

Creativity in the Landscape

12th to 14th & 28th June 2026

holmfirth
arts festival



FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

FLOW TOGETHER - Participatory programme from April onwards. **p4**

RIVER OF ART - Installation along the banks of the River Holme, 12th-14th June. **p4**

TOWNSHIPS IN FLOW - Parade including Mass Brass, Saturday 13th June 4.30-5pm, departs Methodist Church Gardens and returns to Holmside Gardens. **p4**

RIVER RHYTHMS - Opening party with Dr Pete's Salsa Band, Friday 12th June 7pm-9pm, The Box Office Bar. **p5**

EMERGING EDDIES - Grass roots performances and activities, Saturday 13th June 12noon to 4.30pm, Holmside Gardens and Methodist Church and Gardens. **p6, p7 & p8**

RISING CURRENTS - Street theatre and activities, Sunday 14th June 12noon-5pm, Holmside Gardens, Methodist Church and Gardens. **p9, p10 & p11**

FUNKY FLOW FAMILY FINALE - Closing Party with Happy Daggers Sunday 14th June 5.15pm-7.30pm, The Picturedrome. **p11**

NEW STREAMS - Emerging talent showcase Sunday 28th June 1.30pm-6pm, The Picturedrome. **p11**

Welcome

Welcome to the 2026 Holmfirth Arts Festival. This year we are celebrating the final year of our three-year theme 'Flow', embracing our local environment and the people within it. Our focus is on the new springs of local talent that are bubbling up in our vibrant valley, and we are profiling some of the creativity of some of our younger people. Look out for pop up performances and showcases during the festival. We will continue to celebrate the Graveship of Holme, which will be represented in this year's *Townships in Flow Parade*. Please come along to one of our free making events and become part of the parade yourself.

Our annual Big Free Weekend is also going to be an action-packed few days; with parties to both open and close the events. The highly popular *River of Art* will return to the banks of the River Holme for everyone to enjoy, a 'Mass Brass' ensemble will accompany the parade. There will be

traditional British and contemporary Brazilian music, Bhangra and French Breton dancing and songs from the Wooldale Warblers along with giant puppets, craft workshops, VR experiences, aerial circus spectacle and you might bump into some Nora Battys.

This is also Bev Adams, our Festival Director's final year and celebration. She has done a marvellous job leading the festival over the past eight years and has brought many exciting and memorable moments to Holmfirth during her tenure. She will be sorely missed by us all and will be remembered as the 'Queen of the Parade' having returned this popular historic event to the town.

Our Board of Trustees and patrons, Jessica Gunning and Kieran Hodgson, hope you all enjoy this year's event and will join us in participating in our broad range of free and *Pay as You Decide* activities.

Jan Ansell, *Chair Holmfirth Arts Festival*



Jan Ansell



Jessica Gunning



Kieran Hodgson



INSTALLATION/COMMISSION

River of Art

CURATED BY SARAH BRANSON

**Friday 12th June to Sunday 14th June
All Day**

River Holme Riverside

A community co-created art trail along the banks of the River Holme in Holmfirth, made by local schools and community groups working with local artists. Take a walk along the river in any direction from Crown Bottom to see how many artworks you can spot, and look out for the trail maps along the route so you can tick them all off.

For more information go to:
www.holmfirthartsfestival.co.uk/whatson



© Richard Asquith

FESTIVAL PARADE

Townships in Flow Parade

BY THE CHILDREN'S ART SCHOOL

Saturday 13th June

Gather at 4pm for 4.30pm start

Departs Methodist Church and ends at Holmside Gardens.

A joyful parade cascading through the town with colour, rhythm and community spirit to celebrate the valley and our shared sense of belonging - featuring the people of Holmfirth, Banda Na Rua, Mass Brass, Enchanted Woodland by Chicks on Sticks and the Roaming Noras by Urban Angels.



