

Supplement to the agenda for

Licensing Sub-Committee

Friday 3 May 2024

10.00 am

**Online Meeting/Conference Room 1, Herefordshire Council
Offices, Plough Lane, Hereford, HR4 0LE**

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4. APPLICATION TO GRANT AN ANNUAL PREMISES LICENCE IN RESPECT OF HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN FESTIVAL (2024 - 2028) – LICENSING ACT 2003	3 - 202

HowTheLightGetsIn Festival

APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF PREMISES LICENCE

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF MANDY HOUGHTON

1. I, **MANDY HOUGHTON**, make this statement in support of an application for a time limited new premises licence application for 5 years from 2024 to 2028 authorising one 4-day event per calendar year to operate the HowTheLightGetsIn Festival at Riverside Festival Site (Hay-on-Wye).
2. This statement is true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.
3. Some of the information contained in his statement is in line with that which was presented to the Licensing Committee in 2023, particularly in relation to the ethos of the festival and this is included in this statement by way of background.
4. This statement is structured as follows:
 - Executive Summary
 - Personal Background
 - HowTheLightGetsIn - Ethos
 - HowTheLightGetsIn – Background
 - Post 2023 SAG De-brief
 - HowTheLightGetsIn - Plan for 2024
 - HowTheLightGetsIn - Benefit to Local Community
 - Event Safety Management Plan and Noise Management Plan
 - Pre-Application Consultation
 - Submission of the Application
 - Response to Representations & Letters of Support
 - Conclusion

Executive Summary

- HowTheLightGetsIn is a unique philosophy and music festival
- It has been held in Hay since 2009 and at its current location since 2018
- The post event SAG debrief following festival in 2023 was positive
- There were no regulatory enforcement notices served following the 2023 festival (or indeed previous festivals)
- The applicant carried out significant pre application consultation in advance of submitting the application
- The application is supported by a significant schedule of conditions
- An Event Safety Management Plan and Noise Management Plan have been developed which will be the subject of on-going scrutiny from the Safety Advisory Group
- The application has received support from local business and residents
- There are no representations to the application from any of the responsible authorities
- The EHO had asked for an additional condition to be attached to the licence (*The premises licence holder or DPS must immediately comply with any request to adjust noise levels/frequency spectra made by an authorised person (as defined by s13 of the Licensing Act 2003) or the Police*). This has been agreed and the EHO representation has been withdrawn)
- HowTheLightGetsIn provides significant financial and cultural benefit to the Local Community

Personal Background

5. I have been a local resident to Hay since 1987 and prior to working at the Globe at Hay which happened in 2008, I owned and operated a local delicatessen, Hay Deli, for ten years.
6. My role and responsibilities include being:
 - Festival Manager at all previous HowTheLightGetsIn Festivals, i.e. across 2009-2023.
 - Manager of the Globe at Hay, an arts and events venue located in the centre of Hay, which was also the site for the first HowTheLightGetsIn Festivals in Hay.

HowTheLightGetsIn – Ethos

7. HowTheLightGetsIn has a unique identity. It is a philosophy and music festival. It sets out to provide a forum like no other for the discussion of the big ideas of our time. In this respect it is very different from literary festivals like Cheltenham and the Hay Literary Festival. These events are an opportunity for authors to promote their recent books and for the public to meet their favourite authors and get a signed copy of their book. While HowTheLightGetsIn is instead focussed on the ideas and the atmosphere on the festival site.
8. While there are many famous speakers at HowTheLightGetsIn all of the debates and talks do not lead on the celebrity speakers taking part but, on the idea, and topic of the debate or talk. In order to create a positive atmosphere of conversation and debate we do not charge for individual events but encourage people to come for the whole weekend during which they are able to develop friendships and explore

contemporary ideas. In addition, we avoid VIP areas for speakers and encourage them to mix with the public enhancing the freewheeling character of the event.

9. Literary festivals in contrast charge by event and since their aim is to sell as many tickets as possible their festival sites avoid offering alternative entertainment during the bulk of the events in the day. While at HowTheLightGetsIn our aim has always been to create a wonderful atmosphere on the festival site offering a whole range of different activities throughout the day and evening in addition to the core philosophy programme.
10. This is why the music and the atmosphere of the festival site is so important and central to the festival. If the provision of music was further restricted the unique character and purpose of the festival would be undermined.
11. Please see below quotes supporting the uniqueness of the festival:
 - *"It's a pretty unique event. I don't know anything quite like it, actually. It's a wonderful, casual, relaxed festival atmosphere, but at the same time there are these intense, very rigorous, very stimulating, very cutting-edge academic debates. It's very rare to get that mixture"*. Philip Goff, Author
 - *"A really inspirational atmosphere"*. Sabine Hossenfelder, Theoretical Physicist and Philosopher
 - *"Ideas are at the heart of it. It's entertaining but not frightened of intellectually grappling with difficult subjects"*. David Baddiel, Comedian
 - *"Variety... all sorts of different viewpoints... stimulating!"*. Roger Penrose, Mathematician and Nobel Prize winner
 - *"The best two days of my year"*. Michael Crick, Broadcaster
 - *"Really important ... Lots of policy ideas for government ... These opportunities are rare and they're becoming even rarer"*. Jess Phillips, Labour MP
 - *"I am on record as being against travel. The only reason I ever travel is to come to HowTheLightGetsIn"*. Stanley Fish, Legal Scholar and Literary Critic
 - *"Asking real questions ... orchestrated much more precisely than is usual in our field"*. Gerard T'Hooft, Physicist and Nobel Prize winner
 - *"A stunning event ... so engaged, so well informed, so switched on"*. Shoshana Zuboff, Psychologist and Author

HowTheLightGetsIn - Background

12. HowTheLightGetsIn was founded in 2008 by Hilary Lawson to encourage public awareness and discussion of big ideas.
13. The first HowTheLightGetsIn Festival took place in Hay in 2009 and it's been held annually in Hay across 2009-2022 (other than a fallow year in 2017 as well as 2020 & 2021 not being possible due to the pandemic). At no point has the festival been profitable. Its deficits have been covered by the wider TVF group and donations from other individuals.
14. The first HowTheLightGetsIn Festivals in Hay were run exclusively at the Globe at Hay, an arts and events venue located in the centre of Hay. During this time there was some disruption to the residential neighbours immediately adjacent to the Globe at Hay, but we looked to take all steps possible to reduce disturbance and we continued to receive support from the community as a whole.
15. As the festival got more popular, in order to minimise disruption to neighbours, we looked for a site with no immediate residential neighbours but also close enough to Hay to benefit the community. After temporarily splitting the festival across the Globe at Hay and a new field adjacent to Hay Bridge, we moved to our current Riverside location from 2018. We also restructured the festival to reduce its duration from 10 days to 4 days.

We chose the Riverside location because it was the best situated to avoid disturbance to neighbours. One side of the location was adjacent to the river with no houses on the opposite bank for 400 yards in either direction. While on the other side it was shielded by a 5 metre bank and immediately adjacent were warehouses and supermarkets. So there was no housing in direct proximity to the site.

16. Since we have been at Riverside we have received very few complaints and the premises has never been the subject of any regulatory enforcement action:
 - a. 2018: Hereford Council EHO received 1 complaint.
 - b. 2019: Hereford Council EHO received no complaints.
 - c. 2020 & 2021: No festival due to Covid.
 - d. 2022: HowTheLightGetsIn received 2 noise complaint calls, and at the licence hearing in 2023 the Officer confirmed that the authority had received 2 noise complaints in 2022.
 - e. 2023: EHO received 1 complaint call regarding noise (this was received when they were in attendance at the event and they did not support it) and 2 calls regarding campsite noise after the event. HowTheLightGetsIn received 5 communications to the dedicated noise complaint hotline in 2023 (3 calls and 2 text messages). 1 of these was regarding campsite noise. 3 were investigated and when sound monitoring was carried out it showed we were within the prescribed limits. The remaining 1 was a text and when we replied no response was received so we could not investigate.

Nevertheless, we have been proactive about putting in place further measures to minimise any disruption, including a review of the close time of the festival for 2022 where despite it being 2am across 2009-2019, for 2022 we moved it to an earlier close time of 1am. We adhered to this earlier closing time in 2023 and it is our plan for future festivals at Riverside.

17. In 2023 we set up a dedicated noise complaint hotline (details of which were circulated to all local residents in advance of the festival opening) at the suggestion of the EHO. During the course of last year's festival (as noted above) this received three calls and two text messages. All of these interactions were actioned, and none were identified to have exceeded prescribed limits.

Post 2023 SAG De-brief

18. In every festival we have carefully considered impact on our neighbours, including through consultation with Environmental Health Officers and local residents. With respect to the current licence application, EHO have suggested one further condition in relation to noise management which we have agreed and incorporated into our Noise Management Plan.
19. As part of the post event activity in 2023, we actively engaged with the Herefordshire Council SAG. This was due to take place on the 10 July 2023. This meeting was attended by Charlotte Orum (Traffic), Helen Faulkner (Police) and Sophie Hay (Public Health). All confirmed that that they had had no issues with the 2023 festival (see email from Sophie Hay dated 10 July 2023 at **MH1**). Some members of the SAG were unable to attend the meeting on 10 July 2023 so an additional meeting was arranged for 22 August 2023.
20. Copies of the agreed minutes of the meeting on 22 August 2023 can be found at **MH2**. Of note are the comments of Jacqueline O'Mahony, EHO, Jacqueline O'Mahony, EHO, who observed that there had been "far fewer calls...no adverse response from residents of Cusop Parish Council...Overall an improvement on previous years – which is very positive". Elisabeth Laughland commented that "live music tent – noise levels well managed... No issue reported with comms on complaints hotline... Evening not overly populated with people and everyone seemed to be quietly enjoying the events...Steps taken by HTLGI appear to have improved relationships with the local community which is very positive."
21. A copy of the agreed minutes of the meeting on 24 October 2023 can be found at **MH3**. This meeting largely focused on feedback from the Fire Service.
22. As a consequence of the feedback from these meetings the ESMP has been adapted and updated.

HowTheLightGetsIn - Plan for 2024

23. I have attached at **MH4** a copy of the HowTheLightGetsIn 2024 Programme showcasing over 270 individual events of the festival spanning debates, music and other entertainment.
24. As explained in the Ethos section above, evening music and events are critical to the character of the festival and they are part of what makes it unique and different to the Hay Literary Festival. They are also a key component of what our festivalgoers expect and therefore vital to the overall revenue potential and financial feasibility of the festival in Hay.
25. As a result, a requirement to bring forward the close time of the festival earlier than the 1am it was reduced to in 2022, would force us to consider the overall viability of the festival in Hay. Such a change would also create substantial immediate financial and reputational damage to the festival as festival ticket holders will assume a similar music offering and times that have operated in the fifteen years since the festival began.

HowTheLightGetsIn - Benefit to Local Community

26. HowTheLightGetsIn has a major positive impact on Hay, and this ties in with strong positive local support overall for the festival ever since its inception in 2009.
27. In relation to the licence for HowTheLightGetsIn 2024 we are pleased to note letters submitted by some of our nearest neighbours confirming their support of the festival and that they are not disturbed by it. As further evidence of the strength of local support we also know of a number of people that have moved to Hay due to the Globe at Hay and the Festival.
28. To appreciate the Economic impact of HowTheLightsGetsIn on Hay and the local area, please see our Economic Impact Assessment (EIA) at **MH5**. The EIA shows Direct, Indirect and Induced Economic Impact of £1.29 million, £410,000 and £1 million, leading to a combined total impact of £2.7 million per year (the majority of which is with local businesses and individuals) as well as the direct and indirect employment of 43 people, with hundreds affected through employment in the period of the festival itself.
29. The EIA has been put together by the financial director of TVF, Jazz Bhakar, and is based on our actual expenditures from previous festivals together with budgets and forecast final spending for 2024, as well as estimates of resulting indirect and induced further economic impact, based on fair and conservative assumptions.
30. Aside from the economic impacts described in the EIA, there are also important wider impacts on the tourist industry of Hay as well as the cultural & education impact.

31. A vibrant tourist industry is central to the economic wellbeing of Hay. HowTheLightGetsIn Festival supports this by putting on a festival with unique character that hosts internationally renowned speakers and performers. Many people first visit Hay because of the festival and then return year on year as well as at other times to enjoy the town.
32. The value to the town is also demonstrated by comments in a letters of support received by longstanding local businesses, the Hay Cinema Bookshop and the Poetry Bookshop. These make up 2 of the 13 letters of support attached at **MH6**.
33. Aside from economic and financial benefits, the festival itself delivers a significant cultural and educational event to a rural area for all the residents to benefit from and enjoy, and in order to make the festival accessible to as many local people as possible, the festival additionally offers festival tickets at a 50% discounted rate to local people.

Event Safety Management Plan and Noise Management Plan

34. I have attached at **MH7** and **MH8** copies of the current Event Safety Management Plan (ESMP) and the Noise Management Plan (NMP) respectively. The Committee will appreciate that these are living documents and are the subject of on-going discussion, development and scrutiny by the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) of the licensing authority. The most recent SAG meeting took place on the 18 April 2024 and the documents are being reviewed in the light of the advice received.
35. Each of these documents have been developed in conjunction with our professional Health and Safety Consultant, Calvin Hanks. Calvin has been closely involved with HowTheLightGetsIn in Hay since 2017 and so is familiar not only with the nature of the festival but the application site. Full detail of Calvin Hanks experience can be found at Appendix 9 to the NMP.

Event Safety Management Plan

36. The ESMP has been designed in accordance with the Purple Guide, a nationally recognised guide to assist event organisers manage all aspects of health and safety in the setting up and running of events. The Purple Guide has been developed by the Events Industry Forum in consultation with the UK events industry including representatives from regional and national government and other agencies including the Health and Safety Executive.
37. At page 6 of the ESMP is an organogram that sets out the Event Safety roles and responsibilities, and on the subsequent pages details for what each of these roles involves. The festival management team comprises of festival manager, head of security and the safety advisor (Calvin Hanks, or in his absence another member of his team). The overall management of the event is co-ordinated from the Event Control centre (which we also refer to as the Production Office) which is located within the festival site. The organisational structure also includes an Accommodation and Field Manager who has primary

responsibility for the Campsite and Parking. Calvin Hanks will be attending the hearing on the 3rd May and can assist in answering any questions in relation to the ESMP and NMP.

38. A first draft of the ESMP, along with the security plan and steward plan was sent to the Licensing Authority on 4th April 2024.

Noise Management Plan

39. The NMP is referenced in the ESMP at page 44 and along with a number of other management plans is the subject of its own standalone plan.
40. A copy of the NMP can be found at **MH8**. The author of the NMP is Calvin Hanks.
41. The NMP relating to the HowTheLightGetsIn Festival in 2023 benefitted from detailed review by EHO who fed back their suggestions and the NMP was updated in the light of this so that all EHO concerns were addressed. All of those updates have been retained in the NMP attached to the current application. The introduction of a dedicated noise complaint hotline and the updated processes associated with it helped our communication and responsiveness to any concerns made by our neighbours.
42. With respect to the current licence application, EHO have suggested one further condition in relation to noise management, namely that: "The Premises Licence Holder or DPS must immediately comply with any request to adjust noise levels/frequency spectra made by an 'authorised person' (as defined by Section 13 of the Licensing Act 2003) or the Police". We have agreed to this, incorporated it into our NMP and as stated above the EHO representation to the application has been withdrawn.
43. As with HowTheLightGetsIn Festival in 2023, for the duration of the festival there will be a dedicated noise complaint hotline. This will remain in the Event Control Room for the duration of the festival and will be staffed for the duration of the festival. All relevant members of staff who will be working in the Production Office will be provided with training on the Noise Complaint Procedure which will include what action to take on receipt of a noise complaint; who to contact in the event of a noise complaint; to record what remedial action is taken in the event of a complaint and record any follow up action as required.
44. In the light of feedback from EHO and the 2023 SAG De-brief we have made further changes to the NMP for 2024:
- a. The noise complaint hotline will be kept open in the periods between the operating hours of the festival each day. At these times the hotline will be managed by the team operating the festival campsite. A copy of the noise complaint log will be kept on site and made available to members of the authority on request and will be provided to the licensing authority at the end of the festival.

- b. Changes to the positioning of music venues and speakers to reduce sound in direction of residential locations.
- c. More stewards at exits route from the site to reduce noise from those leaving the site late at night.

More details of items b and c above are set out in the section below headed Response to Representations & Letters of Support – see clause 55a.

Pre-Application Consultation – Licensing Authority and Local Residents

- 45. In advance of submitting the application for the premises licence, we engaged in pre application consultation with the licensing authority as well as circulating a residents' engagement letter.
- 46. A pre application consultation email was sent to the Licensing Authority, and responsible authorities, on the 16 January 2024. This included an overview of the basis on which the application for the premises licence was going to be made as well as a copy of the draft operating schedule. A copy of this email can be found at **MH9**.
- 47. The only response received to this pre application consultation was from the Fire Officer who raised concerns about a 2nd fire exit from the site. As a consequence of this feedback we have created a new fire exit from the site which addresses these concerns.
- 48. As in previous years, I attended a Cusop Parish Council meeting where the HowTheLightGetsIn Festival was to be discussed. This year it took place on 13th March 2024. I listened to the concerns of the residents. This year there was more feedback relating to concerns regarding the festival campsite. Whilst the campsite falls outside the festival site (and outside of the scope of activities for which we are seeking a licence), in the light of those concerns, we have modified and improved the way the campsite will be managed this year – further detail on this is included in the Response to Representations & Letters of Support section below.
- 49. The residents and business engagement letter was distributed on the 15 February 2024 to the Bookers Edge housing development, the houses on Newport Street, Nantyglassdwr Lane and Wyeford Road, as well as the Millbank housing development. A copy was emailed to Cusop Parish Council, Hay Town Council and By the Wye Glamping.
- 50. A copy of the residents' engagement letter can be found at Appendix 7 in the NMP.

Submission of the Application

- 51. The application for the premises licence was submitted and accepted by Herefordshire Council on the 7 March 2024.

52. The application was advertised in the Herefordshire Times on the 14th March 2024.

53. I also displayed 20 notices around the perimeter of the premises and photographs of the notices in place were sent to the Licensing Authority.

Response to Representations & Letters of Support

54. We have looked carefully at the 10 representations against the application and 15 letters of support for the application (of which 2 were representations shared with us by Hereford Licencing and 13 which have been sent to us directly by local residents). Please see the 13 letters of support at **MH6**. 4 of the representations against the application were made by the same people who objected to the festival last year, despite there being no verified reports of excess noise made during the festival last year to our dedicated festival complaint hotline or complaints to the local authority. In addition, we have consulted with residents including those who have made representations and sought to include suggestions to further reduce any disturbance.

55. I have set out below our response to the primary issues that have been raised by those who have made representations against the application:

a) Noise

Throughout the history of HowTheLightGetsIn Festival in Hay, we have sought to minimise noise disruption to residents around the Festival site. The positive comments from the SAG de-brief (as set out above) are a demonstration of the festivals on-going commitment to work with the Licensing Authority and local residents.

The current Riverside location of the festival reflects a deliberate move to a site with no immediately adjacent residential dwellings. In addition, the nearest residential dwellings are separated from the festival site by a series of industrial/commercial buildings. Not only that, but the site is on a lower level to the industrial/commercial buildings so there is natural protection which substantially reduces the level of sound that can leave the site. The current festival location compares to where the festival began at the Globe at Hay where there were residential neighbours immediately adjacent to the festival site.

Whilst the current Riverside location of the festival provides strong mitigation to noise issues we are always open to carefully considering feedback from residents and responsible authorities. At the SAG Debrief held on 22nd August 2023 EHO advised that we should consider repositioning venues used for late night music to reduce noise impact on residents. As a result, this year we have made changes to the festival site plan. We are moving the Arena and Hat to the far end of the site, closest to the sewage works and furthest away from homes (c.200m). Other quieter venues have been moved to the end nearest to the residences. The International Tent – a venue which is used for music and is closer to residences than the newly positioned Arena and Hat - does not have any

events programmed post-10pm. In addition, speakers at our Riverside Disco Tent are no longer facing towards the river and By the Wye Glamping - they are now facing towards the sewage works. Taken together these changes should have a significant impact on reducing the overall sound levels at key sound monitoring locations, especially near homes. We also note several of the representations against the application refer to noise disturbance at local residences close to the festival site, and we hope the changes described above will help address this.

