



COMMISSION: PARADE ARTIST / COMPANY

Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire, Saturday 6th July 2019 (preceded by community engagement and parade workshops)

This is an exciting opportunity for an artist or arts organisation to work with Cleckheaton Folk Festival and the Cleckheaton community, to make something truly special to add to this year's Folk Festival Parade.

Commission Details

Thanks to funding from the National Lottery Awards for All, Creative Scene and Cleckheaton Folk Festival are looking to commission an artist or arts company to create two colourful, spectacular parade sections - that tell stories of people and places in Cleckheaton. Parade sections need to be co-created with the Cleckheaton community and provide opportunities for people to come together with their neighbors, experience something jointly and make new friends. We are interested in work that:

- Interprets the stories, people and places of Cleckheaton – past, present or future in imaginative, visual and immediately recognisable ways.
- Is co-created with the Cleckheaton community through a programme of engagement with a range of community groups, potentially including a primary school, a dance school and an older people's group. We expect that the artist/company will assist in seeking out and contacting groups that the festival have not previously worked with.
- Engages around 60 people in the presentation of the Parade (Workshops could engage more people than this).
- Enables interaction between festival audiences and the parade, generating a feeling of joy from experiencing something together.
- Is suitable for a diverse audience being sensitive to, and reflecting, the different cultures of our area.

Creative Scene and Cleckheaton Folk Festival would like to work with the successful artist or organisations collaboratively to:

- Motivate local people to be part of the parade in the run-up and on the day to improve local investment in the event.
- Provide incentives for local people to engage in other elements of the Cleckheaton Folk Festival programme.
- Bring a high level of skill and experience to the Festival committee in producing high quality arts experiences for audiences and participants.
- Provide a "wow factor" for the event, helping to provide lasting memories for people in Cleckheaton.

Background Information

This commission opportunity is a partnership between Creative Scene and Cleckheaton Folk Festival.

Cleckheaton

Cleckheaton is a former mill town situated in the Spenn Valley in West Yorkshire, bordering Wakefield, Huddersfield, Bradford, Leeds and Halifax. It has a history of non-conformism, protest and rebellion. In the 19th Century the Spenn Valley was at the heart of the Luddite movement, taking action against loss of work, and subsequent starvation, as result of the mechanisation of the mills. Further information about Cleckheaton's heritage can be found on the Spenn Valley Civic Society's [website](#).

Notable people include (extract from Wikipedia):

- [William Baines](#) (composer/pianist) (1899–1922), lived here from 1913–18, when his father (later replaced by himself) was a cinema pianist at the Picture Palace. The family lived on Foundry Terrace.
- [John Bentley](#), the first man to play both Rugby Union and Rugby League for England
- [Danny Cadamarteri](#), [Huddersfield Town](#) footballer, was born in Cleckheaton in 1979.^[19]
- [Andrew Gale](#), Captain of [Yorkshire Cricket Club](#)
- [Roger Hargreaves](#), author of the [Mr Men](#) and [Little Misses](#) series of books, was born in Cleckheaton in 1935.^[20]
- [Wendy Holden](#), novelist, attended [Whitcliffe Mount School](#).
- [Edward Wadsworth](#) (artist) (1889–1949), "the only son of Fred Wadsworth and Hannah Smith, was born at Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire, on 29th October 1889. His father was a worsted-spinning industrialist who owned the firm E. Wadsworth & Sons."^[21] Wadsworth trained at Bradford School of Art. He was a major figure in British art in the first half of the twentieth century, involved in [Vorticism](#).
- Wilfred Barber, (1901-1968) born Cleckheaton, Yorkshire and England cricketer.
- [Fred Lord](#) (long distance runner) (1879-1928), competed at the [1908 Olympics](#)

Cleckheaton Folk Festival

Established over 30 years ago, and based in the West Yorkshire market town of Cleckheaton, Cleckheaton Folk Festival is a small, friendly Festival that aims to bring the “folk family” together each year in a celebration of British folk traditions by:

- Bringing the best folk talent to the town
- Attracting audiences from across the UK and abroad
- Celebrating Cleckheaton’s people and places
- Involving local people

The parade meets and sets off from Cleckheaton Fire Station, travels down Westgate, turning left into Bradford Road (A638) to culminate approximately half an hour later at the side of the Town Hall.

