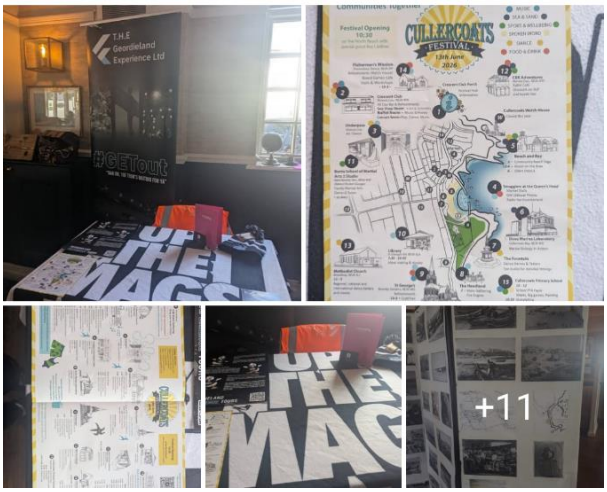
Thank you to everyone who danced with us, cheered us on, or stopped to watch.

We can't wait to do it all again next year 💃🏌️

Sparky Buddy is with **Geordie Lass** in **Cullercoats**.
22h ·

Lindisfarne hero Ray Laidlaw opening the show this morning!!!! This is MEGA. Every year I always attended the **Cullercoats Festival 2026** however this year is extra special as I got the opportunity to be part of it !! Huge thanks to **Kelvin Samuel Bowes** and **The Smugglers at the Queens Head, Cullercoats**. Should be a epic day kicking off from 10:30am. Come down and check it out !!

T.H.E Geordieland Experience



The festival was absolutely amazing and I think the best one yet. So much to do and beautifully organised..congratulations Helen and all the volunteers and very ta performers who have put in SO much effort over the past few months. Hope you're having a great chilled day today.

Cullercoats Crescent Club is with **Cullercoats Festival**.
52m ·

What a fantastic day at the Cullercoats Festival 2026! ☀️🎉

The club was buzzing from start to finish, with plenty of activities, entertainment, great company, and a wonderful community atmosphere enjoyed by all who attended.

A huge thank you must go to our Steward and the entire team at Cullercoats Crescent Club for their hard work, dedication, and commitment throughout the day. Events like this simply wouldn't be possible without the effort that goes on behind the scenes, and your hard work is truly appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who came along and helped make the day such a success. We're already looking forward to next year!

And finally.....Thank you to **Cullercoats Festival** for making this yearly event possible.

Keith Newman
28m ·

Lovely day volunteering with **Radio Northumberland** at **Cullercoats Festival** today - lots of interviews which will be aired next week.





Cullercoats Shanty Crew
Colin Bowman · 19m ·

A few memories from the Festival performance.





Spanish City Rollers
1h ·

Great to be back at **Cullercoats Festival** 🎉

A huge well done to everyone involved in m... more



Penny Blackburn
18h ·

Fab time today with **Jen Wilson** at the Cullercoats Festival 😄
First I collected a certificate on behalf of my students for the great work they've done with the quiz app project, with clues and photos guiding you all around Cullercoats (the quiz trail is staying available so you can do this at a later date if you fancy giving it a go)
Then we heard poetry and music from **Harry Gallagher** and Miggins Fiddle, took a walk round all the craft markets, had delicious home made cake and a nosey round Dove Marine Lab.
Spanish City Rollers (featuring **Kate Verrall**) got us dancing in the sunshine, as did the North Tyneside Steel Band 🌞
A brilliant community day ❤️

Bay Uke
Bill Ormond · 10h ·

Bay Uke entertaining the masses at Cullercoats festival.



I Love North Shields
Lisa Young · 18h ·

What a lovely day so far at the Cullercoats festival. Had a nice walk and met some great people on their stalls in the Church Hall near St George's Church, listening to the dulcet tones of the Mouth of the Tyne Community Choir, the amazing talent of the North Tyneside Steelband, enjoying the energy with the Dance Mini - Congress with Modern Jive and Ballroom at the fountain and Cullercoats Play that was in the concert room in the Cullercoats club.
Unfortunately the room was at full capacity so I couldn't get in to see what it was about, but clearly very popular!
Still plenty going on all day so get yourselves down and get amongst it!!