Roaming Noras

BY URBAN ANGELS

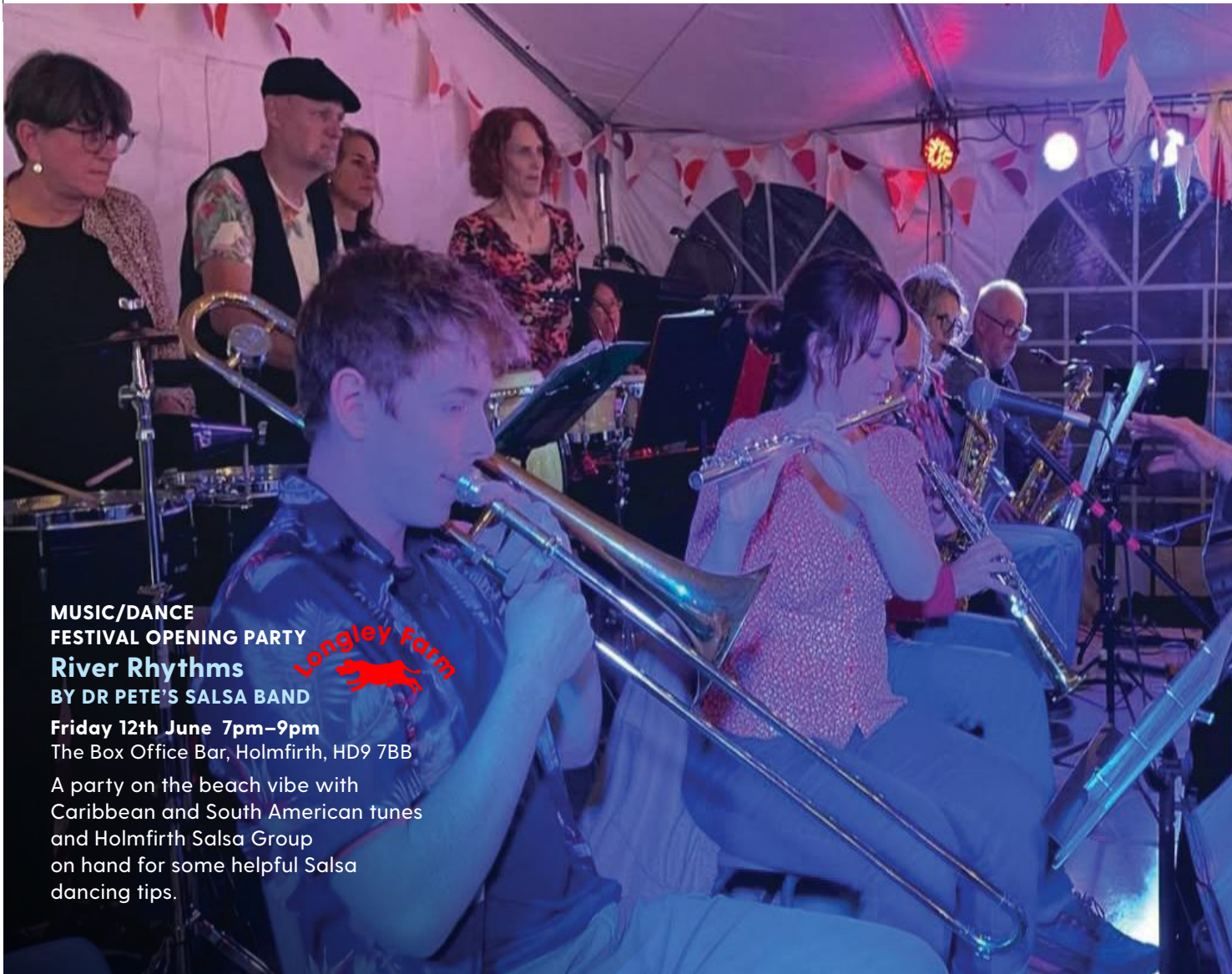
Mature women, acting immaturely and strutting their stuff. Come and release your inner Nora Batty. Fun rehearsals on Thursday 28th May, 4th and 11th June at Holmfirth Tech, 1.30-3pm. Performance in the Festival Parade from 4.30pm. Don't act your age... act your shoe size!

Mass Brass Collective

BY HD9 COMMUNITY MUSIC

Musicians of all ages, from complete beginners to seasoned players, have come together to rehearse, play, and celebrate our brass music heritage, filling the Townships in Flow parade with music, energy, and pride.





