Canopy Creative Network

2024 Report

Summary of 2024 Projects

Festivals

- **Coleford artsFEST**
- **Blakeney artsFEST**

Creative Walks

Creative Talks

Outreach and Promotion

- **Schools workshops**
- **Community workshops**
- **Orchard Trust walk and workshop**
- **West Dean walk, workshop and exhibition**
- **Cinderford walk workshop and celebration/exhibition**
- **Creative Walk photo exhibition and Dean Heritage Centre**
- **Orchard Trust celebration and coffee morning.**
- **Newent Rotary event**
- **Bream Flower Show**
- **Coleford Lantern Project in schools**

Co-production

- **Volunteer thank you event and skills and ideas audit**
- **Stakeholder events**



Orchard Trust



Bream Flower Show



Co-production with our volunteers

Coleford artsFEST Preparatory Stage

How we engaged with the community before the festival:

4 Batik workshops, at Community cafe - Cafe 16 a local cafe, central to Coleford and next to a supported living home in Coleford:

45 placed booked.

Feedback:

Mindful, thank you

Fab

Enjoyable workshop with skilled and encouraging tutors
Really enjoyed it, great space

Absolutely brilliant
Fantastic experience

Really interesting and relaxing, a freer sort of art. Amazing thank you.

Thanks really enjoyed the experience

Really enjoyed the experience

Wonderful fun, time ran out.



Batik workshops, took place at a community venue - Cafe 16

Quiet and calm so my friend with dementia could enjoy arts again.

Excellent course, Joanne was brilliant explained everything really well and was really welcoming.

Looking forward to joining in more of these events, they make me so happy.

Great session
Very interesting, enjoyable and social
It was fun

Well organised, fun, beautiful pieces of art produced to spread culture to local community

Lovely buzz ‘art makes it’

I really enjoyed it, it was really fun

Once again an enriching experience and so good to be able to have a go at something i haven’t done before.

Wonderful experience

How we engaged with the community before the festival:

2 library based workshops, with artist Doug Eaton painting while writer Maggie Clutterbuck lead participants into their own writing in response to the live painting.

No pre-booking was required on these.

Feedback:

Lovely group Doug gave a wonderful reflection of his life and work of art. Maggie was a great presenter and encouraged us to take part.

Good to meet other writers and artists
The interaction of words with painting was interesting and gave good inspiration.

Relaxing, fun and great couple of hours.

Doug should try poetry and Maggie should try painting for a day.

For workshop participants, of those who responded to the question Do you identify as a person with a disability or other chronic condition 29% said yes.



Artists Maggie Clutterbuck and Doug Eaton running workshops at Coleford library.

An exhibition of work made at the Creative walks workshops was also held at the Coleford Library.

Schools involved

In the build up to the festival and in preparation for the parades we worked with two local schools. St John's C of E Academy and Coalway Junior School.

At St John's, local artist Louise Penny worked with a class to produce beautiful nature inspired art work that were then carried by the school children and their families on the parade.

At Coalway Juniors Forest of Dean artist Abi Wright worked with a class to produce a singing and dance piece that was performed at the festival along the parade route. The parade and all those watching stopped to see their performance which was a welcoming song to mark the start of the festival.

One of the schools we worked with was able to give us some stats:

58 children, ages between 9 - 10 years old.
31 boys and 27 girls.
10 pupil premium/ disadvantaged children
13 with special educational needs.





Creative Walks, Workshops and Exhibitions

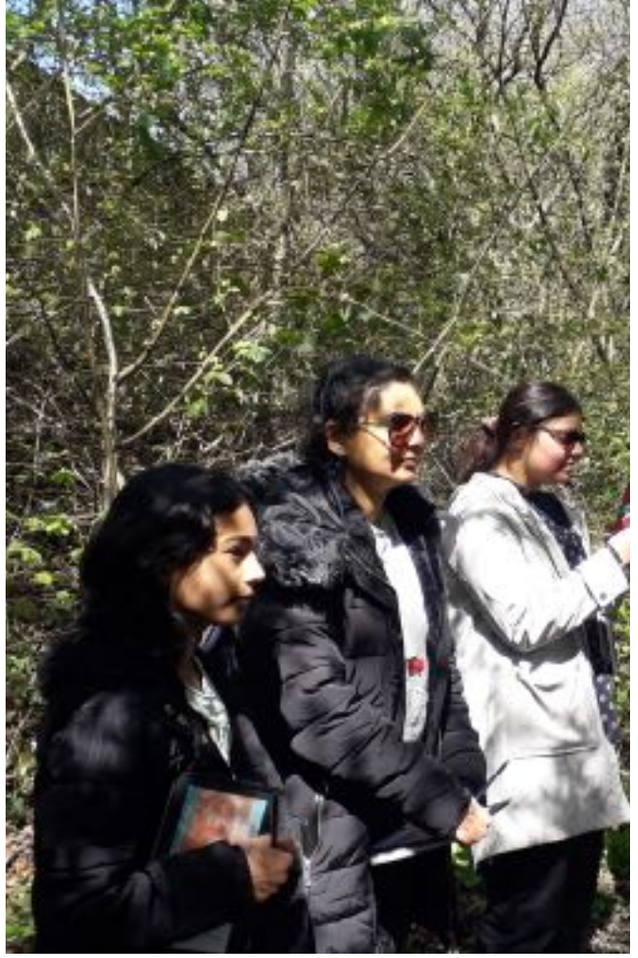
In the build up to the festival we provided two projects that creatively engaged the local community with their environment. These walks then turned into workshops that produced work that was then exhibited and celebrated at the festival.

In Cinderford we worked from the Wesley after the walk to create work inspired by the walk, and then exhibited this at the celebratory event at the Wesley. Photos of the work were then taken and these exhibited at the Dean Heritage Centre in the build up to Coleford artsFEST and then at the library during the festival itself.

In Coleford we worked with the Library running a walk and workshop.

“Hearing about everybody else's artistic/creative journeys up to this point; learning about resources and sources of resources I hadn't known about previously; the accompanying learning I gained after 3 of my fellow creative-walkers became my facebook friends (for eg, they told me in later discussions about the Merlin app for identifying birds); the research interests that were engendered from the walk - particularly: our leader identified the butterfly conservation area en route; later, I researched the project and discovered there were specific butterflies that had been attracted by specific plants; I researched those butterflies so can now identify them; I researched those plants and can now identify them; I researched the interrelationships between plants and butterflies, and learned LOADS; then I used my research to write a new poem and create a visual triptych; very satisfying indeed; I also gained massively from the celebratory exhibition of the work that we had created from the walk - this was the very first time I have exhibited my artistic work and the experience of framing and exhibiting was transformational in my creative journey.”

Quote taken from evaluation survey.







Promoting the Festival with a Dragon!

In the week before the festival we took to the streets of Coleford with our team of volunteers and the African drumming band DAJBOT to announce the festival was on its way.

We handed out flyers and made lots of people smile.