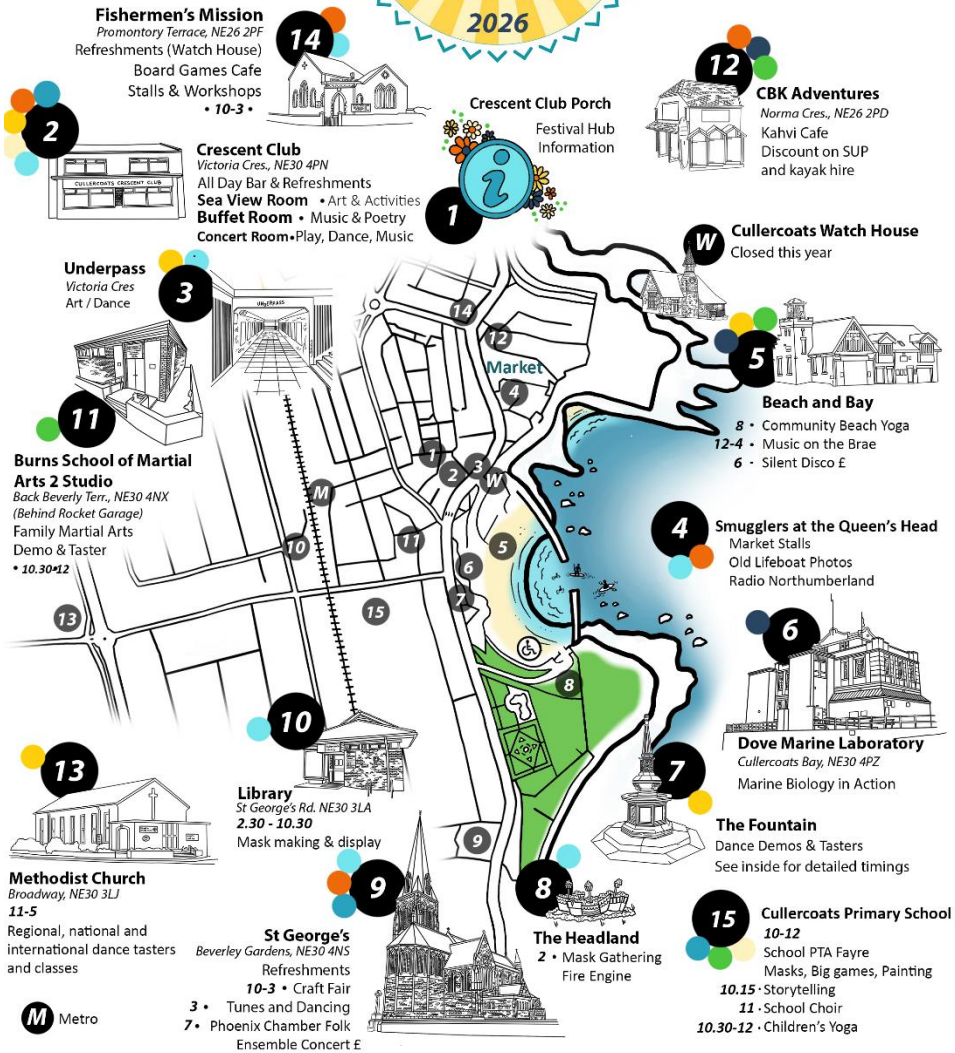
"Communities Together"

CULLERCOATS FESTIVAL

13th June 2026

Festival Opening 10:30
on the North Beach with special guest Ray Laidlaw

- ART & CRAFT
- MUSIC
- SEA & SAND
- SPORT & WELLBEING
- SPOKEN WORD
- DANCE
- FOOD & DRINK



Fishermen's Mission
Promontory Terrace, NE26 2PF
Refreshments (Watch House)
Board Games Cafe
Stalls & Workshops
• 10-3 •

Crescent Club
Victoria Cres., NE30 4PN
All Day Bar & Refreshments
Sea View Room • Art & Activities
Buffet Room • Music & Poetry
Concert Room • Play, Dance, Music

Crescent Club Porch
Festival Hub
Information

CBK Adventures
Norma Cres., NE26 2PD
Kahvi Cafe
Discount on SUP
and kayak hire

Cullercoats Watch House
Closed this year

Underpass
Victoria Cres
Art / Dance

Beach and Bay
8 • Community Beach Yoga
12-4 • Music on the Brae
6 • Silent Disco £

