





Nearly 86,000 people engaged with Holmfirth Arts Festival in 2022.


Over 7 months Holmfirth Arts Festival (HAF) brought high quality arts and culture to the Holme Valley. The eclectic mix, which included comedy, theatre and music events, visual art commissions, street theatre, storytelling walks, an atmospheric lantern trail and a range of opportunities to get creative, enhanced the lives of audiences, participants and the artists involved.

“ So many opportunities to do things and join things – much appreciated! ”

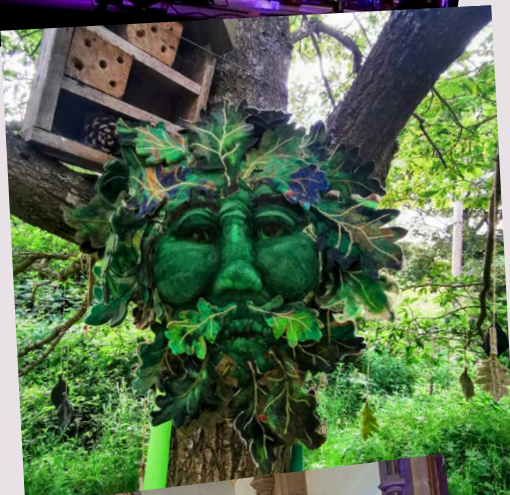
 Over 30 different performances and events.

 Over 8,700 people came to watch and participate.

 92% thought the quality was very good or excellent.

 98% want to come again!

“ Holmfirth Arts Festival was a place of genuine creative engagement with its audiences. Transforming the small town into a vibrant cultural hub, which catered for audiences of all backgrounds and provided a rich variety of arts activity and performances. ”



Pictured from top to bottom:

CastAway by Highly Sprung, 19 June

Arun Ghosh Quartet, 22 April

Art in the Landscape 17-26 June

Clouds Harp Quartet, 5 August

Events




Festival Weekend – 18th to 19th June

Saturday was a celebration of community creativity and participation showcasing local talent from young, aspiring and more established performers.

“ Really unique and fabulous idea, stretching the bounds of outdoor arts. Loved the merging of nature and the arts - great use of the natural assets of Holmfirth.

“ The best thing is seeing your own children perform, seeing young people positively engaged.”

 31% of the audience were children* at the family friendly weekend *16 or under


Street Theatre Sunday brought together exuberant and engaging performances which inspired and amazed children and adults.

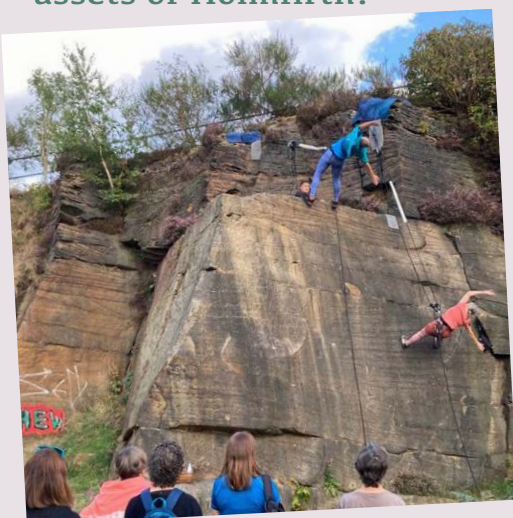
“ Love seeing street theatre and really appreciate having performances and thought provoking entertainment in our local town.”

“ Amazing! Just draw dropping & such a good message to give out. Every admiration for the guys & gals doing it.”

April to October – extended programme

The extended programme of events gave additional opportunities to engage this year. It meant that HAF could take more risks with less well known performers and venues and utilise volunteer time and skills more. This development proved hugely successful with sell-out ticketed events, attracting audience members from further afield and great crowds for free/pay as you feel events.

 Over 1,000 people enjoyed the extended programme of events.



Pictured from top to bottom:

Kinaara, 18 June

Leave the Light on for Me by Mind the Gap, England's leading learning disability performance and live arts company, 19 June

On Cliff Quarry aerial dance and new commission by Deborah Sanderson and Vince Virr, 20 August

Making a difference



“ This was amazing! Interactive for the children, important messages got across, seeds, great costumes and props – what’s not to love!

Feedback, Bee Cart by Pif Paf



“ We had a wonderful time. It was well planned. It was sensory as well accessible which is great for my daughter. Organisers very helpful. Weather was perfect!

Feedback, Accessible Walk, Magdale.

“ With excellent support, I could access the countryside... Live music, and comedy, en route was excellent.

Raising awareness of climate change

THE EARTH BENEATH OUR FEET, this years festival theme, was successful in instigating conversations and inspiring works with environmental themes.

- “ Mind the Gap, Pif Paf definitely spread the awareness and importance of climate change issues.
- “ Inspired conversation – we talked about big corporations and how they should do more.

Increasing access and diversity

The festival team are particularly proud that HAF22 has succeeded in increasing it’s reach and diversity. This has been achieved through a mindful choice of performers, by supporting access to the festival, (e.g. by providing transport and BSL interpretation) and through specially designed events, (such as the Accessible Walk aimed at people with a learning and or physical disability).