One of the representations suggests replacing the music of the Riverside Disco Tent with a silent disco. We have considered this option but in addition to changing the character of the festival it would be impractical to implement because festivalgoers often move between events on site which is integral to the atmosphere we create and the interaction it encourages between attendees.

We continue to take sound monitoring very seriously and employ a specialist consultant to carry this out. We are pleased to note several of the representations against the application do highlight that sound monitoring arrangements were improved for HowTheLightGetsIn 2023 vs the previous year and it is our intention to continue to treat this as a priority.

In response to specific issues raised in the representations regarding noise from people leaving the site, this year we will deploy more stewards to work alongside our security team in the Coop car park at closing time. They will encourage all our guests to proceed quietly through the town.

We also noted that some of the representations referred to noise on the campsite. We have modified and improved our management plan for the camp site to mitigate these issues. We have a night porter at the main campsite reception who will make hourly patrols on site. We will have a further night porter on the yurt field who will undertake further patrols. From 10pm until 8am there will be a member of the security team stationed on the campsite to support the night porters, with the specific goal of addressing any noise or other disturbance at the campsite.

b) Closing time

Several of the representations include the suggestion that the closing time should be brought forward from 1am to 11pm or midnight, on the grounds of

- (i) preventing crime and disorder; and/or
- (ii) preventing public nuisance due to noise from the festival site and/or those leaving the site.

Taking these in turn:

- (i) Crime and disorder
 - The Police have not made a representation to the application and commented at the SAG debrief that there were “no issues” with the festival in 2023.

- If we were to close at the same time as Hay Literary Festival, this would potentially create a much greater problem for Hay in terms of anti-social behaviour as there will be more people exiting both festivals at the same time. Our attendees may then congregate in the centre of town, which already creates disturbance to residents.
 - Throughout the 4 years the festival has been on the Riverside site (2018, 2019, 2022 and 2023) there have been no cases of crime and disorder on Newport Street. Where there is some disturbance is in the town of Hay itself where people congregate following the end of the Hay Literary Festival, in search of things to do in the late evening.
 - We are careful to deploy late night stewards to manage those leaving the festival, as noted in section 3.2 of our ESMP included at **MH7**. For HowTheLightGetsIn 2024 (and future years), as noted above, we will increase the number of stewards overseeing people leaving the festival site.
- (ii) Preventing public nuisance due to noise from the festival site and/or those leaving the site
- We already have lower decibel levels after 11pm as part of our proposed licence conditions and we deliver against this through our Noise Management Plan at **MH8**.
 - If there is loud conversation when festivalgoers are leaving the site, our late-night stewards ask people to lower their voices, and to ensure there is a positive atmosphere.
 - As described in the HowTheLightGetsIn Festival Background section above, many steps have already been taken over the years - with regards to the location, duration and closing time of HowTheLightGetsIn Festival - with minimisation of disturbance to local residents in mind.
 - The current festival site is further out from the centre of Hay than the Globe at Hay which is where HowTheLightGetsIn started. The duration of the festival is just 4 days (and 3 nights). The last of those has an afternoon closing time, so in practice it is just the first 3 days of the festival which is in question here. That compares to the 10 day festival that HowTheLightGetsIn was previously. In 2022 the closing time was already brought forward to 1am vs the 2am it was for the preceding 10 years, 2009-2019.
 - As explained in the 'HowTheLightGetsIn - Ethos' section above, should the closing time be brought forward further from 1am, it would damage the character of the festival. This would inevitably restrict ticket sales, as the unique atmosphere of HowTheLightGetsIn would be undermined, and the offering to those festivalgoers particularly interested in the evening music would be weakened. In addition, it would put downward pressure on achievable ticket prices

as the overall scale and offering of the festival is reduced. In combination therefore a further pulling forward of the closing time would lead to a substantial reduction in revenue.

- As a result, and given that HowTheLightGetsIn Festival in Hay already runs at a deficit, bringing the closing time forward from the current time of 1am would force us to consider the overall financial viability of the festival.

c) Pedestrian safety

The feedback from Highways following last year's festival was that they had had no issues.

We have again applied for a temporary reduction to 20mph from the Dulas Brook to beyond the festival vehicle entrance which has been approved, along with the provision of traffic lights for a pedestrian crossing.

Whilst highways are not the responsibility of the festival we do deploy late night stewards to manage people leaving the site.

There has been no report of any injury to anyone on Newport Street from previous festivals at the site.

d) Campsite safety

We note campsite safety is referenced in several of the representations. We are therefore pleased to share our already planned steps to enhance the safety of the campsite.

We will have increased staffing levels across the campsite as well as the parking field (which is adjacent to the campsite), to ensure tents are only erected in designated camping areas, all of which are suitably separated from the parking field. Furthermore, we will have new and improved signage in the parking field which says 'no camping'.

We will have in place specific processes for identifying which traders and artists will need space for the campervans and have a designated area for this.

e) Parking

One of the representations queries the provision of parking and how this is communicated. We provide parking for over 450 cars within easy walking distance to the HowTheLightGetsIn Festival site. This parking is advertised on the festival website as well as through physical signage during the festival. Our provision of parking is also referred to our ESMP (section 9.1 of the Event Management Plan at **MH7**). Our experience from previous festival is that the parking provision is

more than sufficient and we do not run out of space. Furthermore, we are always able to increase the parking space available by extending further into the field so will never be in a position that we are full.

Six of the representations make comments about illegal parking and suggest the provision parking cones on Newport Street and Bookers Edge. We have responded to the requests from some of the Bookers Edge residents regarding parking cones for within the Bookers Edge estate and we have already purchased these and we will ensure they are distributed in advance of the festival.

We will of course continue to work with the Police and Highways in relation to the issue of parking.

f) Broken glass

One of the representations states that there is evidence of broken glass in the area surrounding the festival site. At the festival bars we already decant all our drinks into biodegradable disposable containers. We do offer bottles of wine and champagne for sale but the number of these sold is minimal (less than c.20 of each over the entire weekend). However, in order to monitor this situation this year we will ensure our stewards in the arrivals tent confiscate any visible glass from festival goers as they leave the site.

In addition, our little pickers will, from this year, be doing a street patrol between the Riverside Festival Site and the Globe each morning of the festival.

g) Glamping business opposite festival site

One of the representations is from Dawn Farnworth of By The Wye Glamping site which is a glamping business located on the opposite side of the river to the HowTheLightGetsIn Festival site, and offers 6 glamping tents.

Creation of the By The Wye glamping site came after the festival was first held at its current location, hence the By The Wye glamping site was built in the knowledge that it was opposite a site used for a festival which took place annually.

By The Wye glamping site is not one of the noise monitoring locations. The noise monitoring points were agreed with in consultation with the EHO for the HowTheLightGetsIn Festival. Nevertheless, we have always been open to responding to their concerns including attendance by our noise management consultant.

We have also, on several occasions, sought to engage with By The Wye Glamping in the light of their concerns.

In the lead up to HowTheLightGetsIn 2022, we enquired about purchasing their accommodation as part of what we provide to our speakers. However, we were informed that wasn't possible as their accommodation had already been booked. Following issues raised by By The Wye Glamping after the 2022 festival, in June 2022 we expressed interest in purchasing all their accommodation for the next festival (2023), however this offer was not taken forward. The same is true in respect of the upcoming festival in 2024. We have expressed interest in purchasing their accommodation and have not heard back.

h) Laser lighting

The representation from By The Wye Glamping mentions the use of laser lighting. We only did this in two former festivals both of which were pre Covid. We have not used laser lighting in festivals held in 2022 and 2023 and we do not intend to do this again.

i) 5 year application

HowTheLightGetsIn initially operated on a Temporary Event Notice, and as the festival developed we moved on to an annual premises licence. Having now successfully had annual premises licences for several years, it is a sensible and natural progression for this established festival to move to a 5 year licence. This is also in line with our lease for the Riverside Festival Site which is long term and covers all of the next 5 years.

3 of the representations raise concern that the application is for 5 years, on the basis that this will prevent further consultation or review over the 5 year period. This is not the case.

Firstly, following each festival we will engage with the SAG by way of a de-brief as we did following the festival in 2023, and will adapt and update our operating practices as appropriate as we have done for this year's festival following feedback received.

Secondly, I am advised that anyone (be it the licensing authority, responsible authority, local businesses or residents) can bring the licence back before the licensing committee by way of a review. We have shown an active commitment to work with all stakeholders and this will continue should the licence for 5 years be granted.

Response to the Letters of Support

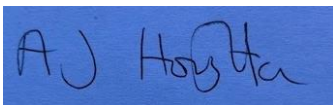
- 56.** We have received 15 letters of support (2 were Representations in support of the licence, and 13 are letters of support sent to us directly). We have attached the 13 letters of support sent to us directly at **MH6**. 11 of these are from our residential neighbours and 2 are from local businesses.

This feedback clearly indicates that many of the residents of Bookers Edge, Newport Street and Millbank development that are closest to the HowTheLightGetsIn festival site do not find the festival intrusive in relation to late night noise, antisocial behaviour or disturbance from traffic.

The letters of support also refer to the cultural benefits HowTheLightGetsIn brings to the community and several of the letters additionally refer to the employment benefits to the local area as well as the wider economic contribution to the shops and businesses in town.

Conclusion

- 57.** HowTheLightGetsIn is a philosophy and music festival with unique character which over the years has built up a significant following and reputation being able to attract high profile speakers and performers to the event.
- 58.** The feedback from the 2023 event was positive and that the updated policies and procedures had led to, in the words of the EHO at the SAG de-brief, an “overall an improvement on previous years – which is very positive.”
- 59.** We are confident that with the robust procedures that we have in place, including and in particular those stated within the further enhanced ESMP and NMP, that the event will be a success, causing minimal if any disruption to the local residents.
- 60.** HowTheLightGetsIn Festival has a substantial positive impact on Hay and the local area. This is demonstrated both through our Economic Impact Assessment and strong local support over many years.
- 61.** The closing time of the festival was already brought forward from 2am to 1am in 2022 and any further requirement to bring the closing time earlier would damage the unique character of the festival and its revenue potential, and would therefore force us to consider the overall viability of the festival in Hay.
- 62.** We have considered the 10 representations made against the licence carefully and responded to all the points made.
- 63.** More widely on the subject of noise disturbance this is something we take very seriously and act on wherever possible as can be seen by the changes made in previous years to the location, duration and closing time of the festival as well as the further changes as outlined above that we propose for the 2024 festival.
- 64.** We will continue to work with the Licensing Authority, SAG and local residents in bringing to Hay a festival that will benefit the wider community and one that Hay can be proud to host.



Mandy Houghton

Dated the 24 April 2024

Attachments

MH 1 – Email form Sophie Hay dated 10 July 2023

MH 2 – Minutes from SAG De-brief August 2023

MH3 – Minutes from SAG De-brief October 2023

MH4 – HowTheLightGetsIn 2024 Hay Print Programme

MH5 – Economic Impact Assessment

MH6 – Letters of support

MH7 – Event Safety Management Plan

MH8 – Noise Management Plan

MH9 – Pre application consultation email

How The Light Gets In Festival

APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF PREMISES LICENCE

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

MH 1 – Email form Sophie Hay dated 10 July 2023

From: Hay, Sophie <sophie.hay@herefordshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 10 July 2023 14:41
To: Baker, Ian <ibaker@herefordshire.gov.uk>; Spriggs, Fred <Fred.Spriggs@herefordshire.gov.uk>; O'Mahony, Jacqueline <jomahony@herefordshire.gov.uk>
Subject: How the Light Get's In'

Hey all,

We had a debrief in the diary this afternoon however there seemed to be some confusion to the purpose of the meeting. There was also no one around to chair so the meeting was cut short. I did try and call an EH rep into the meeting but wasn't able to get hold of anyone.

Summary notes are as follows...

In attendance:

- Mandy (part of the event team))
- James Lackovi
- Ewen (part of the event team)
- Charlotte Orum – Balfour (traffic)
- Bryan Thomett – Fire Service
- Alexander Hustwayte – Fire & rescue
- Helen Faulkner – WMP
- Sophie Hay – HC

Discussion:

- Ewen stated that he had submitted a post event noise report to Jackie O'Mahony. Other SAG partners weren't aware of any noise issues / reports and therefore asked whether report could be shared with the group.
- Fire service raised following issues:
 - EMP stated that there were going to be 3 x 3m egress points but upon site visit inspection there was only 1 x 3m point. Raised concerns in terms of events response to any major incident/s.
 - Pedestrian access from the car park to site venue was flagged as an accessibility issue. Event organisers were informed of this beforehand but it wasn't resolved on the day. Didn't match what was stated within the EMP.
- No issues in terms of traffic (Balfour), Policing or Public Health in connection to the event
- Request for a new meeting date to be set.
- Event team to respond to and address the fire service's feedback at next meeting.

Ian – can you schedule another meeting please?

BW

Sophie Hay

Public Health Lead | Health Protection & Behavioural Insights

Public Health Team

Community Wellbeing

Plough Lane

Hereford

HR4 0LE

T: 01432 383488

E: sophie.hay@herefordshire.gov.uk

How The Light Gets In Festival

APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF PREMISES LICENCE

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

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MH 2 – Minutes from SAG De-brief August 2023

Notes on SAG De Brief HTLGI TEAMS call 22 August 2023

In attendance

Elizabeth Laughland (EL)
Jacqueline O'Mahoney (JOM)
Ewen Macgregor (EM)
Mandy Houghton (MH)
Fiona Miles
Charlotte Orum (CO)
Richard Cooper (RC)
Alex Hustwayte

Non attendance

Fred Spriggs
Ian Baker

Meeting started 0935

Discussion

MH expressed disappointment that IB and FS not in attendance as this was the second meeting which had been in the diary for some time

Given the non-attendance of Fred Spriggs and Ian Baker it was decided to continue with the meeting to discuss EHO and noise matters arising out of the HTLGI festival held on 25 – 29 May 2023

Notes of this meeting would form part of the SAG debrief

Summary of where we had got to, provided by EM

- At last meeting on 10 July 2023, it was confirmed (in notes from Sophie Hay following the meeting) that
 - Traffic – no issues CO
 - Police – no issues (Helene Faulkner)
 - Public Health – no issues (Sophie Hay)
- Post event noise report and report sheets to the Noise complaints hot line circulated on 5 July 2023

- Overall, a significant improvement and positive feedback from local residents and Cusop Parish council
- Meeting held with local residents and again positive feedback and that noise levels better than previous years
- The noise complaints hotline had worked well, with calls recorded and actions noted
- 5 calls made to the hotline and when checks made in response to these all-noise levels within the accepted levels
- Changes to programming made during the event
- Recommendations made and will be considered as part of future planning
- Indicated that HTLGI would like to start the process of applying for new licence asap and certainly get resolved before the end of the year
- Asked if Council had received any complaints

JOM responded on behalf of Herefordshire Council

- Far fewer calls
 - 1 call from Nantyglassdwr Lane with a complaint but on checking sound levels at the time did not feel this was an issue
 - 2 calls a couple for weeks post the event from a campsite about 1 mile away from the festival about noise, causing complainants to miss their event the following morning at the Hay Book Festival
- No adverse response from residents of Parish Council
- Overall an improvement on previous years – which is very positive.

EL commented

- Visited site on the Friday evening
- James Lakovic did a fantastic job especially considering his dual role and responsibilities to both H&S and Noise monitoring. James worked “super hard”. Concerns this was a lot of work and responsibility for one person – working all day on H&S issue and all evening into early hours noise monitoring. Concerns about James own H&S long working day and high stress. Too much for one person as both roles are significant in ensuring the Event management plan is fully implemented.
- Need to know who has what responsibility
- Loudest entertainment was from the dance tent and loudest impact on resident’s poor location. Positioning – very close to noise sensitive premises. Review location and sound levels of dance tent or timings.
- Hat Tent – finished at 11/12pm and when visited looked as if a private party was going on. Site management should be managing the shutdown of tents as this is key to noise management controls..

- Live music tent – noise levels good and managed well
- Site closest to sewage works – closed down and quiet later in the evening. This is the furthest location from noise sensitive premises. Repositioning late night events on site to this area could reduce impact on Hay residents. Review design of site
- No issue reported with comms on complaints hotline
- Offsite noise good management, however didn't appear to be so good on site. Consider an on and off-site noise manager.
- Evening not overly populated with people and everyone seemed to be quietly enjoying the events.
- Steps taken by HTLGI appear to have improved relationships with the local community which is very positive.

EM responded

- Pleasing to hear positive comments
- Take on board matters raised and will be considered in future planning
- Would like the meeting with the fire officer in w/c 8 September
- Would then like to start the application process shortly thereafter once this meeting had taken place

RC commented

- If HTLGO would like to speak to them before next meeting, then happy to engage

Next Steps

- JOM to set up meeting in w/c 8 September – towards the end of the week
- EM to circulate minutes/notes of today's meeting

Meeting ended 1014

How The Light Gets In Festival

APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF PREMISES LICENCE

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

MH3 – Minutes from SAG De-brief October 2023

Notes on SAG De Brief HTLGI TEAMS call 24 October 2023

In attendance

Fred Spriggs (FS) (Herefordshire Council)
Richard Cooper (RC) (HW Fire)
Adrian Morris (AM) + 2 (HW Fire)
Ewen Macgregor (EM)
Mandy Houghton (MH)
David Williams DW (WM Police)
Jane Jones JJ (EH Commercial H&S Food Safety)
Elisabeth Laughland (EL) (EHO)
Charlotte Orum (CO) (Balfour Beattie)
Robert Stevens (RS) (WM Ambulance Service)
James Lakovic (JL) Calvin Hanks

Meeting started 0955

EM provided summary of where we had got to and previous meetings held on the 10 July 2023 and 22 August 2023 and that it was his understanding that the outstanding de brief issue to be discussed related to the Fire/capacity

EM indicate that he had spoken o AM and R Cooper last week and fed back comments to MH

AM on behalf of fire service commented that he had spoken to EM last week

Issue fire service had was in relation to evacuation of site. Enclosed site. To get out of site required 3m wide steps

Some can be managed on site. Small site. Realised could not manage on site. 21 minutes evacuation times too long. Need 10 minutes. 1 vehicle exit (for blue lights)

Two other exits – one on to area by river. Other a stepped exit., One vehicle entrance and a 2m wide entrance. Reduced numbers to circa 1600 people (number was 1640). Mandy and team worked with contractors – bridge on one end for site and brought numbers up

Exit needs to lead people away from site and not on to shingle beach area. Discount largest exit.

Also largest exit was going to be a blue lights access and egress point.

Stepped exit 3m wide.

Persist with bridge – then that needs to be a lot wider and would give 2 x 3m exits.

FS concern was with getting emergency vehicles on/off.

AM this needs a lot of management – a single track – ½ mile long.

EM advised on the appointment of fire consultant. Meet on site in due course once a plan was settled.

FS – site not ideal – look at other sites?

MH – looking at other sites but keen to make the site work. Make steps wider. Things we can do to make site better. Looking at other options.

RS – greenfield site. Bears no resemblance to what will be there in due course so rely very heavily on the plan. If bits missing and info false, that is all we have to go on. Difficult job for us.

EM noted these comments, and a plan would be provided as soon as possible to reflect what was going to happen on site

FS- want to help you put on a safe event in the future

EL – vehicles on site in the campsite – no safety barriers in relation to camper vans

MH – remember emails – separate out vehicles from the tents. 2 vehicles that came in and parked in the tented area. That is something that will not happen next year.

EL commented that JL was dealing with the bridge element – did a great job – but two key roles too much work for one person. Bridge issue quite major – not best dealt with under one hat. Needed to be a bit more management closing down events and stopping private events. New site likely to happen?

MH everything in discussion – looking at existing site to improve

EM comments on role of JL noted from last meeting

EL – did well with communication in the area – one or two complaints – people will be impacted but whether that is a reasonable expected impact. Bass levels in later night are usually the issue.

FS issue with events one person trying to do everything – working all day and late at night – look at management structure. Sufficient people in place – two people under James – something to look at

RS – medical cover. Need an ambulance – expect this to be available 24/7. What they seem to not have was enough staff to manage during the day and overnight on call.