Burns School of Martial Arts 2 Studio
Back Beverly Terr., NE30 4NX
(Behind Rocket Garage)
Family Martial Arts
Demo & Taster
• 10.30•12

Smugglers at the Queen's Head
Market Stalls
Old Lifeboat Photos
Radio Northumberland

Dove Marine Laboratory
Cullercoats Bay, NE30 4PZ
Marine Biology in Action

Library
St George's Rd. NE30 3LA
2.30 - 10.30
Mask making & display

Methodist Church
Broadway, NE30 3LJ
11-5
Regional, national and international dance tasters and classes

The Fountain
Dance Demos & Tasters
See inside for detailed timings

St George's
Beverley Gardens, NE30 4NS
Refreshments
10-3 • Craft Fair
3 • Tunes and Dancing
7 • Phoenix Chamber Folk Ensemble Concert £

The Headland
2 • Mask Gathering
Fire Engine

Cullercoats Primary School
10-12
School PTA Fayre
Masks, Big games, Painting
10.15 · Storytelling
11 · School Choir
10.30-12 · Children's Yoga

Ⓜ Metro

Our 2026 theme is "Communities Together" so let's thank our many communities...

Thanks

Many thanks to our venues

Burns School of Black Belts 2
Cullercoats Crescent Club
Cullercoats Library
Cullercoats Methodist Church
Cullercoats Primary School
Dove Marine Laboratory
The Fishermen's Mission
St George's Church
The Smugglers at the Queen's Head

Thanks to our supporters

Cullercoats Creatives
North Tyneside Librarians
Emma Solomon Photography
Harry Gallagher, Festival poet
CBK Adventures
Jill Cowans
Katy Hoare & her students
Shore Yoga
The Watch House Trustees & Volunteers
Tom Wilson & colleagues at North Tyneside Council
Special thanks to our guest Ray Laidlaw

Festival Pop-up Events

Festival Pop-up events happen throughout the year. Get in touch if you'd like to work with us.

Choirs Together: Songscape: a Love Letter to the North-East Coast.

In a one-day workshop on 18th April 2026, the amazing Penny Kempson arranged traditional regional songs and wrote new pieces to create a wonderful Songscape, sung in St George's Church by 50+ singers from over 14 choirs and accompanied on the organ by Tim Hone. Check out the videos on our YouTube channel and website. See the video at 4 pm in the Crescent Club.

Supported by the Sarah Morgan Foundation
www.sarahmorganfoundation.org

The Cullercoats Play

Written by a local group led by playwright Peter Mortimer, the play reflects on Cullercoats' past, present and future
12 noon in The Crescent Club.

Thank you to our sponsors and funders

national education union

joanne wishart

Thank you to the **Sir James Knott Trust** for funding our Dance strand this year.

CommunARTies Together

Local artists' groups/classes together display their art-work on the railings along the seafront.

Masks
This year's arts project. We've been making masks in libraries and you can follow our Mask Trail from 24 May - 13 June

Navigate the Festival site with our On The Day Quiz App

Students from Tyne Met College have been writing an app to help you navigate around the Festival. Thanks to the High Sheriff's Fund for a grant supporting this. Download our Festival Map on ActionBound now!

Festival Photo Competition
Submit photos of the day on our app, or by email.
Full details on our website.
Thanks to Emma Solomon Photography

www.cullercoatsfestival.org

CULLERCOATS FESTIVAL

13th June 2026

8 The Headland
2:00 Mask Gathering
Bring your masks! Prizes!

EVENTS FREE UNLESS MARKED £
More info and changes
www.cullercoatsfestival.com

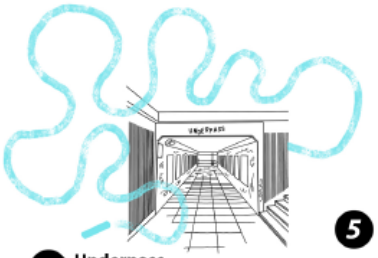
Friday 12th June
Cullercoats Festival Ceilidh with Miggins Fiddle Ceilidh band at St George's Hall (BYOB)
6pm £ Family ceilidh
8pm £ Ceilidh for everyone
Tickets: www.phoenixfolk.co.uk

Festival Opening 10:30
North Side, Cullercoats Bay
with special guest Ray Laidlaw

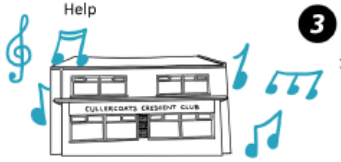
Navigate the Festival site with our Quiz App