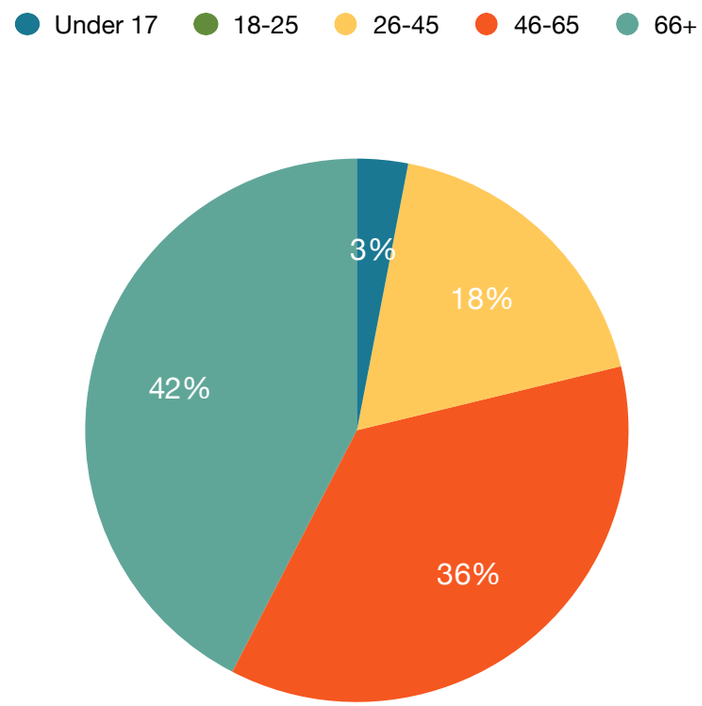




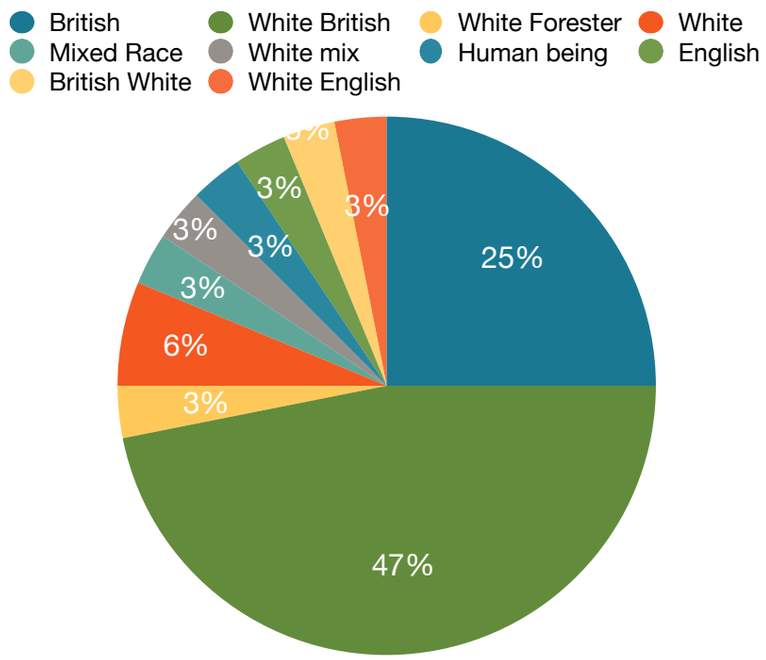


Workshops stats

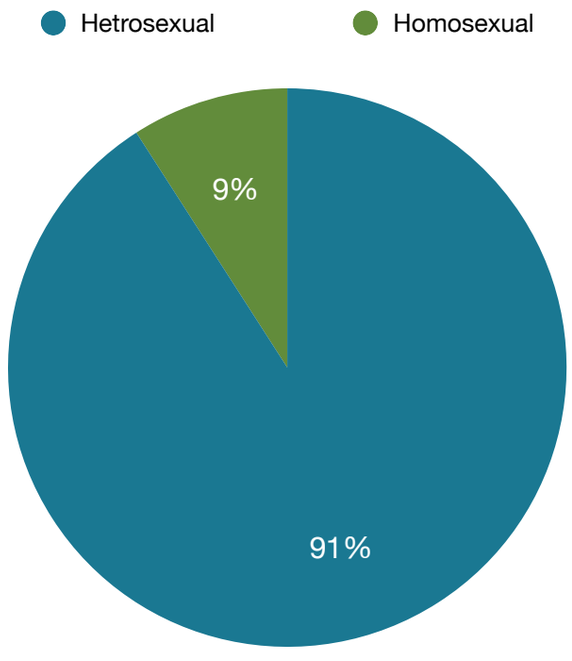
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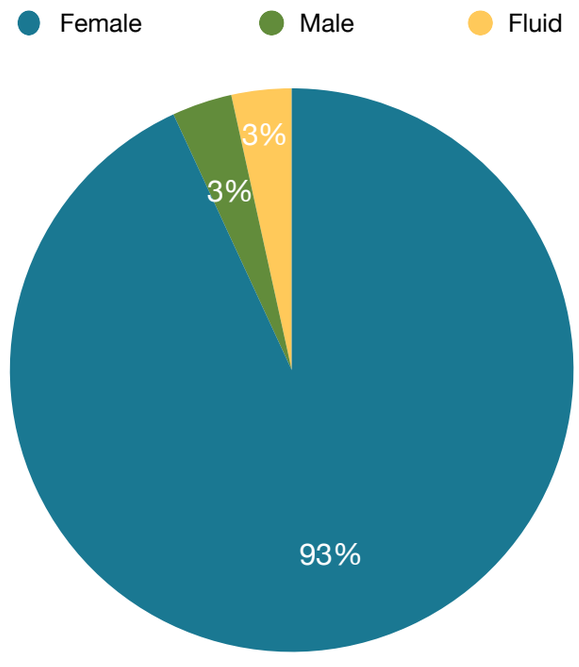
Ethnicity



Sexual Orientation

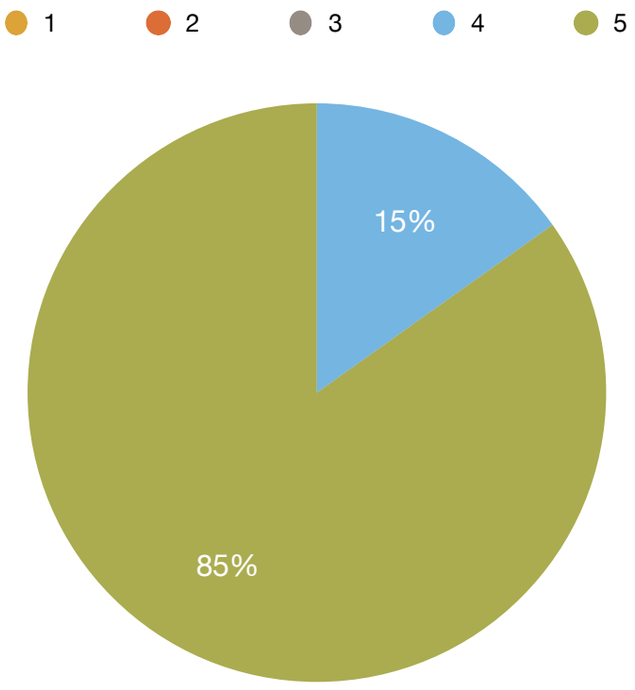


Gender

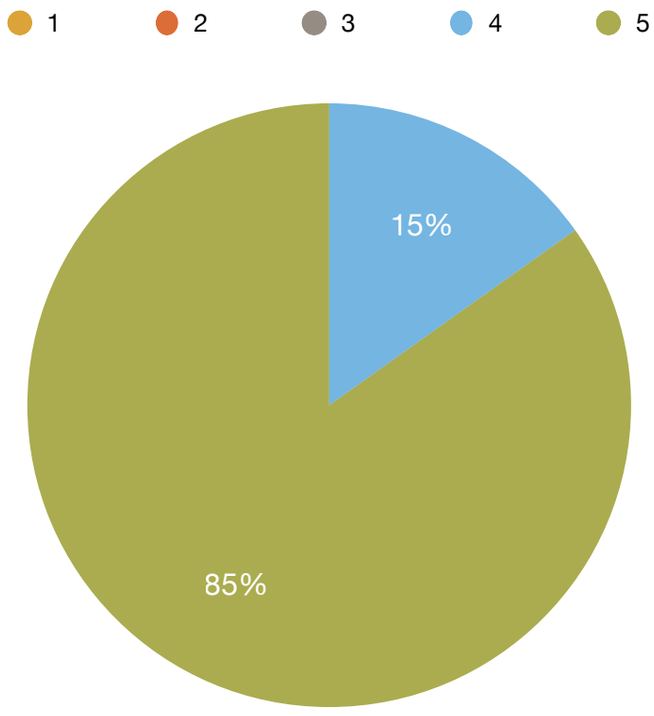


Workshops: Experience Feedback

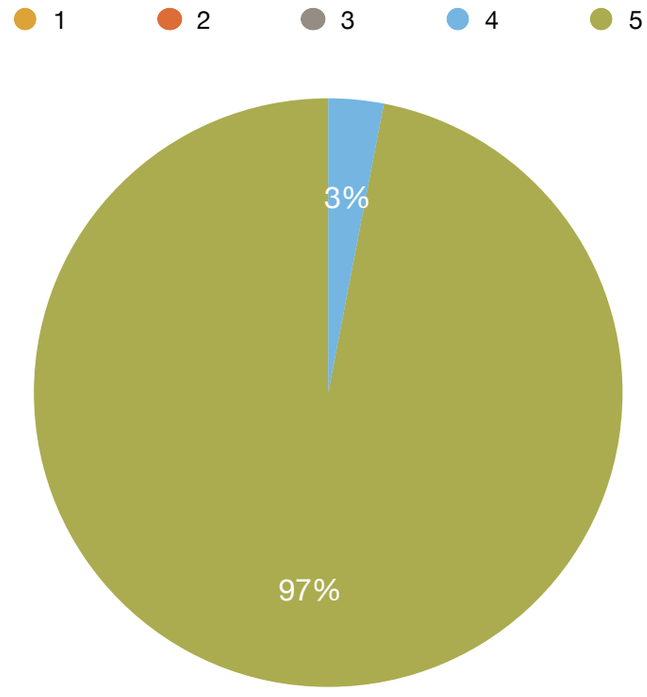
How accessible was your experience.
1 = Worst 5 = Best



How Clear was information provided for this experience.
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How much did you enjoy your experience.
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Coleford artsFEST - The Festival 1st June

Headline figures based on the first 100 feedback forms from the Festival

30% of those attending said they are someone with a disability or other chronic condition

25% Male, 75% Female

30% did not identify as British/White/ English.

