

CANOPY CREATIVE NETWORK

2026 REPORT

SUMMARY OF 2025 PROJECTS

Festivals:

- Cinderford artsFEST
- Newent artsFEST

Creative Walks

Creative Talks

Outreach and Promotion

- Schools workshops
- Community workshops
- Active Travel – Accessible Walking Maps
  Cyril Hart Arboretum
  Soudley Ponds
  Linear Park
- Orchard Trust multi sensory day
- Creative walk in Nature for the Fringe Festival
- Newent Rotary event
- Newent Celebrates
- Bream Flower show
- Lantern Making artist training session
- Coleford Lantern Project community sessions
- Coleford Lantern parade

Co-production

- Volunteer thank you event and ideas afternoon
- Stakeholder events in Cinderford and Newent





Cinderford artsFEST

Preparatory Stage.

How we engaged with the community before the festival

Women's Batik sessions at CANDI,

Children's breakfast club craft session at St Stephens Church

Community batik workshop with Two River Housing

Children and families batik workshop at CANDI

Creative Walks

Creative walk, talk, share day

Collecting local stories through the artist John Slater and the Gloucestershire Archive.

Batik sessions in St Whites Primary School









Collage sessions with infants in Forest View Primary School

Schools involved

In the build up to the festival and in preparation for the parade we worked with two local schools. St Whites C of E Primary School, and Forest View Primary School.

At St White local artist Joanne Callaghan worked with year 5 pupils to produce stunning batik flags and banners that were then carried by children and their families in the festival parade. After the festival these were handed back to the school to proudly display.

At Forest View local early years practitioner Krysa Haslewood worked with infants to create collage pictures that would be displayed at the festival and carried in the parade.

The schools were able to provide the following information in relation to the children that attended.

Forest View Primary School

How many Girls:
29

How many boys:
24

How old were the children:
5-6

What are the children's nationalities:
English
Filipino
Romanian
Vietnamese

How many children are on pupil premium/disadvantaged:
6

How many have special educational needs
3 EHCP
1 My Plan +
6 My Plans

St Whites

How many Girls: 21
How many boys: 17

How old were the children: Y5 so 9 and 10

What are the children's nationalities:
(Information not provided)

How many children are on pupil premium/disadvantaged: 10

How many have special educational needs: 7

Creative walks, workshops and maps.

During this period Canopy also created 3 Creative Walking Map covering three areas if the Forest of Dean – Cyril Hart Arboretum, Lower Soudley Ponds and Linear Park.

The Canopy team commissioned a local illustrator to create these beautiful maps that focussed on making the walk known and accessible, celebrating the natural world to be discovered on the walks while also including art work create by walk participants.

A survey was done to capture feedback on these maps:

Of those asked - Did the map encourage you to take this walk 100% said YES

Did the information tell you things you didn't know 100% said YES

How would you rate the map overall: 100% said 10 out of 10.

Comments:

I think the map is great
lots of detail which
encourages you to
walk to look for things

Colourful

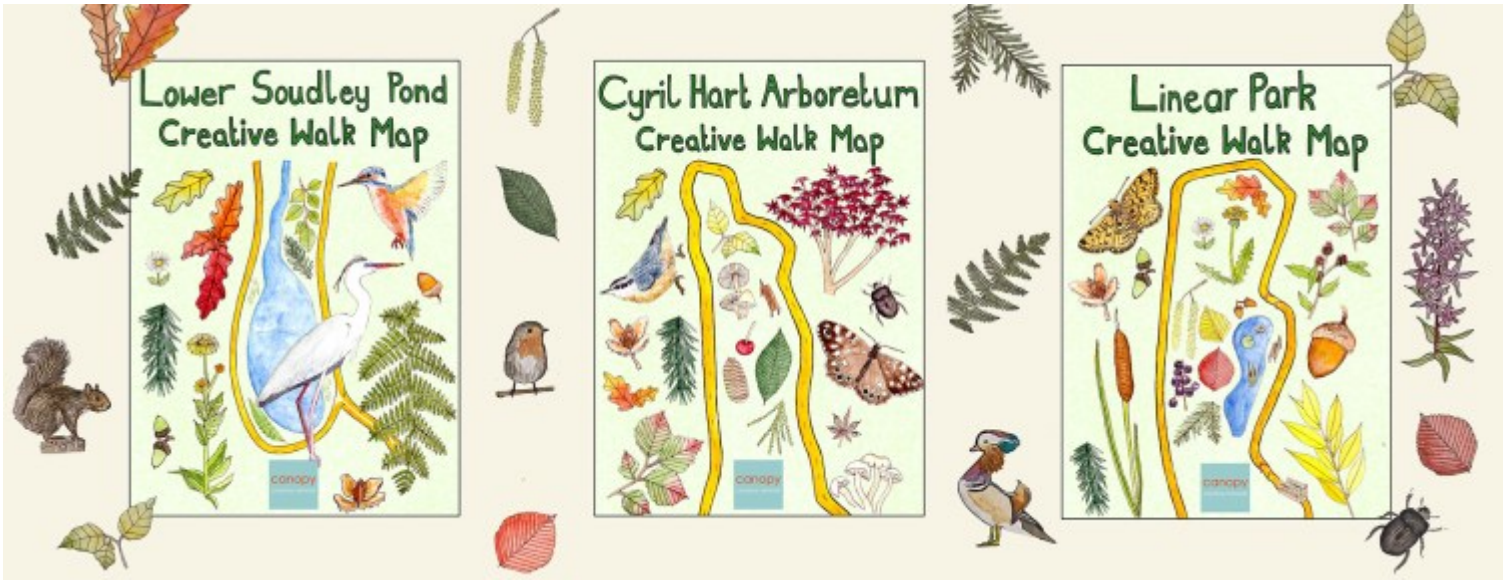
Interesting

Informative

Beautiful

Compact

Variety of photos and
drawings



Thank you very much!!!

"We take part in the monthly preschool creative walks. My 3 year old has used the linear park map before and knew how to use it this morning he found the bridge and wanted to walk to it"

Cinderford artsFEST

The Festival Saturday 17th May 2025

Headline figures based on the first 100 feedback forms from the festival.

