

Holme Valley Parish Council

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Grant Evaluation

- The Parish Council likes to hear how community groups have used the money awarded to them
- As the money awarded is public money, we also need to make sure that the money has been spent appropriately and as agreed

Name of Organisation	Holmfirth Art and Music Ltd (Holmfirth Arts Festival)
Amount of award	£ 1500
Purpose for which the grant was awarded	<p>To engage local people in Flow 2024/6 – an innovative programme inspired by the River Holme as part of Holmfirth Arts Festival 2024.</p> <p>£1,500 contributed towards the infrastructure costs that make it possible to engage local people and produce a wide range of FLOW themed projects safely and professionally to high quality.</p> <p>The project will continue in 2025 and 2026</p>

The Story of Your Project

- *Tell us what you did with the money awarded to you*
- *Attach a few photos*

£1,500 funding from Holme Valley Parish Council for 2024 contributed towards the costs of the Festival Manager and Technical Support in producing the outdoor arts programme - The Big Weekend - offered free of charge to the people of the Holme Valley and their visitors in mid June.

Outdoor events celebrated the FLOW of peoples, ideas and talents and included:

- High quality professional street theatre co-commissions and new touring work
Forests by Rogue Play, Birdie by Mind the Gap for actors with disabilities (both new shows), Heron by Edgelands Arts, Circus Raj (from the Punjab) and Holmfirth's own

musical trio - The Bees Knees.

- Profiling the work of local community talent through the provision of commissions, training/mentoring and performance opportunities featuring Hade Edge Band, HD9 Community Music, Banda Na Rua, Cafe Orchestra, Vocal Expressions, Huddersfield Ukrainian Singing Troupe, Zolota Kalyna Ukrainian Dance Group under a marquee in Holmside Gardens and Mason Whittle and Fishing4Compliments in a gazebo on Norridge Bottom
- This year's Dear Sunflowers parade was inspired by Ukrainian folk artist - Maria Prymachenko. It celebrated diverse cultures by involving 250 people from 13 different countries as well as children from local schools, local disability groups - Square Peg and Ability Options - as well as Netherthong Brownies, Holmfirth Cloth Botherers and The Children's Art School.

The Story of Your Project contd.

Feedback from the audience and artists after the Big Weekend of free activities has been overwhelmingly positive.

Audience

"Thanks so much for a fab experience on Sunday. We have booked tickets for future events and plan to visit again to see things we have missed."

"The amount of work and funder finding that goes into putting on this comprehensive and brilliant festival is phenomenal. Full praise to the Festival Manager and her team and to the Board of Trustees for their help and support. The festival is a great asset to the Holme Valley which needs to get more financial and other support from local business to help sustain its future"

"You are doing an excellent job from what I saw. Please keep the same spirit of the festival, it was lovely."

"I was really impressed with the inclusivity of the festival. Holmfirth is not very diverse and I think it was great for the children to see more diversity and cultures that they wouldn't usually come across."

"The Parade, vibrant, energetic, inclusive - a really great event. so good to have the percussion band in too - and the all the work put into it by everyone paid off."

Artists:

"Thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to be a part of this fantastic Festival!"

"We loved being there and theme fits well with our charity"

"Staff / volunteers were super friendly and helpful on arrival. Really lovely atmosphere."

The weekend was covered in press and media by BBC Radio Leeds, Welcome to Yorkshire and the Yorkshire Post

The Festival Weekend video can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/hYMLlQtWVBE?list=TLGGA58xSQv2OwkxMTA4MjAyNA>

Images attached

What you achieved

What were the benefits of your project?

The parade and street theatre programmes provided opportunities for local people to come together, learn about their area, explore caring for their environment, celebrate diversity, and present their valley in its best possible light to the wider region. The Valley Voices programme provided a platform for local talent. Parade making in schools and community groups enabled people to participate in activities that suited their skills and abilities and brought thousands of people into the town.

A new young volunteer joined our supporters group.

Who benefited from the project and the grant awarded?

The audience benefited by having free access to quality art activity in the outdoors and ticketed access to some of the UK's most respected performers on their doorstep in rural venues across the Holme Valley.

100% of audience members said Festival Saturday was excellent or very good.

100% of respondents to our evaluation agreed/strongly agreed that Holmfirth Arts Festival is good for Holmfirth's image.

How many people benefited?

To date, across the programme, we have counted:

410 participants of which 16% identify as diverse/disabled

228 performers/artists of which 45% are female and 8% identify as diverse/disabled

4600 live audience

The programme concludes on 7 September 2024

<p>Did you achieve what you were trying to do?</p>	<p>The objectives in our application to Holme Valley Parish Council included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) People of all ages, abilities and socio-economic circumstances from the Holme Valley will be afforded opportunities to see and participate in high quality arts events in the Holme Valley that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - make them feel connected to each other and the place where they live - feel proud of their area - learn about different cultures, their heritage, the landscape and ecology of the Holme Valley. - learn and try out new creative new skills. <p>This was achieved through projects like the parade and Flow of Words in Earthworks New Mill Community Garden</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) Local people will be afforded a platform to showcase their talent and will develop their aspirations due to inspiring arts projects on offer. <p>Families and people of all ages on low incomes were able to experience two full days of entertainment free of charge in their hometown.</p> <p>By working with many local artists and arts organisations, the Festival contributed to the development of local artists/arts/community organisations such as The Children's Art School, Ability Options, Screaming Media Productions (Jan and Steve Ansell), Holme Valley Orchestra, HD9 Community Orchestra, New Mill Male Voice Choir, Hade Edge Band and many others.</p>
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Finance and Expenditure


We ask groups to retain their receipts and invoices, and to keep a record of what they've spent for auditing purposes

			Grant awarded	£ 1,500
Date	Description of expenditure	Amount	Remaining	
Festival Manager outdoor programme - £200/day for 15 days	Total expenditure £3,000 Amount applied to this fund 4 days at £200	£700		£0
Production costs (road closure	Total costs:	£800		£0

for parade £2500, marquee hire for Saturday Garden Party £900, PA hire and technician on both days £700)	Doocey Traffic Management £1, 980 Staging £501.80 Marquee £635.75 PA and technician £589.48 Amount applied to this fund £800		
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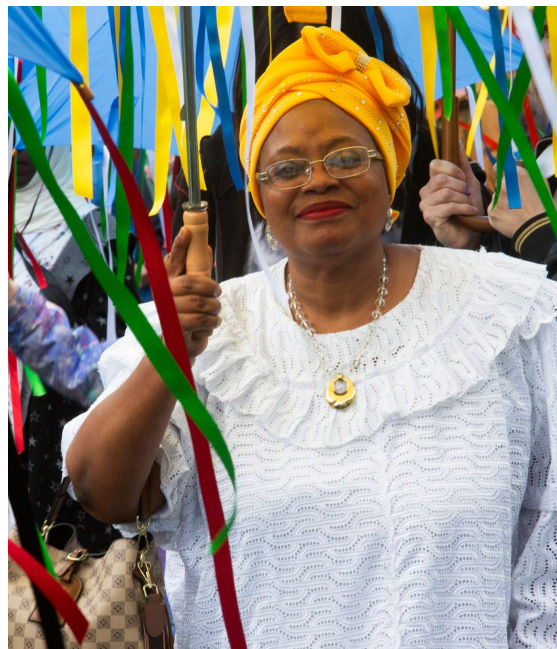
Any amount of the award unspent may have to be returned to the Parish Council

Person completing this form		Date	31 July 2025
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Accessible Amble



Dear Sunflowers Parade



Big Weekend Saturday