11 artists, 7 bands/choirs, 1 theatre company, 2 other arts organisations, 1 heritage site, 4 community venues, 2 Schools, 20 volunteers.



The Festival covered multiple sites in Coleford.

Festival 12-4pm

1 LIBRARY

Parades start from library & walk along path to Mushets Arch 12:00 & 14:15

2 CLOCK TOWER

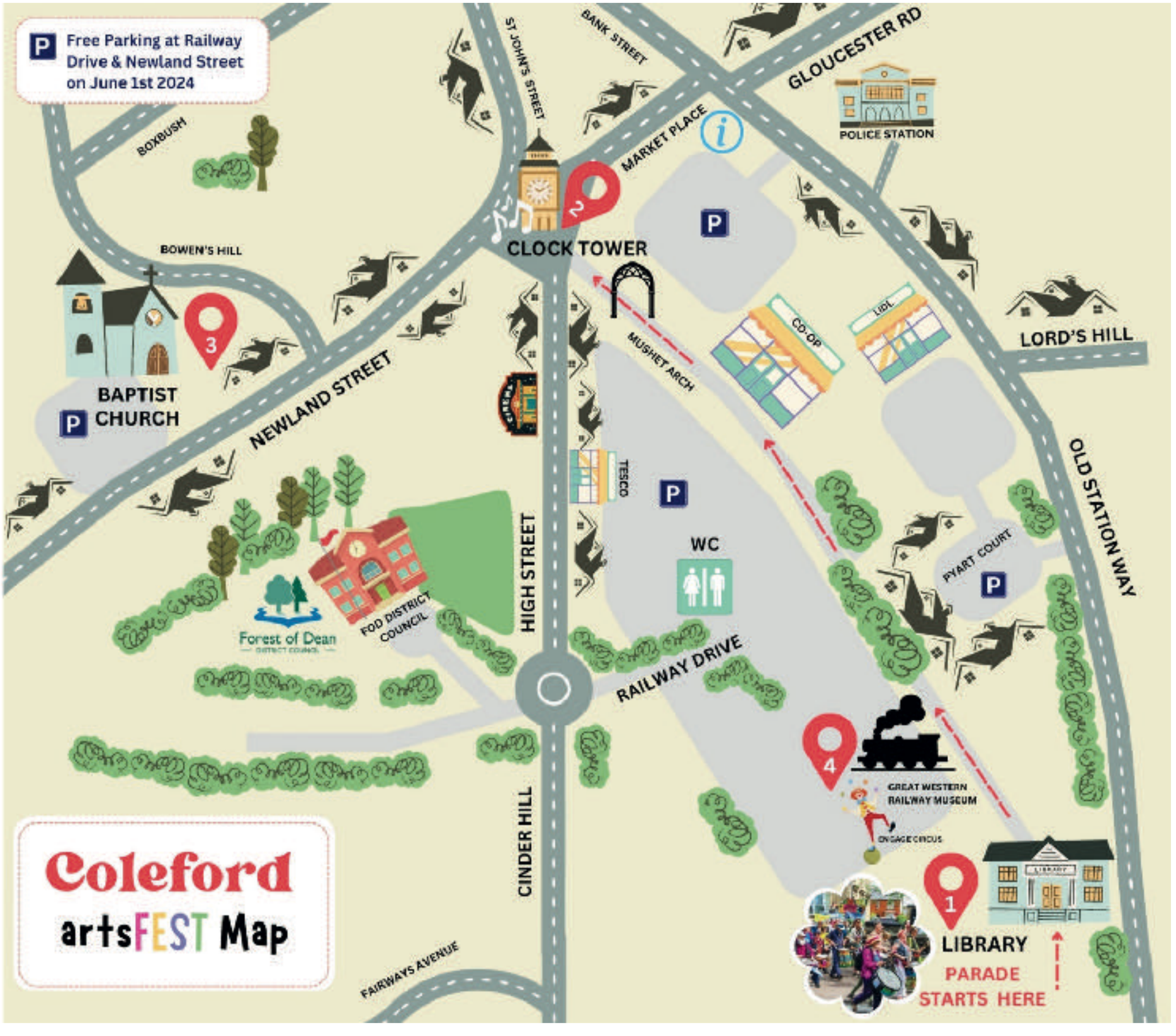
Live music performances all day

3 BAPTIST CHURCH

Free art & theatre workshops & performances

4 GWR MUSEUM

Free entry to museum
Engage Circus Workshops



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FREE ENTRY

Coleford

artsFEST

LIVE PERFORMANCES • PARADE • WORKSHOPS

June 1st



12-4PM

•

TOWN CENTRE & BAPTIST CHURCH

www.canopynetwork.co.uk

Forest of Dean District Council

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

FUN PALACES

EVERYTHING FREE ...

Parade

featuring local schools, musicians, morris dancers, performers, artists and more

CELEBRATING CREATIVE COMMUNITIES

Coleford Library, Clock Tower & Baptist Church

live performances, exhibitions

railway museum

SIGN UP TO OUR NEWSLETTER FOR MORE INFO

Free Drop-In Art Workshops

printing, painting & encaustic art

1-4 PM SIGN UP ON THE DAY

event for all ages

www.canopynetwork.co.uk

At the Clock Tower

Coleford Town

- 12.35pm Pillowell Silver Band
- 1.30pm Wild Oats Morris
- 2.00pm DJABOT African Drumming band led by Oumar
- 2.45pm The Climate Choir & Everybody Sing
- 3.30pm Mark Venus Band
- 4.30pm Forest Thump
- Also at the CLOCKTOWER
- Poetry Salmon 'Save the Wye'
- Wyldwood Colours of the Forest Nail bar
- Information stands

EVERYTHING FREE

At the Baptist Church

Newland Street

EVERYTHING FREE



Free Drop-In Art Workshops

with farOpen Artists

1-4 PM SIGN UP ON THE DAY

- Drypoint Print Making
- Encaustic Art (Painting with wax)
- Watercolour Pen Pictures

Upstairs at the Baptist Church

- 2pm - 2.30pm - FoD Youth Theatre perform part of their Warren James play, come and watch!
- 2.30 - 3.30pm - FoD Youth Theatre offer a FREE children's drama workshop.
- No prebooking required, just pop in to take part.

Outside the Baptist Church

- 2pm - 2.45pm - FREE Come and Sing



Singing workshop from People and Singing.



All ages Morris dancing



Drop In Art Workshops

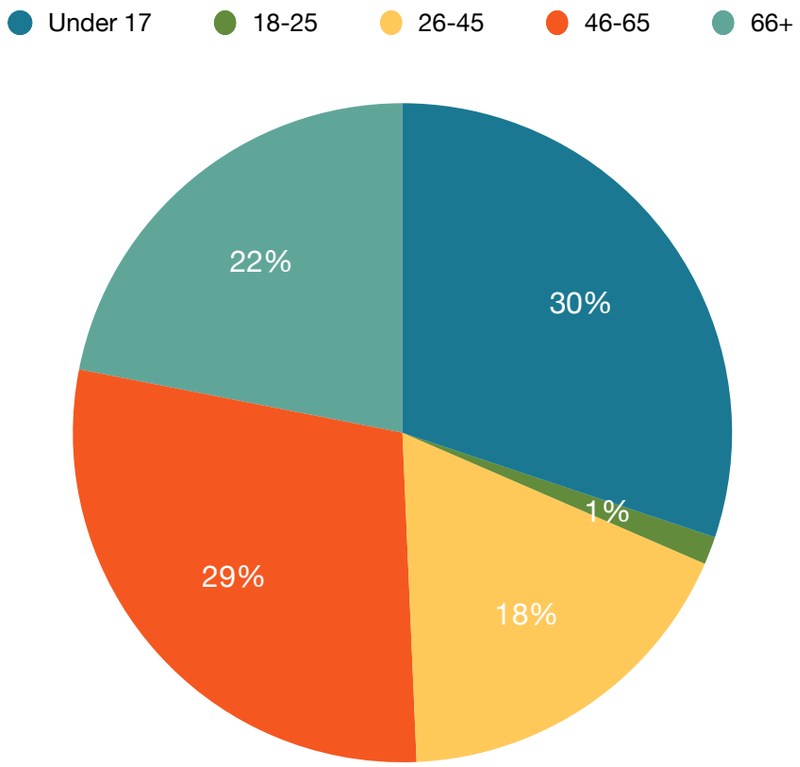
Forest of Dean Youth Theatre performed part of their Warren James play written by local playwright Maggie Clutterbuck and ran a drop in theatre workshop for the community during the festival.