**MUSIC/DANCE
FESTIVAL OPENING PARTY**
River Rhythms
BY DR PETE'S SALSA BAND



Friday 12th June 7pm-9pm
The Box Office Bar, Holmfirth, HD9 7BB

A party on the beach vibe with Caribbean and South American tunes and Holmfirth Salsa Group on hand for some helpful Salsa dancing tips.



© Sean Doyle

ACTIVITY/ECO ARTS

**Arts and Crafts
WITH RIVER HOLME CONNECTIONS**

Saturday 13th June 12noon–4.30pm
Holmside Gardens, HD9 1AB

Get creative with river-inspired arts and crafts, and meet the fascinating invertebrates that play a vital role in keeping our water clean and healthy.

ACTIVITY/ARTS & CRAFTS

**Parade Making with the
CHILDREN'S ARTS SCHOOL**

Saturday 13th June 12noon–3pm
Holmside Gardens, HD9 1AB

It's not too late to join the parade. Drop in during the day to make something special to wear or carry through the streets. Parade gathers at 4pm at Methodist Church Gardens and departs at 4:30pm.



© Middle Ferris Photography

ACTIVITY/DANCE

**Bhangra Dancing
WITH HARDEEP SAHOTA**

**Saturday 13th June
12noon & 2.30pm**
Holmside Gardens, HD9 1AB
1.30pm
Holmfirth Parish Churchyard, HD9 1HA

A chance to bring your best moves to the colour, excitement and infectious energy of Bhangra dance and live dhol drumming. Celebrating the traditions of Panjab, Bhangra is a joyful expression of rhythm, movement and community and you're invited to take part.



© Gar Cook

THEATRE

**Enchanted Woodland
BY CHICKS ON STICKS**

**Saturday 13th June
12.15 & 3.30pm**
Walkabout departing Methodist Church Gardens, HD9 7EQ
4.30pm Parade

A captivating trio featuring a majestic stag, a playful bear and a lively drumming squirrel create a vibrant spectacle, sparking imagination and reminding us of the beauty and magic that exists in nature.

**For more information go to:
[www.holmfirthartsfestival.co.uk/
whatson](http://www.holmfirthartsfestival.co.uk/whatson)**

**All events during the Big Weekend
are supported by British Sign
Language interpretation**





MUSIC

Cafe Orchestra

Saturday 13th June 12.30pm
Holmside Gardens, HD9 1AB

Using traditional folk music instruments the Cafe Orchestra plays eclectic programmes of music from all around the world. With a repertoire ranging from Tarantella to Tango, Soul to Sparks and Monteverdi to Madness, there is something for everyone.



ACTIVITY/MUSIC/DANCE

Le Vendredi Danse

Saturday 13th June 1pm–2pm
Methodist Church, HD9 7EQ

Discover the joy of French Breton culture. Musicians can join a friendly practice from 1pm–2pm to explore traditional melodies. The afternoon continues at around 2pm with lively Breton dancing, led by expert instructors so everyone, beginners and experienced alike, can join in, learn, and enjoy the fun together.



MUSIC

The Bees Knees

Saturday 13th June 1.15pm
Holmside Gardens, HD9 1AB

An eclectic collection of traditional and contemporary tunes and songs from The Bees Knees:

Andy Burton (fiddle and accordion),
Eddie Armitage (fiddle and mandolin)
and Chris Deering (guitar, bass).

This afternoon's life-affirming set will feature special guest Noah Burton (Easy Stride Band) on percussion.

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MUSIC

Banda Na Rua

Saturday 13th June 2.30pm

Holmside Gardens, HD9 1AB

4.30pm Parade

A passionate blend of Brazilian beats with a modern British style, Banda Na Rua is a mass of percussion energy with a head-turning, foot-tapping sound that makes you want to dance.



MUSIC

Beaumont Music Academy

Saturday 13th June 3pm

Holmside Gardens, HD9 1AB

Ten talented students aged 9-16, who all love performing in concerts, competitions, school productions and charity events, perform solo with a selection of Musical Theatre and pop songs. Led by professional singer and singing teacher, Rhianydd Beaumont, this Huddersfield based singing school works with students who range in age from 7 to 80!



