

Faringdon Arts Festival 2010 – With a Tint of Lord Berners

Debrief 15th July 2010 at The Portwell Angel

Present: Nick Elwell, Sam Prince, Sheila Donovan, Jenny Stenhouse, Lesley Owers, Jane Haynes

Good feedback has been received from many people.

Programme

This has been well received, comments include that it was well put together and professionally done and it was delivered to homes well in advance of the events. Sheila has agreed to design the 2011 programme. Nick asked for the front page to be done as soon as possible. Possible designs could include Pink Pigeons and the Folly Tower

Theme

Having a theme is a good idea and should be looked at again for the 2011 festival. It gives people who don't want to listen to the music a chance to get involved in the festival. The theme for 2011 is to be decided.

Events at All Saints Church

The choirs were excellent and well attended. Although the St James Singers and the Berners Soiree on Friday evening meant that numbers were down. It was felt that two big events at the same time split the audience. Due to lack of manpower there were no interval drinks available on Friday evening. The Flower Festival in the church was lovely and Joy will be asked to do this again for 2011, it was suggested that local groups could be asked to do their own arrangement as in previous years this would reduce the costs.

Stage

It was generally felt that the stage was in a good position that is inclusive for all of the town centre businesses. The stage was good but expensive. There were various problems with the cabling and electricians. It was not possible to access the power from the Old Town Hall as the cables would need to go overhead. Al Cane has offered to decorate the stage next year!!The generator was a last minute solution, but worked well. Peter Kinch will probably lend a generator for 2011. **Someone will be required to take responsibility for power for 2011.** Jane & Sam to investigate.

Advertising

There is a need to advertise changes to the programme more widely and not just online. More posters are needed throughout the town. Sam suggested an Information Point that would be announced in the programme where festival goers can get up to date information. The online presence was very good. **Some one is required to make sure that posters and information is widely distributed.** It was suggested that the CITC could have an information point under the Old Town Hall where they could sell their goods, festival CD's and provide information. Jane to ask Sally if this is possible.

Ocelot magazine – there should have been a listing of events in July edition but this did not happen Nick will investigate.

Ads for bands and other acts for 2011 festival need to be done now. Sheila will advertise in the What's On and Folly and Jane will arrange for this to go on the local websites.

There was no media coverage at all this year and this must be followed up. **Press Officer required**

Banners and large posters are needed; the A3 posters are not big enough to go on the outskirts of the town. Matt from Majo offered banner sites this year and it was hoped that he will do this again in 2011

Health & Safety

Jenny and Lesley offered to deal with this for the 2011 festival. Good support was received from Gof Smith and the First Responders. Mark Wade gathered together a group of friends to be marshals on Friday evening and should be thanked. It was decided that Rotary would be given a second chance to provide marshalling and security for the 2011 festival. Nick will write to the TV police to find out why there was no cover at all on Friday evening, even though they were notified both locally and through Oxford in plenty of time.

Traffic Control

John Morton did a great job with this and he will be asked if he will do the same for 2011. It was suggested that traffic lights are not necessary with Swan lane and Coach Lane being made one-way. It was agreed that we should close the whole town centre for the 2011 festival as per the Festive Faringdon event. Lesley will find out if there would be extra/any cost involved in doing this. Another suggestion was that the AA should be contacted to make sure that the road closures are advertised on their route finder.

Authors and Poets

The London Street Book Society will be approached to organise authors and poets. Back Room Poets have agreed to visit again for 2011. Sheila suggested that organisers could visit the Kennington Festival to search for local authors.

Faringdon Fringe

Excellent events for young people. Dan Langley-Smith and his crew are to be congratulated. It was suggested that the climbing wall could be an attraction for next year's Fringe. The Youth Centre opening was well attended.

Music

It was felt that there was a good choice of music for all this year and Sheila agreed to organise bands for 2011. It was good to see different bands this year and Sheila will start looking for new acts for 2011. An MC is needed for 2011 it was suggested that this should be someone from Faringdon – possibly a woman? Peter Wentworth was suggested to open and close the Market Place events.

Corn Exchange Events

Some great acts in the Corn Exchange this year. The jazz band was very good and the afternoon events went down well with older members of the community. It was suggested that this kind of event should be advertised to care homes and retirement homes.

Photographic Competition

This year saw a good number of entries; some things will be changed for the 2011 Festival. Jenny will run this again with a different theme. It was felt that the photographs need more room but also there was a good community feel about the competition and there was a good mix of different styles and abilities

Market Stalls

The Italian Market was well received but it was felt to be unlikely that they would visit again. They did not take the amount of money that they were expecting. If this is possible that villages and local groups could be given the opportunity to have stalls or we could look for specialist festival traders. It was felt that the food for sale was good and the Red Lion and the Viceroy did particularly well.

Signage and Venues

More signs will be needed next year and we will need a **Signage Co-ordinator** to do this. Lesley will look at the current stock and the cost of new signs if needed. Lesley said that following the refurbishment of the Corn Exchange there will be several tables that will no longer be needed; she intends to store these at the Pump Rooms so that they can be brought out for future events. It was suggested that bunting in the shape of pigeons could be made with the help of local schools and groups, making it unique to Faringdon. More investigation is needed.

Possible contacts/ events for 2011

Faringdon Armature Dramatics Society) possible plays and event in week leading up to or following
Faringdon Singers)
Comedians
Back Room Poets
Street Artists - Jenny and Lesley will look at this
Sealed Knot
Talent Oxford
Camp site
Kite making/flying