- Approx 1200 participants
- 15 performances
- 7 visual artists
- 6 venues, including Artspace, CANDI, The Music Works, The Wesley, The Triangle and the Picture House Gallery
- Almost 15% of those attending said they are someone with a disability or other chronic condition.
- Children and families attended with almost a quarter of those attending being under 17yrs old.

canopy
creative network

Join us on
Saturday 17 May 2025
from 12 noon
for

Cinderford artsFEST

FREE ENTRY

LIVE PERFORMANCES • PARADE • WORKSHOPS



Where: The Wesley, The Triangle and multiple community venues including Artspace, The Picture House Gallery and CANDI

www.canopynetwork.co.uk

Forest of Dean District Council

Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
LOTTERY FUNDED

FUN PALACES

CINDERFORD

Cinderford artsFEST
Saturday 17 May 2025

Celebrating roots and historic connections to Cinderford and the Forest of Dean

EVERYTHING FREE...

Parade

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

Live performances

At The Wesley and The Triangle

Free drop-in art workshops

For all ages

1-4 PM - SIGN UP ON THE DAY

SIGN UP TO OUR NEWSLETTER TO STAY UP-TO-DATE

Community workshops available April & May

Hear the latest news and how to get involved at:

www.canopynetwork.co.uk



Cinderford

artsFEST Map

P
WC
TESCO
HEYWOOD ROAD
MARKET STREET
HIGH STREET
RUGBY GROUND
DOCKHAM ROAD
CINEMA
PARADE STARTS HERE
BELLE VUE ROAD
ST ANNAL'S ROAD
VICTORIA STREET
COMMERCIAL STREET
WOODSIDE STREET
ABBEY STREET
FOREST ROAD
PEMBROKE STREET
WOODVILLE ROAD
FLAXLEY STREET











With thanks to photograhers Chris from Ross Photo Club and Anne Bryson.

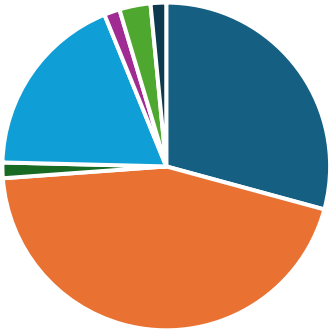
Festival stats

AGE



Under 17 18-25 26-45 46-65 66+

Ethnicity



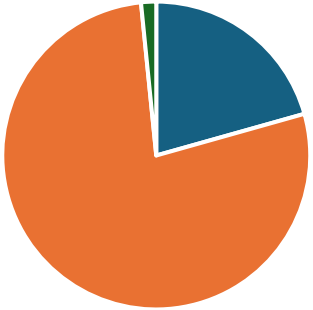
British White-British White Czech White Irish Forester Welsh White-Asian

Sexual Orientation



Bi-sexual Hetrosexual Lesbian Pan Sexual

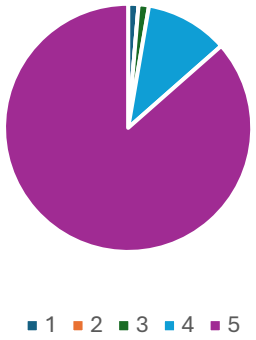
Gender



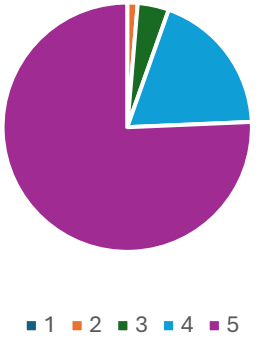
Male Female Non-Binary

Festival: Experience Feedback

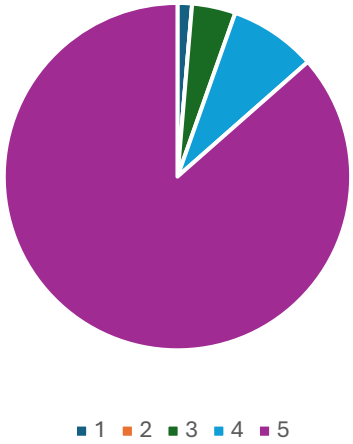
How accessible was your experience. 1 = Worst 5 = Best



How clear was information provided for this experience. 1 = Worst 5 = Best



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



Further comments

Lovely and therapeutic

Better marketing

A whats on in advance on the webiste would be useful

Great activity simple and fun

Brillant

Very colourful

Nice surprise to encounter

So joyful

Would love to see more things like this around cinderford

Friendly and helpful stewards, lots of variety, parking quite tricky

Clear instruction, friendly atmosphere, calm, satisfying, a quick object to make

Lovely to achieve an item to take home

Absolutely fantastic event, just what the forest needs

Such a lovely vibe through the town

Loved the session with Jenny

Super helpful tutor great activity

Great fun

Willow making a bird feeder - Fantastic!
Thank you

Lovely experience and easy to do bird feeder

Lovely lady

Amazing! Variety of workshops and fab music

An interesting day lots of variety

Lovely weather

Very professionally organised and promoted

Really enjoyed the day

Our daughter loved it simple and effective

Grandson enjoyed the workshops

10 out or 5! Excellent day, lots to do, and you event managed to get the sun to shine!

Super activity well guided

Grandson enjoyed the art activities - especially the stained glass window activity

Brilliant. Amazing hall - good venue (theatre)

Great entertainment for all ages

Great job from everyone

Newent artsFEST

Preparatory Stage.

How we engaged with the community before the festival

Creative walk, and print making session

Pre-school creative walk

Artist in residence Batik sessions with Joanne Callaghan at Picklenash Primary School.

Leather workshop at Shepperd House

Textile flag making workshop at Shepperd House

Lanterns for Hope project with Newent Library and the Chill Out Zone

Batik session at Newent Secondary Summer School

Newent Rotary Summer festival





Newent Celebrates.

Newent artsFEST

FREE

LANTERNS FOR HOPE WORKSHOP

WITH AIMEE BLEASE-BOURNE

FROM QUEERING THE WYE

LGBTQIA+ FRIENDLY

LANTERNS WILL BE SHOWCASED AT ARTSFEST PARADE 18TH OCT

FOR YOUNG PEOPL

MONDAYS 22ND & 29TH SE

AT THE CHILLOUT ZO

MONDAYS 6TH & 13TH O

AT NEWENT LIBRA

4-6P



NO BOOKING REQUIRED

JUST TURN UP



canopy creative network

The Library

Newent Town Council

NEWENT Initiative TRUST

A FORWARD THINKING COMMUNITY

Forest of Dean DISTRICT COUNCIL

www.canopynetwork.co.uk



Schools involved

In the build up to the festival and in preparation for the parade we worked with two local schools. Picklenash Primary School and Newent Community School.

