

Performing Arts Panel Notes 17.05.16

Summary

From the meeting feedback was:

- People want to **preserve** the great range and quality of performance, particularly free events and drama performances. The consensus was that Frome's venues need to be preserved, particularly the Cheese and Grain
- People want to **see more** rehearsal spaces and performances both aimed at and produced by younger people.
- The biggest **issues** facing performers were attracting audiences, particularly those outside of Frome, and working more closely with other performers.
- With the help of the Council, performers would like to **improve** connections with local schools, spaces to promote events and coordinated advertising.

Recurring themes highlighted in red.

1. What do you want to preserve and see more of within the local performing arts scene?

Talent – can be eroded away in young people – losing faith, nay-sayers, bad habits etc. – 'I was encouraged by theatre people but not by school where the focus was on exams – would have liked more encouragement from role models'

Need to bring age groups together, perhaps through mentoring

Preserve live professional small-mid scale theatre in Frome

Frome festival continues to highlight local performers as well as bringing in touring theatre and other shows from beyond.

Ensure music continues as well as it is but more jazz - as it seems to be dwindling

Special theatre events or street performing arts festival

Preserve Frome Carnival and encourage more local, creative entries to show the diversity and talent of Frome

Participating arts – workshops and opportunities to dance, sing, play an instrument, perform and learn skills

Keep the poetry events going and do more e.g. a literature or classic poetry event

Storytelling

Combining the arts and collaboration between them

House concerts - when someone opens up their home and invites others into their living room to watch a performance by a musician/s. Also a chance to meet the performers and get them to sign their CD.

Free events

Pubs and small spaces

YPN

Dance

Acoustic clubs

Cinema – alternative uses as well

Pop up theatre at the market

Cheese and Grain – not locally focused, has a good range of external bands and promoters

Community choirs

Market stage

Frome Youth Choir

Am-Dram clubs and theatre

Frome symphony orchestra

Classical Young people singing

Music venues

Chamber concert coffee mornings

Pub events with a 'hat' passed around for the band

Late music, particularly at the Wheatsheaves

High standard and variety of performances – this is valued but is it taken for granted?

Is the performing arts scene becoming gentrified? – This could kill the music scene

Saturday morning music school

Cheese and Grain needs to be preserved

Edventure – new on the performing arts scene, offering young people an insight into a career in the arts

How to attract larger audiences to the venues – low cost and financially assisted places

Jackdaws – courses in classical music in Great Elm – could we bring this sort of thing into Frome

See more:

Intergenerational opportunities

Things for younger people

Live music

Opportunities for musicians to connect and form bands

Access to instruments (Share shop)

Rehearsal Space (Youth centre, media centre, YMCA, South Parade Club)

Young people singing/performing – where can younger people perform? E.g. Edventure?

Residential/care setting performances

Classical music

Pop up performances – music, theatre etc.

Free accessible performances

Outdoor performances

YPN

Extensive range of buskers

Pushing boundaries i.e. Foreground

Poetry and variety

Diverse range of pub performances

Dance

Overlapping of the arts – networking local register for collaboration and equipment so it's easier to access funding with interesting topics

Use of Silk Mill as venue

Run your own bar – only the Silk Mill currently does this

Another Acoustic Plus is needed

Fundraising to develop back of Cheese and Grain

More local band nights

Rehearsal space – not enough space – Steiner School have offered their space

Late night venues – particularly for youth scene

2. What are the biggest issues you face as a local performer?

Jazz – getting an audience, access to venues

Band – Young bands access to venues

Performers – promotion and events diaries. Linking and support.

Lack of common meeting space for like-minded people

Lack of audience – lots of performers

Getting into schools – brokering a collaboration with schools to enable more arts in school

Last train leaves too early for audiences from Bath etc.

Difficult to get engagement with/outreach to social communities and venues – dialogue with schools, care homes and their requirements for the purpose of artist then creating appropriate performance.

Where to go to find other performers and to get the word out

Funding and sponsorship – accessible collaborative forum

A mass of local talent that flees the town to work

Connecting to larger audiences and the unengaged – more targeted promotion needed

Rehearsal Space

Storage Space

Too many 'links' are missed – the scene is too diluted or atomized a 'place to go is required'

Parents with children – how do young parents get out there and get involved

As performers, how do we know we are providing entertainment that people want to see?

Performance entertainment budget of events is never put first – there is an expectation that people will perform for free

Marketing and promotion – website, Frome what's on, The List (free) Frome Times, Frome Standard, Discover Frome, boards in Town Centre

Same bands and music, need to mix it up

Promotion by venues

Themed gigs

PA equipment – the Cheese and Grain PA is bad

3. What improvements do you think could be made on a local level and how do you think the Town Council might be able to help?

Combining with other events – creating a speakeasy

Network of venues/cafes that young people can play and watch.

Battle of the bands

Links between schools and youth clubs/rehearsal space

Supportive environment, opportunity for connections

College promotion team

Rehearsal space network

Venue space network

Ongoing Arts Forum

Panel to agree a place/time each month to continue discussion

Council could help with promotion and leaflets

Council to facilitate and subsidise performers coming into schools

FTC could assist with the legal/safety side of working with outreach groups and add an element of 'legitimacy'

FTC could bring together arts and wellbeing panels: so the wellbeing panel would take on 'arts' to improve social connectivity.

FTC commissioning performances in schools on issues such as energy, recycling and wellbeing

FTC could find 1 strong, brave, interested and influential teacher from each school to engage with the panel as to what schools want/need/can manage – so the artists can make that for them

More 'postering space'

One place for all events (online and print publication)/Online Diary

More focused info sharing

Improved marketing on a local level

More connections with Frome College

Young people – more opportunities, networking and engagement

A decent platform for the arts

'Artists get together' that focuses on different issues each week/fortnight (like Discuss and Do)

Extension of council website for the creative/performers/all aspects/radio

Face-to-face promotion – not Facebook

Set up a performing arts crossover for interconnectivity

Trade fair style day for performers at Cheese and Grain

Assist, support and engage more performing arts within the carnival, in order to showcase more aspects of the performing arts in Frome

An arts advisor?

Frome promoters' collective

Use Cooper Hall more

Jazz Café?

Arts website/promotion

Frome Festival – busking festival, Chester Dart Festival. Need to be more proactive - outdoor stage, availability of money for performing

Help with arts grants and sponsorship

Frome Music Week (September or May) – lots of expertise in Frome – carousel idea, town wide festival?

Late night transport out of Frome