MUSIC

Wooldale Warblers

Saturday 13th June 3.45pm

Holmside Gardens, HD9 1AB

Led by musical director, local opera sensation Nicole Mills and accompanied by Jon Mills - the Wooldale Warblers perform an uplifting selection of popular songs. This is the Warblers' first public appearance who aim to harness the power of singing to spread a little joy and, hopefully, make the world a better place.

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ACTIVITY/VIRTUAL REALITY

VR Swings BY STUDIO GOGO

Sunday 14th June 12noon–4.30pm
Methodist Church Gardens, HD9 7EQ

Climb aboard a playground swing, don a VR headset, and take flight in one of four award-winning Leonardo da Vinci virtual flying machines! Choose to: flap and soar over cliffs; perform a psychedelic aerial ballet; shoot into orbit from a renaissance cannon; or bank, weave and glide across extraterrestrial landscapes.

ACTIVITY/ARTS & CRAFTS

Flow WITH SARAH BRANSON

Sunday 14th June 12noon–4pm
Holmside Gardens, HD9 1AB

Make some art inspired by River of Art to add to it or take home.

ACTIVITY/THEATRE/WRITING

Mixers and Shakers – A Cocktail of Words BY HOLMFIRTH WRITERS GROUP AND SRM THEATRE

**Sunday 14th June 12noon–12.45pm &
2.30–3.15pm performance,
1pm–2pm writing workshop**
Methodist Church, HD9 7EQ

A lively cocktail of original readings and entertaining performances. For those who would like to try their hand, there will be an informal 'Flow Writing' interactive writing workshop between 1pm and 2pm. Come along and create a river of words (no previous writing experience needed). Books by local writers will be on sale.

ACTIVITY/DANCE

Bhangra Dancing BY HARDEEP SAHOTA

**Sunday 14th June
12noon, 2pm & 4pm**
Holmside Gardens, HD9 1AB

A chance to bring your best moves to the colour, excitement and infectious energy of Bhangra dance and live dhol drumming.



THEATRE

Enchanted Woodland BY CHICKS ON STICKS

**Sunday 14th June
12.30pm, 2pm & 3.30pm**
Walkabout departing Methodist
Church Gardens, HD9 7EQ

A captivating trio featuring a majestic stag, a playful bear and a lively drumming squirrel create a vibrant spectacle, sparking imagination and reminding us of the beauty and magic that exists in nature.

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ACTIVITY

**My Villain Era:
The Workshop**

BY DARK HORSE THEATRE

Sunday 14th June 1pm & 3pm

Holmside Gardens, HD9 1AB

Step inside the making of our Student Ensemble's final show. Reinvent yourself. Raise your voice. Unleash your inner villain. Experiment with our loop pedal, an essential part of the My Villain Era show, and turn the sounds you create into your own villain soundtrack. Love performing? Curious about sound? Ready to try something new? This workshop is for you.



THEATRE

Gaia and Maia

**BY BEV ADAMS ARTS WITH
THINGUMAJIG AND KERITH OGDEN**

Sunday 14th June 1.30pm, 3pm & 4pm

Walkabout departing Methodist Church Gardens, HD9 7EQ

Through puppetry and playful storytelling, Gaia and Maia invite families to discover how small acts of care can make a big difference for the future of our shared planet.



THEATRE

**For the Love of Stuff
BY EARTHBOUND**

Sunday 14th June 2.30pm & 4.30pm

Holmside Gardens, HD9 1AB

Through movement, theatre and song, "For The Love of Stuff" tells a story of a fantastical future world where the stuff we own has become more important than what we feel. A story of redemption and hope, aiming to leave audiences moved, thrilled and inspired by its visual vibrancy, physicality and emotional breadth.

For more information go to:
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CLOSING PARTY

Funky Flow Family Finale WITH HAPPY DAGGERS

Sunday 14th June 5.15pm–7.30pm
The Picturedrome, HD9 7DA

End the festival weekend with a high-energy, family-friendly closing party led by Happy Dagers. Expect their funkier original tracks alongside an eclectic mix of disco essentials, left-field R&B classics and dance anthems, all expertly curated to set the dancefloor on fire.