At Picklenash local artist Joanne Callaghan worked with pupils to produce stunning batik flags and banners that were then carried by children and their families in the festival parade. After the festival these were handed back to the school to proudly display.

At Newent Community School we supported their summer school to enable year 6 moving to year 7 pupils to create batik flags that were carried in the festival parade.

We also attended the secondary school to promote the Lanterns for Hope project, an outreach project that particularly focussed on the LGBTQIA+ community.

Picklenash Primary School were able to provide the following information in relation to the children that attended.

How many children took part in the workshops: 38

How many Girls: 20
How many boys: 18

How old were the children: between 7-10

What are the children's nationalities: 4 of the children were English as an Additional Language

How many children are on pupil premium: 11

How many have special educational needs: 11



Photo by Brian Willows.

Children and families from Picklenash Primary School carrying the batik Banner and flags in the festival parade.

Newent artsFEST

The Festival Saturday 18th October 2025

Headline figures based on the first 100 feedback forms from the festival.

Approx 1500 people attended.

14 Performances

7 visual artists

6 Venues, St Marys Church, Chamber 22, Newent Library, Market House, Chamber 22, The Shambles including Charlotte Keating Studio.

Newent artsFEST

18th OCTOBER
SATURDAY FROM NOON
FREE PARKING

Parade Route

Newent artsFEST on Saturday, October 18th, 2025, starting at noon and heading along Watery Lane from Newent Community School then turning onto Broad St, Church St and finishing at St Mary's Church, featuring music and art.



Special thanks to Gloucester College Graphic Design students for producing the illustrated map: Lizzie Woodman, Ayesha Adeeba, Ember West-Hale, Melisa Turtakova, Kian Stephens, Jess Colley HE Curriculum Lead and Lou Strange, Level 3 Graphics Course Leader

FREE ENTRY

Newent artsFEST

LIVE PERFORMANCES
PARADE & WORKSHOPS

canopy creative network

18th OCTOBER
SATURDAY FROM NOON

Newent Town Council

www.canopynetwork.co.uk

PARADE

FREE PARKING

featuring local schools & colleges,
musicians, performers & artists
with puppets, flags and lanterns





EVENT FOR ALL AGES

FREE ENTRY

FREE DROP-IN ART WORKSHOPS

1-4 PM SIGN UP ON THE DAY

PERFORMANCES & FREE ACTIVITIES

ACROSS FIVE VENUES

www.canopynetwork.co.uk

Celebrating Newent's agricultural heritage, rebirth and regeneration

The festival honours Newent's rich rural heritage while sparking new creative energy across all ages of Newent town communities

PARADE STARTS 12 NOON FROM NEWENT COMMUNITY SCHOOL

continuing along Watery Lane, Broad St, Church St to St Mary's Church

- Forest Thump Drummers
- Wild Oats Morris
- DJABOT African Drumming Band
- Batik Banners & Flags by Picklenash Primary School & Newent Community School
- Lanterns for Hope from LGBTQIA+
- Textile flags from Sheppards House
- Found in the Forest Youth Theatre
- Puppets by Gloucester College Students

CHAMBER 22

FREE ENTRY

Free drop in art workshops 1-4pm

Come along and sign up on the day



FOR ALL AGES



- Penny Mail Autumn Wreaths
- Bela Kielt Leather Work
- Von Featherstone Paint & Pen Work
- Lizzie Godden Natural Cordage
- Krysa Haslewood Pre-schooler Arts & Crafts
- Newent Community School Display of GCSE and A level art work





THE SHAMBLES

- 2-4 Artist Demo at The Secret Gallery with Ru Goodchild
- 12-4 Express Yourself! Community Painting Drop In at Charlotte Keating's Artist Studio
- 12-4 Gloucester Archive Display



LIBRARY Closes at 2pm

- 12-2 Oh Crumbs! On Tour Readings & Poetry
- 10-2 Creative Walks in Nature Exhibition

ST MARY'S CHURCH

FREE ENTRY

Performances inside the church & out



- 12.30 – 1 Ships and Giggles
- 1 – 1.30 Onika Venus Band
- 1.30 – 2 Join Kirsty Abraham for singing, open to all
- 2pm – 2.30 Newent Orchestra
- 2.30 – 3 Wild Oats Morris and Wimberry Clog
- 3pm – 3.30 Drybrook Male Voice Choir
- 3.30 – 3.45 Newent Choral Society & Drybrook Male Voice Choir
- 3.45 – 4.15 Newent Choral Society



MARKET HOUSE

- 1.30 – 4.30 Nail Bar with Wyldwood's Colours of the Forest
- 1.30 - 4.30 Market House Museum Open
- 1:45 -1:55 Gloucester College Dance Group
- 2-2.30 DJABOT Drumming Group
- 2.40 – 3 Storytelling with Darren Hoskins
- 3.10 Found in the Forest Theatre Workshop