Great but what happens when call out?

Service level agreement with a company – in reality is that going to work. One you hope is never instigated. You do have a duty of care for campers – it is off site – away from medical people- needs to be covered – move ambulance to campsite overnight.

Need enough medical personal for hours that you have. Paramedic emergency care assistance and responder on site. Have a look at Medical Needs Assessment – what do I need to cover and what are my responsibilities. RA first and then Medical Needs Assessment and from that what staffing you need and where it needs to be

EM next steps to agree a layout plan and possibly have a site meeting. Keen to get the process for the new licence started as soon as possible, and ideally do not wish to be submitting in February next year – dates for 2024 sent to FS and circulated to the SAG group

RS all want event to succeed and be a safe and great event – any advice we can give please reach out and ask

FS role to help support with best professional advice

EM indicated he would circulate minutes of meeting and thanked everyone for their feedback.

Meeting ended 1026

How The Light Gets In Festival

APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF PREMISES LICENCE

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

MH4 – HowTheLightGetsIn 2024 Hay Print Programme

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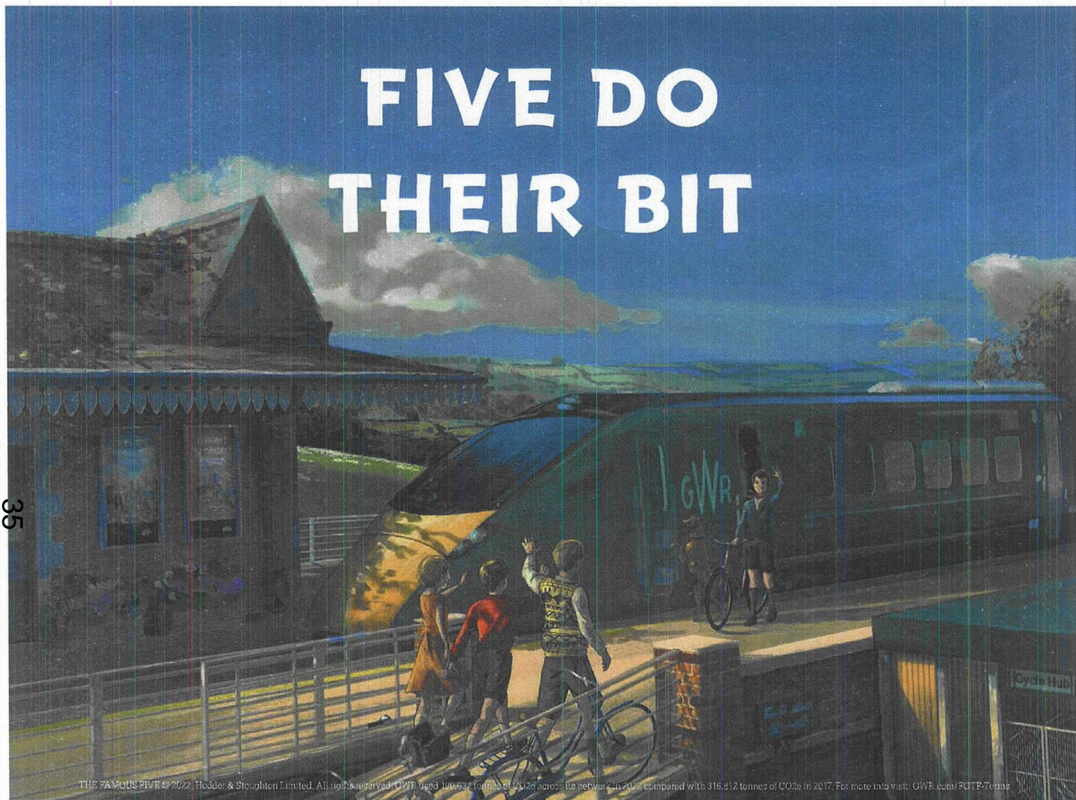
HowTheLightGetsIn

HAY 2024



24TH - 27TH MAY 2024

FIVE DO THEIR BIT



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HowTheLightGetsIn

HAY 2024

HowTheLightGetsIn is unique in combining a great music and comedy lineup that runs throughout the day and evening on eight stages, with world leading thinkers in debate and conversation on the hottest topics of the moment. This year is no exception. The programme includes the world's most renowned philosophers, Nobel prize winning scientists, top politicians, Mercury Prize nominees, legendary bands, headline comedians and every evening our celebrated parties.

Each year we choose a theme as a focus for the debates and talks. The future is always uncertain and the world and our lives unpredictable. But it is surely the case that the current outlook economically, geopolitically, environmentally and technologically is more precarious, and carrying greater risk than we have faced for a generation if not a lifetime. So it is that this year's festival theme 'Danger, Desire and Destiny' seeks to identify the dangers we face, and looks for ways forward that might deliver our desires.

In the years since the first HowTheLightGetsIn festival, not much more than a decade ago, the world has become a very different place. At the time we highlighted fault lines that were appearing in the Enlightenment dream. The assumption that the Western approach to knowledge would carry all before it and lead us to a better society was starting to look increasingly precarious in the light of relativistic and postmodern concerns. Now, just a little more than a decade on, those doubts have been made concrete by a divisive culture, and a deeply unstable world.

HowTheLightGetsIn Hay 2024 shines a spotlight on the decade to come and asks: what are the dangers we have overlooked, what are the ways to overcome the threats that trouble us? Do we need to think differently and change our goals so that we can evolve desirable destinies, or must we act now to confront the many divergent risks facing us? Speakers from around the world put forward their ideas and strategies to overcome the dangers we face on a hugely wide range of issues, from AI technology to geopolitics, cosmology to romantic love.

Thanks to the support of festivalgoers, artists, performers and thousands of volunteer staff and traders, the festival is growing every year, and each promises to be more spectacular than the last. We are excited to welcome you back to our favourite tents – including the unique Inner Circle tent where you can meet and talk to renowned speakers over a meal and a glass of wine. Also returning this year is the Long Table Banquet – a fabulous multi-course meal, hosted in the Waterfront. Elsewhere the Hat Sessions during the day offer a range of new events with one-on-one debates, headline talks, and 'Life and Philosophy' biographies. We are also growing our programme for children which is free for those up to 12 accompanied by an adult, and a special range of lectures for pre-university pupils with some tips for their university applications at the IAI School. See the relevant sections in this programme and bring the family to the festival with something for everyone.

Our partners are vital to the success of the festival. So a big welcome to our partners including Scientific American, The Conversation, The Guardian, Foreign Policy, and a huge thank you to our philosophy partners like the Royal Institute of Philosophy, the Essentia Foundation, Theos and Audio Note. And thank you also to Waterstones for joining us once again as our bookshop partner – do make sure to check out their tent for signings, performances and to meet all of your favourite speakers.

HowTheLightGetsIn is a festival unlike any other. Discover original ideas from those at the very top of their field and fresh ground-breaking perspectives from new voices. Be transported by exciting bands, remarkable soloists, award-winning comedians and sensational cabaret acts. Above all, share your thoughts, your dance moves, your company, and magic is sure to come your way.

Welcome to HowTheLightGetsIn Hay 2024.

howthelightgetsin.org

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME



FESTIVAL SITE

Opening onto a glorious stretch of the river Wye, the festival site is set amid some of the finest scenery in the country and boasts 12 stages and exciting new venues.

The Arena and the International host headline music acts at night and key debates during the day. The Hat, our main music venue, has a range of inspiring sessions during the day and hosts a late night party. The Stage stretches along the river with the Festival Bookshop, café and gentle music events during the day with cabaret and comedy in the evening. At Riverside Disco you can dance all evening, or enjoy a drink at Pooka's Garden during the day and watch the river go by.

Grab a bite at the Waterfront Kitchen, head to the Cinema tent for Dokbox Films and video art, or browse the market stalls in the Foye. If you want to unwind away from the mayhem, make your way to Bohemia and the Aurum Spa. Don't leave without trying the ferris wheel for a wondrous view of Hay and the Black Mountains.

For a detailed venue guide see p.84.



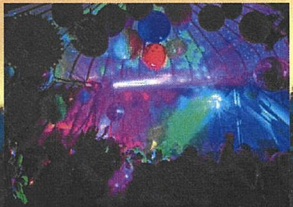
DEBATES AND TALKS

"Danger, Desire and Destiny" is this year's theme. Each of our debates seeks a new way forward as we explore how best to deal with an uncertain future. The biggest debates run in the Arena and the International.

HowTheLightGetsIn's debate programme spans philosophy, politics, science, culture and the arts, and features the brightest minds from every field of endeavour. Topics include everything from the mystery of dark energy to the value of elections, from the speed of light to the role of consciousness.

As well as the debates, you can hear our speakers in The Ring as they put forward their views on the issues they think most important.

The Hat Session programme features speakers discussing their Life and Philosophy, their ideas and their dreams for the future, delivering masterful 'How To' sessions in a programme of intimate and experiential talks.



MUSIC & PERFORMANCE

Our Music and Performance programme takes place across eight stages showcasing the best the UK has to offer, from enchanting solo singers to exhilarating dance beats. Our headline bands, performers, DJs and nightly themed parties have become the stuff of legend.

Throughout the day, alongside the debate and talk programme, music and performance events run in the Blue Moon, Front Rooms and the Stage. In the Cinema, the documentary platform Dokbox is screening its top programming. Laugh until your sides ache with the UK's funniest comic talent. Put on your glad rags for the nightly parties and get ready to dance until your feet hurt.

Festival Tickets provide access to all music and performance events.



EXPERIENCES

Inner Circle events are a unique opportunity to discuss the day's ideas with the world leading thinkers in our programme. Set in its own beautiful tent, this is a remarkable chance to meet speakers informally over a meal and a glass of wine. Book your tickets early – our tables fit a maximum of 20 people and are often the first to sell out.

If you are looking for something properly special, don't miss our Long Table Bonquets: a fabulous multi-course meal in the Waterfront Kitchen, which also hosts a range of street-food inspired gourmet outlets. And for a gentle thrill, try out our vintage rides, or unwind and relax and revitalise with a massage or yoga session in Bohemia. Or try the all-ages pottery workshops in the Mindcraft tent. These are ticketed events so book early to avoid disappointment.

Extra Experiences can be booked online or at the Box Office. They are not included in Festival Tickets.



IAI ACADEMY

IAI Academy gives you the chance to take courses led by a world-leading faculty putting forward their unique takes on the ideas that matter in short, two-part courses. There is also plenty of opportunity to meet others attending the course and your lecturer over tea and coffee both before and during the course.

Those who wish to can take an end of course assessment and receive a certificate of attendance. But we welcome those who come for the ideas alone.

Topics range from the mystery of black holes, to the politics of the body, to what will follow postmodernism.

See p. 58 for details. Academy courses are included in Festival Tickets.

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Our Philosophy

While there is little of the future that we can be certain about, we can nevertheless be confident that a time will come when our current beliefs and assumptions are seen as mistaken, our heroes – like the imperial adventurers of the past – are regarded as villains, and our current morality viewed as bigoted prejudice. In this light, the IAI was founded to challenge the notion that our present accepted wisdom is the truth. Its mission to uncover flaws and limitations in current thinking in search of new ways of seeing that provide alternative and better ways of understanding.

The IAI's primary vehicle for change is the ideas and educational platform IAI.tv, with daily updates adding to thousands of debates, talks, interviews, articles, courses and podcasts. In addition to members of the public, universities, colleges and schools subscribe on behalf of their students. IAI content is first realised at HowTheLightGetsIn or at monthly online events and later released on the platform. IAI's content is currently watched by more than three million unique viewers a month.

When the IAI was founded, some fifteen years ago, philosophy seemed to many on the brink of irrelevance. Locked in an ivory tower arguing over the meaning of words, it resembled to some the technical disputes of the medieval church with a similar level of relevance to lives and culture. IAI's goal then and now is to return philosophy to big ideas and put them at the centre of our culture. Not in the belief that there is a single definitive truth to be found but in the belief that there are new frames to be uncovered, new lands to explore that might help to address the troubles and potential of our time.

We must all make sense of the strange experience of being alive whether we choose to focus on it or not. To give some account of the world we find ourselves in, to decide how to intervene and what to pursue. Some fall back on authority, be it a scientific expert, guru or sacred book to give direction. Some follow the views and behaviour of their tribe, be it family, social group, political party or religion. Yet philosophy is most truly itself when there are no authorities that are accepted without challenge,

no beliefs that are endorsed without question. Philosophy is not a technical exercise. It is instead an urgent call to examine where we are, in order to determine what can and should be done.

A radical rethinking is necessary because the traditional modernist notion that we are gradually uncovering the one true account of reality has been undermined by an awareness that ideas are limited by culture, history and language. In an internet age in which alternative and competing perspectives are vividly apparent, the divisiveness of this postmodern culture has left many lost and confused, not knowing what to believe or how to find the answers.

IAI research and editorial teams face up to this predicament by identifying the key challenges in any given field and searching out fresh responses and ways of thinking that might take us forward. We look not only to philosophers, but to scientists, novelists, politicians and artists. For the big questions are present in every field, and new philosophical ideas are at least as likely to appear in literature, history or science as they are in philosophy.

IAI is driven by ideas, not by status or celebrity. We are pleased to host Nobel Prize winners, leading politicians, award winning authors and cutting edge commentators. But we do not invite our speakers because of their fame. Instead we develop and construct debates that we assess are at the edge of contemporary thought, and seek out those who have the most interesting and challenging things to say.

It has been encouraging to see that since we began, we hope aided by our efforts, philosophy has undergone something of a resurgence in public life. For philosophy and big ideas are not an optional add-on to our everyday lives, but an essential determinant of who and where we are, and of what is possible.

Hilary Lawson
Editorial Director, IAI

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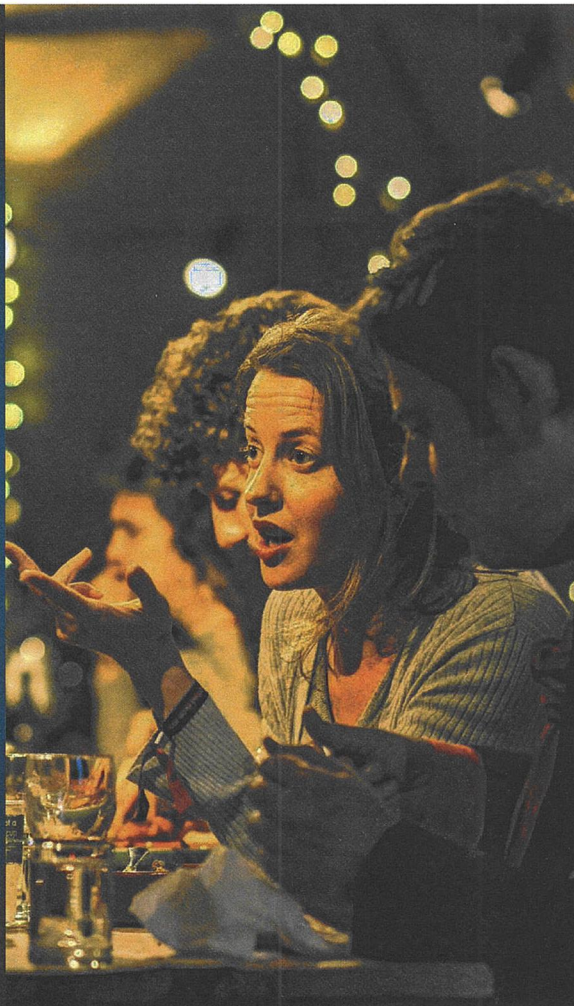
- Complimentary tickets to HowTheLightGetsIn festivals
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- Full 'Premium Live' subscription to IAI.tv: access to 3000+ debates and talks online

Our Patrons are changing how the world thinks. Step inside our circle to join us.

Full details on the website:
www.iai.tv/support-the-iai/patrons

Sign up today:
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HowTheLightGetsIn Festival Bookshop

In association with Waterstone's



www.waterstones.co.uk

Book Signings

Find us in the Stage tent. Continue the debate at our author signings. See selected signings below. More book signings will also be taking place after speakers' debates and talks. These will be listed on the board outside the bookshop at the festival.

FRIDAY 24 TH	SATURDAY 25 TH	SUNDAY 26 TH	MONDAY 27 TH
6.20 pm Amy Chua	11.35 am Paul Bloom	11.35 am Abby Innes	11.35 am Denis Noble
8.05 pm John Ralston Saul	12.35 pm Frank Tallis	2.20 pm Ilan Pappé	12.20 pm Rowan Williams & Lyndsey Stonebridge
8.20 pm John Lennox	1.05 pm Harry Cliff	2.50 pm David Petraeus	1.35 pm Peter Singer
	2.50 pm Jenny Kleeman	3.35 pm Peter Singer	3.50 pm Christina Lamb
	5.05 pm Lynne Segal	3.50 pm Paterson Joseph	
	6.35 pm Bernard-Henri Lévy		

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

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FESTIVAL TICKETS

Festival Tickets provide access to events including Debates, Talks, Music, DJs, Parties, Performances, Comedy, Dokbox Films, and IAI Academy Courses throughout the weekend.

A limited number of Festival Day Tickets are also available. Festival tickets are available on the website or during the festival at the Box Office.

FAST PASSES

Festival ticket holders can purchase Fast Passes for any debate or talk. Fast Pass holders do not have to queue and have a prime seat reserved for them in the venue.

Purchase Fast Passes on the Programme page of the website.

EXTRA EXPERIENCES

Inner Circle events are your chance to discuss ideas with our speakers. Taking place over breakfast, lunch, tea, dinner, or a glass of wine and nibbles in the evening you'll have your chance to have your say on the day's ideas.

You can also join a spectacular four course Long Table Banquet in the Waterfront, relax with a Spa Session in Bohemia courtesy of Aurum, enjoy pottery sessions in Mindcraft, or join a free-wheeling round table discussion with nibbles and a glass of wine in our Philosophy Salon.

Please note: Extra Experiences are not included in Festival Tickets.

FESTIVAL FLEXI TICKET

Drop into the festival to see a few events on different days. The Flexi Ticket provides access to 4 headline events listed on our website Programme page. Add a Flexi Day Pass for the day/s you want to attend the festival.

You do not need to specify your four headline events in advance, just turn up and decide what event you want to attend. If you want to guarantee priority entry purchase a Fast Pass.

See website for details. Please note Flexi Day Passes are only available to Flexi Ticket holders.

TICKET PRICING

We have variable pricing on all our tickets. The earlier you book, the cheaper the ticket.

For the latest ticket information and prices, check our website.

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

Friday 24th May

4:15 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[2] 4:15 pm **Benedict Mulcare** BLUE MOON

LIVE MUSIC

[3] 4:30 pm **Ella Clayton** THE HAT

Chosen by George Ezra to play on his stage at Latitude last year, and coming off the back of three sell-out headline shows, singer-songwriter Ella Clayton has evoked comparisons to Bon Iver and Adienne Lenker.

"Speaks right into your heart." – *Leftion*

5:00 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[4] 5:00 pm **Fran Minney** STAGE

INNER CIRCLE

Live up your afternoon with a glass of prosecco, cake and conversation with some of the world's great thinkers.

[5] 5:00 pm *From £18* **INNER CIRCLE**

Prosecco, Cake and Philosophy with Priya Natarajan

How did the universe begin? What is Dark Matter? And what was the universe like in the period just after its origin? Join renowned mapper of dark matter, Priya Natarajan, as she explores the mysteries of the cosmos.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[6] 5:15 pm **Jupiter Guitar Duo** BLUE MOON

5:30 PM

TALK

[7] 5:30 pm **Ode to Outsiders** THE RING

Amy Chua

Yale Law Professor and author of the internationally best selling 'Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother', Amy Chua is renowned for her controversial views on parenting, global affairs, and political tribalism. Join Professor Chua to discover how her challenging views shaped the development of her debut novel, *The Golden Gate*, and how the rejections outsiders receive are often a blessing in disguise.

"Chua's work strives to traverse the no-go areas around which others usually tip-toe." – *The New York Times*

5:30 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[8] 5:30 pm **Toni Sancho** THE HAT

Named 'One to Watch' by *The Guardian*, Trinidad-born London-based Toni Sancho is a potent songwriter and capturing attention with her riveting honesty, incorporating the R&B emotion of D'Angelo, the theatre of Florence + The Machine, and the ambition of Frank Ocean.

