

WYE VALLEY RIVER FESTIVAL 2022

Purpose

To inform members of the success of the Wye Valley River Festival, 27th May - 5th June, supported by the Wye Valley AONB Sustainable Development Fund (SDF).

FOR INFORMATION

Key Issues

- The Wye Valley River Festival 2022 ran from 27th May - 5th June, organised by the Wye Valley River Festival Community Interest Company (CIC).
- The Wye Valley River Festival CIC received funding from Arts Council England (ACE), Community Renewal Fund UK, the AONB Sustainable Development Fund (SDF), Welsh Government Major Events -Festival Growth Fund, Arts Council of Wales (ACW), Forestry England and in-kind support from Cadw.
- The Festival on the theme of HUMAN⇌NATURE was a great success with a range of bespoke outdoor arts events and activities while some augmented local Platinum Jubilee celebrations. A summary report from the Festival Team is appended.
- Further events are planned, including in Tintern Abbey 21st - 23rd October 2022.
- Meanwhile a full evaluation of the Festival will be available later in the year. Then the CIC will begin contemplating the next Wye Valley River Festival.

Reasons

This was the first Wye Valley River Festival organised by the new CIC, although several of the CIC team had been heavily involved in the previous Wye Valley River Festivals.

Implications

The main festival ran between 27th May - 5th June 2022 with the theme of HUMAN⇌NATURE. There was additional outreach work in the run-up to the Festival and further events are planned later in the year, including in Tintern Abbey 21st-23rd October. The Festival attracted an audience of over 11,300, excluding at Tintern Abbey and the workshops and outreach events. The CIC team have over 600 audience evaluation forms which are being processed. A brief summary report is appended. Further details are available on bilingual website <https://wyevalleyriverfest.com/> which will be further developed and improved as time goes on.

Background

Wye Valley River Festivals in 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2020 were Wye Valley AONB Partnership projects, led by the Wye Valley AONB Unit, Desperate Men and Phillippa Haynes in a unique and creative collaboration between arts and environment professionals, who developed, produced and delivered the Festival with stakeholders and the communities in and around the Wye Valley AONB.