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I'M RETIRED





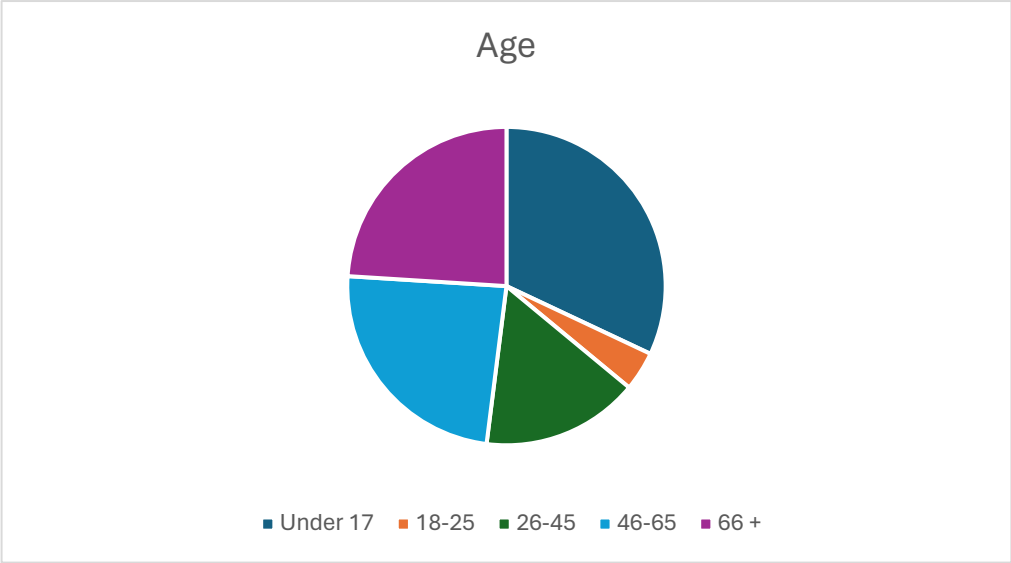


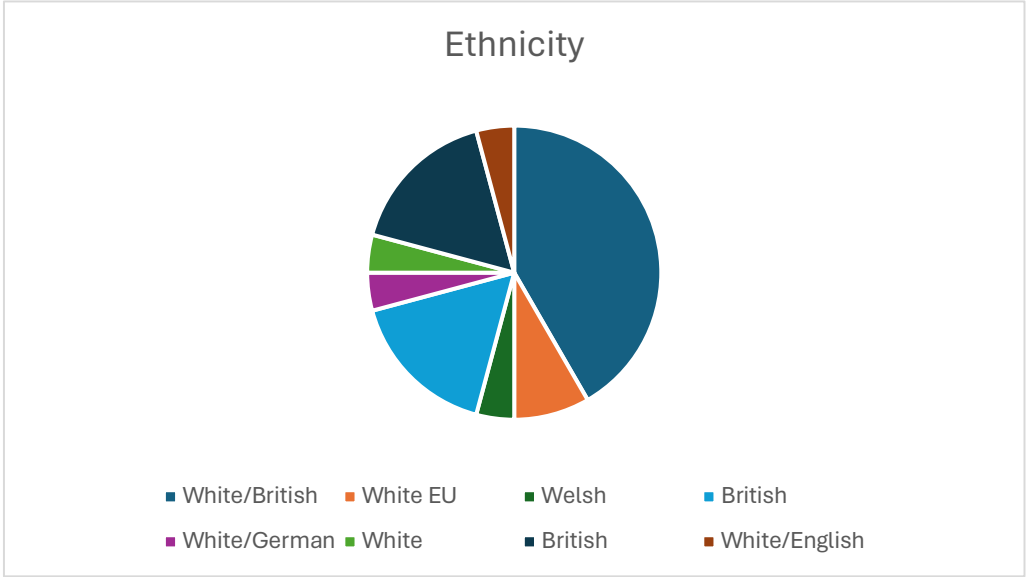


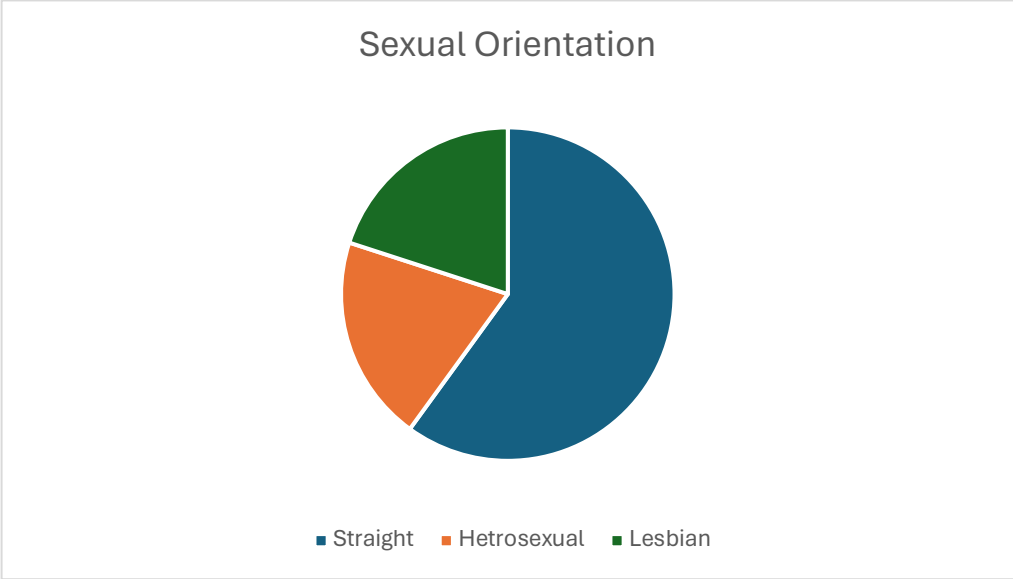


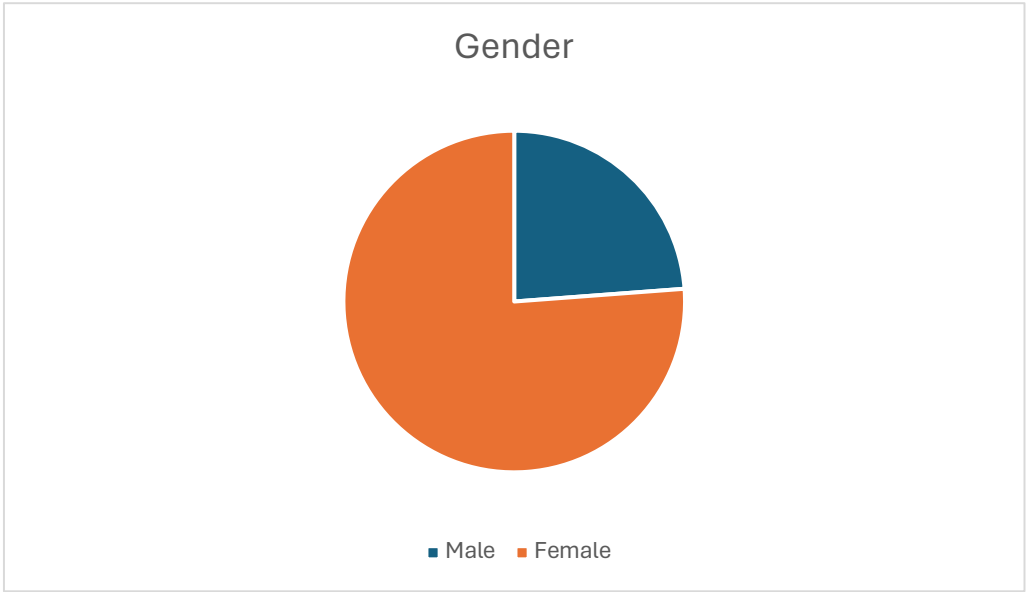

NEWENT COMMUNITY SCHOOL
PARADE in Progress
PLEASE WAIT
PARADE in PROGRESS
PLEASE WAIT
PARADE in PROGRESS
PLEASE WAIT
Parade in Progress
Please Wait
PARADE in PROGRESS
PLEASE WAIT
BZ 5575