Local school children from Coalway Junior and St John C of E Academy joined the parade. Everyone stopped here to watch them perform.

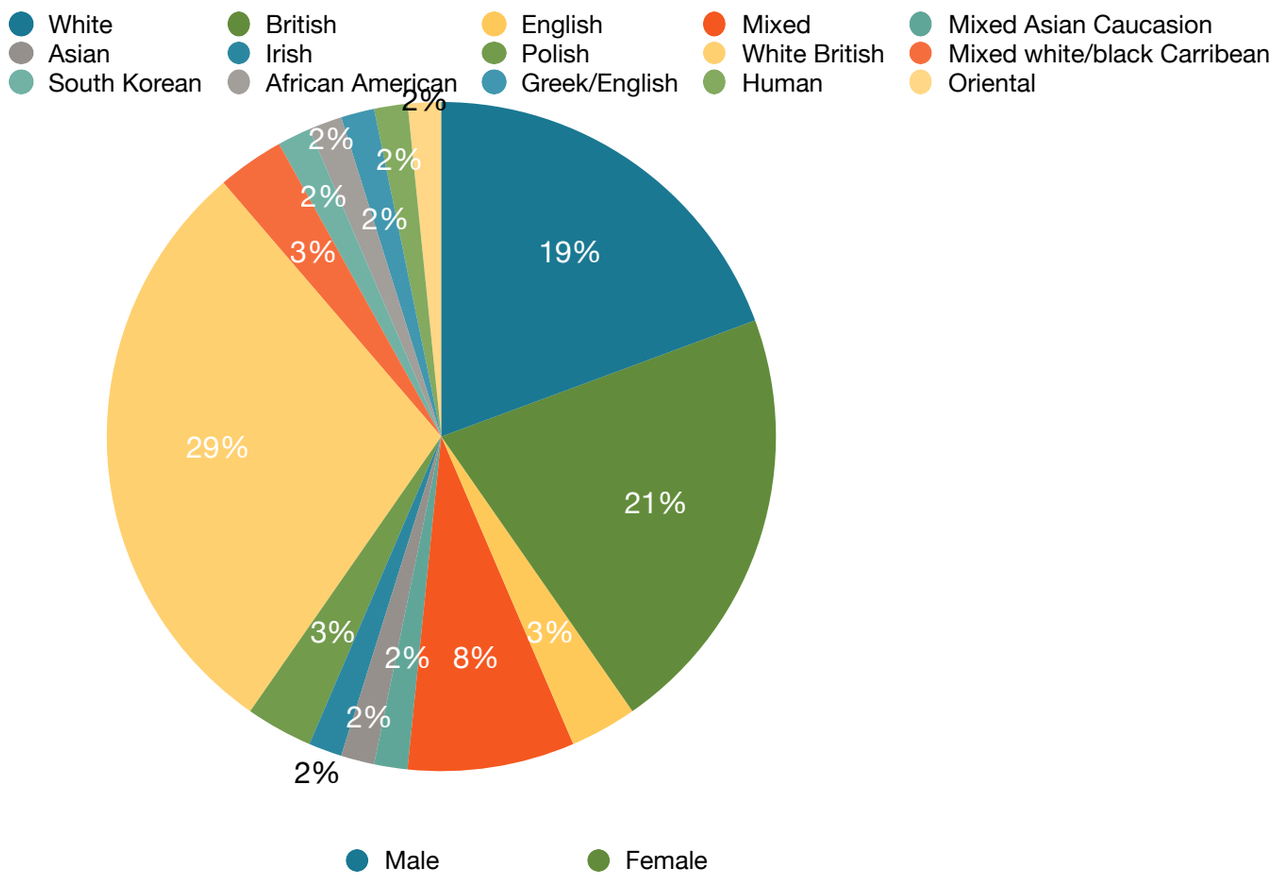
Local Morris Dance group, Wild Oats Morris performing at the festival along the parade route.

Festival stats

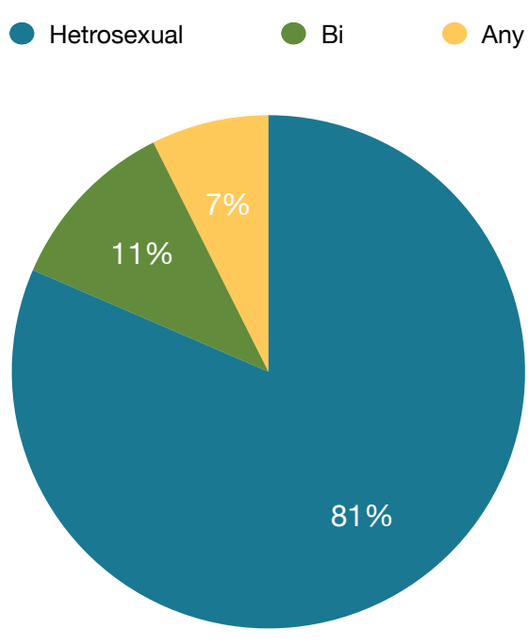
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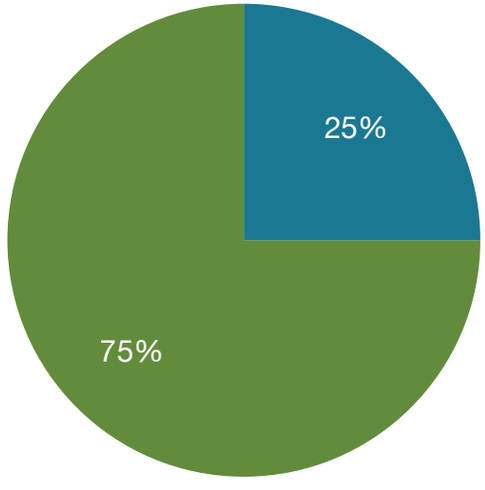
Ethnicity



