

NEWS RELEASE



28th August 2020

Friends Group launches on-line festival to celebrate 180 years of Britain's first public park

The Friends of Derby Arboretum has now created a YouTube channel dedicated to the Friends of Derby Arboretum and its annual Lark in the Park festival. Because of the Covid 19 restrictions they cannot have the usual event inviting local communities to join them in the Arboretum for a 'Lark in the Park'. So they're creating a virtual event involving live interviews, live music and short films put together by their members.

Their own Natalie Bayfield has brought the technology and process to their team and so an exciting series of events will be taking place from **12th to 20th September**. They're prompting everyone to enjoy this fabulous YouTube channel and join in from home (though you can enjoy coming to the Arboretum in the usual way). Please search for "friends of derby arboretum" on YouTube.



Chairperson Jo Simister suggested: "We want as many people as possible to help to promote the live event. You'll find us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook so please get onto your smart phones, laptops, desktops and share the event with anyone and everyone. BBC Radio Derby is on board also and we expect interviews with them around the Arboretum or in their studio".

Our short videos will cover the history of the Arboretum, the story behind the Florentine Boar, the development of the community garden, the refurbishment of the old bowls club building and much more.

There will live interviews with several guests from around the Derby community. People with memories of the park, those that can talk about its history and some of those that simply enjoy the park. Natalie will be playing host to these interviews via Zoom.

Spiral Arts will be showing you how to make your very own hot air balloon to hang in your homes. They'll then be displaying numerous replicas of the hot air balloon around the park for visitors to see and reflect on the park's beginnings. Why balloons? Well at the opening of the park, there was a hot air balloon featured - *see image below*.

Jenny Anthony of Spiral Arts said "If you take a photo of your balloon and email us a picture, we will show it on the live event during the week. There will be a colouring sheet to download of a hot air balloon which you can colour and email to us to be displayed at the event also."



A portrayal of the opening day, 16th September 1840

Various local performance artistes will feature on the YouTube channel, they have been filming themselves and sending in their videos which will be shown during the celebration week.

Performers who have already sent videos are

- Iyahn Biggz - Reggae Singer
- Dave Sudbury - Singer - The King of Rome
- Hoverla Ukranian Dancers
- Magician Clive Moore

Performers who have said yes and are sending their videos are

- Rebel Women's Choir

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- Phil Tomlinson -Klezmer Singer
- Shakti Arts - Bollywood Dancers
- Dan Vadolia - Guitarist
- Pip Nayer - Spoken Word Poet
- Jo May – Spoons Workshop

Notes to the Editor

About the Friends of Derby Arboretum

The 'Friends' group comprises local residents and other organisations keen to encourage greater and safer use of this wonderful asset near the centre of Derby of international significance. The Arboretum, the first public park in England, is endowed with a variety of beautiful trees and a splendid layout of paths and ornaments. The FDA aims to improve its amenity and generate greater use of this valuable space. Thanks to Spiral Arts, The Rotary Club of Derby and the Parks Department many local residents have signed up to the group and regular events will become more and more a feature in Derby's calendar.

Contact:

Jo Simister, chair of the FDA, 07796 410850, josimister@yahoo.co.uk

About the Rotary Club of Derby

The Rotary Club of Derby is part of Rotary International which connects 1.2 million members of more than 34,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas. Their work impacts lives at both the local and international levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/DerbyRotaryClubUK>

The club is pro-actively involved with the Friends of Derby Arboretum with its members providing expertise where required in developing the group. The club is keen to engage with the local community through this association. It has been particularly proactive in the refurbishment of the old bowls club building which will soon be returned to full use as a base for the friends group as well as a community hub serving the Arboretum and Normanton areas.

Contact:

Richard Benfield, The Rotary Club of Derby, 07563531811, bennamenna@yahoo.co.uk

About Spiral Arts

Spiral Arts is a Derby-based collective of professional visual artists with over 15 years' experience of delivering participatory workshops. Their aim is to work in the local communities in Derby and the surrounding areas and use visual arts as a vehicle for social interaction in shared creative spaces, working with underserved groups, making workshops accessible to all, discovering creativity and developing skills. They have a studio base in Grove Lodge, Derby Arboretum Park and they enjoy working with the local community.

Contact

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