Festival stats



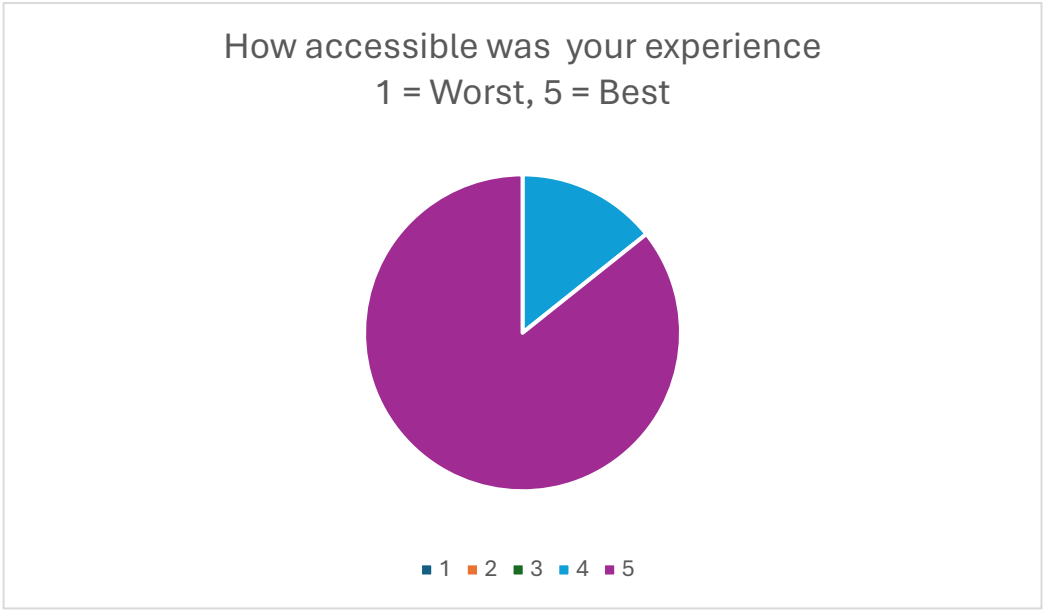


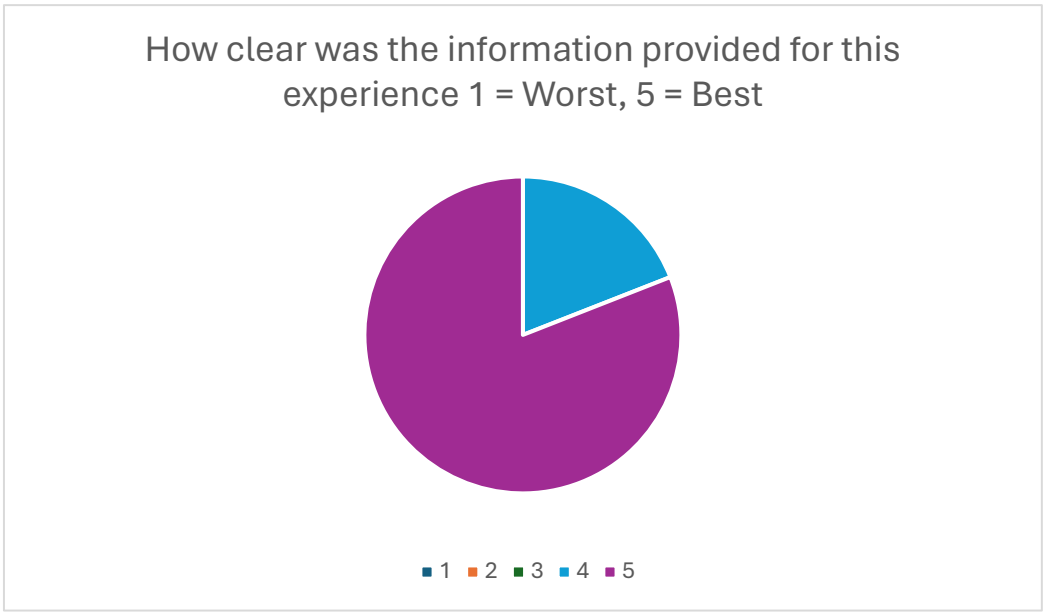




All categories included as recorded on feedback forms.

Festival Experience Feedback







Further Comments

Amazing should have these kind of things more.

Really enjoyed the art session

Wonderful variety of events – thank you

Loved the cordage session

Super fun, Fearne aged 5

Thank you Lizzie Life Changing!

Accommodating of all the abilities, thank you!

Friendly exciting staff, different materials for ages.

Let’s do it again.

Very enjoyable way to explore Newent, having never visited before. Has made me feel more creative.

Very good event. Really enjoyed myself

"I was part of the Canopy Arts Festival in Newent 2025, it was a great day, and I thoroughly enjoyed being part of it. I am wholly convinced that that day caused a seizmic shift in the town, and caused local councillors to push for the creation of a sub committee dedicated to events /arts in the town, which is thriving.

Canopy and the artists also showed what can be done on that day, bringing colour, joy and celebration of community in the Forest. That legacy continues with events such as our lantern Parade this Christmas, a walking carnival in Summer and who knows what will be in 2028.
I have seen the difference in our town and it is magic!"

Penny Mail, Resident Newent

SUMMARY OF 2026 PROJECTS

Festivals:

- West Dean artsFEST
- Mitcheldean Festival

Creative Walks

Creative Talks

Outreach and Promotion

- Schools workshops
- Community workshops
- Afternoon of Music and St Pauls
- Newent Rotary event
- Bream Flower show
- Afternoon of Music and Poetry at St Michael and All Angels
- Lantern Making artist training session
- Coleford Lantern Project community sessions
- Coleford Lantern parade
- Newent Lantern Project community sessions
- Newent Lantern Parade

Co-production

- Volunteer thank you event and ideas afternoon
- Stakeholder events in West Dean



West Dean artsFEST

Preparatory Stage.

How we engaged with the community before the festival

Creative writing workshop with author and poet Maggie Clutterbuck

Come and Sing session with natural voice singing leader Kirsty Abrahams

Afternoon of Music which included a surprise flash mob choir performance, drawing along to music by artist Chris Commins while Onika Venus band played.

Batik session from artist Joanne Callaghan with primary school children making flags and banners.