Sexual Orientation

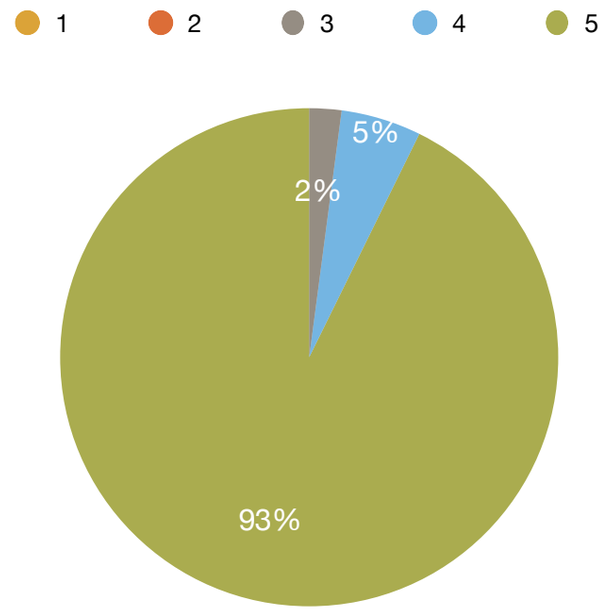


Gender

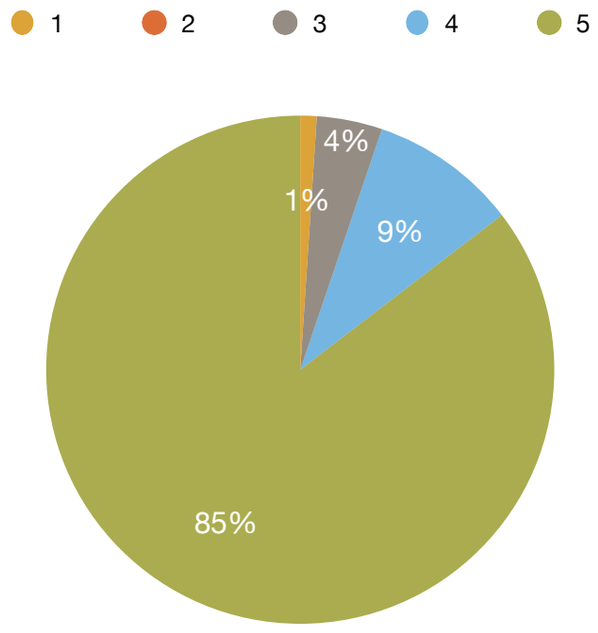


Festival: Experience Feedback

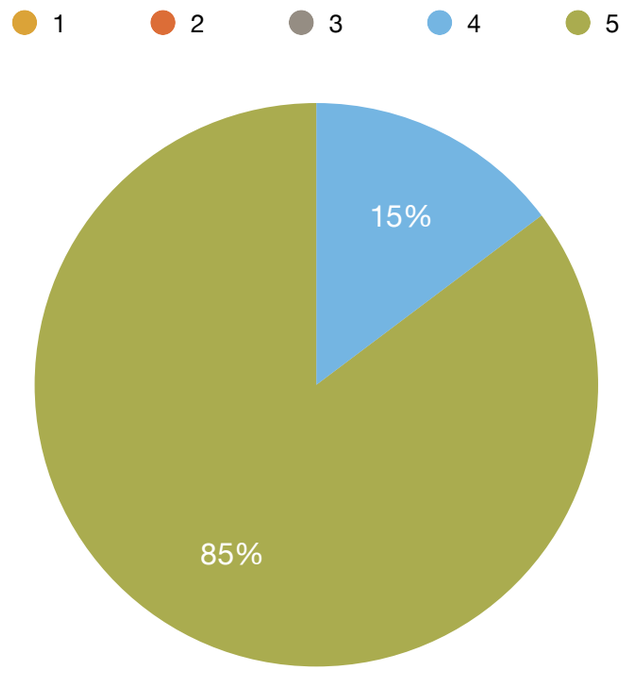
How accessible was your experience.
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How much did you enjoy your experience.
1 = Worst 5 = Best



Further comments

Excellent. Absolutely Loved all the workshops, thank you!

Fabulous accessible workshop

It was amazing

Great activities for children and adults really good instruction and guidance

Encouraged me to do more art.

More of the same please

Welcoming, inclusive space and great community event

Thank you so much I loved it

Lovely to see art activities in town.

Enjoyable fun, community spirited

The event should happen every Saturday

What an unlikely thing to come across in the middle of Coleford, loved it.



Canopy and its team of 20 volunteers at Coleford artsFEST

Blakeney artsFEST Preparatory Stage

How we engaged with the community before the festival.

We worked closely with the Duck Race committee and this long standing community festival invited us to be part of their day so we were careful to consult with them.

We ran 4 batik workshops in the community venue - the Village Hall. Run by local artist Joanne Callaghan.

28 places booked.

Feedback:



Batik workshops were lead by local artist Joanne Callaghan

I would do this again

So friendly and really enjoyed myself meeting and creating with others

A great event with very friendly people thank you.

Brilliant

Loved it, plenty of advice on offer.

Harder than it looks

Wonderful, lovely ladies thank you

Loved it, could have done with a coffee, very enjoyable.

Brilliant Really enjoyed it, only saw advert on facebook very close to the date.

A very good event would certainly attend a future one

How we engaged with the community before the festival.

We partnered with the Dean Heritage Centre in the Forest of Dean, to hold 4 duck making sessions with local artist John Slater.

These were drop in events with no bookings needed.

Over 30 participants.

The ducks made were used at the parade and on the field at the Duck Race.

Feedback:

Great fun

Nice to be part of something

Enjoyed crafting the ducks from imagination

Friendly environment for adults and children

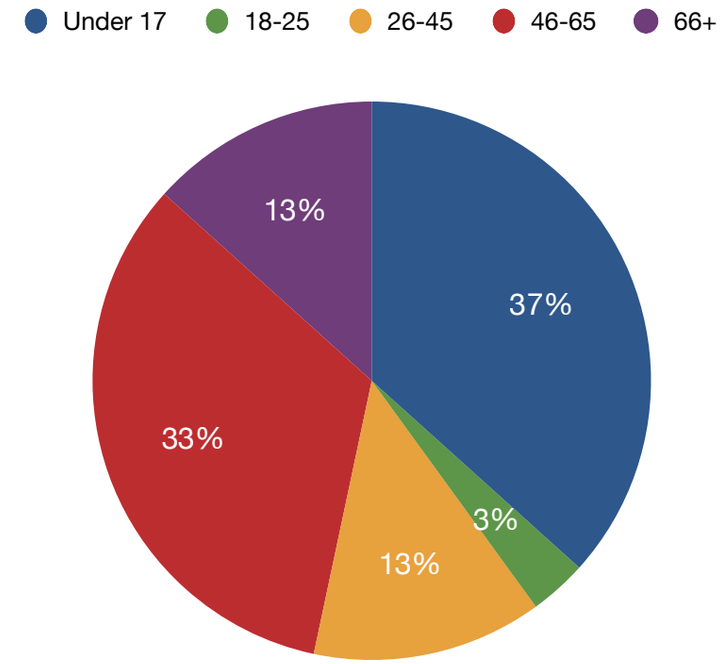
A good experience



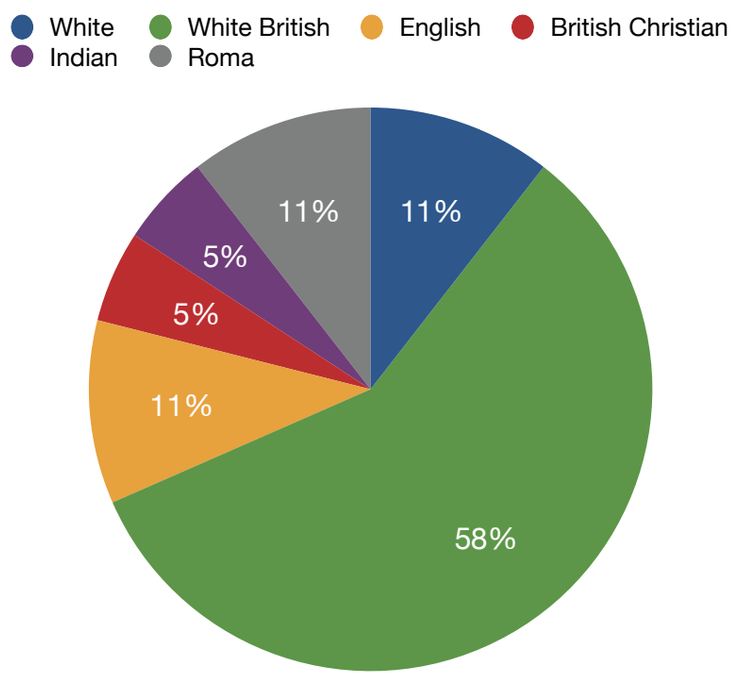
Families at Dean Heritage Centre workshops

Workshops Further stats

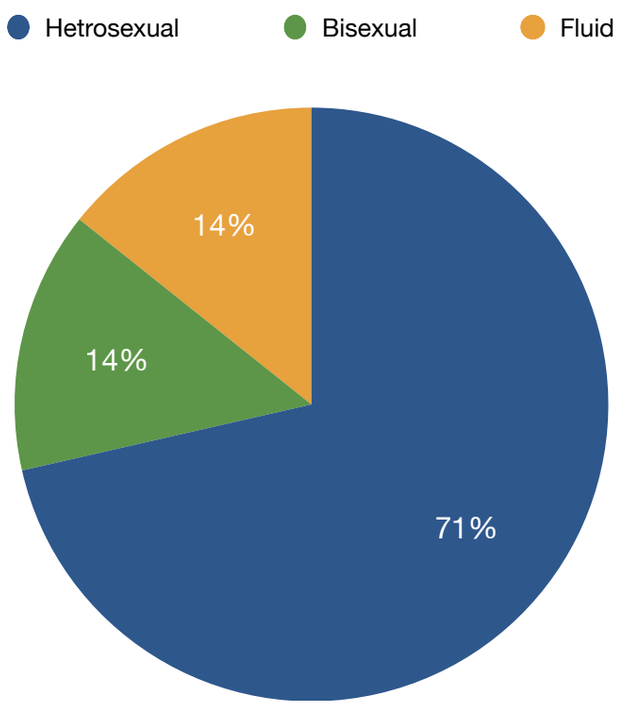
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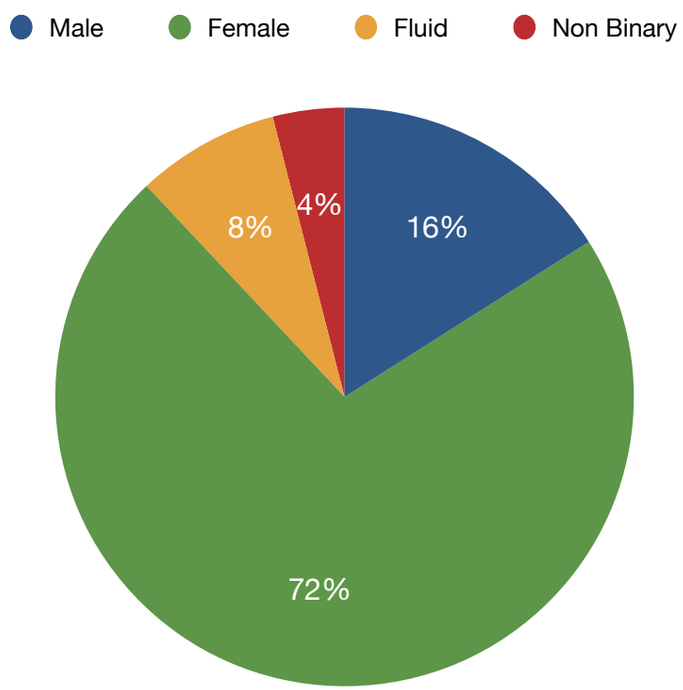
Ethnicity