<https://goo.gl/maps/MyvqHwDJtIL2>

The Festival attracts an audiences from the Kirklees area (28%), nationally (71%) and internationally (1%). Cleckheaton Folk Festival aims to be a welcoming and inclusive event for all to enjoy, whilst maintaining the Cleckheaton Folk Festival ethos of “bringing the Folk Family together”.

Creative Scene and Creative People and Places

Creative Scene is about making the arts a part of every day life. We want to encourage, invest in and support a thriving arts scene in Batley & Spennings Dale and Dewsbury that is accessible and relevant to the people that live here.

Made possible through the Arts Council England Creative People and Places investment, it is about more people taking the lead in choosing, creating and taking part in art experiences in the places where they live.

Creative Scene commissions, promotes and produces high quality professional projects and events, developing partnerships to make great arts experiences that are socially relevant and that attract and engage new audiences. Our vision is to create a vibrant and varied arts scene, which bubbles up from the people and the place, with new partnerships, new ways of taking part in, and of presenting art.

More information on Creative People and Places can be found here: www.creativepeopleplaces.org.uk and on Creative Scene here: www.creativescene.org.uk

Budget

£5,000 approx

This must include all artistic, community engagement, research and development, project management and production costs. Road closures, traffic management and event planning, will be arranged by the Festival.

Some things to consider:

- We would expect that artists conduct their own community engagement to attract participants to the parade workshops and that this is factored into the budget, however Creative Scene/Cleckheaton Folk Festival will support the artists to find venues, groups and participants.
- Cleckheaton Folk Festival is a volunteer-run event with over 30 years' experience of running and developing the Festival, with Creative Scene providing additional support for this parade development project.
- The parade will include a number of Morris Dance sides (some with live music), and some walkabout (outdoor arts) performers.
- The parade route is fixed and time limited due to rolling road closures, with numbers of additional participants on parade day limited to 60 (2 sections of +- 30 participants)
- Storage and rigging space is limited in Cleckheaton and needs to be factored in to the proposal. If time is needed to rig equipment etc, or storage needed for parade items, this needs to be factored into your plan, including any storage/room/vehicle hire costs, permissions or licences needed. Creative Scene and Cleckheaton Folk Festival will be available to provide contacts and advice.

Skills and Experience

We are looking to work with artists or arts organisations with a **strong track record of delivering community co-created parades that draw on local stories and themes** for inspiration. The team that we commission will evidence skills and experience in:

- Working with diverse communities, including leading creative engagement workshops.
- Managing small to medium-scale projects within timescales and within budget.
- Working in the community, outdoors and in public spaces.
- The ability to understand, appreciate and interpret the characteristics of the local area.
- Work collaboratively with a variety of stakeholders including volunteers and local people to create great art.

Timeline

Deadline for expression of interest: Monday 25th March, 9am

Interviews: Monday 8th April (Dewsbury, West Yorkshire)

Contracting, Community Engagement, Research & Development: April-May 2019

Parade Workshops: June – July 2019

Event Date: Saturday 6th September 2019

How to Apply:

To express an interest, please complete the following:

- An Outline Approach- (no more than 2 sides of A4) detailing: core team members, draft budget and indicative project plan.
- Examples of your previous relevant experience and any accompanying images or videos (no more than 1 side of A4).
- Details of two previous clients we could contract for reference.

The deadline for expressions of interest is Monday 25th March at 9am.

Please address your applications to Bev Adams, Associate Producer: Festivals and Events to:
bev@creativescene.org.uk