Batik session from artist Joanne Callaghan with parents and children afterschool in partnership with Two Rivers Housing.

Paper Collage session for local residents by artist Bela Kielt.

Promoting the main event we leafleted all homes on and around the parade route accompanied by local African Drumming Band





DJABOT.




466
56


David

School Involvement

In the build up to the festival and in preparation for the parade we worked with local school Bream Primary School.

This followed discussions with school children during Dream for Bream meetings, hosted by CREATE.

At Bream Primary School local artist Joanne Callaghan worked with pupils to produce stunning batik flags and banners that were then carried by children and their families in the festival parade. After the festival these were handed back to the school to proudly display.

The school were extremely grateful to have these add colour and inspiration to their walls.

We also took part in an afterschool creative session for children and their families, with parents and carers working alongside the children to create batik flags.





Bream Primary School were able to provide the following information in relation to the children that attended during school time.

How many children took part in the workshops: 28

How many Girls: 16
How many boys: 12

How old were the children: between 8-9yrs old

What are the children's nationalities: 27 British, 1 Turkish

How many children are on pupil premium: 13

How many have special educational needs: 11

West Dean artsFEST

The Festival Saturday 25th April 2026

Headline figures based on the first 100 feedback forms from the festival.

Approx 600 people attended.

11 Performances

4 visual artists

4 Authors and Poets

3 venues: West Dean Centre, Bream Library, Outside the West Dean Centre.

25TH APRIL 2026



FREE ENTRY

WEST DEAN artsFEST



WEST DEAN CENTRE

BREAM 11am-5pm

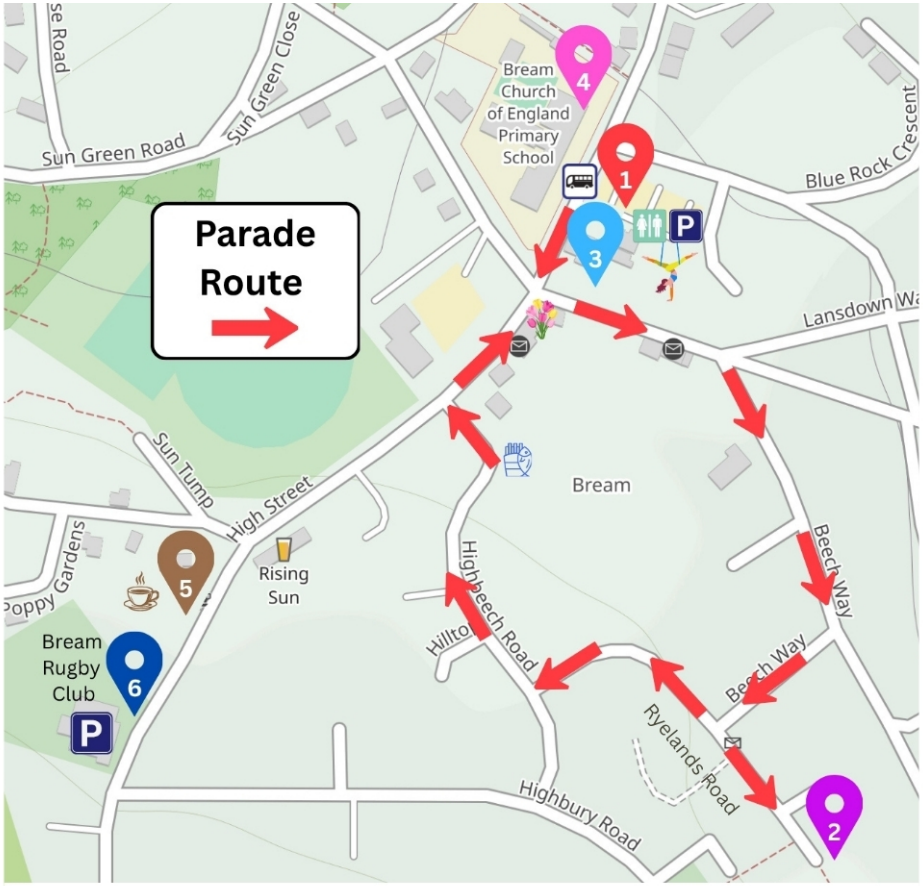
LIVE PERFORMANCES
PARADE & WORKSHOPS

Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

LOTTERY FUNDED

canopy creative network

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1 WEST DEAN CENTRE
FREE ACTIVITIES & PERFORMANCES
PARADE START

2 RYELANDS CENTRE
PARADE PAUSE FOR PERFORMANCES

3 BREAM LIBRARY
ACTIVITIES & PERFORMANCES

4 BREAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

5 THE COFFEE SHOP
REFRESHMENTS

6 BREAM RUGBY CLUB
PARKING

WE ENCOURAGE CAR SHARING, CYCLING, WALKING, USING PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY TRANSPORT.

MORE INFO

PARADE

FREE ENTRY

featuring local schools, colleges, musicians, performers, and artists with puppets, flags and banners.





EVENT FOR ALL AGES

FREE DROP-IN ART WORKSHOPS

1-5 PM SIGN UP ON THE DAY

PERFORMANCES & FREE ACTIVITIES

ACROSS TWO VENUES

Celebrating creative communities in West Dean and the Forest of Dean.

The festival theme is the Freedom to Roam and the Right to Roam. Historical freedoms and traditions of this special place.

PARADE STARTS 12 NOON FROM OUTSIDE THE WEST DEAN CENTRE

continuing up Beech Way, Ryeland Road, Highbury Road and back onto the High Street. Parade will include:

- Forest Thump
- Wild Oats Morris
- Wimberry Clog
- DJABOT Drumming band
- Batik Banners and Flags by Bream C of E Primary School & Lydney C of E Primary School
- Found in the Forest Youth Theatre
- Puppets by Gloucester College Students
- Bream Garden Society
- Bronwen Wilson Rashad

and anyone who wishes to join in!