Sexual Orientation

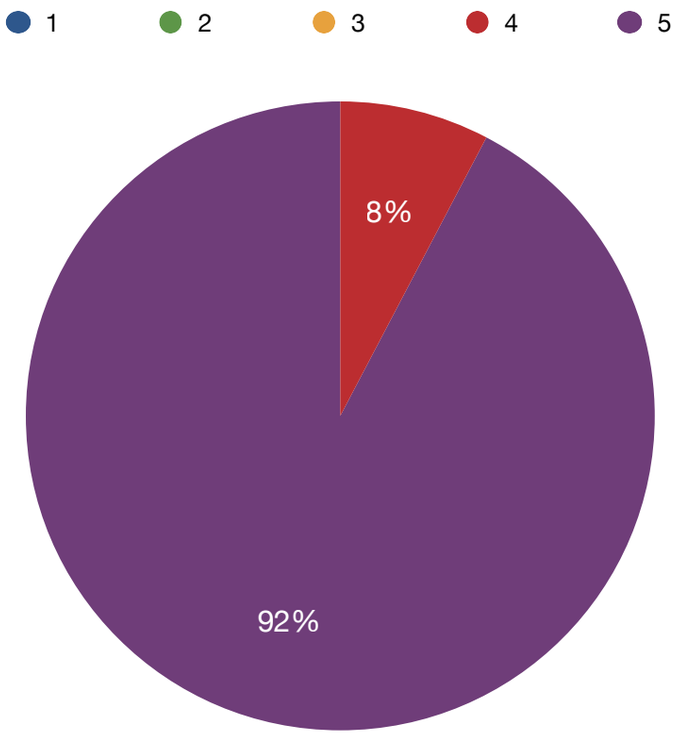


Gender

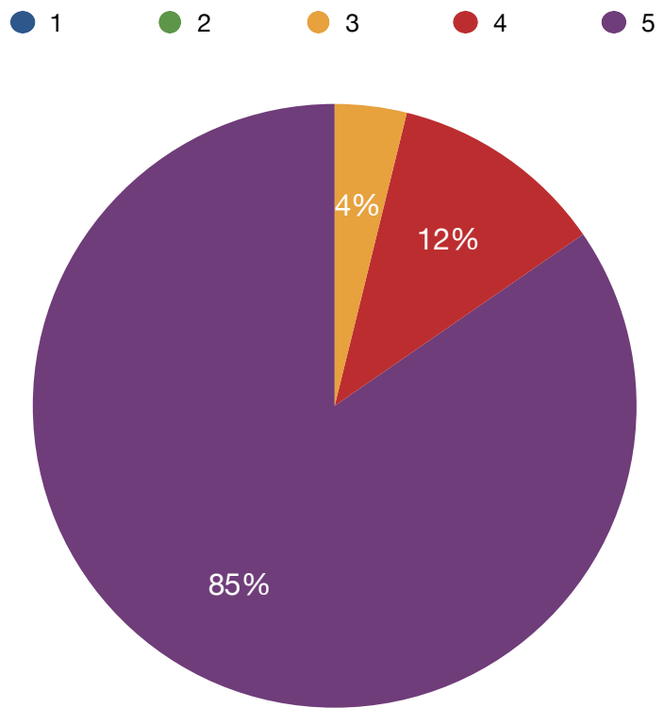


Workshops: Experience Feedback

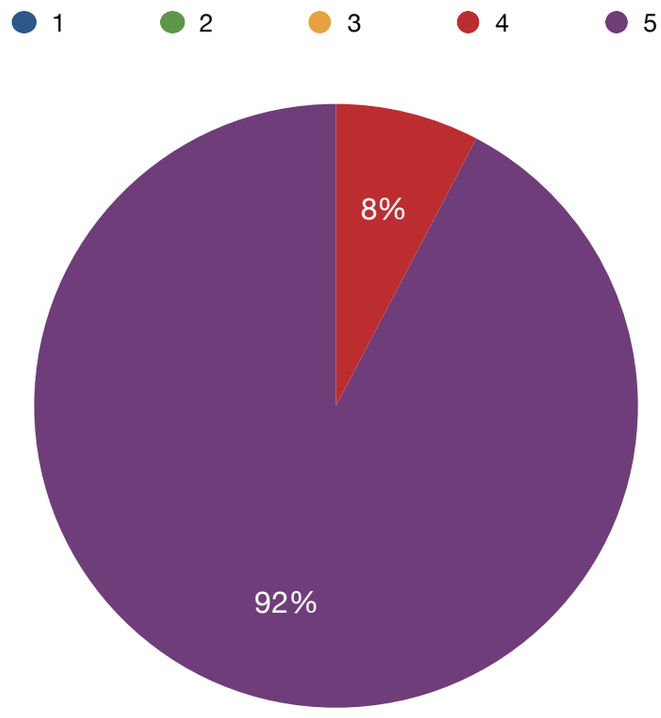
How accessible was your experience.
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Blakeney artsFEST - The Festival 24th Aug

Headline figures based on the festival and workshop feedback.

17% of those attending said they are someone with a disability or other chronic condition

Approximately 25% of those responding did not identify as female.

6 artists, 5 bands/choirs, 2 other arts and culture organisations, 1 community forest shed, 4 community venues, 20 volunteers.



canopy
creative network

BLAKENEY DUCK RACE
B.D.R

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

DUCK RACE

featuring

BLAKENEY artsFEST

ON THE FIELD FROM 1PM





CELEBRATING CREATIVE COMMUNITIES

SAT 24th AUGUST

Activities from 11:15 Parade from 12:30 to field

Blakeney Playing Fields

www.canopynetwork.co.uk

artsFEST

BLAKENEY Programme

FREE

RUNNING ORDER!

Activities on the Day

11.15am – 12.15pm All Saints Church, Blakeney
People and Singing: everyone welcome for a singing workshop
Watercolour Demo: nature inspired watercolour demonstration with Emma from Wilful Ink

12.15 – 12.30pm All Saints Church, Blakeney
All gather for the Parade. Anyone and everyone is welcome to take part!
Parade led by Forest Thump with DJABOT bringing up the rear. Also Wild Oats Morris, People and Singing, Drybrook Male Voice Choir, Emma from Wilful Ink, school children and volunteers

12.30 – 12.45PM PARADE FROM THE CHURCH TO BLAKENEY RECREATION GROUND

12.45PM – 1PM PARADE ROUND THE FIELD AS THE GATES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

From 1pm	**Blakeney Recreation Field**
1pm – 1.20pm	Forest Thump performing : come and have a go!
1.30 – 1.45pm	Wild Oats Morris
1.45pm – 2pm	Darren Story Telling
2pm – 2.15pm	Drybrook Male Voice Choir
2.20 – 2.35pm	People and Singing
2.45pm – 3.10pm	DJABOT performing: come and have a go!
3.20 – 3.45pm	Darren story telling
4pm – 4.15pm	Drybrook Male Voice Choir

1pm - 4pm Drop-in Art Workshops in Canopy's area on the field
Watercolour Workshop with Emma O'Brennan from Wilful Ink
Clay Workshop with Dorota Rapacz
Creative Ducks with Chris Waygood
Crafting with Canopy Volunteers
Artspace Aerial Rig
Poetry Ducks with John Slater
Wood Duck Slices with Forest Community Shed

1.30pm and 3pm Creative Walks in Nature for Parents and Children
lead by Krysa lasting half an hour

www.canopynetwork.co.uk

Ducks made by children with artist John Slater, displayed at the festival after being carried in the parade.

Drybrook Male Voice Choir performed, taking inspiration from the rivers and ducks.