"Genius." – *The Guardian*

INNER CIRCLE

[9] 5:30 pm *From £18* **INNER CIRCLE**

Prosecco, Cake and Philosophy with Rana Mitter

China sees itself as the future of the global order. But is this confidence deserved? Join Harvard historian, Rana Mitter, to explore China's rise and whether it really will be the leaders of the New World Order.

6:00 PM

DEBATE

[10] 6:00 pm **The Riddle of the Beginning** ARENA

Scott Aaronson, Marika Taylor, John Lennox, Joscha Bach, Shini Somara hosts.

The mystery of how the universe began, and why there is something rather than nothing, is a puzzle that has perplexed scientists, philosophers, and theologians from the outset of thought. Even Hawking declared science "cannot answer why there should be a universe". But is there a risk that we have failed to recognise the wider significance of this deep puzzle? The hugely influential philosopher Immanuel Kant argued that the ideas that the universe has a beginning or has no beginning, are equally incoherent. He concluded that human thought is not capable of describing what he called 'transcendent reality'.

Should we see our failure to provide an answer to the beginning of the universe as evidence of a fundamental limitation of thought? As a result, are our accounts of the world and science itself mere versions of reality that in the end lies beyond our comprehension? Or was Kant wrong, and a solution to the mystery conceivable even if it has not yet been framed?

MIT complexity theorist Scott Aaronson, theoretical physicist Marika Taylor, mathematician John Lennox, and AI researcher Joscha Bach debate the puzzling mystery of the origin of the universe.

6:00 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[11] 6:00 pm **Danielle Lewis** STAGE

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[12] 6:15 pm **Mr H** BLUE MOON

6:30 PM

TALK

[13] 6:30 pm **The Laws of Physics are Not Fixed** THE RING

João Maguêijo

We think that the laws of physics are unchanging and cannot be violated. Join pioneering physicist, João Maguêijo, as he argues that everything we thought we knew about the laws of physics is wrong. They do change. And they can be violated. What's more, a new understanding of these laws could help solve the mystery of dark matter.

"Familiarising his readers with the hippest ideas in modern science." – *The Observer*



João Maguêijo

LIVE MUSIC

[14] 6:30 pm **Eve Appleton Band** THE HAT

Eve Appleton Band

Green Man Rising 2023's crowned champions come with Bible-black parables, nursery rhymes and ballads. Expect to hear echoes of 60s Folk Revival, Americana, and Alternative Folk.

"Compelling progressive folk songs." – *NME*

howthelightgetsin.org

IDEAS & CULTURE

7:00 PM

DEBATE

[15] 7:00 pm INTERNATIONAL

The Tyranny of the Pen
John Ralston Saul, Joanna Kavenna, Ruth Padell, Rana Mitter hosts.

"If you want to change the world, pick up your pen and write" declared Martin Luther King. For writing is central to our culture and seen as the vehicle of precision and accuracy. Theories, contracts, treaties all need to be written to be taken seriously. But there is a hidden danger in our reliance on writing, for it can give the illusion of precision and truth. From Wittgenstein to Derrida, philosophers have argued that precise meaning is elusive, as legal disputes over contracts testify. In an internet age, we increasingly use text to communicate, but as many discover it can frequently derail rather than enhance understanding.

Have we mistaken written text for the truth when it is often a reach for control, an attempt to impose your story on others? Are we undermining meaning and diminishing our reality by spending time framing emails and texts when we should be using the fluid potential of speech instead? Or are we right to be dazzled by the timeless quality of writing and its capacity to change the world?

Best selling author John Ralston Saul, poet and novelist Ruth Padell, and award-winning author Joanna Kavenna, debate whether the written word has been mistaken for truth.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[16] 7:00 pm STAGE
The Hedgesong Collective

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[17] 7:15 pm BLUE MOON
MaJam

7:30 PM

TALK

[18] 7:30 pm THE RING

The Promise and Peril of AI
John Lennox

There has been an explosion in the development of artificial intelligence, a technology thought to bring both promise and peril. Join mathematician and bioethicist John Lennox as he reveals the mechanistic worldview of the creators of this dangerous technology, and argues for a clear separation between man and machine.

"Considers the best, most recent science and demonstrates the picture looks far different from what we've been told." - Michael Behe

8:00 PM



Claudia de Rham

DEBATE

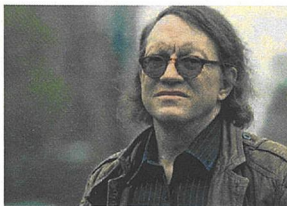
[19] 8:00 pm ARENA

Faster Than Light
João Magueijo, Claudia de Rham, Tim Maudlin, Bjørn Ekeberg hosts.

Ever since Einstein's special theory in 1905, it has been a central pillar of science that the speed of light is an absolute fixed limit and the same in all circumstances. But critics argue this is a mistaken assumption that prevents physics from making progress. They maintain the period of cosmic inflation that in the standard picture of cosmology followed the Big Bang has to take place at many orders of magnitude faster than the speed of light. Moreover, researchers argue that Einstein's general theory never prohibited faster-than-light travel in the first place.

Should we abandon the sacrosanct idea nothing can exceed the speed of light as a flawed assumption that derails physics? Should we be less attached to Einstein and more open to new and alternative theories? Or are these dangerous proposals that threaten to undermine the remarkable successes of science over the last century?

Portuguese cosmologist João Magueijo, philosopher of physics Tim Maudlin, and award-winning physicist Claudia de Rham, debate the speed of light.



Tim Maudlin

8:00 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[20] 8:00 pm THE HAT

Pushpin
Green Man Rising finalists Pushpin are one of the most exciting bands on London's new music scene. The charismatic showmen have been described as having the vocals of Mika, the sublime harmonies of Fleet Foxes, and the amphibious, compelling sound of Animal Collective.

"Brimming with energy and rhythmic momentum."
- Apocalypse Music

BANQUET

[21] 8:00 pm From £42 WATERFRONT

Long Table Banquet - Friday

Our exclusive Long Table Banquets offer you the unmissable opportunity to tuck into a lavish four-course meal with like-minded festival goers. Expect delicious food, award-winning wine and stimulating conversation in the Waterfront, overlooking the River Wye. Book early to avoid disappointment - numbers are strictly limited.

INNER CIRCLE

Join a free-wheeling roundtable discussion kicked off by the world's leading thinkers on the biggest ideas. Enjoy a glass of wine and tasty nibbles in an intimate candlelit space.

[22] 8:15 pm From £28 INNER CIRCLE

Philosophy Salon: Can literature change the world?

Can literature save your life? Join critically-acclaimed author Frank Tallis, revolutionary novelist Janna Teller, and philosophical salon host Justine Kolata, as they debate the power of literature's influence on the self, class and politics.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[23] 8:15 pm BLUE MOON
Hawk Howard

8:30 PM

COMEDY

[24] 8:30 pm STAGE

Katie Green

Come watch Katie, seen on Comedy Central and tour support for Jonathan Van Ness, figure out her life, and next show, out on stage. Topics include: being awkward, dating, her Quinceañera, adapting to life in the UK, and probably being stressed out about a guy not texting her back.

"Her razor-sharp wit and subversive humour led us to unexpected places." - Funny Women

9:00 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[25] 9:00 pm INTERNATIONAL

Ayanna Witter-Johnson

After impressing at the MOBO awards and wowing with a soaring performance at the Royal Albert Hall, soulful singer and cellist Ayanna Witter-Johnson makes her triumphant return to HowTheLightGetsIn. She is musical proof that classical and alternative R&B music can and should coexist. It's no wonder that Gilles Peterson calls himself her biggest fan.

"The artist of our time... she is fire." - The Guardian

COMEDY

[26] 9:00 pm THE RING

Alex Kealy

The 'almost sexy cerebral' (Daily Telegraph), Alex Kealy, presents a show about fear, after 2022's 'breakneck pace... wonderful new hour' (The List). As heard on BBC Radio 4's The Now Show, and writer for Mock The Week and Have I Got News For You.

"Excellent... dynamite, interstellar routine which I wish I had written!" - Mark Kermode



HOWTHELIGHTGETSIN OPENING PARTY

9:00 PM



Ayanna Witter-Johnson

9:15 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[29] 9:15 pm BLUE MOON
Ceri Ridge Hillbillies

9:30 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[30] 9:30 pm ARENA

Richard Dawson

His album, *Peasant*, was chosen as 2017 Album of the Year by the Quietus and he has recently sold out shows at the Barbican and played Berghain. Northumbrian contemporary songwriter and storyteller, Richard Dawson, has risen to international acclaim with his combination of exquisite lyricism and virtuosic performance style drawing on a wide range of influences from folk to prog rock.

"Thrilling." - The Guardian

POKBOX

[27] 9:00 pm ART & CINEMA TENT

Your 100 Year Life

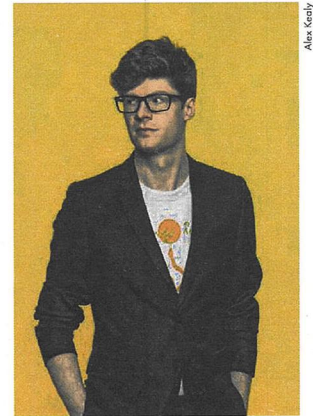
All around the world people are living longer than ever before. But can we afford it? In our wealthiest nations, old age homelessness is on the rise and so is the number of pensioners using food banks. This documentary uncovers the root of the problem and what we can do to solve it.

RIVERSIDE DISCO

[28] 9:00 pm to late RIVERSIDE DISCO

Max Galactic presents Hay Pride
Max Galactic, Boo La Croux and Cwm Rag

Hay Pride take over the night's proceedings alongside Welsh party starters Cwm Rag, who'll be adding a large dash of queer anarchy and Valley's dazzle. Expect high jinx and hedonism all hosted and overseen by the delectable BooLaCroux. DJ Max Galactic will be on hand to provide the party bangers!



Alex Kealy



9:30 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[31] 9:30 pm

THE HAT

Mr Tea & The Minions

Established favourites Mr Tea and The Minions have played well over a hundred UK festivals, including Glastonbury, Boomtown, WOMAD, Beautiful Days, Secret Garden Party and Belladrum. Led by Ella's powerful vocals and Lucy's vibrant folk fiddle, the band have built a reputation for extravagantly colourful, theatrical live performances.

"The Minions seamlessly weave Balkan Beats with ska, dub and swing to create a bouncing set. It's impossible not to get involved." - The Independent

10:00 PM

COMEDY

[32] 10:00 pm

STAGE

Burt Williamson

With multiple critically acclaimed runs at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and a comedy hour special available online, you might be thinking what's next for the comedian, and Bristol favourite, Burt Williamson? The answer is simple, more comedy.

"Unexpectedly hilarious at every turn and a great joy." - The Scotsman

DOKBOX

[33] 10:00 pm

ART & CINEMA TENT

In Search of Frida Kahlo

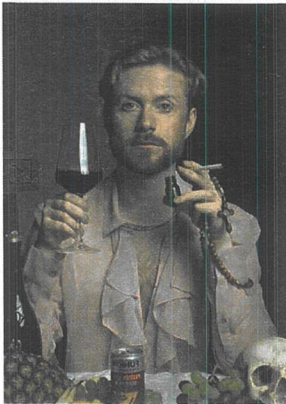
Frida Kahlo is one of the most iconic artists of all time. This film follows one of her biggest fans, international acclaimed musician Emeli Sandé, as she retraces the life behind the legend. With rare archive footage and exclusive access, this personal film is a unique look at the life of the artist.

10:15 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[34] 10:15 pm
Ian James

BLUE MOON



11:00 PM



LIVE MUSIC

[36] 11:00 pm

THE HAT

Mad Professor and Sister Audrey

Legendary dub icon Mad Professor is one of the biggest names in the genre. His innovative music has been instrumental in dub's transition to the digital age, and anyone who hears it can't help but dance. A longstanding collaborator of the likes of Massive Attack, Grace Jones, and Lee "Scratch" Perry, at HowTheLightGetsIn May 2024 he's joined by established roots reggae favourite, Sister Audrey.

"Mind-melting." - The Independent

10:30 PM

COMEDY

[35] 10:30 pm

THE RING

John Tothill

Coming fresh from a sold-out run at Soho Theatre, John Tothill is equal parts bon vivant, social commentator and gossip spreader all rolled into comedy. Winner of the 2Northdown new act award, John is described as one of the most "personable and truly funny talents" on the comedy scene by The List Magazine, and as "the first comedian ever to reference Hobbesian economics on stage" by Charlie.

"What a treat." - The Guardian



iaj The Institute of Art and Ideas

11:00 PM

DOKBOX

[37] 11:00 pm

ART & CINEMA TENT

Burnout: The Truth About Work

We are busier than ever, working longer hours, with 24/7 communication access and striving to meet increasing targets. This raises the fundamental question: Why do we even work? This film delves into how excessive working is harming us and destroying the planet, and reveals what we can do about it.

11:15 PM



LIVE MUSIC

[38] 11:15 pm

ARENA

Hercules and Love Affair (DJ)

Awarded 2022 Album of the Year by The Arts Desk, Hercules and Love Affair are dance music legends. Pitchfork ranked their chart-hitting anthem 'Blind' (with frequent collaborator ANOHNI) among their top twenty songs of the decade. Project mastermind Andy Butler brings his unique sound to HowTheLightGetsIn.

"Phenomenal." - Pitchfork

11:15 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[39] 11:15 pm
Charlie James

BLUE MOON

11:30 PM

CABARET

[40] 11:30 pm

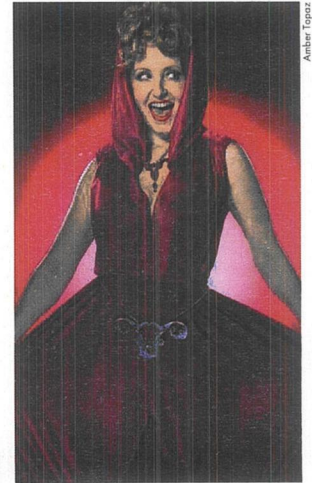
STAGE

Amber Topaz

A fierce, femme, fabulous, musical comedy show from the multi-award-winning, international cabaret sensation Amber Topaz. This enthralling linguist hilariously morphs her way through a medley of musical milestones, highlighting the absurdity of human behaviour under the influence of hormones. Celebrating and advocating the lusty libido. Prepare for a standing ovation. Not for the prudish or easily offended.

"An explosion of charisma and stage presence." - GQ

12:00 AM



DOKBOX

[41] 12:00 am

ART & CINEMA TENT

Indigiqueer

Sarain Fox examines the past, present and future of queerness for the indigenous LGBTQ+ community. Dive into the history of Canada's queer indigenous population and explore the nature of Two-Spirit identities with the help of knowledge-keepers, community leaders, and even Drag Race's Illona Verley.

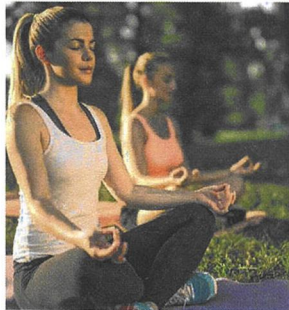
Music & Acoustic Sessions

[42] 12:15 am
Delphis

BLUE MOON

howthelightgetsin.org

 EXPERIENCES



SPA & WELLNESS

Escape the hustle and relax for a moment at the serene Atrium Spa including Meditation, Massage and Yoga for all ages.

3:00 pm

BOHEMIA

Spa events are booked and paid for separately - online or in person.

FAYRE

3:00pm

FAYRE

FAYRE

The market is full of surprises. Artisan food producers, vintage clothes, cocktails and sequins, as well as some truly original workshops.



RIDES

3:00pm

RIVERSIDE

Vintage Rides

Our vintage rides aren't only for children. Take in the wonderful views of the Black Mountains from the Ferris Wheel. We're sure Wittgenstein would approve.



FRONT ROOM & RIVERSIDE DISCO

3:00 pm to late

FRONT ROOM

The People's Front Room

A team of wonderfully talented musicians create a truly unique vibe as they extemporise classic tracks of every genre along with their own wicked tunes. Throughout the day and to close of play in the evening.

9:00pm to late

RIVERSIDE DISCO

Riverside Disco

Opening up onto the river bank, you can dance inside the tent or under the stars to the hottest DJs. Find the secret entrance - there's a café area open all day hidden inside and the big tunes start from 9pm and don't stop until the early hours.

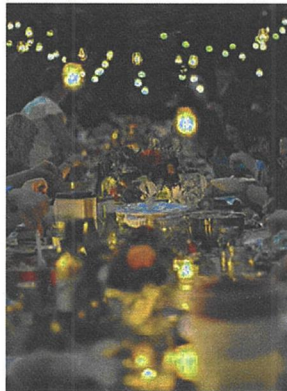


INNER CIRCLE

[5] 5:00 pm From £18 INNER CIRCLE
Prosecco, Cake and Philosophy
 with Priya Natarajan

[9] 5:30 pm From £18 INNER CIRCLE
Prosecco, Cake and Philosophy
 with Rona Miller

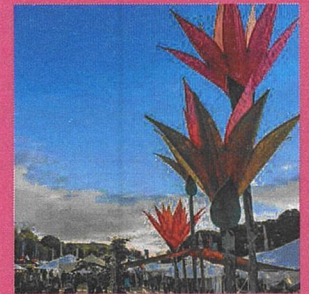
Live up your afternoon with a glass of prosecco, cake and conversation with some of the world's great thinkers.



A wonderful experience for speakers and listeners alike.



Jared Diamond,
 Pulitzer Prize-winner



IDEAS & CULTURE

9:00 AM

INNER CIRCLE

Start your day with a shot of inspiration from your favourite speakers. Expect stimulating ideas along with fresh pastries and coffee.

[45] 9:00 am From £20 INNER CIRCLE
Philosophy Breakfast with Dominic Walliman

The public gains profound insights from science. But few consider the wisdom scientists themselves gain when they share their work with the public. Award-winning science communicator, Dominic Walliman explains how communication changes the way scientists think.

[46] 9:00 am From £20 INNER CIRCLE
Philosophy Breakfast with Myriam François

We tend to think of documentaries as a representation of the facts. But not so argues award-winning filmmaker Myriam François. Key perspectives are often left out and we need a proposal for how we get them back into the discussion.

10:00 AM

TALK

[47] 10:00 am THE RING

The Dark Energy Delusion
Claudia de Rham

Physicists have spent decades looking for evidence of the force known as 'dark energy'. It makes up two thirds of the universe and is put forward to explain the accelerating expansion of the universe. But might this be mistaken? Join groundbreaking physicist, Claudia de Rham, as she argues we have a better candidate to explain the accelerating expansion: quantum vacuum energy.

"de Rham has pioneered a radical theory." - Hannah Devlin

IAI ACADEMY COURSE

[48] 10:00 am - 12:30 pm ACADEMY TENT

The Politics of the Body
Matthew Beaumont

We normally think of our bodies aesthetically or biologically. But there is much to be learnt about the phenomenology and philosophy of our physique, and how it interacts with, reflects, and is part of our experience of the world. Join Professor of English at UCL, Matthew Beaumont, as he guides us through the philosophy of Franz Fanon and William Reich, and argues that our bodies impact the way we see the world, our social and political experience, and our self-perception.

See page 58 for Part One and Two.

10:30 AM

DEBATE

[49] 10:30 am ARENA

The Democracy Show
S.Y. Quraishi, Amy Chua, Sophie Scott-Brown.

There can be little doubt, judging from wall-to-wall media coverage, that we assume elections profoundly affect our lives. But there's a risk they have far less impact than we imagine. A recent wide-ranging study of Western governments over the last thirty years remarkably showed no relation between the ideological outlook of citizens and actual social policy. Moreover critics from right and left argue that it is unelected officials and corporations that primarily determine policy. Meanwhile, longstanding political challenges like social care and wealth inequality remain unaddressed for decades despite changing governments.

Should we conclude that leaders and governments rarely make a significant difference to core policy? Are elections largely about a show of democracy rather than the actuality? Could and should we change this state of affairs and if so how? Or is the belief that elections are important essential to democratic nation-states?

Yale law professor and 'Tiger mom' Amy Chua, anarchist philosopher Sophie Scott-Brown, and former Indian election commissioner S.Y. Quraishi, lock horns over the effectiveness of elections.

