

Appendix A - Review of Festivals and Events Activity 2023

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1. Context

The Festivals and Events Team have had a busy year organising, funding and delivering 13 events, overseeing permissions for 41 external events, 7 filming and 6 civic events. The extent of the work of the team includes – issuing funding programmes (Outdoor Events Fund & New Projects and Commissions Fund), monitoring progress in relation to the delivery of these 3rd party events, assessing applications and establishing funding agreements. Income is also generated and managed through the events that are produced in-house, via applications for event permissions and from film hires.

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2. Presentation of a Lamprey Pie - 27th April

The Coronation was marked with the traditional presentation of a Lamprey Pie to the monarch's representative, the Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire. This year the presentation had a real community feel. Partners involved were:

The Civic Trust – who provided the venue, the Folk of Gloucester.

The National Star – whose students served and presented the pie as well as making the pastry decorations to adorn the crust.

Cinderhill Farm who provided the pork and created and displayed the pie.

Gloucestershire Gateway Trust – who provided the vegetables for the pie.

Gloucester Feed the Hungry – who served the pie to people experiencing food poverty in the city.

In previous years Lampreys have been flown in from Canada, as they are now an endangered species in the UK. However, as this is not sustainable, we now bake a pork and vegetable pie based on an old Gloucestershire Pie recipe.

The 'lamprey' pie was presented to the Lord Lieutenant by the Mayor at the Folk of Gloucester, with an introduction from the Town Crier. The Lord Lieutenant was happy to be able to present the pie to Hash Norat from Gloucester Feed the Hungry who served pie to people in the city experiencing food poverty.

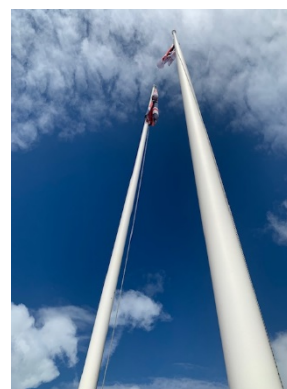


3. The Coronation of Charles III

The F&E team also arranged for coronation flags that were bought and hung from the catenary wires across the gate streets for 3 months, bringing colour and civic dressing to the city centre streets over the spring/summer.

4. Armed Forces Day - 24th June

The Armed Forces Day flag was raised at the North Warehouse in the presence of the Mayor, Lord Lieutenant, High Sheriff, Ceremonial Officers and Councillors. The Mayor's Chaplain, Rev Rachel Forrest read a prayer and the Mayor spoke to confirm the city's continuing support for our armed services. The Royal British Legion standard bearers and our City Marshall then led the dignitaries to the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum for the annual Armed Forces Day event.



5. Hi! Street Fest - Sat 1st July

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This was a new event for the city and involved a collaboration between the City Council, Emergency Exit Arts, High Street Action Zone and funding from Historic England. It was part of a national touring event taking place across 6 towns or cities – of which Gloucester was the 2nd place on the tour.

There were 280 community participants in the parades, 474 participants in the workshops, 142 volunteers involved with a 2year planning lead. The event took place across the Gate streets and Kings Square featuring performances outside St Mary De Crypt, The Cross, Shire Hall steps and Gloucester Cathedral grounds. There were two processions featuring giant puppets which paraded, creating moments across the city and saw an audience of 5000 attending.

6. PUBLIC - Ockham's Razor - 17th July

Following the success of the [2022 Kings Square Avant Garde](#) Project, Gloucester City Council commissioned Strike A Light to deliver a project to engage local people and animate Kings square. Incorporating acrobatics, parkour and dance they move through the architecture of the streets, lifting each other over and around walls, stairs, obstacles - dancing with the fabric of the world. Okham Razor worked across 8 weeks with 8 different schools and groups to create a bespoke piece performed by local Gloucester people that sat within the professional piece; a total of 201 people worked with the, 90 of them performing in the final piece in Kings Square. Approximately 800 people watched the piece.

Film of PUBLIC here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ax3RN6NtNPg>

7. 3 Choirs Festival Lunch - 22nd July

Despite some appalling weather, the civic parades from Gloucester Guildhall to the Cathedral and later, from Gloucester Cathedral to Blackfriars went very well. Unfortunately, the outdoor performances had to be cancelled due to the poor weather but the Cathedral service was a great start to the event.