The Parade left the church making its way to the playing fields. Joined by Samba band Forest Thump and African drumming band DJABOT

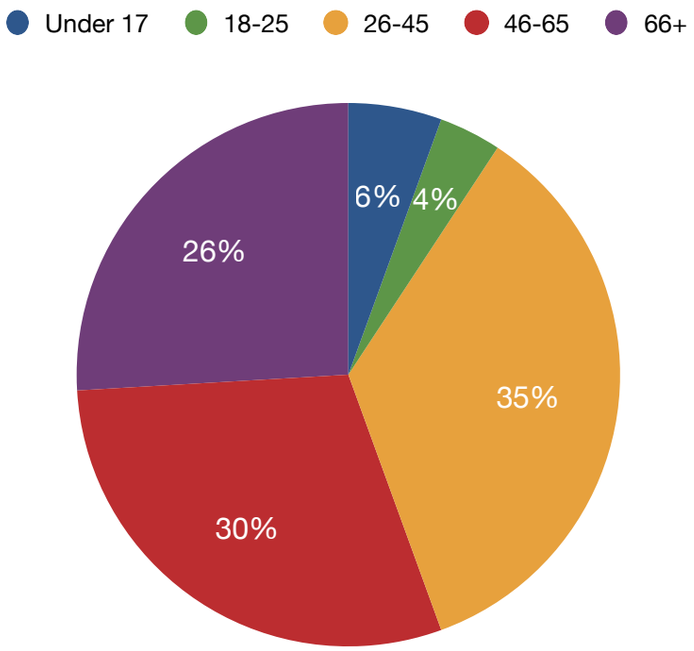
DJABOT, the Forest of Dean's African Drumming Band

Local Artist Darren Hoskins Story Telling.

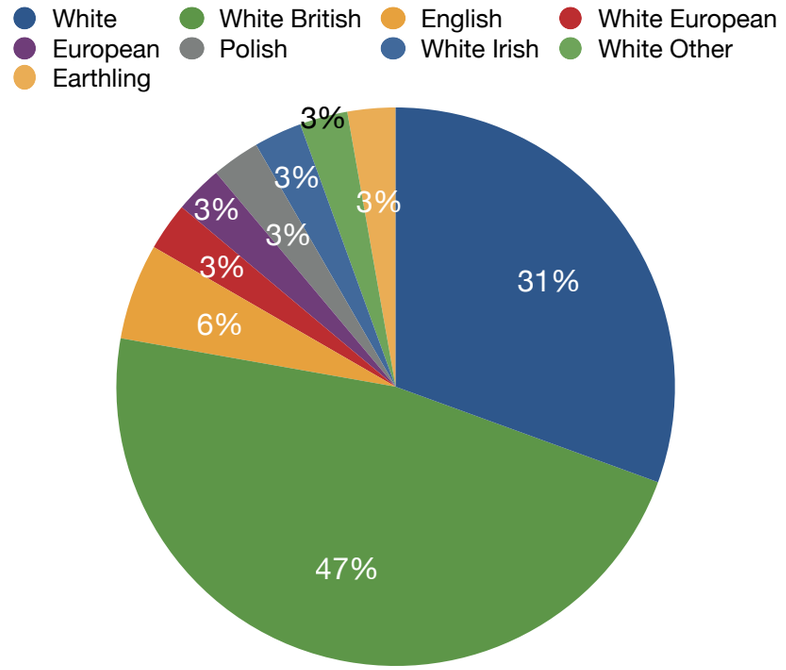
Creative walk for children and families.

Festival Further Stats

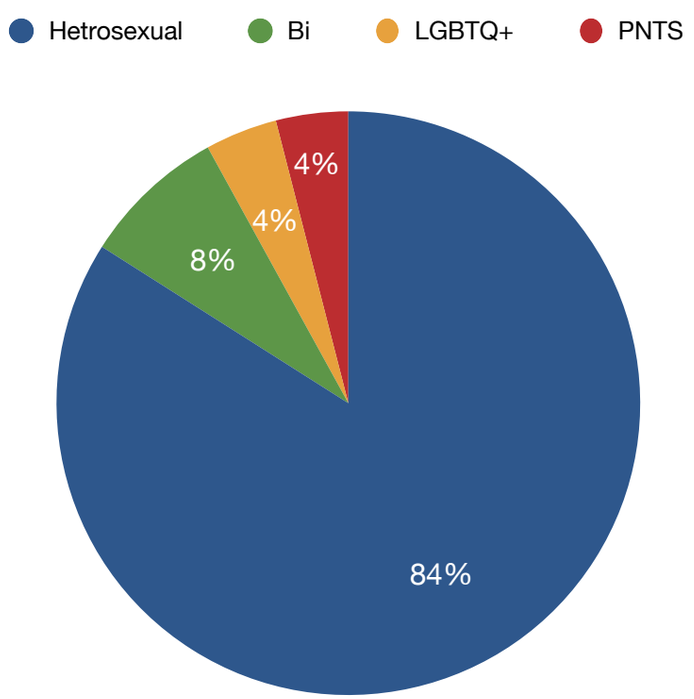
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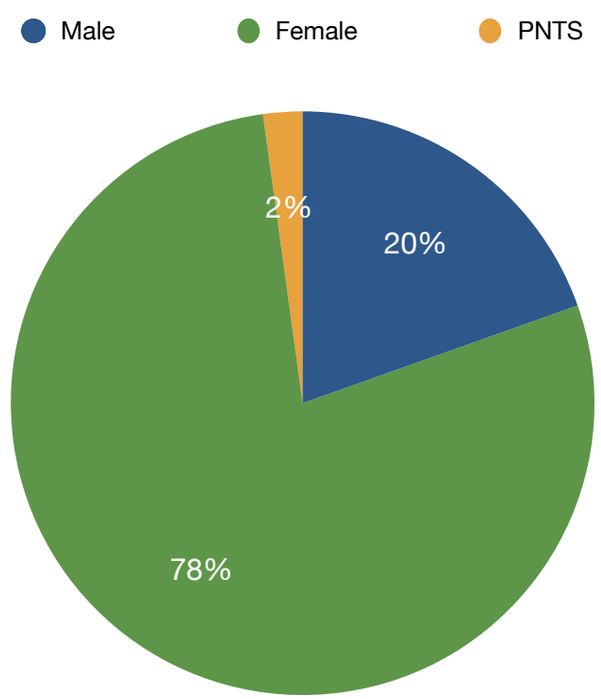
Ethnicity