DEBATE

[50] 10:30 am INTERNATIONAL

Belief, Value and Superstition
Paul Bloom, Felipe de Vale, Catherine Rowett, Winston Marshall. Rana Mitter hosts.

Religion has been on a decline in the West for the last fifty years, with recent numbers falling rapidly in the US. For decades the youngest generation was the least likely to believe in God. But in a 2020 YouGov survey Generation Z was shown to be 25% more likely to believe in God than millennials. Meanwhile the so-called New Theists argue for the adoption of Christian beliefs not on the grounds that they are true but they are the means to create a stable and successful culture. While secular critics argue the return of belief risks a new age of superstition, bigotry and intolerance.

Is the rise in new age and traditional religious belief in the young a dangerous return of unsupported fantasy? Should we double down on the need for rationalism and a careful scientific assessment of evidence? Or is it a welcome sign of a desire for an agreed moral framework in response to the chaos of a post-truth world?

Trail-blazing psychologist Paul Bloom, Mumford & Sons guitarist and Spectator columnist Winston Marshall, professor of ethics and theology Felipe de Vale, and philosopher and former Green MEP Catherine Rowett, debate the new era of belief.

iai
Institute of Ideas

10:30 AM

HAT SESSIONS

[51] 10:30 am THE HAT

Philosophy of the Senses: Touch
Barry C. Smith

Touch is one of our universal human experiences. It's how we interact with the world, show affection, and nourish the soul, but what ideas lie behind the magic of touch? In this informative and entertaining workshop, The Centre for the Study of the Senses will offer a range of sensory experiences to explore how our senses work and put us in deeper touch with our surroundings and ourselves. Expect to see the world differently when you leave. With philosopher of the senses Barry C. Smith.

"Well up to the task in questions about taste and perception, subjectivity and objectivity." - The TLS



Amy Chua

11:00 AM

TALK

[52] 11:00 am THE RING

The Theory of Quantum Politics
Armen Sarkissian

As the multi-polar world of global politics becomes ever more complex, who better to cast light on its workings than a physicist turned President? Join Armen Sarkissian, former President of Armenia, as he argues for his new theory of quantum politics, in which individuals are necessarily connected across space and our world is dominated by randomness, uncertainty and possibility.

"Sarkissian clarifies the important role small states play in upholding world order." - Henry Kissinger

11:00 AM

Children's Programme

[53] 11:00 am MINDCRAFT
Discover your superpower! (See p.60)

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[54] 11:00 am BLUE MOON
Trai

11:30 AM

DEBATE

[55] 11:30 am THE HAT

The Real Me
Steve Taylor, Frank Tallis, Susan Schneider, Jack Symes, Joanna Kavenna hosts.

Many identify themselves with their inner voice - the silent voice in our heads we can use to think, plan and ponder. But from Lacan to Nietzsche many have warned this inner voice is not ourselves, nor is it innocent or harmless. Studies from Durham University and Trinity College Dublin link the inner voice with increased anxiety. While others show those that take their own lives are often tortured by a subliminal voice. Furthermore, research at Imperial, and the University of Michigan found evidence that when our inner voice is reduced mental health improves.

Should we conclude the inner voice is not the "real me", and its voice should be treated with caution? Should we seek to quieten the inner voice using techniques like psychotherapy, and meditation, and would doing so help combat the mental health crisis? Or did we evolve an inner voice for a reason, and should we see it as our conscience, a problem solving tool and as a guide in our lives?

Psychologist and author Steve Taylor, American philosopher Susan Schneider, award-winning author and psychologist Frank Tallis, and Durham philosopher Jack Symes, debate whether the inner voice is the self.



Susan Schneider

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[56] 11:30 am STAGE
Gareth Rees

IDEAS & CULTURE

12:00 PM

DEBATE

[57] 12:00 pm ARENA

The Creativity Crisis
Judith Donath, Martha Fiennes, John Ralston Saul, Niki Seth-Smith hosts.

Creativity is often seen as a uniquely human quality. But with generative AI competing with and rivaling human skills, is this core facet of humanity under threat? As machines demonstrate an increasingly sophisticated ability to generate art, music, and literature, the once-sacred notion of human exclusivity in creativity is being questioned. 75% incorrectly identify AI artworks as man-made, while creatives globally are fearful of cuts to earnings and jobs as they face off with the new technology.

Do we have to accept that there is nothing special about the originality of humans, and creativity once so prized is a skill machines can also master? Do we need to reassess what it means to be human and with it the future of innovation, and invention? Or are the skills and qualities of generative AI overhyped and in fact no more than the dumb and repetitive combination of insights initiated by humans?

Film director Martha Fiennes, computer scientist Judith Donath, and award-winning essayist John Ralston Saul, explore how AI affects what it means to be human.

In Partnership with New Humanist

DEBATE

[58] 12:00 pm INTERNATIONAL

Mystery in the Making
Björn Ekeberg, Claudia de Rham, Harry Cliff, Shini Somara hosts.

We have the impression that science unravels the mysteries of the universe. But with every mystery solved, a new mystery emerges. The Big Bang gave us an explanation for the expanding universe but left the mystery of how it came about. Quantum mechanics accounted for the strange behaviour of subatomic particles, but led to the puzzle of its conflict with relativity. Dark energy made sense of an accelerating universe but led to the mystery of why we have no evidence for it. Is there a danger that we are making a fundamental mistake in imagining science can eradicate mystery, and do we need to think of science differently as a consequence?

Do we need to abandon the idea that science has the potential to provide a complete explanation? Should we not expect science to eradicate mystery and instead simply require that its theories work well enough for our current aims and purposes? Or is the ability to overcome mystery essential to the effective operation of science and a core idea responsible for its success?

Philosopher of science and writer Björn Ekeberg, theoretical physicist Claudia de Rham, and CERN physicist Harry Cliff, debate the mysteries of the universe.

howthelightgetsin.org

12:00 PM

TALK

[59] 12:00 pm THE RING

Stoicism Reimagined
Nancy Sherman

We think that stoicism is defined by a rugged self-reliance and indifference to events. Join distinguished philosopher, Nancy Sherman, as she argues this is radically mistaken, and that building deep emotional connections with the world, and the people in it, is as important for the stoics as it is for everyone else. Prepare for stoicism to be reimagined.

"A sure-footed and appealing guide." - Martha Nussbaum

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[60] 12:00 pm BLUE MOON
Hay Climate Choir

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[61] 12:30 pm STAGE
Fran Lusby

Children's Programme

[62] 12:30 pm MINDCRAFT
Pottery Extravaganza (See p.60)

1:00 PM

TALK

[63] 1:00 pm THE RING

The Politics of Time
Guy Standing

Time is political. Throughout history, how we use our time has been controlled by the rich and powerful, and today is no exception. Even outside of work, we're almost always 'on the clock'. Join pioneering economist, Guy Standing, as he shows us how to reclaim our most valuable asset: time.

"Guy Standing's Politics of Time is a splendid addition to his important work." - Yanis Varoufakis

In Partnership with Audio Note



Guy Standing

IDEAS & CULTURE

1:00 PM

THE FUTURE SERIES

A series of events that offer visions of the future.

[64] 1:00 pm
The Future of Music
Flo Gallop

THE HAT

Music has been profoundly changed by streaming. Algorithms direct discoveries, track preferences, and shape our desires. Are we controlling the algorithm or is the algorithm controlling us? Will the immediate availability of almost everything gradually remove the desire for the new and will a relative handful of artists dominate our listening for the foreseeable future? Artist Flo Gallop and a special guest, debate the future of music, and the value and threat of the technology.

INNER CIRCLE

Track into a delicious lunch with our inspiring speakers and a glass of award-winning wine.

[65] 1:00 pm From £22
HowTheLightGetsIn Lunch with Scott Aaronson

Join world-leading computer scientist, Scott Aaronson, as he expounds on how the AI age will be forever changed by the introduction of quantum computing.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[66] 1:00 pm
Ella Clayton

BLUE MOON

1:15 PM

DEBATE

[67] 1:15 pm
The Indian Century
Meghnad Desai, S.Y. Quraishi,
Kate Sullivan de Estrada. Rana Mitter hosts.

ARENA

The world's largest democracy, India, is seen as the West's obvious ally against the growing might of China. But might there be a risk that India is not the stalwart ally the West has assumed? Question marks have been raised about India's attachment to freedom and democracy. In the last 20 years they fell from 27th to 108th in democracy rankings and to 161st out of 180 in press freedom. In foreign policy India is at best ambiguous. Ignoring sanctions on Russia, India is the third largest buyer of Russian oil. And in 2017 joined Russia and China in the economic and defence group, SCO.

Is it time to recognise that Modi's India, with the largest population in the world and the fastest growth, has its own agenda independent of the West? Will India be central to a future world where the West and its values are a sideshow? Or will history and culture bind India to Western values in the long term?

Economist and life peer Meghnad Desai, former Chief Election Commissioner of India S.Y. Quraishi, and Oxford Director of Contemporary South Asian Studies Kate Sullivan de Estrada, debate India's role in the future of the world.

1:15 PM

DEBATE

[68] 1:15 pm
Lost in Stories
Matthew Beaumont, Ruth Padel,
Thangam Debonnaire. Myriam François hosts.

INTERNATIONAL

Our narratives enable us to make sense of the world. From setting the scene and providing a means to understand what is happening, to placing ourselves at the centre of our own life's story, narratives help structure our goals and our lives. But there is a risk that rather than helping us understand the world, narratives can hide reality from us providing delusional states of mind in its place. From witch hunts to cults, from war propaganda to religious honour killings, people are prepared to kill and die for stories they believe in, that others see as wildly false illusions.

Should we see ourselves as trapped by our narratives as much as we are dependent on them to make sense of the world? Can we avoid becoming absorbed in narratives that are dangerous to ourselves and others? Or is it possible to escape the limitation of our own narratives to see the world as it is, and if so how?

Key member of the Shadow Cabinet Thangam Debonnaire, award-winning author Matthew Beaumont, and renowned poet Ruth Padel, debate how narratives affect our minds.

INNER CIRCLE

[69] 1:15 pm From £24

INNER CIRCLE

HowTheLightGetsIn Lunch with Denis Noble

The idea that genes are central to natural selection has been dominant for decades. Join outspoken critic of Richard Dawkins and his theory of the selfish gene, Denis Noble, to explore the limitations of a neo-Darwinist approach.

1:30 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[70] 1:30 pm
Johanna Warren

STAGE

IAI ACADEMY COURSE

[71] 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm
The Ethics of Human Extinction
Émile P. Torres

ACADEMY TENT

At the time of writing the doomsday clock - a metaphor for how near we are to catastrophe - stands at 90 seconds to midnight, the closest it has ever been. The capacity for humanity to destroy itself is relatively new. For centuries Christianity emphasised survival and eternal salvation, leaving us ill-prepared for a post-apocalyptic world. In its place, philosopher and writer Émile P. Torres charts a history of apocalypse and proposes a radically new theoretical foundation for humanity to face the possibility of 'omnicide', the death of all human life.

See page 58 for Part One and Two.



2:00 PM

TALK

[72] 2:00 pm
The Price of Life
Jenny Kleeman

THE RING

We say that life is priceless. Yet in our data-filled world, it has become possible to calculate the cost of almost anything - arguably, including life itself. Join journalist and broadcaster, Jenny Kleeman, as she argues that putting a price on life might paradoxically help us save more of them.

"Like Louis Theroux channelling Margaret Atwood." - New Statesman

HEAD TO HEAD

[73] 2:00 pm
Trouble with Language
Hilary Lawson and Tim Maudlin.
Hosted by Joanna Kavenna.

THE HAT

For centuries we imagined that language was transparent. The 20th century changed all that. Philosophy, with the so-called linguistic turn, came to see language as central to our understanding of reality and set out to make it precise. But a hundred years on, the project is widely seen to have run aground. Critics argue that the danger now is that, because the problems of language and the world are so intractable, we have imagined they can be ignored. For how can we make sense of widely held metaphysical claims, such as the existence of parallel universes, or that we are all living in a simulation, or everything is consciousness, if we don't understand what our words mean and how, or whether, they describe reality?

Should we return to the positivist notion that all general claims about the nature of reality are empty theorising and should be abandoned? Can we find an alternative account of language that will enable us to make sense of such theories? Or was the linguistic turn an error and is it now time to return to the common sense notion that language is transparent and all can be said?

Philosopher and longstanding critic of realism Hilary Lawson, and leading philosopher of physics Tim Maudlin debate the nature of language and reality.

Children's Programme

[74] 2:00 pm
Freedom Inside Out

MINDCRAFT

[See p.60]

POKBOX

[75] 2:00 pm
Doing it in Public

ART & CINEMA TENT

Challenging the notion that art is only for the elite, with Jeff Koons, Marina Abramovic and Gilbert & George.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[76] 2:00 pm
Andy Grant

BLUE MOON

FP

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Shoshana Zuboff,
psychologist
and author



IDEAS & CULTURE

Saturday 25th May

2:30 PM

DEBATE

[77] 2:30 pm

ARENA

Journey to Other Dimensions
Roger Penrose, Marika Taylor,
Avshalom Elitzur. Güneş Taylor hosts.

Most of us take it for granted that there are three dimensions, perhaps four if we count time. But for over 200 years, mathematicians and scientists have proposed further dimensions. In some standard versions of contemporary physics eleven dimensions are now proposed. But might the notion of additional dimensions be an empty idea that derails physics? Richard Feynman argued that proponents of extra dimensions "cook up explanations" for what we can't observe. And CERN researchers admit that no empirical evidence for extra dimensions has ever been, and more importantly perhaps could ever be, discovered.

Should we reject talk of higher dimensions as fantasy, good for sci-fi movies but not for theories of the universe? Would we be better to see extra dimensions as a mathematical tool rather than a description of reality? Or might multiple dimensions in fact describe the essential character of the world?

Nobel prize-winner Roger Penrose, philosopher of quantum mechanics Avshalom Elitzur, and theoretical physicist Marika Taylor, debate the possibility of multiple dimensions.

DEBATE

[78] 2:30 pm

INTERNATIONAL

The New Overlords
Ali Allawi, Claire Provost. Roger Hearing
hosts.

Defenders of the free market argue that competition drives down prices and benefits all. China is the poster child for this case with nearly a billion lifted out of poverty since 1990. But competition and free markets can also lead to dangerous monopolies, and higher prices. Entrepreneurial genius like Peter Thiel advise 'if you're starting a company, aim for monopoly'. Critics argue that unconstrained capitalism allows companies to cement initial advantage by buying competitors, and using scale to dominate the market. They claim the world's largest companies have gained success not by competition but by acting like feudal overlords.

Should we conclude that free market capitalism inexorably leads to monopoly if it is not constrained? Do we urgently need to break up or rein control from the corporate giants that dominate the markets? Or can we relax, confident that in time capitalism and market forces will replace the current overlords with new ones?

Former Deputy Finance Minister for Iraq Ali Allawi, and openDemocracy's Head of Global Investigations Claire Provost, debate free markets and feudal overlords.

In Partnership with Audio Note

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[79] 2:30 pm

STAGE

Brentlee

3:00 PM

TALK

[80] 3:00 pm

THE RING

Telling the Story of War
Dina Matar, Uriel Abulof

Truth it is sometimes said is the first casualty of war. And the terrible events in Gaza are seemingly no exception. But what should our strategy be when seeking to understand what is happening on the ground? Is there a simple fact of the matter which we can uncover? Jain Director of Palestine studies at SOAS and author of What it Means to be Palestinian, Dina Matar. And Professor of Political Science at Tel Aviv University, author of The Mortality and Morality of Nations, and expert on philosophy and meaning in war, Uriel Abulof, to examine whether and how we can overcome the limitations of truth in times of war.

"Matar offers an absorbing perspective." – John D. H. Dowling

HAT SESSIONS

[81] 3:00 pm

THE HAT

How To Reclaim Our Humanity From Tech
Martha Finnes

We thought technology was going to open up new possibilities for human expression. Giving us access to new information, new inspiration, and tools and techniques for creation. Join film director, writer, and producer, Martha Finnes, as she argues technology has all too often closed, not opened, our minds. Technology has built new mental prisons around education, media, healthcare, and everywhere else. Hear how she uses technology to break free in her work, and why we need to control tech, not let it control us. Interviewed by Richard Davey.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[82] 3:00 pm

BLUE MOON

Jon Sanders

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[83] 3:30 pm

STAGE

Liv Dawn

Children's Programme

[84] 3:30 pm

MINDCRAFT

Atomic Adventures with Professor Astro Cat (See p.60)

INNER CIRCLE

[85] 3:45 pm From £20

INNER CIRCLE

Wine Tasting and Philosophy with Barry C. Smith

Join philosopher and author of Questions of Taste Barry C. Smith for a uniquely philosophical wine-tasting session. Explore the power of the senses and discover the ones you never thought you had.

howthelightgetsin.org

4:00 PM

DEBATE

[86] 4:00 pm

ARENA

Having it All
Lynne Segal, Vicky Pryce, Aaron Bastani.
Niki Seth-Smith hosts.

We think women can have it all: a career and contributing to the economy along with children and the rewards of raising a family. But critics argue there is a danger that this is impossible in the current social framework. Lifetime earnings for graduate women are all only slightly more than half that of men in both the US and UK. While globally women carry out 75% of domestic labour and over a quarter of women are unable to have a career due to family commitments.

To address these issues do we need to make it possible for women to have equivalent lifetime earnings to men while also having and rearing families? Do we need a mechanism to enable payment for all currently unpaid work? Or is this a fanciful pipe dream and 'having it all' an illusion, and we all must make a choice in the way we balance the satisfactions and rewards of career and personal life?

Distinguished feminist academic Lynne Segal, radical journalist Aaron Bastani, and chief economic advisor Vicky Pryce, debate having it all.

DEBATE

[87] 4:00 pm

INTERNATIONAL

The Politics of Beauty
Jessica Defino, Simon May, Justine Kolata,
Janne Teller

'Beauty is in the eye of the beholder' is the way Margaret Hungerford reframed an old saying about beauty in the mid-19th century. And most of us endorse her phrase. But critics point to the danger that the idea that beauty is subjective has the potential to validate prejudice and immunise our taste and choices from criticism. Not only does subjectivity mean there is no reason to prefer Tiktok to Tiktok, Picasso to Pornhub, but it also means cultural stereotypes are made acceptable, for example, that certain body types and nationalities are desirable.

Do we need to abandon the idea that beauty is in the eye of the beholder and see it instead as linked to justice and human flourishing? Should we be more self-critical of certain aesthetic judgements? Or is it essential to retain beauty as subjective to avoid the tyranny of an 'objectively' correct aesthetics?

Guardian columnist Jessica Defino, philosopher Simon May, award-winning novelist Janne Teller, and author of The Beautiful Soul Justine Kolata, ask if beauty is subjective.



Jessica Defino

IDEAS & CULTURE

4:00 PM

TALK

[88] 4:00 pm

THE RING

The Tech Crisis
John Ralston Saul

We are entering into an increasingly difficult period for freedom of expression because the technologies we hoped would support freedom turn out to pose a threat to it. Join the political philosopher Time magazine labelled a 'prophet' of anti-globalisation, John Ralston Saul, as he argues that globalist ideology harms freedom of speech.

"Informative, engaging and biting critical." - The Guardian

In Partnership with Audio Note

IN CONVERSATION

A series of events bringing thinkers together to share and explore key topics of the moment.

[89] 4:00 pm

THE HAT

The Truth of 'True Crime'
Mergie Ratliff and Camilla Hall

The genre of 'true crime' has an implausible title. After all, whose truth are we telling, how do we find this truth and isn't the real 'truth' to create a success for the writer or director? Join family victim of 'The Staircase', Mergie Ratliff, and documentary director, Camilla Hall, as they explore the psychological impact of being the subject of a crime, then later a TV sensation, and how to find a way to enjoy true crime without compromising the humanity, or the dignity of its subjects.

"Sensational, game-changing." - The Guardian

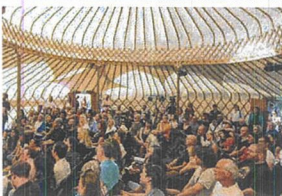
POKBOX

[90] 4:00 pm

ART & CINEMA TENT

AI & You

Artificial intelligence is evolving at a staggering pace, but how much do we actually understand it? This documentary reveals how AI is rapidly transforming the human experience, exploring the positive developments in health, education and climate action, as well as its dangers.



