



WYE VALLEY RIVER FESTIVAL

GŴYL AFON DYFFRYN GWY

WOW what a great ten days that was!

We promised spectacular events in outstanding landscapes, music, theatre, extraordinary creatures, songs, and laughter: we hope you enjoyed the results !!



It was fantastic to greet old friends of the festival and meet new ones in the fields, woods and streets of the valley, so good to be back in nature together laughing and playing with you all again. We have missed you.

Parading Jabberwockies, grass men and brownies, accompanied by world renowned street musicians, bouncing giant kangaroos, and extraordinary contemporary Welsh folk dance, plus beautiful 4 metre silk flags fluttering on the breeze at every site and numerous sightings of the elusive Whistlers.

Delighted audiences People turned out in their droves in the sunshine (and on the last day a chilly breeze). If you were amongst them then thank you, we hope you had a good time and if you were unable to attend this summer keep reading there are other events you can attend.



The Festival troupe the Bikesplorers were triumphant in their quest to find Thrutopia and have now [provided a reading list](#) on their webpage for anyone looking for further inspiration. The carbon footprint of this show was almost Zero as they rode, camped and ate vegan throughout the whole route, plus performed the show twice a day – they are our new ensemble heroes.

Talking of which we achieved a good carbon footprint all round this year, we hope to produce an impact evaluation later in the year. But we had no generators on site, minimal imported infrastructure, we repurposed, renewed and recycled as much as we could from previous iterations and did a complex production and crew travel plan throughout.



Tintern Abbey sang to the sounds of the skies and seas. It is always such a privilege to be allowed to create work for this space and **we are planning a magical event for the 21- 23rd October 2022** so keep your eyes peeled for news on that.



Through our partnership with **Diverse Artist Network** and Bristol Bridges, we had the pleasure of welcoming over 100 Afghan refugee families to Tintern for a day's walking, picnicking and visits to the Abbey. It was such a delight to see the children running happy and free for the day.



Community Projects

The projects that our Creative Community Champions have made with communities have been amazing and we are now looking to see how we can continue this work. Some of the projects are still running:

There is an [exhibition of work](#) by local young people responding to the theme I Live Here at the [Brockweir and Hewelsfield Village Shop](#), and an [interactive trail around the Sedbury Floral Mile](#) - how many of the trail elements can you spot en route?

The photographic exhibition at the [Redbrook Creative Hub](#) will be up till the end of June, after which we hope to display the amazing flags which were created with young people from Chepstow to Ross.

There will be another opportunity to see [the Flags](#) and the giant puppet when they appear at Hereford River Carnival on 27th August.

[Queering the Wye](#) has been asked to attend several Pride events during June and the queer nature cards are now available for sale. Keep your eyes peeled if you are at any Pride events in the area and do say hello.

We have one favour to ask, if you were at the Festival please could you [fill in our evaluation form](#). It helps us to secure funding, to improve how we serve communities and to plan for the future.

Have a fantastic summer and see you in the autumn!

Wye Valley River Festival team