WEST DEAN CENTRE, BREAM

FREE ENTRY

Free drop in art workshops 1-5pm
Come along and sign up on the day

FOR ALL AGES

- **Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust** Making hedgehogs

BETWEEN 1-4PM

- **Tanya Mason** FoD themed cardboard automata
- **Briony Bell** Screen Printing

BETWEEN 2-5PM

- **Bela Kielt** Leather Keyrings
- **Lisa Longmore** Collaged vintage greeting cards





OUTSIDE THE WEST DEAN CENTRE, BREAM

- **11am - 11.45am** Join Dancer Bronwen Wilson Rashad to create movements for the parade
- **11.45am** Gather for the parade
- **12noon - 12.45pm** Parade
- **12.50pm** Welcome



PERFORMANCES OUTSIDE THE WEST DEAN CENTRE

- **1pm - 1.40pm** Bream Silver Band
- **1.50pm - 2.30pm** Ships and Giggles
- **3.25pm - 4.05pm** Wild Oats Morris & Wimberry Clog

JOIN IN WITH

FREE ENTRY

- **1pm – 3.30pm** Artspace Aerial Rig Workshop
- **2.30 – 3.30pm** DJABOT Workshop

PERFORMANCES INSIDE THE WEST DEAN CENTRE

- **2.40pm - 3.20pm** Onika Venus
- **3:30 -3.35** Edklektik
- **3.40pm - 4.20pm** Found in the Forest Youth Theatre, short show into workshop
- **4:25 - 4.30pm** Edklektik
- **4.30pm - 5pm** Forest Voices of the Dean



INSIDE BREAM LIBRARY

1.50pm – 5pm

- Darren Hoskins - Story Telling
- Maggie Clutterbuck - Creative Writing
- Stuart Carswell - Poet
- Andy Seed - Author
- Information stands
- 5pm Raffle winners will be announced



Photos from West Dean artsFEST by Sandra Walding









Photos from West Dean artsFEST by Forest of Dean Camera Club









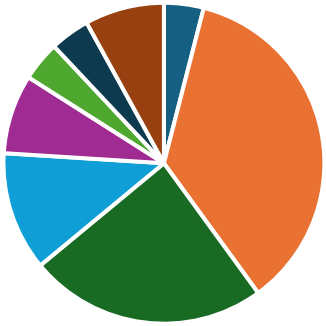
Festival stats

Age



Under 17 18-25 26-45 46-65 66 +

Ethnicity



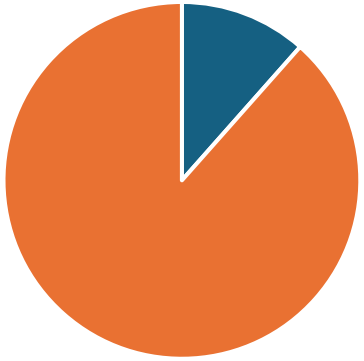
Black/Welsh White/British British European White
White/Caucasion UK English White

Sexual Orientation



Hetrosexual Straight Mixed Bisexual

Gender

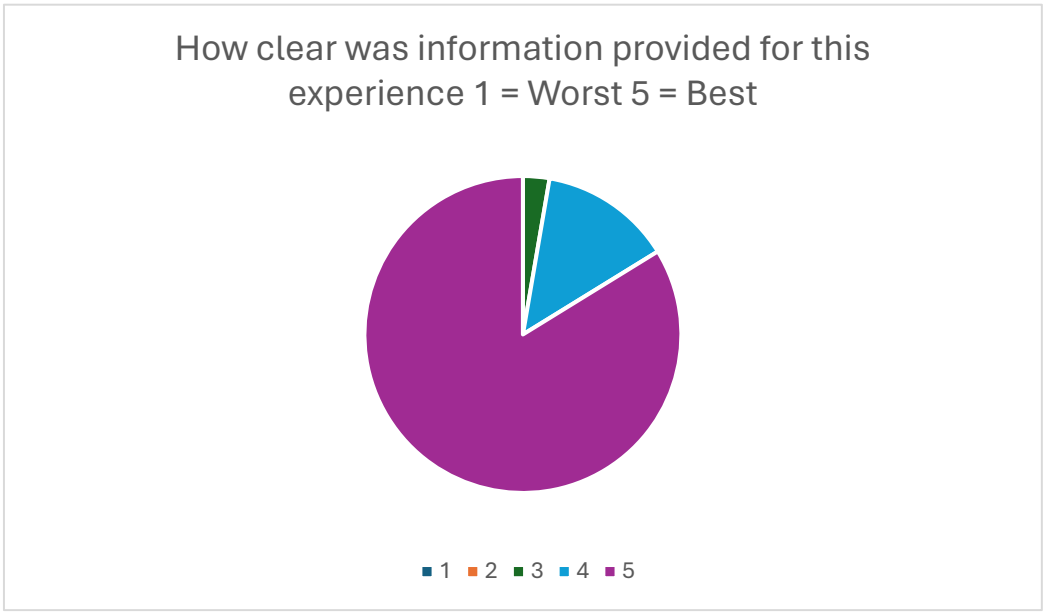


Male Female

Festival Experience Stats







Further Comments:

Brilliantly organised and great atmosphere

Great, thank you

Really enjoyable and great variety of things to do

Lots to do thank you

Loved the collage card making workshop. Amazing for kids and grown up.

Best Place Ever!

I like the pictures, stamps and maps so much.

Wonderful

Excellent day

Canopy Woop Woop!

I loved that we could get involved in lots wonderful!

Great event to have on in Bream

Loved the poems by Stewart Carswell

Lovely day, friendly team, so nice to be a part of.

Loved all the music

Fabulous

Fantastic workshop for all members of the family. We loved it!

So beautiful

Excellent workshop

A fabulous well thought out activity. Nice balance between help and enablement

Beautiful! Thank you

Very enjoyable

Fantastic thank you

Amazing leather key ring workshop!! 5 stars

Lovely for all ages

Mitcheldean Festival

Canopy was asked to support the Mitcheldean Festival in 2026.

We did this in several ways

- Worked with the local Primary School, introducing pupils to Forest of Dean author and poet Maggie Clutterbuck, who they went onto to write poetry with.
- Put on a Creative walk from the Wilderness Centre
- Put on an Afternoon of Music and Poetry at the Mitcheldean Church
- Supported the festival Fete with 4 artists offering free drop in sessions





at the fete to local people of all ages.









Photos by Anne Bruce

School Involvement

How many children took part in the school sessions: 31

How many Girls:17
How many boys:14

How old were the children: 9-10

What are the children's nationalities: English

How many children are on pupil premium: 8

How many have special educational needs: 7

Local poet Maggie Clutterbuck worked with the school children and a few of them came to the Afternoon of Music and Poetry to read their own work.

A young poet from the secondary school also joined us reading his own work.