4:00 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[91] 4:00 pm
Alex Seel

BLUE MOON

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[92] 4:30 pm
Robert Whyte

STAGE

INNER CIRCLE

Come taste the fruit of Herefordshire's finest ciders and hear the philosophy and science behind its success around the world.

[93] 4:45 pm From £26

INNER CIRCLE

The Philosophy of Cider with Jane Peyton
Join Britain's first Beer Sommelier and author of the Philosophy of Beer, Cocktails, and Gin, Jane Peyton, as she explores the philosophy of the Welsh Marches' favourite festival drink - cider.

5:00 PM

TALK

[94] 5:00 pm

THE RING

Consciousness Pre-Dates Life
Stuart Hameroff

Many scientists, operating with a materialist worldview, argue that consciousness emerges out of inanimate molecules. In contrast, Roger Penrose's longtime collaborator, Stuart Hameroff, puts forward the controversial case that consciousness precedes life and that we have evidence for this from a recent NASA experiment.

"Hameroff's theories are getting support from unlikely places." - Discover Magazine

Children's Programme

[95] 5:00 pm

MINDCRAFT

Setting Sail with Theseus with Annie Webster [See p.60]

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[96] 5:00 pm
Nigel Davies

BLUE MOON



5:00 PM

IAI ACADEMY COURSE

[97] 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

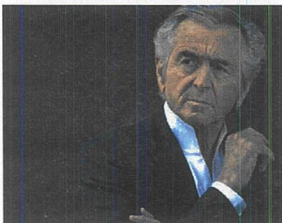
ACADEMY TENT

Women vs the Free Market
Vicky Pryce

Gender inequality shouldn't be a part of the free market. After all, surely the best person gets the job and is rewarded for their work. But from the gendered threat of robot labour to the lack of women in economics itself, Vicky Pryce, Chief Economic Adviser at the Centre for Economics and Business Research, uncovers the deeper side to this story. Without bold decisive action that radically changes contemporary capitalism, we will not achieve the equality that we desire.

See page 58 for Part One and Two.

5:30 PM



Bernard-Henri Lévy

THE LIFE AND PHILOSOPHY SERIES

The world's leading thinkers look back and explore what led them to their philosophy and what they have learnt from life.

[98] 5:30 pm

ARENA

The Life and Philosophy of Bernard-Henri Lévy
Bernard-Henri Lévy

Bernard-Henri Lévy is one of the most esteemed, prolific and influential writers in Europe and perhaps the most famous living French philosopher. He came to prominence as one of the leaders of the "New Philosophers" movement in the late seventies and was critical of many of the fashionable views in France at the time, including Marxism, existentialism, and post-structuralism. Lévy has been a stalwart defender of human rights his entire life, even when it was inconvenient and dangerous. His recent documentaries filmed on the frontline in Ukraine are no exception. Join Lévy as he unpacks the life and the philosophy behind his activism that has made him into one of the world's most admired and fascinating public intellectuals.

"Accorded the kind of adulation in France that most countries reserve for their rock stars." - The Guardian

5:30 PM

DEBATE

[99] 5:30 pm

INTERNATIONAL

Singles, Sex and Society
Yasmin Benoit, Harry Benson, Aline Laurent-Mayard, Güneş Taylor hosts.

We assume that one of the primary aims in life is to find a lifelong partner. A story embedded in our novels, films and culture. But a fundamental and largely unrecognised change is taking place. The number of singles has risen sevenfold in the last fifty years and now accounts for more than 40% of the population with a majority of those choosing to be single. Some argue this is a dangerous trend that is influencing the global fall in birth rate and potentially threatens society as a whole. They argue the ubiquity of sex toys, used in the US and UK by 70% of women, and pornography, used by 90% of men, have made sex with a partner less important.

Should we act to contain the growth in the numbers choosing to be single? Do we need to encourage long-term partnership by making sex less available without a partner? Or is this demographic shift to be wholeheartedly welcomed as a sign of improving personal lives, and a limiting of excessive population growth?

Award-winning activist Yasmin Benoit, Research Director of the Marriage Foundation Harry Benson, and podcaster Aline Laurent-Mayard, debate the rise of singledom.



Yasmin Benoit

LIVE MUSIC

[100] 5:30 pm

THE HAT

Milkweed: Myths and Legends of Wales

Their new album, which blends traditional folk with a trip-hop infused sound, was named by the Guardian as folk album of the month. Unsurprisingly that "slacker-trad" folk duo Milkweed have developed a cult following off the back of their rare live performances.

"A mesmerising distant cousin of Anne Briggs and Rodie Peat." - The Guardian

IDEAS & CULTURE

5:30 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[101] 5:30 pm
Peiriant

STAGE

6:00 PM

TALK

[102] 6:00 pm

THE RING

Politics, Culture and The Good Life
Thangam Debonaie

We know the magic of creativity and culture, and yet both personal and as a society, they are often a low priority. Join rising star of the Labour Party, and Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Thangam Debonaie, as she argues that creativity and culture are essential to who we are and our society.

"Determined to sway minds." - The Guardian



Thangam Debonaie

POKBOX

[103] 6:00 pm

ART & CINEMA TENT

The Pill Revolution

Why is there such limited research into the contraceptive pill? Why are women offered so little choice? What can be done to improve women's healthcare? Davina McCall tackles the troubling truth behind the pill, busting myths, taboos and fake news.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[104] 6:00 pm
Lilian Grace

BLUE MOON

howthelightsins.org

6:30 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[105] 6:30 pm

THE HAT

Junior Brother

Chosen as one of RTE's Rising Irish Stars and The Irish Times' breakthrough acts, County Kerry singer-songwriter Junior Brother is redefining Irish folk music. He's been nominated for RTE Radio 1's Best Folk Album and Choice Music Prize's Album of the Year.

"Makes mince-meat out of every other structured Irish songwriter you can think of." - The Irish Times

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[106] 6:30 pm
Truthpaste

STAGE

Children's Programme

[107] 6:30 pm

MINDCRAFT

Pottery Extravaganza [See p.60]

6:45 PM

DEBATE

[108] 6:45 pm

ARENA

Something for Nothing
Paul Bloom, Dan Ariely, Nancy Sherman, Myriam François hosts.

"Rewards are the means of all government" proclaimed US President John Adams. A principle we have adopted in many areas of our lives, from children's gold stars and prizes to incentives at work, and religious tales of paradise to come. But evidence now suggests there are risks to this approach. Studies show rewards can damage wellbeing fostering dependence and undermining our own sense of control. And neuroscientists have shown those more prone to seeking reward now present in almost half of the U.S. population.

Should we seek to wean ourselves off reward and instead learn to experience the present for its own sake? Should we adopt a Stoic framework where action and virtue are seen as their own ends? Or is the current culture of reward in personal and professional life not only hugely beneficial but a much more effective means of social intervention than the punishment regimes of the past?

Best-selling psychologist Paul Bloom, world-leading behavioural economist Dan Ariely, and Stoic expert Nancy Sherman debate the risks of rewards.

7:00 PM

TALK

[109] 7:00 pm THE RING

The Ugly Truth Behind Beauty
Jessica DeFino

The beauty industry is valued at over \$260 Billion globally. But what is this industry's cost to humanity and society? Join journalist and Guardian columnist, Jessica DeFino, as she explores the philosophy of beauty, and argues the industry exploits both women and men alike, and calls for us to abandon beauty products.

"DeFino basically gives the middle finger to the entire beauty industry." - HuffPost

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[110] 7:00 pm BLUE MOON
Smith & Johnson

7:30 PM



Tara Clerkin Trio

LIVE MUSIC

[111] 7:30 pm INTERNATIONAL

Tara Clerkin Trio

One of the most innovative groups currently performing in the UK, the Tara Clerkin Trio have received great acclaim from the likes of The Wire, The Quietus and Pitchfork. After hearing their unique and mesmerising sound, which blends acid jazz, electronics and off-kilter psych-pop, it is easy to see why. They host a regular NTS radio show, are favourites of Gilles Peterson, and have played festivals from ReWire to End of the Road.

"There is a lot of excitement swirling around the Tara Clerkin Trio right now." - Loud and Quiet

8:00 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[112] 8:00 pm THE HAT

Mandrake Handshake

Multi-dimensional nine-piece spectaculars Mandrake Handshake perform a music they call 'Flowerkraut': a hedonistic, brain-frying feast of Krautrock, art-pop and psychedelia. Filling stages from Shambala to Wilderness, they're reshaping the UK indie scene one entrancing show at a time!

"Glorious." - Clash Magazine

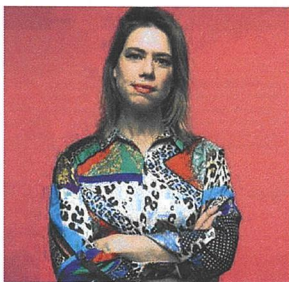
COMEDY

[113] 8:00 pm STAGE

Micky Overman

In 'Hold On' comedian Micky Overman finds her life going the direction she's always wanted. So why is she finding that so hard? Join her for a work-in-progress show about change, coping mechanisms and Ozzy Osbourne. She has written for and acted in sketches for TV2, Channel 4, and BBC3, and her social media content has received over 40 million views online.

"A pin-sharp torrent of precision gags and delightfully silly one-liners." - The Observer



Lou Sanders

8:00 PM

DOXBOX

[114] 8:00 pm ART & CINEMA TENT

Hurdle

This award-winning documentary reveals an inspiring and intimate story of Palestinian youth living in the Occupied Territories. The new generation practices parkour and photography as a means to resist and overcome personal and political obstacles.

BANQUET

[115] 8:00 pm From £54 WATERFRONT

Long Table Banquet - Saturday

Join fellow festival-goers at our Long Table Banquets overlooking the river at the Waterfront. Expect a lavish four-course meal, and excellent company. Book early to avoid disappointment - numbers are limited.



Music & Acoustic Sessions

[116] 8:00 pm BLUE MOON
The Marcellas

8:30 PM

COMEDY

[117] 8:30 pm ARENA

Lou Sanders

Just like Tom Cruise does all his own stunts, Lou Sanders is going to do all her own jokes. Join Lou to have a bit of a laugh, which is still not illegal last time she checked! As seen on Taskmaster and Live at the Apollo.

"Keeps the laughs coming with such gleeful self-assurance." - The Times

9:00 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[118] 9:00 pm INTERNATIONAL

Ebi Soda

Slouch anti-traditionalists, Ebi Soda thrive on the idea of contradiction, seeming more inspired by the atmosphere inside a rave than the sounds heard inside a jazz club.

"Scorching a new jazz path." - Clash Music



Ebi Soda

9:00 PM

COMEDY

[119] 9:00 pm THE RING

Sara Barron

Sara Barron - as seen on Live at the Apollo, Would I Lie to You, and Frankie Boyle's New World Order - talks through a passion for eavesdropping, a hatred of the countryside, and one awful thing that she did to her mom.

"A wickedly funny show!" - Scotsman

DOXBOX

[120] 9:00 pm ART & CINEMA TENT

Conflict

This award-winning film takes the audience behind the lens of the world's leading conflict photographers. Across diverse, interwoven stories we follow the photographers' attempts to make the world a better place by bearing witness.

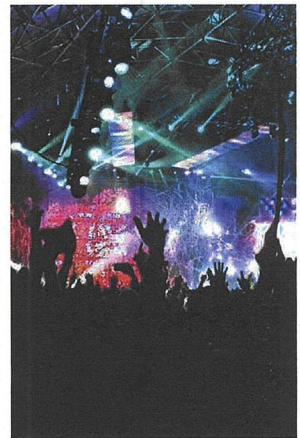
9:00 PM

RIVERSIDE DISCO

[121] 9:00 pm to late RIVERSIDE DISCO

Club MirrorBall
DJ's Stacey and Esyllt

DJ's Stacey and Esyllt have gained legendary status separately starting parties all over South Wales and across the UK, but the time has come for them to combine forces as they bring you Club MirrorBall. Expect Dolly Parton next to Prince, Grace Jones sitting comfortably between Ariana and Bowie, all being observed by Haim and Karen O as Debbie Harry spikes the punch bowl. Combining the intimate vibes of a house party and the euphoria of club dancefloor, their tune selections span decades and genres, with the attitude "anything goes, as long as it's good!" - we can't wait!



Music & Acoustic Sessions

[122] 9:00 pm BLUE MOON
Bowen

 THE SATURDAY SHINDIG

 THE SATURDAY SHINDIG

9:30 PM



Crazy P

10:00 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[124] 10:00 pm

ARENA

Sea Power

Mercury nominated Sea Power have been lauded by everyone from Lou Reed and David Bowie. Sea Power have played atop the Great Wall of China and at the CERN atom-research labs, and their penchant for spectacular live locations takes them to the Wye Valley this May. It's no surprise that the intensity and invention of the band's shows have earned them Time Out magazine's Live Band Of The Year award.

"On the cusp of becoming an institution." – Louder Than War

LIVE MUSIC

[123] 9:30 pm

THE HAT

Crazy P Soundsystem

With one of the best live dance music shows on the planet, Crazy P have been leaving their mark on the landscape of British dance music for the last 15 years. They have risen to cult status with their irresistible fusion of house, disco and funk fusion, winning iTunes Best Dance Album of the Year.

"Second to none." – DJ Mag



Sea Power

10:30 PM

DOKBOX

[126] 10:00 pm

ART & CINEMA TENT

Oman from Above

Oman is the oldest independent state in the Arab world and has a rich and unique history. Discover the beauty and culture of this fascinating country with this stunning aerial journey that visits over 30 sites.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

Join fellow festival goers in song, around the warmth of the wood fire, and enjoy watching the night fall after a day full of ideas. Hosted by indie folk duo Reeve and friends, with music by performers from the Blue Moon lineup plus some special guests.

[127] 10:00 pm to 1:00 am

BOHEMIA

Fire and Folk

COMEDY

[128] 10:30 pm

THE RING

Lachlan Werner

The horrifying hour from the award-winning prince of puppets. Lachy is apparently a virgin. Brew is a small, squishy witch, and she has decided to sacrifice him. To help with his self-esteem. Together, they'll bring your worst nightmares to life in a ceremony of paranormal tricks and treats. ... Directed by Laurie Luxe.

"Hilarious. Extraordinary. A healthy dose of the unhinged." – The Guardian



Patrick Spicer

COMEDY

[125] 10:00 pm

STAGE

Patrick Spicer

Chuckle Best Newcomer Nominee Patrick Spicer brings perfectly constructed stand-up to HowTheLightGetsIn. Asking the BIG q's e.g. was Jesus a people pleaser? What is a fat? Does the third question in a list have to be the best one or can you sort of just trail off? As seen on BBC2, Channel 4, and BBC iPlayer. 60k+ followers online with over 15 million views.

"An engaging and natural storyteller..." – The Skinny



Lachlan Werner

11:00 PM



The Destroyers

11:30 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[132] 11:30 pm

ARENA

The Orb

Titans of electronic music The Orb virtually invented ambient house, topping the album charts. Their signature track 'Little Fluffy Clouds' is ranked among NME's Greatest Songs of All Time. With Alex Paterson setting the controls for the perfect dance groove or exploring previously unknown vistas, The Orb have gone from visionary mischief-makers in 1988's acid house revolution to one of the most revered electronic music acts alive.

"The Orb keep alive the spirit of rave." – Financial Times

LIVE MUSIC

[129] 11:00 pm

THE HAT

The Destroyers

Unapologetically complex and joyful, The Destroyers have been collating world music for nearly 20 years. Their benevolent sound is a chaotic cacophony of klezmer, Balkan and British folk. Their explosive and virtuosic show opened the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games and has to be seen to be believed.

"Seductively dangerous and unique." – Clash Magazine



DOKBOX

[130] 11:00 pm

ART & CINEMA TENT

Keeping Music Alive

Zahra', Afghanistan's first award-winning female orchestra, wowed audiences across the world. Now, they face great danger as the Taliban returns. The girls still in the country go into hiding, while those who fled are mounting an international rescue campaign.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[131] 11:00 pm

BLUE MOON

The Microplastics

CABARET

[133] 11:30 pm

STAGE

Posey Mehta

Trained clown Posey Mehta is "endlessly creative and subversive" (Fringe Review). After their rave-reviewed 2022 debut Fringe debut, Posey comes to HowTheLightGetsIn in the guise of Mizzi Fitz, an underground favourite of London's queer cabaret scene. In her 42 years in showbiz, Mizzi Fitz has seen and done it all. Tonight, she'll bare all, in more ways than one... Expect practical tips on breaking into the industry, and uncomfortably explicit descriptions of her ex-husband Larry's genitalia.

"Incomparable." – Broadway World

12:00 AM



MIDNIGHT MAYHEM

Midnight Mayhem sees philosophers and comedians join forces in our late night intellectual showdown with a twist. A carnivalesque procession kicks off the show, before audience members pick a side, and make their voice heard alongside speakers and comedians from our star-studded programme.

[134] 12:00 am

THE RING

Humanity vs The Machines

The Machines are rising up. Do you side with them? Or are you on the side of Humanity? Pick your side and put on your sparring gloves for debate and debate. Anyone can step into the ring! Tonight, which side are you on?... Humanity or The Machines?

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[135] 12:00 am

BLUE MOON

The Hanging Bandits

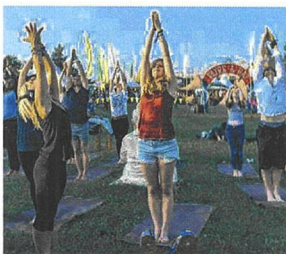


 EXPERIENCES

SPA & WELLNESS

Escape the hustle and relax for a moment at the serene Aurore Spa including Meditation, Massage and Yoga for all ages.

9:00 am BOHEMIA
Spa events are booked and paid for separately - online or in person.



FAYRE

10:00am FAYRE
FAYRE

The market is full of surprises. Artisan food producers, vintage clothes, cocktails and sequins, as well as some truly original workshops.



RIDES

11:00 am RIVERSIDE
Vintage Rides

Our vintage rides aren't only for children. Take in the wonderful views of the Black Mountains from the Ferris Wheel. We're sure Wittgenstein would approve.



FIRE & FOLK

9:00pm to late BOHEMIA: FIRE

Fire & Folk
With music by some wonderfully talented acoustic performers and friends along with some very special guests. Join fellow festivalgoers round the light and warmth of the wood fire and enjoy watching night fall after a day full of ideas.

INNER CIRCLE

Join our inspiring speakers for a delicious lunch or a cider tasting philosophy session.

[65] 1:00 pm INNER CIRCLE
How The Light Gets In Lunch

with Scott Aaronson
Join world-leading computer scientist, Scott Aaronson, as he expounds on how the AI age will be forever changed by the introduction of quantum computing.

[93] 4:45 pm INNER CIRCLE
The Philosophy of Cider

with Jane Peyton
Join Britain's first Beer Sommelier and author of the Philosophy of Beer, Cocktails, and Gin, Jane Peyton, as she explores the philosophy of the Welsh Marches' favourite festival drink - cider.

FRONT ROOM & RIVERSIDE DISCO

1:00 pm to late FRONT ROOM

The People's Front Room

A team of wonderfully talented musicians create a truly unique vibe as they extemporise classic tracks of every genre along with their own wicked tunes. Throughout the day and to close of play in the evening.

9:00 pm to late

Riverside Disco RIVERSIDE DISCO

Opening up onto the river bank, you can dance inside the tent or under the stars to the hottest DJs. Find the secret entrance - there's a café area open all day hidden inside and the big tunes start from 9pm and don't stop until the early hours.



The Guide
Pop culture
through a
different lens

Landing in your inbox every Friday, the **Guide** newsletter will bring you the latest in TV, film, music, podcasts, books and more.

From what's happening in Westeros to who's blowing up Spotify, be sure to join Gwilym Mumford for a weekly look at the best in pop culture.



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The Guardian Newsletters

IDEAS & CULTURE

9:00 AM

INNER CIRCLE

Start your day with a shot of inspiration from your favourite speakers. Expect stimulating ideas along with fresh pastries and coffee.

