

LittleFest takes centre stage at Helmsley for an encore performance

Quirky arts festival returns to Helmsley 25-27 September

Helmsley is to play host to the innovative arts festival LittleFest for the second time this September.

This year will see the festival span three days, from a ticketed launch event on Friday 25th September and a full day of free arts across the town on the Saturday, through to a performance and a debate about the arts on Sunday 27th.

The aim of LittleFest is to introduce new arts to different people, in an informal setting. It includes visual arts, storytelling, music, theatre, poetry and dance popping up in often unexpected spaces across the town - from shops and cafes, to street corners, gardens and car parks. Dozens of Helmsley businesses have signed up to be involved by playing host to a performer, and a family friendly window trail will encourage visitors to explore what is available across the town.

LittleFest is created in conjunction with York Theatre Royal and the Helmsley Arts Centre as part of the On Our Turf initiative.

Confirmed performers include the multi-award winning Joe Bone and Ed Eales-White, the ClapTrap theatre company who will be performing scenes from their up-coming tour of 'Broken' by Libby Pearson, and Hunting Bears, an orchestral folk sextet.

Em Whitfield Brooks, director at Helmsley Arts Centre, said: "We're really excited that LittleFest will be coming to Helmsley again. It's such a fun weekend, and last time we got fantastic feedback from business owners, the local community and visitors alike. It's a really unusual way to introduce new arts to people.

"The arts will be everywhere in Helmsley during the weekend, and there will be something to appeal to everyone, from families to theatre lovers. Where else can you relax with a coffee while watching a painter create, browse a bookshop while listening to opera, and have a haircut while laughing at stand up comedy? Some activities will be scheduled so people can choose which they might like to see - but there will also be plenty of surprises. We'll be making lots more announcements as plans firm up in the next two months."

The free Saturday activities will start at 10am and run until 5pm, and are open to everyone.

To find out more about the event, and to keep updated about news and schedules, go to www.visithelmsley.co.uk or www.helmsleylittlefest.com or follow Helmsley on Facebook www.facebook.com/visithelmsley or @visithelmsley and @HelmsleyOOT on Twitter.

Ends

For further media information or images please contact: Shona Nutter on 07714 953919 or shonanutter@googlemail.com

Notes to editors:

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Helmsley in Business is a group of 51 businesses working together to ensure the continuing success of the North Yorkshire town of Helmsley. Members include: Antiques and Interiors; Auntie Anne's Bakery; Bay Clinic; Bella di Notte; Black Swan Hotel; Browns of Helmsley; Castle Stores; Carters Country Wear; Celebrate Country Cake Design; Claridges; Crema Coffee Shop; Cut Price Bookshop; Duncombe Sawmill; Duncombe Park Gift Shop; Duncombe Park Estate; Elijah Todd; English Heritage; Feversham Arms Hotel and Verbena Spa; Helmsley Art Centre; Helmsley Brewery; Helmsley Galleries; Helmsley Post Office; Helmsley Town Hall; Helmsley Traditional Sweet Shop; Helmsley Walled Garden; Helmsley Wines; Honeysuckle Cottage; Hunters of Helmsley; International Centre for Birds of Prey; JEB Taxis; KVA Planning; Lazenby Visuals and Framing; Libby Butler Jewellers; Look Gallery; Marleys Butchers; No. 54 B&B; North York Moors National Park; Pennita Fashions; Porters Coffee Shop; Retals; Saltbox Gallery; Scotts of Helmsley Fish and Chip Shop; The Feathers; The Stickman; Think Fresh; Thomas of York; Thundercliffes; Tulchan; Viva Hair; and Yorkshire Deals.

Helmsley is a market town in the Ryedale District of North Yorkshire, often referred to as the 'Gateway to the North York Moors'. It is popular with tourists for its characterful Market Place, historic architecture, the wide range of quality independent shops, and the excellent selection of accommodation, pubs, cafes and restaurants, many of which are award-winning. There are also plenty of interesting activities and attractions available on the doorstep including The International Centre for Birds of Prey, Helmsley Castle, Rievaulx Abbey and The Walled Gardens. Helmsley also marks the start of the Cleveland Way, which is popular with walkers and loops round the National Park to end up at the coast near Filey.

For more information log on to www.visithelmsley.co.uk