For more information go to:
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MUSIC/EMERGING TALENT

New Streams WITH PATCHWORK MUSIC, HD9 COMMUNITY MUSIC, JAM FACTORY, HOLMFIRTH HIGH SCHOOL AND DEADWAX

**Sunday 28th
June 1.30pm–6pm**
The Picturedrome,
HD9 7DA

Discover the next wave of creative voices in this vibrant showcase of emerging artists from local high and music schools. Expect fresh ideas, bold performances and amazing talent topped off with the unique sound of local band, Deadwax, mixing UK hip-hop, dance and metal.

Supported by British Sign Language interpretation





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Holmfirth Arts Festival SINCE 2007, ONE OF YORKSHIRE'S BEST SMALL FESTIVALS

We envision an extraordinary creative future for the Holme Valley by producing life enhancing events, inspired by the landscape and presented in alternative spaces, 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

Fostering Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access

We nurture CREATIVITY, CELEBRATE people and place, CARE for each other and CONNECT people to each other and to the places they live. All our work is underpinned by Inclusion, Diversity, Equality and Access (IDEA)

Holmfirth Arts Festival is preceded by an extensive participatory programme which enables us to work with local people to bring their own creativity to our Festival.

THE FESTIVAL WOULDN'T HAPPEN WITHOUT...

The Core Team

Bev Adams: Festival Director

Josh Haslam: Festival Manager

Alison Bellamy: PR & Social Media

Jo Rose Brewerton: Access/Inclusion Liaison

Eva Taylor: Graphic Design

Dr Samuel McKay: Evaluator

John Coombes: Videographer

Stuart Robertshaw: Safety Manager

Board of Trustees and Supporters

Jan Ansell (Chair of Board), Helen Brook (Board), Kate Buchanan (Board/Company Secretary), Greta Bradley (Co-chair of Supporters), Sally Brown, Amanda Crowther, Rose Cuthbertson (Bookkeeper), Alison Deering, Chris Deering, Hilary Fletcher, Sandy Goler, Val Gunning (Board), Emily Haigh (Board), Beverley Haynes, Liz Heywood, Jenny Holmes, Roger Lancaster, Lubna Latif, Barbara Lawson, Helena Lyons (Board/Treasurer), Jane Madine, Jacob Mason-Dixon, Sarah Mason-Dixon (Board), Pam Masset (Board/Safeguarding Lead), Jill Martin, Victoria Partington, Elaine Park, Penny Peters, Angela Rosenfeld, Nicole Segar (Board), Lesley Sykes (Co-chair of Supporters), Deborah Sanderson, Jane Wass and Deb Wyles.

Our Patrons:

Jessica Gunning and Kieran Hodgson

A BIG THANK YOU!

Many people gift their time and talent to make this festival happen and we are indebted to every single one of you. Thanks to all who came to help after the programme went to print and apologies in advance if we missed anyone in this list.

Cllr Lawrence Baylin, Creative Kirklees, Amanda Crawshaw, Coopers Yard, Cllr Moses Crook, Margaret Dale, Jimmy Dickinson, Fair Trader, Alex Greenwell, Jessica Gunning, Kieran Hodgson, Holmfirth Cooperative, Holmfirth Library, Holmfirth Methodist Church, Holmfirth Parish Church, Holmepride Community in Action, Holme Valley Parish Council, Honley Business Community, Andy Leader, Longley Farm, Cllr Jane Rylah, Kerry Sykes/ Holmfirth Events, The Graveship of Holme and all the business and shops that display our programmes and posters.

THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS

Stotts Coaches, Orion Homes, Bike Shed Digital Media, Holme Valley Parish Council, Holme Valley Ward Councillors, SpaceHive/ Kirklees Council, One Community Foundation, The Graveship of Holme and Arts Council England.

GET INVOLVED...VOLUNTEER...

If you would like to get involved with our Festival as a volunteer we would love to hear from you. There are opportunities to join the friendly festival team of Supporters who help the Festival all year round. Whatever your availability and interests, we can offer you a rewarding and fun experience.

Email manager@holmfirthartsfestival.co.uk for more information or speak to one of our team at an event.

DONATE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN...