[137] 9:00 am From £20 INNER CIRCLE

Philosophy breakfast with John Ralston Saul

Most say that a belief in unfettered reason improves our lives. But declining democracy and broken institutions have challenged this idea. Join political philosopher and the man Time called a 'prophet', John Ralston Saul as he argues that faith in reason has ruined the West.

[138] 9:00 am From £20 INNER CIRCLE

Philosophy breakfast with Chris Lintott

We think of science as methodically building on the agreed and accurate theories of the past. Join renowned astrophysicist Chris Lintott as he argues we should embrace radical thinking in science and makes the case that being open to new approaches changes the science that you can do.

10:00 AM

TALK

[139] 10:00 am THE RING

The Myth of Universal Values
Tommy Curry

We tend to think that morality has nothing to do with our individual circumstances or desires. That universal values apply to everyone equally. Join challenging and controversial philosopher Tommy Curry as he makes the case that universal values are a fantasy, a myth created by those with power.

"Curry has taken a bullet for the brothers." - Ishmael Reed

IAI ACADEMY COURSE

[140] 10:00 am - 12:30 pm ACADEMY TENT

Quantum Biology
Johnjos McFadden

More than 60 years ago the father of quantum mechanics, Erwin Schrödinger, insisted that aspects of biology must be based on quantum rather than classical laws. And as the attention of 21st-century biology is probing the dynamics of ever-smaller systems, ignoring quantum mechanics is becoming increasingly untenable. Join Johnjos McFadden as he explores recent experiments indicating that life's most fundamental processes depend on the quantum undercurrent of reality.

See page 58 for Part One and Two.

10:30 AM

DEBATE

[141] 10:30 am ARENA

Navigating the New World Order
Armen Sarkissian, Bronwen Maddox, Christina Lamb, Hilary Lawson hosts.

In the closing decades of the last century, many were critical of American global dominance. But twenty years on America's relative decline has ushered in a new multipolar era that many contend is profoundly more dangerous. We have an unpredictable conflict in Europe larger than anything since World War II and international tension greater than at any point since the height of the Cold War. Meanwhile from the Middle East to the South China Sea, a host of regional conflicts have the potential to spiral out of control, and the new world order looks increasingly precarious.

Can we navigate to safety through international cooperation and treaties? Do we need to align in power blocks to provide overall defence, or is it safer to remain independent providing less of a threat to others? Or is the only solution for one nation or alliance to once again become globally dominant?

Former President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian, Chief Executive of Chatham House Bronwen Maddox, and leading war correspondent Christina Lamb, debate whether the global dominance of one geo-political bloc is safer for world order.

DEBATE

[142] 10:30 am INTERNATIONAL

Truth, Theory and Ultimate Reality
Lisa Randall, Tim Maudlin, Abby Innes, Bernard Carr, Bjørn Ekeberg hosts.

Human understanding has enabled us to achieve many things once thought impossible, and we assume our theories are successful because they uncover the true character of reality. But critics argue there is a danger this is an illusion. Theories they contend are effective because they provide a framework to make sense of the world but they do not describe reality, nor do we have a credible account of how any theory could in principle describe reality. The theories of science are all open to revision because they are models rather than descriptions of an ultimate reality.

Should we give up the notion that our theories are true descriptions of the world? Should we assume that there are an indefinite number of alternative accounts that might prove more effective? Or is truth a necessary goal of our accounts of the world without which we would be impossibly lost in a welter of competing narratives?

Leading theoretical physicist Lisa Randall, cutting-edge philosopher of physics Tim Maudlin, insightful interdisciplinary thinker Abby Innes, and dark-matter physicist Bernard Carr, lock horns over whether theories are true or just our best guesses.

10:30 AM

THE FUTURE SERIES

A series of events that offer visions of the future.

[143] 10:30 am THE HAT

The Future of Particle Physics
Harry Cliff

The more we understand the world, the more it seems to unravel into larger and more complex mysteries that may well be unsolvable. Join Cambridge particle physicist and CERN hadron collider researcher, Harry Cliff, to explore the fascinating anomalies and oddities that confound scientists. From energy inexplicably emanating from Antarctica to dilemmas over the expansion of the universe, Cliff takes you through the many mysteries of physics and argues that there is a limit to what science can and will uncover.

"Lays out the gaps and anomalies at the edge of modern science, which may make the best theories of today look as quaint as those of long ago." - New York Times



Paul Bloom

11:00 AM

TALK

[144] 11:00 am THE RING

The Devil In All Of Us
Paul Bloom

Many have had the experience of an urge to do something wrong just for the hell of it. From walking on grass we're told to keep off, to fantasies of violence towards someone we find a minor annoyance. Join Yale psychologist Paul Bloom as he invites us to see the clever, creative and beautiful side of our impulses toward evil.

"Paul Bloom has a gift for spotting paradoxes in human nature." - Steven Pinker

11:00 AM

Children's Programme

[145] 11:00 am MINDCRAFT

Aesop's Animal Adventures with...

(See p.60)

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[146] 11:00 am BLUE MOON

Dangerous Flamings

11:30 AM

DEBATE

[147] 11:30 am THE HAT

Imagining the Unimaginable
Martha Finnes, Simon Baron-Cohen, Joanna Kavenna, Myriam François hosts.

"The world of reality has its limits; the world of imagination is boundless" proclaimed Rousseau. We are inclined to agree, but doing so risks making the world appear more understandable and knowable than perhaps it is. Imagination operates within the ideas and concepts available to us. Once we thought it unimaginable that a thing was in two places at once, yet this is just such a reality described by quantum mechanics. While some make the case that imagination is not even sufficient to fully empathise with another, instead we need to have had similar experiences.

Do we need to accept that imagination is limited and so also is our understanding of the world and the lives of others? Are scientists and novelists profoundly constrained in their ability to uncover reality or describe the world of those with radically different experiences? Or is this to severely hobble our capacity to make sense of the world and was Rousseau right that the power of the imagination is unlimited?

Film-maker and Director Martha Finnes, developmental psychopathologist Simon Baron-Cohen, and award-winning novelist Joanna Kavenna, debate whether the imagination is limited.



Myriam François

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[148] 11:30 am STAGE

BBC Music Introducing Hereford & Worcester

IDEAS & CULTURE

12:00 PM

DEBATE

[149] 12:00 pm ARENA

Dark Energy and The Universe
Claudia de Rham, Priya Natarajan, Chris Lintott, Bjørn Ekeberg hosts.

It was a profound shift to our understanding of the cosmos when 25 years ago astronomers identified that the universe is not only expanding but accelerating away from us. A new force was needed to account for this and dark energy was the solution. But critics claim there is a risk that dark energy is nothing more than an empty hypothesis, since two decades on we still have no explanation for it and no independent confirmation of its existence. Yet it supposedly makes up 68% of the universe.

Do we need to get rid of dark energy in favour of an alternative, such as changing Einstein's theory of relativity, or modifying gravity? Is the standard cosmological model of the Big Bang and cosmic inflation at stake and might the universe be very different than we currently suppose? Or is the dark energy hypothesis the best hope we have for making sense of the deep mysteries of cosmology?

Leading physicist Claudia de Rham, award-winning astronomer Priya Natarajan, and renowned Oxford astrophysicist Chris Lintott, lock horns over dark energy.

DEBATE

[150] 12:00 pm INTERNATIONAL

Better Left Unsaid
Theodore Dalrymple, Simon Wessely, Vanessa King, Roger Hearing hosts.

"Unexpressed emotions never die... but are buried alive and come forth later in uglier ways" claimed Sigmund Freud. Today we've gone a step further with the assumption that expressing feelings is important for mental well-being. We praise the sharing of mental health struggles, encourage men to express their emotional troubles, and uphold journaling as a valuable daily routine. But there's a problem. A recent study by Cambridge scientists showed that people trained to suppress negative thoughts, rather than unpack them, felt better and improved their wellbeing. Those with mental health issues benefited the most. Meanwhile with millions seeking therapy, over half say they receive little or no benefit.

Might we all, and therapists in particular, be making a fundamental mistake in thinking the expression of emotions is always beneficial? Can we improve wellbeing and address the mental health crisis with the suppression of negative thoughts and feelings? Or would this re-embed the stigma surrounding mental health and reverse hard-won progress?

Cultural critic Theodore Dalrymple, psychiatrist Simon Wessely, and positive psychology specialist Vanessa King debate whether Freud was dangerously wrong.

12:00 PM

TALK

[151] 12:00 pm THE RING

The New Surveillance Culture
Judith Donath

We invent technology to make life easier. But has new technology led to a surveillance culture? Join Harvard computer scientist and author, Judith Donath, as she argues that while many technologies promote themselves on the basis of trust like Airbnb and Uber, they in fact do the opposite and replace trust with surveillance and control.

"Donath succeeds in painting an unusually deep and personal portrait of the universe of social media." - John Meade

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[152] 12:00 pm BLUE MOON

Bruno Atkinson Solis

12:30 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[153] 12:30 pm STAGE

BBC Music Introducing Hereford & Worcester

Children's Programme

[154] 12:30 pm MINDCRAFT

Pottery Extravaganza

(See p.60)

THE FUTURE SERIES

A series of events that offer visions of the future.

[155] 1:00 pm THE RING

The Future Of Politics
John Bercow

The longest-serving Speaker of the House of Commons since the Second World War, John Bercow was once seen as on the right of the Tory party, later becoming a member of the Tory shadow cabinet. He moved to the left throughout his political career subsequently becoming a thorn in the side of the Conservative Johnson government. Join him as he outlines his vision for the future and why Britain desperately needs change.

"Charming, attractively self-deprecating, and he addresses the head-on charges against him." - Prospect



John Bercow

IDEAS & CULTURE

1:00 PM

HAT SESSIONS

[156] 1:00 pm THE HAT
What is Meaningful Work?
 Avery Anapol, Isabel Berwick, Caleb Althorpe, Nilular Ahmed, Aaron Bastani

People in the workforce want their jobs to give them purpose and meaning. But in a world of remote working and disillusionment with capitalism, is there even such a thing as 'meaningful work'? And in the world of digital transformation, can there be meaning in life without it? Join Avery Anapol from The Conversation, FT podcaster Isabel Berwick, political philosopher Caleb Althorpe, psychologist and psychotherapist Nilular Ahmed, and commentator Aaron Bastani, as they try to discover what meaningful work is, and debate whether it's worth pursuing.

Event Curated by The Conversation

INNER CIRCLE

[157] 1:00 pm INNER CIRCLE
 From £22
HowTheLightGetsIn Lunch with Avshalom Elitzur

Radical physicist and philosopher, Avshalom Elitzur, argues that physics defies common sense. Join him to discover what new paths can be forged when our best theories of science are shown to be full of holes.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[158] 1:00 pm BLUE MOON
Kate McDouall

1:15 PM

DEBATE

[159] 1:15 pm ARENA
After Postmodernism
 Robin van den Akker, Abby Innes, Hilary Lawson, Sophie Scott-Brown hosts.

Highly influential in the latter decades of the 20th century, postmodernism transformed many academic disciplines and culture at large. Associated with an attack on objective truth and the uniqueness of meaning, it called into question the whole edifice of knowledge which Western culture had previously glorified. But it left many lost, and in the wake of a polarising post-truth world there is widespread recognition that we need to move on. Feminist and post-colonial critics though claim there is a danger that instead we risk retreating to the questionable certainties of the past. Alongside defenders of objective truth like Richard Dawkins and Nassim Taleb, figures like Jordan Peterson argue for a return to moral certainties and belief in the existence of God.

Are there viable alternatives to postmodernism that are not simply a return to belief in universal truth? Are metamodernism or modal theoretic realism possible ways forward? Or is the chaos initiated by postmodernism so profound that the only credible approach is to return to the Enlightenment notion that we can arrive at the objective truth?

Philosopher and author of 'Closure' Hilary Lawson, metamodernist Robin Van den Akker, and ISE political economist Abby Innes, debate what lies beyond postmodernism.

1:15 PM

DEBATE

[160] 1:15 pm INTERNATIONAL
Violence, Vengeance, and Virtue
 Peter Singer, Bronwen Maddox, Ilan Pappé, Mary Ann Sieghart hosts.

From Robin Hood to Che Guevara, the oppressed hold the moral high ground. The exploited worker, the dominated minority, the enslaved people, are seen as rightly acting to better their circumstances. Some even maintain the oppressed can never act immorally. But there is a risk this undermines the central moral notion that principles should apply to everyone independent of their circumstances. It also encourages portraying oneself as a victim. Moreover, critics argue that oppressed vs oppressor morality hinders our ability to solve problems that defy simple categorisation into good and bad.

Should we conclude that morality has nothing to do with oppression? Are violence and vengeance no more acceptable on the part of the victim than the aggressor? Or is morality inescapably linked to the circumstances of the actors whether in Gaza, apartheid South Africa, or the Twin Towers attack, or the events of everyday life and relationships?

Influential philosopher of ethics Peter Singer, Chatham House Director Bronwen Maddox, and radical Israeli historian Ilan Pappé debate morality, the oppressors and the oppressed.

INNER CIRCLE

[161] 1:15 pm INNER CIRCLE
 From £22
HowTheLightGetsIn Lunch with Ben Ware

From nuclear armageddon to global pandemics, we face an uncertain future. And many say we should be scared. Join philosopher of extinction, Ben Ware, to explore how we face an apocalyptic future without flinching.

1:30 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[162] 1:30 pm STAGE
BBC Music Introducing Hereford & Worcester

IAI ACADEMY COURSE

[163] 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm ACADEMY TENT
The Mysteries of Black Holes
 Priya Natarajan

Black holes hold a privileged place within the popular imagination. We all know what they are, but there is still much we don't understand. How do they form? What happens when things fall in? And what's inside a black hole? Join recent winner of the Liberty Science Center 'Genius Award' and Chair of Astronomy at Yale, Priya Natarajan, as she explores her recent discoveries about how black holes grow, form, and evolve, and how we can measure one of the most mysterious phenomena in the universe.

See page 58 for Part One and Two.

2:00 PM

TALK

[164] 2:00 pm THE RING
Genes Are Not the Blueprint for Life
 Denis Noble

Popularised by Dawkins, we think genes are the blueprint for life. But might this commonly-held view of biology and evolution be mistaken? Join renowned Oxford biologist, Denis Noble, as he proposes the radical new theory that organisms control their genomes rather than the other way around.

"Unusually among practising scientists, he is an accomplished philosopher." – Sir Anthony Kenny

THE FUTURE SERIES

A series of events that offer visions of the future.

[165] 2:00 pm THE HAT
Conflict – and its Future
 General David Petraeus, US Army (Ret.), Michael Clarke hosts.

President Bush's choice to lead the Surge in Iraq and US Central Command, President Obama's choice to lead NATO forces in Afghanistan and later to be Director of the CIA, General Petraeus has been at the forefront of international affairs for many decades and with strong views on recent US foreign policy. In a world more precarious than ever, join him to hear his assessment of how to respond to the challenges of contemporary global affairs and gain insight into how his own life experiences influenced his philosophy on leadership and outlook on the world.

"General Petraeus is among the very best military leaders of his generation." – John Kerry, former US Secretary of State



David Petraeus

Children's Programme

[166] 2:00 pm MINDCRAFT
Keep it Up! Juggling and Diabolo.. (See p. 60)

DOKBOX

[167] 2:00 pm CINEMA
Living for Art
 In this award-winning film, artist Saakoo Ang explores the real lives and struggles of contemporary artists from Paris and Berlin to Japan and New York. Featuring candid conversations and cutting-edge artworks, the film questions the systems that govern artists' careers and livelihoods.

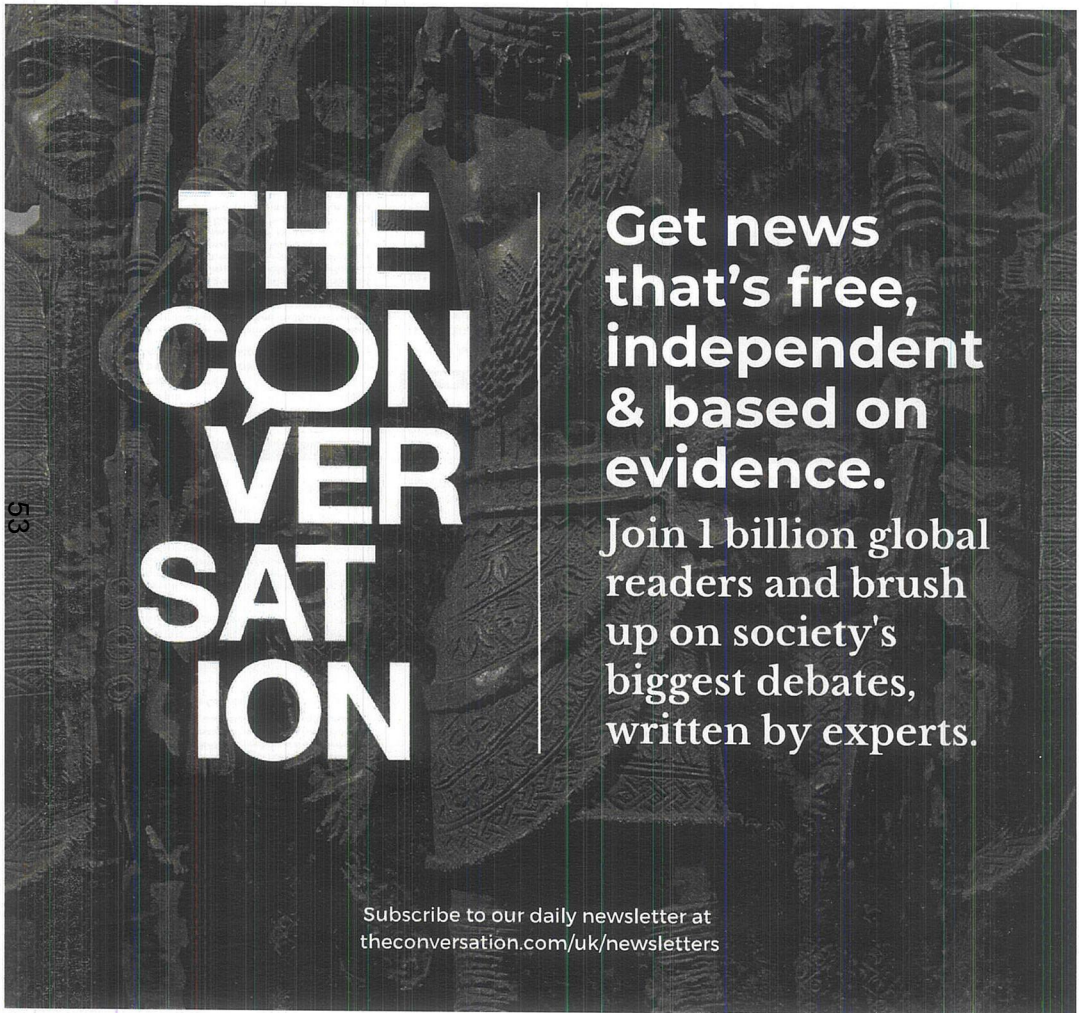
Music & Acoustic Sessions

[168] 2:00 pm BLUE MOON
Gareth Rees

A lovely event ...
 deep issues that matter

Steven Pinker, psychologist and author





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IDEAS & CULTURE

Sunday 26th May

2:30 PM

DEBATE

[169] 2:30 pm

ARENA

Overcoming Evolution
Daniel Dennett, Subrena E. Smith, Simon Baron-Cohen. Güneş Taylor hosts.

As with the animal kingdom, we see human behaviour as the product of elemental drives to survive and reproduce. Evolutionary psychology has taken this a stage further with claims that 'killing is fundamentally in our nature' and seeing violence, social hierarchy, and sexual promiscuity as a product of evolutionary drives. But might this be a misleading and dangerous approach? Murder rates have fallen seventy-fold since the Middle Ages, while across the globe birth rates are a fraction of what they were a hundred years ago. Fathers are actively involved in child care and we've radically changed our outlook on social issues like gender identity, suggesting ideas and culture drive behaviour rather than evolution.

Should we conclude that evolutionary psychology is a blind alley with no predictive power? Are we capable of overcoming behavioural traits and therefore wholly responsible for our actions? Or is evolution an inescapable force and behavioural change a result of altered circumstances while our core nature remains identical?