The Civic Lunch in Blackfriars Priory was well attended by the Mayors, Sheriffs, Consorts and ceremonial officers of the 3 host cities and our near neighbours. The mayor welcomed them to a Gloucester reminiscent of Dr Fosters' Day and everyone enjoyed the stunning backdrop of Blackfriars Priory. Local catering company, *Hey Pesto* provided a delicious lunch.

8. Gloucester Goes Retro – 27th August

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Gloucester Goes Retro (www.gloucestergoesretro.com) was another success in 2023 with over 38,000 visitors identified in the City Centre, Kings Square and Gloucester Docks. Over 350 classic and vintage vehicles came along to provide the backbone of the event.

8 performers provided fun on the streets with hippies, break dancers, a wandering mechanic and some fabulous flapper girls interacting with visitors. 13 Stormtroopers also wandered the streets providing many photo opportunities.



Bringing in a Creative Producer to animate the Kings Square zone has allowed the area to develop into a thriving 80s/90s zone, providing lots of family fun. The Ghostbusters and ECTO-1, their fabulous car, were popular. Lots of fun activities, including hula hoops, badge making; a vintage fashion stall and music provided by Music Works ensured a fun family-friendly atmosphere all day.

Lots of opportunities to dress up kept everyone entertained and provided some great photo opportunities.



A live music stage with dancing and fabulous costumes added atmosphere to the Docks. Gloucester Swing Dance kept everyone moving, not even the summer showers stopped the fun. The Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum had a successful event which saw their military village attract a lot of attention. Additional support from the military proving that Gloucester Goes Retro is a destination of choice.

Retro on the Water, on the water space and on North Quay saw boat trips and vintage vessels for visitors to enjoy. This was a successful volunteer-led activity, supported by the Canal and River Trust, another partnership adding value to the event.

The event was equally funded by Gloucester City Council and Gloucester Business Improvement District with additional support from Gloucester Quays. It was project managed and delivered by the council Festival and Events team.

9. Tour of Britain – 9th September

The Tour of Britain's (men's) race returned to Gloucester and was a great success after its cancellation in 2022. Crowds gathered on Southgate Street for the finish in their 1000s. The Festivals and Events team worked with Gloucestershire County Council, Docks Management company and Gloucester Quays to programme a wide range of activities and music across The Docks where the official fan village was based – and the City Centre to create a vibrant atmosphere for visitors to the city.

10. Gloucester Day - 2nd September

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The Gloucester Day event this year was jointly organised by the town crier Alan Myatt and the Festivals and Events team at GCC. The Gloucester Day Parades were re-routed through Kings Square which allowed the event to expand and provided a great backdrop for the entertainment. The Mock Mayor ceremony welcomed Jon Eeles into the role.

Stalls lined the gate streets, and many community organisations took advantage of the opportunity to deliver their message to the many visitors on the day.

The 2 parades and stalls attracted an audience estimated at 2,000 over the day. The 'Costume for Gloucester' featured in the parade in its first public outing and was a very popular addition.

There has been interest shown in curating a multi-cultural programme of entertainment for Kings Square which would more accurately reflect Gloucester's current demographics.

11. Remembrance Sunday - 12th November

This annual civic event will incorporate the following elements:

- Morning memorial services at the 'old' and 'new' Gloucester Cemeteries
- Service of Remembrance at the Gloucester Park War memorial including wreath laying the 2-minute silence at 11am
- Military Parade through the City gate streets
- Memorial service for Royal Gloucestershire Hussars on Cathedral Green
- Afternoon Cathedral Service of Remembrance

12. Bright Nights Programme 2023

a) Gloucester Lantern Procession & Christmas Lights Switch On – Saturday 18 November

The annual Lantern Procession & Christmas Lights Switch On takes place this year on Saturday 18 November with some changes to the procession route and an incorporation of three community-led events. This year's theme is 'The 12 Days of Christmas', chosen by Meadowside Primary School. The Bright Nights programme is funded by Gloucester City Council and Gloucester BID.