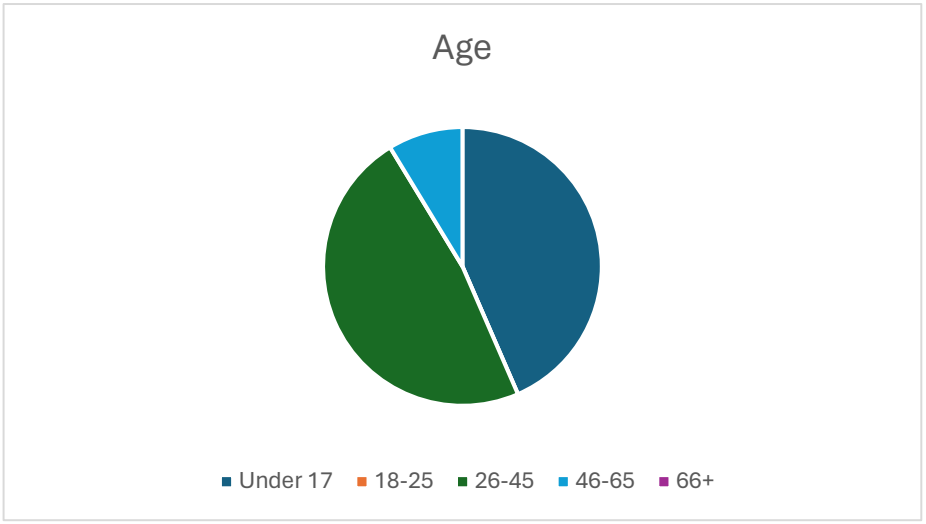


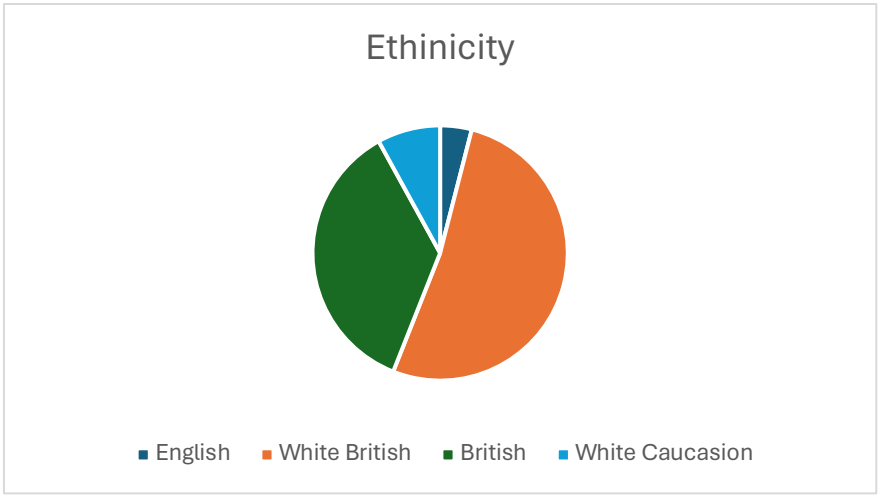


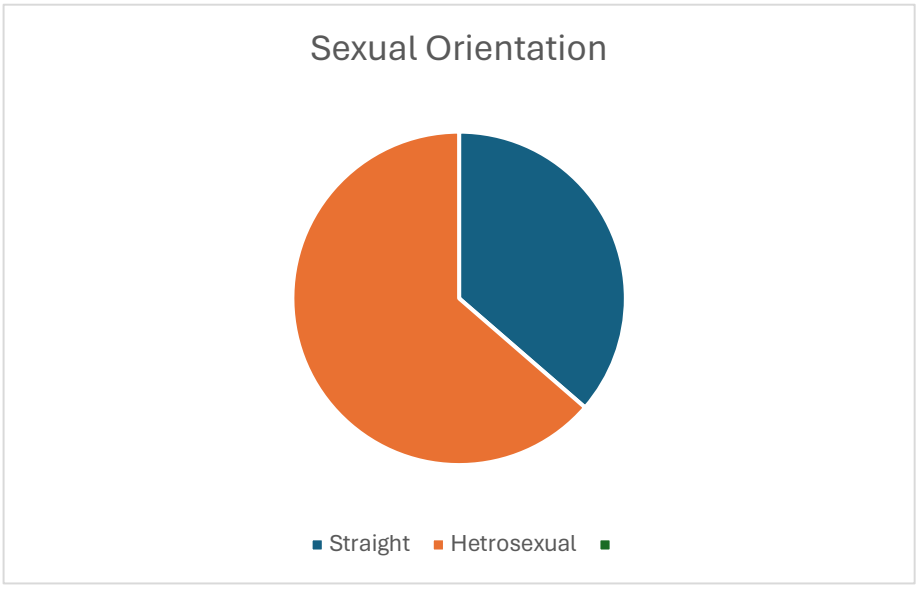


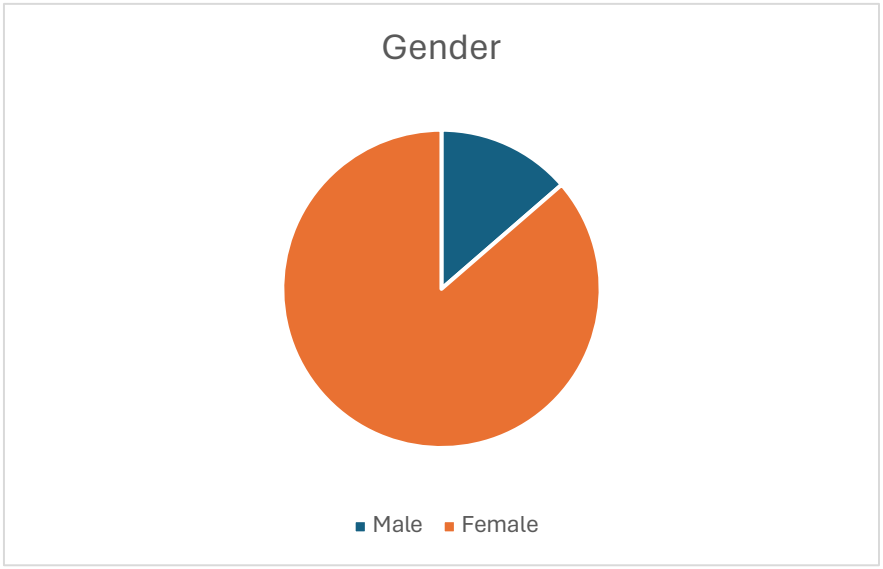

Alelu

Feedback from our work in Mitcheldean









Feedback from our work in Mitcheldean

