

What's On Saturday 25 March 2023

Creative Space



Illustrator-in-Residence - Fran Thomas, all day

Meet our Illustrator-in-Residence Fran Thomas, whose detailed botanical drawings are on display in London's Saatchi Gallery, as she brings the hidden beauty of fungi to life in drawings made using microscopes and fungal ink, produced when shaggy ink cap fungi digest themselves. Then try drawing one yourself.



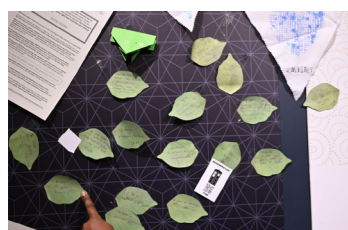
Poet-in-Residence - Clare Matthews, all day

Join our Poet-in-Residence Clare Matthews, who is attempting to write a poem a day in 2023, to have a go at creating a poem in response to the themes of the Festival - humanity, nature and social action. Clare will also be performing her often humorous and exuberant poems throughout the day.



Ebru with Tuguy & Melike, all day

Have a go at Ebru (also known as marbling) with Tuguy and Melike. Ebru is the art of creating colourful patterns by sprinkling and brushing colour pigments on a tray of viscous water and then transforming the patterns on to paper.



The Foyer

Info & Social Action Space, all day

Join us and make a pledge about what you're going to do to help make the world a better place.



Courtyard

Buskers in the Courtyard, 11am to 2pm

Don't miss buskers from across the region as they perform throughout the day.



Outdoors

The Best Laid Plans... and the City Stadium - A Guided Walk with John Emslie, 1pm & 1.30pm

Join volunteer guide John Emslie from Ouseburn Trust as he takes you on a short journey to learn more about the beauty and history of the City Stadium landscape.

Skimstone
Arts

Ouseburn Community Centre

UNITY
Festival '23



"UNITY Festival 2023 is an opportunity for people from all walks of life to come together to be part of a community, explore the natural world and consider what we can do to make a difference. Created with diversity at its heart this playful, creative free Festival has been co-designed with community groups we work with across the North East of England."
- Claire Webster Saaremets, Artistic Director, Skimstone Arts

"Relaxed atmosphere, family friendly and a real community feel."
- UNITY Festival 2023 participant

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Main Stage & Exhibitions



Circus Central's Toybox, 10.30am to 12.30pm, Drop-in

Dive into Circus Central's toybox in this workshop suitable for all ages. Circus Artists will be on hand to support you as you try out lots of circus skills from juggling to hula hooping. Use your newfound skills to find new creative ways to express yourself.



Meet Skimstone Arts, 2.30pm

Come and meet the team to find out more about Skimstone Arts, how you can get involved and hear about the social action that's taking place across the Festival.



Reality Boots, 3pm

Join Skimstone Arts' band Reality Boots for an eclectic set of music that will get the body moving and mind thinking. Made up of passionate voices each with unique experiences, Reality Boots' set features powerful songs around themes of humanity and supporting each other.



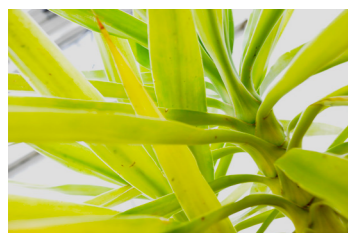
Hannabiell and the Midnight Blue Collective, 3.30pm

Don't miss this high energy Afro Fusion Collective who fuse powerful and upbeat Latin and African percussion, brass, vocal chants, Blues, Jazz, Afro-beat, Funk and Reggae to create a unique sound and party atmosphere that will get you up on your feet.



Birds in Motion Exhibition, all day

This breath-taking new exhibition by Teesside-based photographer Kev Howard celebrates the beauty and grace of the movement of birds in flight using the technique of long-exposure photography.



Underneath, Within, Beyond Exhibition, all day

Inspired by exploring the underneath and often hidden parts of plants in Preston Park Museum's Winter Gardens and our own stories and dreams this exhibition celebrates the beauty of growth. It was created by Skimstone Arts' The Sun & The Soul Company featuring people with lived refugee experience living in Stockton and Sunderland.



Where Do You Sit? Exhibition, all day

Where Do You Sit? features photographic portraits of ordinary people who have shared extraordinary stories or co-created poems and lyrics responding to the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day captured by our Associate Artists Shahor Omar and Ako Ismail and our Artistic Director Claire Webster Saaremetts.

Music Space



Movement Workshop, 10.30am

Begin the day in style with a gentle, playful body and senses warm-up with Nii Kwartey Owoo ready for a full day of UNITY Festival.



African Dance Workshop, 11am

Feel alive as Ghanaian musician and choreographer Nii Kwartey Owoo leads Festival-goers on a joyful exploration into African dance techniques.



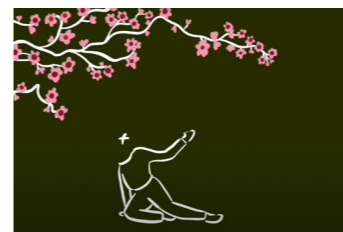
Beat This!, 12.30pm

Listen as Beat This! play all kinds of rhythmic instruments from around the world on everything from melodic glass to big loud funky drums. Beat This! is part of Lawnmowers, a company run by and for people with learning difficulties based in Gateshead.



Activism with Tamara Ulliyart, 1pm

Meet Tamara Ulliyart to get a young person's view of environmental and accessibility activism. Hear about her work with Friends of the Earth and discover the difference you can make.



Film Shorts Screening, 1.30pm

Watch two short films created especially for UNITY Festival - an animated music video for Reality Boots' song *Forest Fading* by Leeds based dance artist Jem Clancy and a film created for a new exhibition *Underneath, Within, Beyond* by members of The Sun & The Soul Company featuring people with lived refugee experience.



Natural History Society of Northumbria Talk, 2pm

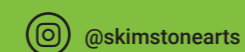
Nature-lovers will be able to discover how you can become a Citizen Scientist with Ho-Yin Wong from the Natural History Society of Northumbria.

Pledges

Throughout the Festival there will be a chance to share your pledges and responses to our themes of humanity, nature and social action on our special Pledge Wall.

What did you think?

We'd love to know what you thought about UNITY Festival. Let us know on:



#UNITYFestival2023