

Warwick Folk Festival 26th July to 29th July 2018 Yet again the festival was a great success starting out on the Thursday with “Vishten from Canada Followed by Jon Boden in Warwick Hall. All visitors left the venues in high spirits some to the food venues and others to the bar run by Nigel Smith of the Fleece Inn at Bretforton. In addition there were other groups playing that evening.

At the foot entry to the festival was a magnificent mural that measured some 24ft by 8ft that was prepared from a number of photos that captured the spirit of the festival.

Friday brought more sunshine and with a vast array of talent ranging from Cork singers club with whom we are twinned at the Bridge House to the ever popular “Jez Lowe and Daoiri Farrell playing on the main stage in the evening to a packed audience with many other artists and groups besides at various locations across the site and in the town.

Saturday mixed weather. On the main stage in the evening were Show of Hands as well as Korrontzi, Rob Halligan on at the Bridgehouse Theatre as well as many others. Throughout the town and on site there was much joy ranging from Morris dancers bringing colour and enthusiasm. The procession was started by the mayor Rich Eddy and whilst there was some rain a good time was had by all. Many many artists entertaining at various venues. These ranged from Exmouth Shantymen to Graham Sutherland speaking in the lecture theatre. BBC Coventry and Warwickshire were on site presenting live at times.

Sunday continued with mixed weather again with a service in St Mary’s Church in the morning where Rob Halligan and Plum Jerkin Morris performed at the end of the service with all the former mayors and town councillors dressed in their regalia adding a touch of colour to the proceedings. There are so many artists both in the town and on site that it is difficult to single any out but they all add to the overall event. The Sunday evening was finished with a great line up including Gordie Mackeeman & his Rhythm Boys with Granny’s Attic and the ever popular Les Barker and others. What a great night.

Throughout the weekend there were many workshops for adults and children including dance, playing instruments, recycled crafts, and other entertainment for the children. Throughout the weekend were many ceilidh band performing. We take great pride in making it a family friendly event and throughout this festival we believe we attracted in excess of 30,000 people in audience numbers who come to the town and festival to enjoy themselves bringing a great deal of spending power to the town. We cater for all ages from the very young who can learn circus skills and enjoy other forms of entertainment to workshops where budding artists can hone their skills in their chosen field. We put on 40 events for children and young people with a participation of in excess of 500 over these events with an audience of nearly 3000 watching them. We put on 40 workshops with a participation in excess of 1000 people. This is in addition to bringing an estimate spend of £500,000 into the area over the period.

All in all yet another marvellous weekend with a special mention going to Dick Dixon (Festival Director) and the team (over 390 volunteers) which if costed out is in excess of £106,000 volunteer time given

Also many thanks to our partners including Warwick Town Council

J R Plumb Chair