Pictured from top to bottom:

Bee Cart by Pif Paf, 19 June

The Bees Knees local musicians multiple performances including Accessible Activities Walk, 14 May, and (shown here) Magnum Walk 10 July





Supporting Creativity



“ The audiences are so engaged and supportive and make an atmosphere where you really feel valued. It makes an incredible difference to be in an environment where your work is so appreciated.

Artist Feedback, Festival Street Theatre

HAF have supported professional artists through employment and through commissioning new work which has produced some unique and magical pieces. Local people, amateur artists and musicians benefited from the experience of taking part.

-  359 days of work for artists
-  125* artists/professionals employed
-  7 new products and commissions
-  26 days of performances and exhibitions

“ Holmfirth Arts Festival is creating a platform for creativity and engagement.”

-  44 Participatory Sessions
-  900 participants

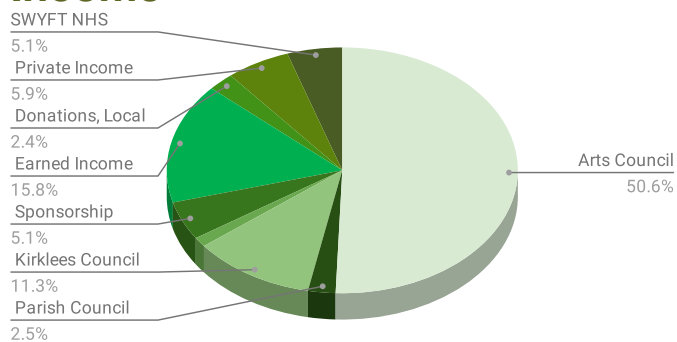
Pictured from top to bottom:

Earth Guardian Puppets by The Children's Art School, 18 June

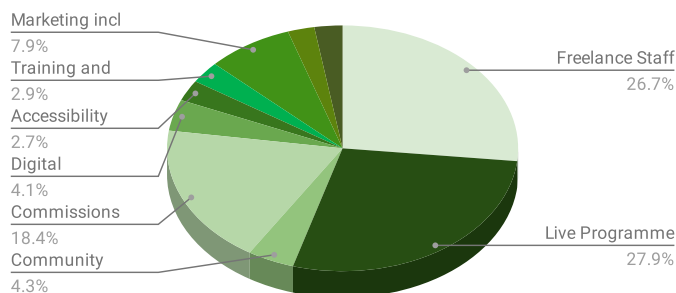
Tones of Holme by Asha Diveney-Clegg. Musical sculpture commissioned for the festival, 17-19 June, 15 October

Finances

Income



Expenditure



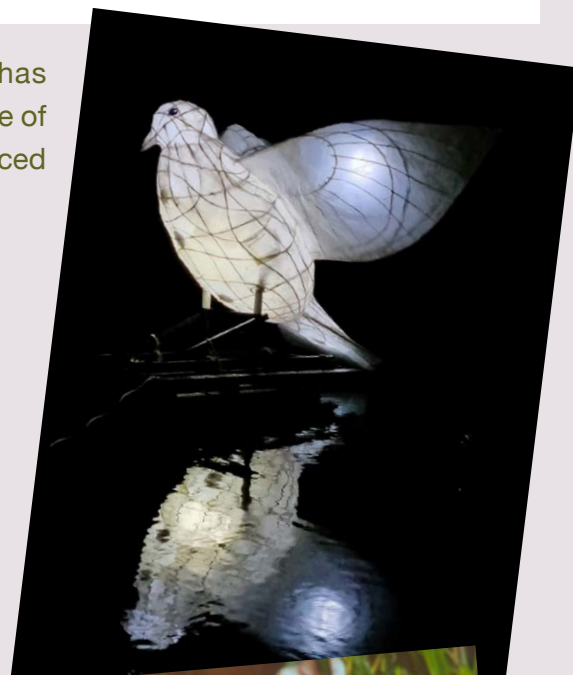
HAF’s innovative, participatory and collaborative approach has created a much appreciated engaging and accessible programme of quality performances and artworks. This years’ festival has enhanced the lives of the people of Holmfirth and beyond.

-  11% of attendees identified as having a disability at extended programme events, 9% at festival weekend.
-  65% of audience members are from Holmfirth or nearby.
-  95% of festival weekend attendees identified as white British, which is in line with the area demographic.
-  16% of audience members are from outside the Huddersfield postcode area.
-  The festival has supported the local economy, the weekend audience alone increased the spend on food and drink in Holmfirth by approximately £22,500.

“The best thing is the diversity.”

“Thanks for inviting us - we felt proud to be part of such a great programme”

“The volunteers are amazing. It’s fantastic that they give up their time to put this on for the community.”



Pictured:
Light Up Magdale by Satellite Arts, 15 October
Gary in Punderland by Gary Delany, 2 September

Holmfirth Arts Festival would like to thank their generous sponsors and funders:



This evaluation is based on the information gathered from 228 stakeholders via questionnaires and interviews, supplemented by the discussion and feedback at a HAF supporters meeting where initial evaluation findings were shared.