We work hard to raise funds to bring the best arts events and activities to the Holme Valley, all of which are free of charge this year. So please donate as much as you can in our collection buckets at events. To donate £10, TEXT HAF26 to 70191, or donate online at <https://easydonate.org/HAF26> or use QR Code shown here.



More information on our website www.holmfirthartsfestival.co.uk/supportus

ACCESS AND INCLUSION

Holmfirth Arts Festival aims to challenge discrimination and dismantle barriers to participation in the arts by ensuring that all

artists, contributors, audiences, and participants can access what they need to take part. We are committed to access and inclusion and have a designated member of staff to help with all your access and inclusion requirements.

Holmfirth has some narrow streets, steps and cobbles in places and it can be difficult for people with limited mobility to get around. Most of the venues for outdoor arts events are accessible by wheelchair. We are engaging a British sign language interpreter for many of the events (look out for the BSL symbol) and will have accessible viewing areas in each outdoor venue. The Nurture Tent in Methodist Church Gardens will be a safe, calming space for all including neurodiverse attendees to take a break from the hustle and bustle. Providing a comfortable ambience and soothing background music, it's the perfect spot to recharge, relax and regulate in a tranquil environment.

A Large Print version and a Word version of this programme are available on request.

Comprehensive access information, including a video of a walk around the town is available on our

website: <https://www.holmfirthartsfestival.co.uk/your-visit>. Or click on the QR Code below.



To discuss your access requirements, please email Jo at access@holmfirthartsfestival.co.uk

TRAVEL & PARKING

Please leave your car at home if you can and explore eco-friendly transport options like cycling, walking, or public transport to help protect our planet. The nearest train stations are Brockholes, Honley and Huddersfield. The Bus Station is central – a five minute walk to most town centre venues. It is just off Towngate with regular buses from across the Holme Valley, Wakefield, Huddersfield, Penistone and Barnsley. Stotts Coach Services are running free buses on Saturday 13th June on all the H1-H7 and 335 bus routes.

For more information go to www.wymetro.com/plan-a-journey.

If you do need to bring your car, Long Stay Parking is at Crown Bottom car park at HD9 3HW, which costs £3.40 for up to four hours or £6.90 for all day Monday to Sunday 8am-4pm*. Parking is free for Blue Badge holders.

A rolling road closure will be in place throughout the town to facilitate the



Leave the car at home and join us for **FREE** bus journeys on all Stotts HV&335 services on 13th June 2026

To celebrate Holmfirth Arts Festival weekend, Stotts Buses are providing free rides to and from Holmfirth!

This special offer is available on Stotts H1 to H7 services and the 335 service to and from Holmfirth on Saturday 13th June 2026 only. No ticket required.



parade between approximately 4.30pm and 5pm. *Correct at time of printing.

HOLMFIRTH TOWN CENTRE VENUES

1 Holmside Gardens

Station Road, HD9 1AB

Parking at Crown Bottom, steep ramped access, accessible toilets on Town Gate, The Old Bridge Hotel and the Co-op.



2 Methodist Church and Gardens

104 School St, HD9 7EQ

Parking at Crown Bottom, accessible toilet inside the church.

3 Holmfirth Parish Churchyard

Town Gate, HD9 1HA

Parking at Crown Bottom, steep ramped access, accessible toilets on Town Gate and The Old Bridge Hotel.

4 & 5 The Box Office Bar & The Picturedrome

Holmfirth, Market Walk, Holmfirth HD9 7DA

Level access from alley between Picturedrome and The Old Bridge Inn. Accessible toilet.



DONATE Every pound you donate goes towards bringing the best artists and arts activities to the Holme Valley.



For more information about how to support us go to: www.holmfirthartsfestival.co.uk/supportus.

To donate £10, TEXT HAF26 to 70191, or donate online at [https:// easydonate.org/HAF26](https://easydonate.org/HAF26)

Fundraising, payments and donations will be processed and administered by the National Funding Scheme (Charity No: 1149800), operating as DONATE. Texts will be charged at your standard network rate. For Terms & Conditions, see www.easydonate.org

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Products used in this programme are from sustainable sources. When the festival is over, please recycle, compost or repurpose.



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