Sexual Orientation

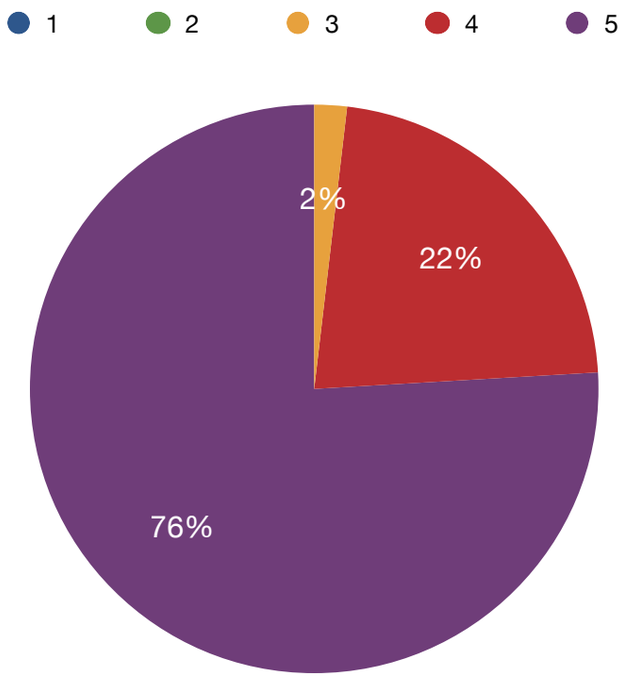


Gender

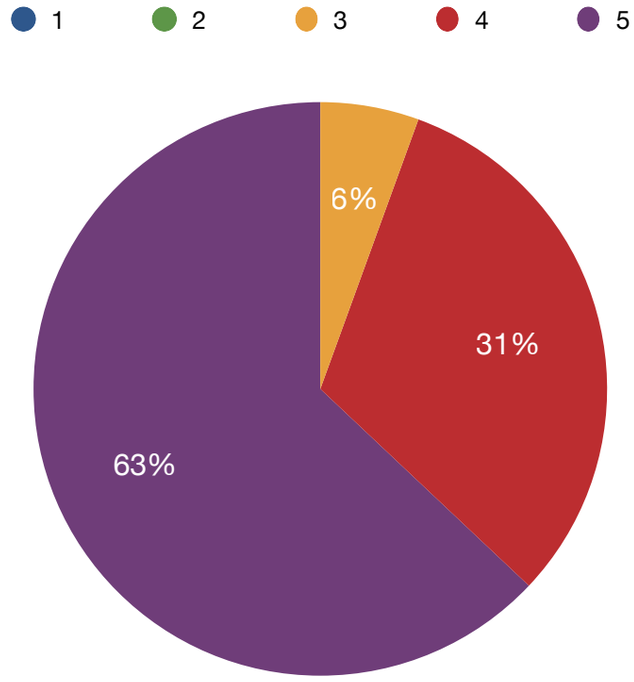


Festival: Experience Feedback

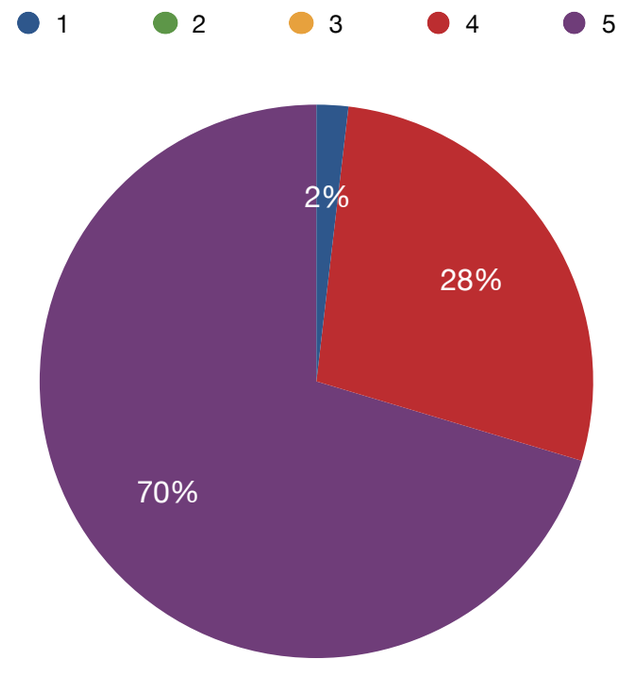
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Further comments:

Friendly fun group activity

A grand day out

Its very nice to have you all here this year.

Really enjoyed the drumming

Excellent community event

Bigger and better than ever. Thanks Canopy

Very well attended and organised

Good addition to the duck race event

Great

Not being from the area we did not know how to get to the venue. Car park signs on main road would be helpful.

Many enjoyable activities

Trapeze was great

Honestly brilliant for adults and children

Lovely local day out



The Parade started from the local church after a singing workshop with ducks made with the community.

Awesome concept and event

Very entertaining, lovely activities

Really nice event, lots of different activities

Love the arts and crafts
Let’s keep this going its an asset to the community

Great day

Loved duck painting/craft and trying the trapeze and hammock

Staff were engaging with my child with Down syndrome

Creative Walks

Our programme of Creative Walks runs through the year, sometimes complementing a festival but often simply aimed at giving everyone a creative experience in nature.

Feedback:

The whole experience opened my mind and gave me confidence to try various techniques and ideas being as I had very little knowledge beforehand

It was lovely to be introduced to different ways of recording what we were seeing & this also helped me really look & notice my surroundings. I hadn't done bark rubbings since I was a child (!) & this was really fun! I also enjoyed writing a couple of poems.

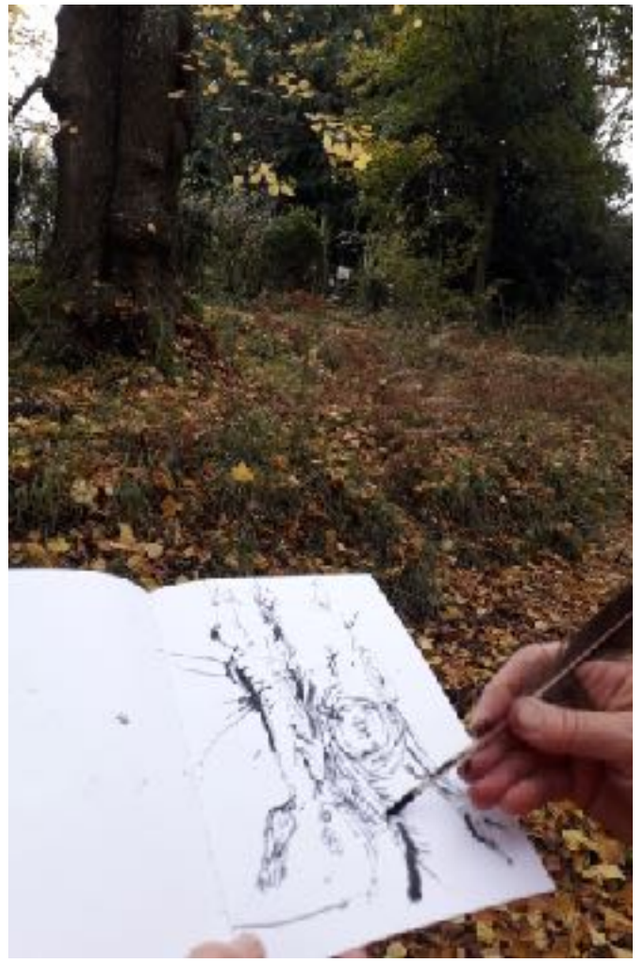
I didn't know anyone but was made to feel welcome and at ease. If we saw something interesting we were not rushed to move on so we were able to share it with others and that developed into more conversations. The leader knew the area well and was able to share things with us that we might not otherwise have known about.

It helped me have time to myself in a supportive and structured environment of the workshop. The Walk itself was very stimulating with many ideas which I would never have thought possible.

The range of offerings and options, the sketch books with additional material in them, the people, and exploring/experiencing nature with attention, the follow up support was fantastic and the whole experience was friendly, inclusive, encouraging and very supportive

Meeting other people who are/ were artists and hearing how they had been inspired. Seeing their creative journey from the initial walk, the workshop and the final pieces. Feeling part of a supportive community.







Creative Talks

Canopy supports a programme of Artist Talks that runs throughout the year. This is an opportunity for us to support local galleries who are putting on exhibitions of local artists work. The talks enable any member of the community to come to the gallery, meet the artist and their work and hear a talk from them about their exhibition.

“The Secret Gallery is grateful to Canopy for their support in 2024 in the form of sponsoring and promoting several Artist's talks.
Exhibiting artist's David Hinchliffe, Ru Goodchild and Mark Jenkins all talked about their inspirations and techniques during their exhibitions.
The talks were generally well attended and well-received. Interestingly, they brought out a different section of our followers to our usual Private View events.
Approximately 30 people came to each event.
Canapy's support covered our expenses for complementary refreshments.
We look forward to working with Canopy again in the future.”

Quote from gallery owner Hannah Ferguson, Secret Gallery.











Take aways from 2024

Over 3500 attendees

9 art drops in workshops during festivals providing approx 54 sessions

14 community workshops during festival preparatory period

2 youth group sessions

Always free access or by donation to everything for everyone.

3 parades

6 Artist talks

13 Art walks

15 performances



Approx 20 artists employed

Worked with approx 120 school children and pre-schoolers

Over 18 local venues used

Always co-produced with other local artists and art and community providers

20 wonderful volunteers

Our 2024 Funders

LOTTERY FUNDED

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Supported using public funding by

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

COLEFORD

Forest of Dean DISTRICT COUNCIL

DEAN HERITAGE CENTRE

CINDERFORD

WYLDWOOD ARTS

Green Pledge

Canopy is committed to supporting our environment we do this through:

Car sharing - Canopy team member car share wherever possible to attend events and meetings, and encourage walking.

Alternative to cars - a quarter of the journeys to weekly/fortnightly steering group meeting are done by bicycle (weather permitting).

We avoid using single use plastic in all our events and workshops.

During workshops we aim to use materials that can be reused or recycled. Like wood, bamboo and fabric.

We recycle after our events and festivals.

We employ local people and try to buy from local suppliers and buy reusable and recyclable materials, supporting the circular economy.

We continue to build partnerships with other organisations that have similar green commitments like Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Forestry England and the Wye Valley River Festival and in 2025 the Gloucestershire Archive Green Pledge Project.

A look to the future - Canopy in 2025

Active Travel Funding achieved, therefore delivering accessible creative walks and creating illustrated maps of these routes.

Creative Walk and gathering as part of the Wyldwood Fringe Festival, March 2025

Preparatory period for Cinderford artsFEST with work in schools, community workshops, and creative walks

Cinderford artsFEST 17th May 2025

Preparatory period for Newent artsFEST with work in schools, community workshops and further outreach work and creative walks.

Newent artsFEST in late 2025.

More recruitment and training for local artists.

More Creative walks and artists talks.

More CPD for Canopy Team

More local lantern projects.

More focus on our Green agenda, attending Julies Bicycle training.