



holmfirth
arts festival

WELCOME TO HOLMFIRTH ARTS FESTIVAL



WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A TRUSTEE?

Holmfirth Arts Festival is looking to recruit new Trustees to join our Board of Directors to help oversee the strategic direction and governance of this charitable company. This is an exciting time to become involved with the festival as we enter our next three years of activities in Holmfirth and the Holme Valley.

ABOUT US

If you are not already familiar with us as a company, Holmfirth Arts & Music Ltd was formed in 2007, becoming incorporated in March 2010. The company's major project is the annual Holmfirth Arts Festival (HAF).

Holmfirth Arts Festival envisions an extraordinary creative future for the Holme Valley by creating life enhancing events, inspired by the landscape, for everyone to participate in and enjoy.

Nestled in the Holme Valley, surrounded by the glorious Pennine Hills of West Yorkshire, Holmfirth Arts Festival celebrates creativity in the landscape by:

- Commissioning new work and supporting diverse artists
- Inspiring all communities to engage with the arts and their heritage
- Caring for the environment
- Connecting locally, regionally and internationally

Our Values underpin how we work across all aspects of our organisation including programming and how we work with each other.

- CREATIVITY nurtured across all art forms
- CELEBRATING people and place
- CARING for each other and our environment
- CONNECTING people to each other and to the places they live

The Festival has an extensive community engagement programme, with the main festival weekend in June and then a programme of events from July to September in rural venues and outdoor spaces across the Holme Valley.



CURRENT POSITION



The Festival over the past two years has taken the themes of *'The Earth Beneath Our Feet'* and *'Forces of Nature'* to profile and celebrate the people and landscapes of the Holme Valley.

2024 will be the first year of a planned three year programme of activity around the theme of *'Flow'* inspired by the importance of the River Holme which flows through the Pennines (the backbone of England) and plays a fundamental role in the area's historical development, economic growth, and cultural identity.

'Flow' will:

- Celebrate the valley's passion and reputation for creativity, hospitality, environmental sustainability and its unique Pennine landscape (a Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI)).
- Raise awareness of the climate emergency.
- Celebrate diversity and the generosity of many Holme Valley residents in providing homes for Ukrainian refugees.
- Be accessible and inclusive.
- Commission and present new work by local and national artists.

Amongst the activities currently being explored and planned are:

- **Big Weekend:** free family friendly Festival in the streets of Holmfirth Town centre, preceded by an extensive community engagement programme.
- **Art in the Landscape:** a hillside art trail
- **Valley Voices**, profiling local talent in the park
- **Street Theatre Sunday**, featuring newly commissioned work plus installations, parade and walkabouts.
- **Steve Sykes Commission** for visual art inspired by the landscape.
- **Festival in Your Home** – an outreach project to people with disabilities in residential care homes.
- **Lantern Parade** and trail
- Plus a programme of ticketed rural concerts and guided walks within our landscape

Last year:

- Over 12,500 people came to watch and participate (Nearly 120,000 engaged through social media)
- 48 different performances and events
- 511 days of work for artists
- 304 artists/professionals employed
- 81 participatory sessions with 1,540 participants
- 53% of audience members were from Holmfirth area with 28% from outside the Huddersfield area
- 17% of the festival weekend audience members identified as D/deaf or disabled – nearly twice as many as the previous year
- 13% of festival weekend audience members identified as non white, a broader ethnic mix than the recorded Holmfirth population of 3.1%

TRUSTEE PROFILE

We would be interested in hearing from individuals in the Holme Valley or surrounding area who are/have:

- Actively or previously worked or been involved in the Arts / Heritage / Culture / Environmental sectors.
- Experience or understanding of effective community practice.
- Experience of fundraising for a third sector organisation, through trusts or foundations, sponsorship and philanthropy.
- Legal or financial experience and business planning.

The role and legal duties of a charity trustee is defined by law and regulated by the Charity Commission. Put simply they are:

- Ensuring the charity is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit.
- Complying with the charity's governing document and law.
- Acting in the charity's best interests.
- Managing the charity's resources responsibly.
- Acting with reasonable care and skill.
- Ensuring the charity is accountable.



The main responsibilities of a Trustee in fulfilling these duties are:

- Understanding, developing and fulfilling the charity's aims and objectives.
- Maintaining good governance.
- Attending and contributing to Company meetings and events as relevant.
- Supporting the Director and other contract staff and monitoring their performance.
- Acting as an ambassador for the charity and representing the Board's agreed position when speaking publicly on behalf of the charity.
- Ensuring the Board brings relevant skills, experience and knowledge appropriate for the Festival's needs; is diverse; and reflects the needs of the community it serves. Ensure the Board is refreshed regularly.
- Facilitate change and address conflict within the Board and the organisation.

All Trustees are also Festival Supporters (currently about 30 volunteers) who help organise and attend festival events.

We would like our board to have a variety of experiences, expertise and perspectives. We are looking for people who can challenge our current ways of working and share their experience with us to enable us to improve.

We appreciate that accessible and inclusive boards make better decisions and we would like our board to be representative of the communities we support. That is why we are actively seeking to recruit a diverse group of trustees. Of particular interest at the present time are new trustees that are under 50 years old or have one or more protected characteristics. Previous experience on a board is not necessary, training and support will be provided once in post.

TIME

COMMITMENT

Trustees normally meet about 8 or 9 times a year, usually in Holmfirth, for evening meetings that last two hours. Virtual attendance can also be accommodated.

As a Festival Supporter, time commitment is variable depending on availability and the requirements of different festival activities. The main Festival weekend in June is a particularly busy time.

It is important that all Trustees are available for occasional ad hoc discussions with the Festival Director and other stakeholders when necessary. Email, Whatsapp and phone are used to maintain contact between meetings. When possible, we restrict contact out of the usual working hours of Mon-Fri 9am – 5pm to support the work-life balance of people involved in our Festival, however, this may differ during Festival delivery.



TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

Trustees of Holmfirth Art and Music Ltd are appointed for up to 3 years and can be re-elected for a maximum further 3 years.

The role of a Trustee is a voluntary position, and no salary or fee will be paid.

All Trustees must declare any conflicts of interest where those interests impact a Trustee's duty to act solely in the interests of the charity.

ELIGIBILITY

The law places certain restrictions on becoming a charity trustee. For example, you cannot be under the age of 18, previously have been removed from trusteeship by a charity by a Court or the Charity Commission, disqualified under the Company Director's Disqualification Act 1986, or been convicted of an offence involving deception or dishonesty (unless the conviction is spent).

If you are in any doubt about your eligibility, visit the Charity Commission website at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/confirmation-of-charity-trustee-eligibility>



HOW TO APPLY

Please submit an expression of interest to Grant Lowe by email to grant@holmfirthartsfestival.co.uk and this should include;

- Your Name and Contact Details
- A CV, if you have one, or an outline of your previous professional and personal experience.
- Please tell us why you would like to become a trustee of Holmfirth Arts Festival and what you think you could bring to our board of trustees (max 250 words) or in a 2 minute video or sound recording.

Applications can be made at any time

We will arrange informal meetings with selected candidates for the role at a suitable time for the candidates. Following this you may be invited to shadow a board meeting before the invitation to take up the role is confirmed.