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The lantern parade is a long running and popular event which attracts thousands of spectators to launch the Christmas season in the city. Working closely with our partners on this event; Gloucester BID, The Rotary Club, Gloucester Cathedral, Gloucestershire Music and the shopping centres, we are confident this will be a spectacular year to remember.

This year three community-led events have been incorporated into the programme including Bright Nights Lantern Parade, Tree of Light Ceremony and Gloucester Cathedral's illuminated Carol Concert, in addition to a free family programme in Kings Square throughout the afternoon.

The lantern procession features pupils from six Gloucester schools; Meadowside Primary School, The Altus School, Coney Hill Community Primary School, Field Court C of E Infant Academy, Dinglewell Junior School, and Kingsway Primary School, with around 30 children per school selected to take part.

Six Southwest-based artists have been engaged to run lantern-making workshops with the schools before the event and making six giant lanterns for the parade. Some of these workshops will be attended by the Mayor and Sheriff.

Three marching bands will appear in the parade: Gloster Gladiators Scout Band, a primary school brass band funded by Brass for England, and the Cheltenham Pipe Band representing the pipers piping.

The Gloucester community will be encouraged to take part by bringing lanterns made in a lantern workshop earlier that day in Eastgate Shopping Centre (funded by Gloucester BID).

Throughout the day, youth buskers will appear around town organised by Gloucestershire Music, to add vibrancy to the city centre with their festive music.



For the first time since its reopening, the parade route will include Kings Square. Happenings along the parade route include walkabout entertainment living snow globes and LED hula hooping, the Rotary's Tree of Light switch on, an aerialist display inside a huge inflated heart in Kings' Square, a Carol Concert at Gloucester Cathedral, as well as RSVP Bhangra band performing and food



and drink traders in Kings Square serving festive treats throughout the day.

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At the Rotary's Tree of Light switch-on ceremony there will be guests Father Christmas, the City's Mayor, Councillor Kathy Williams, the President of the Rotary Club of Gloucester, Chris Rawlins, and others, all hosted by BBC Radio Gloucestershire. First launched in 2011, the huge tree adorned with thousands of lights has raised £86,000 for the local people of Gloucester and for local charities alike.

b) Windows through time 16-26 October

High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) in Westgate Street have approached Bright Nights for the second year running to reinstall the commissioned windows by local artist Jack Wimperis.



Each window represents a different era and are colour-coordinated with the real windows on buildings highlighted in the same colour along the street. It was estimated that roughly 10,000 people visited in 2022 – figures are not yet known for 2023. The windows will be reinstated to the catenary wires with architectural features on the historic buildings illuminated each evening between 6-9pm. The timing of this was to coincide with 'Light Eternal' a light and sound installation in Gloucester Cathedral.

13. Swimming Gala at GL1 – 20-22 October 2023

During the transition period from Aspire to Freedom Leisure it was asked of the FEV team to produce an event management plan to permit a prearranged swimming gala to take place in GL1. The event was planned by Gloucester City Swim Club and the event management plan reviewed their event plan alongside the management of the building to be safely opened temporarily and ensured that a complete review of the staffing and emergency procedures were enacted in order to comply with insurance and safety compliant operations and procedures in the building. The event was a success with competitors from across the region taking part to a live-streamed audience.

14. Mayor's Christmas Party – 17 December

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Children from across Gloucestershire Schools were invited to attend a film-screening event with the Mayor and Sheriff of Gloucester in attendance at Gloucester Guildhall.

15. New Projects and Commissions Fund

- a. This fund of £30,000 is designed to endorse projects and enable applicants to leverage in income from other sources. Grants awarded are conditional on the project securing its expected income from other sources. The aim is to encourage new ambitious work to be created in Gloucester and develop capacity and skills in event production. The criteria include bringing national and international artists to the city, supporting local artists and producers, employment and engagement with local communities and businesses and training opportunities for young people.
- b. Two rounds for applications for this fund were scheduled for 2023. 10 applications were received and 5 were granted funding. A panel of employees from GCC and GCT made the decisions. The successful applicants were:

Round One: (March)

1. Canal & River Trust – Crossings:

Grant awarded: £5,820

Led by the Canal & River Trust, the project brought the interactive art installation Crossings by Luke Jerram into the centre of Gloucester Docks for people to experience throughout August 2023. Luke Jerram is a UK based artist whose work has been displayed internationally to high acclaim. Crossings consists of nine rowing boats that play audio stories from around the world of extraordinary journeys by boat. In choosing a story and rowing out into the water for 30 minutes participants are taken on an audio journey, transported to another life and circumstance. The action of rowing and the live sounds this action creates, blends with the recorded audio, to help create a truly engaging and immersive experience.