1 Cullercoats Crescent Club Porch
Festival Hub
Information
Help



3 Underpass
Victoria Cres
10:00-3:00 Art
4:00 Urban Street Dance



2 Crescent Club
Victoria Cres., NE30 4PN

SeaView Room
10:00-3:00 Bay Artists, art exhibition "Photo Booth" & Portrait Drawing
3:30 Storytelling for grown-ups

Concert Room
12:00 The Cullercoats Play
1:00 Dance Showcase (see separate listing for running order)
3:00 Mariners and Marras
The Watch House Shanty Crew
4:00 Video of Songscape concert

Buffet Room
10.45 Post-opening thanks & awards
11:00 Miggins Fiddle / Harry Gallagher
12:30 Mouths of the Tyne Choir
2:30 Bay Uke
3:30 Maureen and Dawn & friends (poetry and comedy)
4:30 Pauline Plummer
5:00 The Creels
5:30 **Festival Close & Thanks**
6:00 The Golden Years Tribute Disco



4 Smugglers at the Queen's Head
Front St, NE30 4QBL
10:30-2:30
Vintage Lifeboat Photo Exhibition
Radio Northumberland
Market stalls

Market
Field behind Queen's Head
10:00-3:00
Trader Stalls
Community Stalls



Swim in the sea at your own risk, find safety information about wild swimming at
rnli.org/safety/choose-your-activity/open-water-swimming



5 Beach and Bay
8:00 Community Beach Yoga with Shore Yoga (South side)
9:00 Big Dip (Swim at your own risk) (South side)
6:00 Silent Disco from Groove with Melanie £
booking essential

Music on the Brae
12:00 North Tyneside Steelband
1:00 Spanish City Rollers
2:00 North Tyneside Steelband
3:00 Spanish City Rollers



6 Dove Marine Laboratory
Cullercoats Bay, NE30 4PZ
12:00-3:00
Spotlight on Marine Research

Leave only footprints.
Bin your litter.
The Festival have arranged extra bins and collections throughout the day.



7 The Fountain

Dance Mini-Congress
look for the dancer symbol
10:30-12:30 Modern Jive and Ballroom
12:30-1:30 Scottish Highland
3:00 Fun Family Exercise
3:45-4:00 Salsa Rueda

Seafront Railings
CommunARTies Together
artwork all along the railings



9 St George's
1 Beverley Gardens, NE30 4NS
10:00-3:00 Cullercoats Creatives Artisan Handmade Market
in the Church Hall
3:00 Tunes with Phoenix Folk
in the Vicarage Garden
Phoenix Chamber Folk
7:00 Ensemble concert
in the Church

For late changes to the programme see our website, social media and info in the Festival Hub.



10 Library
16 St George's Rd, NE30 3LA
10:30-2:30 Mask display
Mask making



11 Burns School of Martial Arts 2 Studio
Back Beverly Terr., NE30 4NX (Behind Rocket Garage)
10.30-12:00 Family Martial Arts Demo & Taster Drop-in



12 CBK Adventures
1 Norma Cres., NE26 2PD
Kahvi cafe
Kayak and SUP discount hire on the day
Quote CULLERFEST10
Under 18s must be accompanied on water by parent / legal guardian at all times. Card payment only.



13 Cullercoats Methodist Church
Broadway, NE30 3LJ

Dance Mini-Congress
look for the dancer symbol
Free taster workshops
All levels welcome
Children must be accompanied

Major Hall
11:00 Capoeira
12:00 Cuban Salsa
1:00 Salsa Rueda
2:00 HooDoo Blues
3:00 Argentine Tango
4:00 **Social Dance** (may include mini milonga)

Minor Hall
11:00 Tap
12:00 Capoeira with berimbao
1:00 Ceilidh Steps
2:00 Ballet
3:00 Egyptian Belly



14 Fishermen's Mission
13 Promontory Terrace, NE26 2PF
10:00-3:00 Games Cafe
Refreshments by the Watch House Volunteers
Community & charity stalls
11:00 Masks Workshop with Mel
3:00 Sound Bath with Alison

15 Cullercoats Primary School
10:00-12:00 School PTA Fayre
Masks, Big games, Painting
10:15 Storytelling
11:00 School Choir
10:30, 11:00, 11:30 Children's Yoga