2. The Music Works – Kings' Square Live & Kings' Square Summer Jams

Grant awarded: £5,000 from NPCF, £5,000 from Kings' Square budget

The project aims were to help establish King's Square as a vibrant, creative area that draws in local people and workers, creating an exciting, young, diverse scene that also increases city centre footfall and spend. The project comprises two inter-linked elements:

1. Kings Square Live: this ran from the start of April until the end of September every Wednesday in Kings Square 3-6 pm. This coincided with schools finishing at 3pm and then work finishing at 5pm. The event activated the space making it more vibrant for passers-by and platformed young upcoming local artists giving them paid performance opportunities. The Music Works have been running Kings Square Live since September 2022.

2. Kings Square Summer Jams: The Music Works organised and delivered three "Jams" in the square between May and August 23. They programmed local, young musicians to perform throughout the day with a high-quality professional live band to do improv background music. There were also music workshops throughout the day.

The Music Works aim to work with over 100 young artists from Gloucestershire and prioritizes YP from challenging circumstances and those from marginalized backgrounds. They also worked to

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include DJ Collective in the summer jams – an inclusive collective of DJs with learning disabilities helping to bring greater representation to disabled people in music.

3. Strike A Light – Aakash Odedra Project

Grant awarded: £5,000

Aakash Odedra are a South Asian dance company who use the voice of British-Asian experience to tell new stories about modern life. They create boundary pushing and award-winning dance works, partnering with organisations such as the Royal Ballet and Sadler’s Wells. The grant funded the following delivery and outreach work in Gloucester:

- Aakash Odedra to complete a 10 week residency with Widden & Tredworth Primary schools working with 60 students for the term, using South Asian Kathak dance.
- They will devise a final end of term performance building upon their reasoning, devising and creative skills.
- There will be a matinee performance of Aakash Odedra’s show Little Murmur at the Guildhall.
- A CPD practitioner training session for Gloucestershire dancers.
- An Audio described public evening show.

Round 2: (August)

1. GL4 CIC – Collaborative Touring Network (CTN) Project

Grant awarded: £5,000

GL4 CIC brings high quality, accessible and affordable cultural experiences into the heart of Matson and works tirelessly to open up new possibilities for local people to enjoy and participate in creative activities that relate directly to their lives, inspire them, enhance their wellbeing, raise their aspirations and build community.

GL4 is part of the Collaborative Touring network, (CTN) and will be working in partnership with CTN on this activity. CTN is a growing collective of organisations that believe every community in every town deserves to experience life-affirming, soul-shaking, perspective-changing live performance.. The funding will cover participation and/or performance fees for local people, workshop delivery costs, travel and/or access costs.

2. Strike A Light – Kid Carpet & The Noisy Garden Centre

Grant awarded: £5,000

Strike A Light will work with Kid Carpet to present 2 shows Epic Fail (March 24) & The Noisy Garden Centre (Feb 24) supported by a ten week co-creation project in Tredworth Primary school (Jan - March 24).

Epic Fail is described as ‘Tiswas of Ted Talks’. In a ten week co-creation project, Kid Carpet will be joined in residence by a local facilitator. Together with the children they will explore failure through the lens of art and engineering. Together they will collaborate and use art, science, engineering, music, film and storytelling to design, create and present a ‘Supercharged Assembly’ on failure that will be performed in the school to fellow pupils and their families.

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16. The Festival and Events team have also supported, either with time, in kind or advice and support to the following and more:

- Pride in Gloucestershire
- Gloucester Rotary Club
- Gloucester Cathedral
- Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum
- Canal and River Trust
- Gloucester Quays
- Folk of Gloucester
- Kings Walk Shopping Centre
- The Music Works
- Strike a Light
- Gloucestershire County Council – for Tour of Britain
- Gloucester Civic Trust
- Gloucester Guildhall
- Blackfriars Priory
- University of Gloucestershire