Renowned philosopher Daniel Dennett, critic of evolutionary psychology Subrena E. Smith, and clinical psychologist Simon Baron-Cohen, debate the significance of evolutionary psychology.

DEBATE

[170] 2:30 pm

INTERNATIONAL

Land, Ownership and Hypocrisy
Tommy Curry, Peter Singer, Janne Teller, Dale Turner. Barry C. Smith hosts.

Since Magna Carta, we assume individuals have a right to the property or land that they own. If nations, like Ukraine, are invaded we champion their right to retrieve their land. But there is a risk these principles which we think universal are only applied to the strong. 95% of the native population in North America was wiped out by European invasion. Just two hundred years ago the first removal of Native Americans took place and since then 99% of their land has been taken and is now deemed to be 'owned' by others. The small number of Native Americans remaining suffer severe inequalities in health, wealth and education. Life has been done to redress the situation and almost no one is proposing returning the land.

Should we accept that principles of rights to ownership apply only to the strong? Is the widely held belief in inalienable rights in fact hypocritical and only applied when convenient or desirable? Or is our attachment to universal rights genuine and should we be returning a major part of the land in North America to its original inhabitants?

Renowned philosopher Peter Singer, professor of indigenous political thought Dale Turner, author Janne Teller, and professor of race Tommy Curry, debate land and ownership.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[171] 2:30 pm

STAGE

BBC Music Introducing Hereford & Worcester

3:00 PM

TALK

[172] 3:00 pm

THE RING

The Quantum Computing Hoax
Scott Aaronson

Quantum computing has turned into a phrase that the tech industry will sprinkle on almost anything to help raise funds and generate sales. As a result, there is a tsunami of hype about what quantum computers are going to revolutionise. Join leading quantum computing specialist Scott Aaronson as he challenges the hype and tells us what is really going on.

"A world-class scientist." – Timothy Nguyen

THE LIFE AND PHILOSOPHY SERIES

The world's leading thinkers look back and explore what led them to their philosophy and what they have learnt from life.

[173] 3:00 pm

THE HAT

The Life and Philosophy of Paterson Joseph
Paterson Joseph. Jenny Kleeman hosts.

The ability to inhabit a character, especially one underappreciated and consigned to the annals of history, is both fiendishly difficult and personally rewarding. Join Wanka, Peep Show and Shakespearean actor, Paterson Joseph, as he reveals the key experiences that led him to his personal philosophy and outlook on life. Asked what he would like to be remembered for, he replied that he wished to illuminate the lives of black Britons before his parents' Windrush generation. Come and discover what lacking back Paterson Joseph believes he has learnt from life. Jenny Kleeman interviews.

"Joseph is an interesting mix of equanimity and eruptive fury." - The Telegraph

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[174] 3:00 pm

BLUE MOON

Alan Maskell

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[175] 3:30 pm

STAGE

Alex Seel and Jan Sanders

Children's Programme

[176] 3:30 pm

MINDCRAFT

Journey to the World of Alien Hats with... [See p.60]

INNER CIRCLE

[177] 3:45 pm From £22

INNER CIRCLE

Prosecco, Cake and Philosophy with Robin van den Akker

In many disciplines postmodernism is no longer fashionable. Few want to abandon meaning and truth altogether. Yet the challenges postmodernism raised to objective truth remain unanswered. Join leading metamodernist Robin van den Akker to explore a radical new alternative.

howhighlightgetsin.org

4:00 PM

DEBATE

[178] 4:00 pm

ARENA

Turtles All The Way Down
Donald Hoffman, Hilary Lawson, Priya Natarajan. Jack Symes hosts.

Most of us assume reality is made up of physical matter. In line with this scientists have built ever larger machines to identify the ultimate particles. Instead of getting closer to the most elementary bits in the universe, the particle zoo has got ever more complex and seemingly less like material stuff at all. Is there a danger that the very idea of an ultimate foundation to reality is a profound mistake? Some have proposed that instead of material the ultimate foundation is to be found in consciousness, information, or even mathematics. But such proposals are no closer to identifying ultimate elements than particle physicists.

Should we give up the attempt to uncover an ultimate foundation to the universe? Is our inability to find an ultimate foundation a limitation of language, or of our capacity to make sense of the world, or is it to do with the nature of reality itself? Or is it just possible that if we held in there, one day we will crack the ultimate puzzle?

Cognitive psychologist Donald Hoffman, philosopher and critic of realism Hilary Lawson, and leading physicist Priya Natarajan, lock horns over the foundations of reality.

DEBATE

[179] 4:00 pm

INTERNATIONAL

Optimising Ourselves

James Riley, Nancy Sherman, Jessica DeFino. Jenny Kleeman hosts.

Once a West Coast phenomenon, self-improvement is big. Advocates of self-improvement strategies with journals, ice-baths, cold showers, and meditation have millions of followers. And it's a huge business too: the global personal development industry is estimated at \$44 billion last year. But recent evidence indicates self-improvement can be a risk to our health. Studies show self-criticism contributes to depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. This can even turn fatal. 56% of those who committed suicide exhibited a 'perceived external pressure to be perfect'. It is not even clear that self-improvement is really possible, after all who is the self carrying out the improvement?

Should we conclude that the self-optimisation industry is peddling an illusion? Is a focus on pulling ourselves up by our own bootstraps not only misguided but a means to squeeze joy out of our lives? Or is self-improvement a way to provide meaning and direction and find a profoundly better way of living?

Guardian columnist Jessica DeFino, Cambridge film and literature critic James Riley, and professor of philosophy Nancy Sherman, ask if self-optimisation is achievable.

IDEAS & CULTURE

4:00 PM

TALK

[180] 4:00 pm THE RING

The Case for Conscious AI
Joscha Bach

Most are sceptical that artificial intelligence will one day become conscious. But might this scepticism be misguided? Join leading AI researcher, Joscha Bach, as he argues that we can create artificial consciousness if we open ourselves up to the possibility of cyber-animalism, the idea that consciousness and spirit is akin to a software agent that naturally emerges in a biological organism.

"One of the most brilliant, and fascinating minds in the world."
- Lex Fridman

THE FUTURE SERIES

A series of events that offer visions of the future.

[181] 4:00 pm THE HAT

The Global Climate Future
Tim Palmer, Kerry McCarthy,
Mary Ann Sieghart hosts.

Renewable energy is growing across the world. China is becoming a leader, doubling solar energy in the last year alone. The UK has seen a rise from 10 to 40% over the last ten years. But we are far from being out of the danger zone. Global temperature shows no sign of slowing. 2023 showed a jump in global average temperature making it easily the hottest year in the recent climate record.

What is the future? Are we already too late? How should we handle the climate change that is locked in? Will the radically different impact of climate change across the globe lead to conflict between nations? And is it going to be necessary to make more radical interventions to reduce CO2 emissions or are the changes afoot sufficient to avert catastrophe?

Shadow Minister for Climate Change, Kerry McCarthy, and renowned climate scientist Tim Palmer, debate the global climate future.

DOXBOX

[182] 4:00 pm ART & CINEMA TENT

The Last Seed

Discover Africa's fight for seed sovereignty and its ramifications for global agriculture and nutrition. From farm to laboratory, this science-driven film uncovers the stunning landscapes of Africa and the hidden history of industrial farming.

INNER CIRCLE

Come make your day a little sweeter with a healthy dose of philosophy and chocolate.

[183] 4:00 pm From £22 INNER CIRCLE

The Philosophy of Chocolate with Sam Bilton
Join Food Historian and author of Philosophy of Chocolate, Sam Bilton, and explore our complex relationship with this versatile confection, which is made from the humble beans of the tropical cacao tree.

4:00 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[184] 4:00 pm BLUE MOON
Fiddlebop

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[185] 4:30 pm STAGE
Danny Bradley

5:00 PM

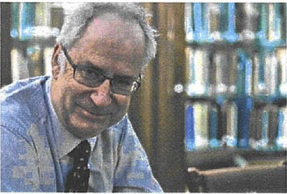
TALK

[186] 5:00 pm THE RING

Mental Health Is Not a Medical Condition
Simon Wessely

We are undoubtedly living through a mental health crisis. But might we be drastically overestimating the amount of people who need medical intervention? Join leading psychologist Simon Wessely as he argues that physicians and psychiatrists are severely inflating the diagnosis of mental health conditions and why this poses a grave risk to society.

"One of the most respected psychiatrists working in Britain today."
- The Times



Simon Wessely

IAI ACADEMY COURSE

[187] 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm ACADEMY TENT

The Future is Metamodern
Robin van den Akker

Modernism failed, and critics argue that postmodernism has led us down a path of confusion, nihilism and despair. But metamodernism promises a hopeful synthesis of the two. Join continental philosopher, Robin van den Akker, as he describes the metamodernist movement, and explores one of the newest frontiers in philosophy and culture, salvaging the best of modernism and postmodernism to craft a positive vision for a way forward.

See page 58 for Part One and Two.

5:00 PM



Children's Programme

Children's Programme

[188] 5:00 pm MINDCRAFT

Philosophy of the Senses with Barry C. Smith (See p.60)

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[189] 5:00 pm BLUE MOON
Revue

5:30 PM

DEBATE

[190] 5:30 pm ARENA

Darwin vs Consciousness
Stuart Hameroff, Antonella Tramacere,
Denis Noble. Güneş Taylor hosts.

We see Darwin's theory of evolution as central to our understanding of the animate world. At the same time as Descartes identified, we can doubt almost everything but we can't doubt the fact of experience. Yet there is a danger these two central beliefs are irreconcilable. From the point of view of evolution, everything biological has a function in sustaining the species, but researchers claim no function can be found for conscious experience. And if there is no survival benefit to experience why has it evolved?

Should we accept that the theory of evolution and the reality of consciousness are incompatible? Do we need to radically alter our understanding of one, or the other, or both? Or is the core issue that we have no credible theory of consciousness and without it we are not going to be able to make experience compatible with science at all?

Oxford biologist Denis Noble, consciousness theorist Stuart Hameroff, and philosopher of cognition Antonella Tramacere, ask if evolution and consciousness are incompatible.

IDEAS & CULTURE

5:30 PM

DEBATE

[191] 5:30 pm INTERNATIONAL

The Equality Dream
John Bercow, Lisa Cameron, Vicky Pryce,
Tommy Curry. Isabel Hillon hosts.

Ever since the French revolution, equality has been the battle cry of those who think themselves progressive. Today on matters of gender and income most want a more equal world and think more should be done to deliver it. But there is a risk that no one really knows what kind of equal world they want, and some critics argue focussing on equality is self-defeating. We don't for example want equality with the lives of others we see as undesirable. And since the 1970's while there have been significant advances in women's rights studies show women's happiness to have decreased. While in the workforce despite the widespread introduction of diversity initiatives, 62% of workers said the programs aren't effective and half say the programs failed them personally.

Does the demand for equality risk forcing everyone to adopt the same life goals of those driven by money and power? Instead of equality should we focus on the rights and wellbeing of all individuals? Or is the call for equality a key and essential political goal that we cannot afford to abandon or water down?

Former Speaker of the House of Commons John Bercow, philosopher of race Tommy Curry, economist Vicky Pryce, and Conservative MP Lisa Cameron, debate what we want from equality.



5:30 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[192] 5:30 pm THE HAT

Cantorian y Gelli

Ease into the evening with a performance by outstanding local Welsh-language choir Cantorian y Gelli. Led by Gemma Duggan, the powerful choristers secured second place in their category of the National Eisteddfod last year.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[193] 5:30 pm STAGE
Dragonsfly

6:00 PM

TALK

[194] 6:00 pm THE RING

Beyond the Reality Illusion
Hilary Lawson

We assume our theories describe reality and uncover the truth, far otherwise the success of science appears a miracle. Join leading critic of philosophical realism, philosopher Hilary Lawson, as he argues this is a profound and damaging mistake and puts forward a radical alternative that enables us to make sense of the mystery that is reality.

"Lawson shows himself to be a latter day 'metaphysician' on the grand scale... a quite astonishing achievement." - Alan Montefiore, University of Oxford



Hilary Lawson

DOXBOX

[195] 6:00 pm ART & CINEMA TENT

Breaking the Taboo

Narrated by Morgan Freeman, this documentary uncovers the UN sanctioned war on drugs, charting its origins and its devastating impact from the USA to Colombia and Russia. Featuring presidents Clinton and Carter, the film exposes the biggest failure of global policy in the last 50 years.

6:00 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[196] 6:00 pm BLUE MOON
Peiriant

LIVE MUSIC

[197] 6:30 pm THE HAT

The Lovely Good

Formed at Trinity College Dublin, multi-instrumental Irish folk band The Lovely Good have already made a splash on London's new music scene. They combine contemplative moments with cathartic swells of sound.

"Bringing together disparate sonic influences to form something strikingly new." - TrinityFM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[198] 6:30 pm STAGE
The Hanging Bandits

Children's Programme

[199] 6:30 pm MINDCRAFT

Spellbound: The Magic Workshop Experience (See p.60)

6:45 PM

DEBATE

[200] 6:45 pm ARENA

Happily Ever After
Jenny Kleeman, Simon May, Myriam François.
Barry C. Smith hosts.

Most see romantic love as the essential basis for marriage and long-term partnerships. Yet this is a relatively new phenomenon originating in the mid to late 18th century. There is a danger this romantic ideal hides the reality that love is often not enough to sustain long-term commitment and comes with its risks to our own well-being. A 2014 psychiatric study found those in love were more likely to experience depression and anxiety. While a recent BBC study found those who emphasised love were more likely to have shorter relationships and exit them cruelly.

Should we give up the idea that romance is the key to long-term relationships and instead see it, as it was once seen, as a threat to those relationships? Would we be better to focus on compatibility, economics and children? Or should we see romantic love not only as the most vivid and exciting experience in our lives but also the most important?

Philosopher of emotion Simon May, journalist and broadcaster Jenny Kleeman, and filmmaker and activist Myriam François, debate our attachment to romantic love.

HOWTHELIGHTGETSIN SUNDAY PARTY

7:00 PM

TALK

[201] 7:00 pm

THE RING

Capitalism and the End of Innovation
Ali Allawi

Global capitalism has defined the past century and has reshaped our lives with the development of influential technological innovations. But is there a danger that the system has now begun to undermine innovation? Join former Finance Minister of Iraq, Ali Allawi, as he argues the global economic framework has begun to prevent development.

"One of Iraq's most respected Shia politicians of the post-Saddam era." - The Independent

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[202] 7:00 pm

BLUE MOON

Johanna Warren



Alia Tully

7:30 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[203] 7:30 pm

INTERNATIONAL

Ailsa Tully

With support from BBC Radio 1's Huw Stephens, BBC Introducing and Amazing Radio, singer-songwriter Ailsa Tully has created an ethereal world rooted in folk, tinged with indie, and grounded by lo-fi field recordings. Her lyrics are unflinchingly honest, raw and poetic as she explores her experiences as a woman.

"A four-track journey brimming with wonder and true beauty." - Gigwise

8:00 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[204] 8:00 pm

THE HAT

Paige Bea

Trained opera singer turned all-pop prodigy Paige Bea has made a huge splash on the UK music scene. Influenced by artists such as FKA Twigs, James Blake and Sampa, Paige has commanded the attention of BBC Radio 1 (Future Artists) and Spotify (Fresh Finds), and put her on the main stage of El Dorado last year.

"Darkly beautiful... nothing short of a marvel." - The Line of Best Fit

COMEDY

[205] 8:00 pm

STAGE

Amy Gledhill

Dave's Edinburgh Comedy Award nominee, National Comedy Award nominee and one third of cult double act The Delightful Sausage - Amy Gledhill returns with a brand new show about self-confidence, romance and bin bags. As seen on Would I Lie To You? and Never Mind The Buzzcocks.

"Remember Gledhill's name, because it's about to be everywhere." - The Independent



Amy Gledhill

8:00 PM



DOXBOX

DOXBOX

[206] 8:00 pm

ART & CINEMA TENT

When Titans Clash: De-Risking Decoded

The West is currently striving to de-risk its economies from exposure to China, meaning China's economy is losing billions in foreign investment. This award winning series returns to investigate the shifting tides of this new economic world order, with exclusive access inside the USA, India and China.

INNER CIRCLE

Join a free-wheeling roundtable discussion kicked off by the world's leading thinkers on the biggest ideas. Enjoy a glass of wine and tasty nibbles in an intimate candlelit space.

[207] 8:00 pm From £30

INNER CIRCLE

Philosophy Salon: The Return of War
Christina Lamb, Aaron Bastani, Ali Allawi

The dream of optimists was that progress would gradually phase out war. But with recent developments, should we now see conflict as the new normal? Join journalist Christina Lamb, commentator Aaron Bastani and former Iraq finance minister Ali Allawi, to explore the return of war.

BANQUET

[208] 8:00 pm From £54

WATERFRONT

Long Table Banquet - Sunday

Our exclusive Long Table Banquets offer you the unmissable opportunity to tuck into a lavish four-course meal with like-minded festival goers. Expect delicious food, award-winning wine and stimulating conversation in the Waterfront, overlooking the River Wye. Book early to avoid disappointment - numbers are strictly limited.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[209] 8:00 pm

BLUE MOON

Milkweed

HOWTHELIGHTGETSIN SUNDAY PARTY

8:30 PM

COMEDY

[210] 8:30 pm

ARENA

Shaparak Khorsandi

Shaparak Khorsandi is a regular on popular TV shows including Live at the Apollo and Mock the Week. Her unique blend of cultural insight and uproarious humour has earned her critical acclaim and a devoted fanbase.

"Khorsandi's comedy is as intelligent as it is hilarious." - The Guardian



Shaparak Khorsandi

INNER CIRCLE

[211] 8:30 pm From £30

INNER CIRCLE

Philosophy Salon: The Nature of Consciousness
Stuart Hameroff, Subrena E. Smith, Justine Kolata

Does the mind really reside in the brain? What is the connection between perception and the world? Join consciousness expert Stuart Hameroff, radical philosopher Subrena E. Smith and philosophical salon host Justine Kolata, as they debate the nature of consciousness.

9:00 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[212] 9:00 pm

INTERNATIONAL

AK Patterson

Following a tour with Ali-J, performances at the Royal Albert Hall and collaboration with Mercury-nominated producer Charlie Andrew on her debut EP, AK Patterson brings her hauntingly soulful voice to HowTheLightGetsIn. Her rich storytelling - spanning loneliness and heartbreak to her prison experience - has earned her many fans including Guy Garvey (Elbow).

"The best new music I've heard" - Guy Garvey

COMEDY

[213] 9:00 pm

THE RING

Leila Navabi

Leila Navabi is a breakthrough comedian, writer and actress from South Wales. Star of BBC's Vandalitz and the BBC New Comedy Awards 2022, Leila has written for Bad Education and Never Mind The Buzzcocks, and can be heard in Channel 4's Don't Hug Me I'm Scared.

"The actual future of comedy." - LMAONoise



Leila Navabi

howthelightgetsin.org

9:00 PM



AK Patterson

DOXBOX

[214] 9:00 pm

ART & CINEMA TENT

Ximei: Fighting China's AIDS Scandal

Discover the story of Ximei, a Chinese woman fighting for fellow AIDS patients who became infected with HIV during China's "Black Blood Economy", when the government encouraged millions of farmers to sell their blood.

RIVERSIDE DISCO

[215] 9:00 pm to late

RIVERSIDE DISCO

Reach Up Disco Wonderland!
Andy Smith, Nick Halkes, Max Galactic

Over recent years their Reach Up Disco Wonderland brand featured for 3 summers on the bounce in Ibiza at the invitation of Carl Cox and saw their party starting mix of disco and house travelling to Berlin, Lisbon and beyond. Whilst Andy has mixed two Reach Up compilations for BBE with a third on the way, Nick has remixed Kylie, Mel C, Degrees of Motion and more. Joined by HowTheLightGetsIn resident Max Galactic - what a finish to this year's festival, good times guaranteed!

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[216] 9:00 pm

BLUE MOON

Bob Gallie

9:30 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[217] 9:30 pm

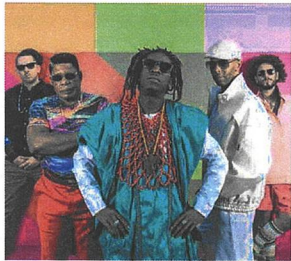
THE HAT

Mr Bruce

Former frontman of The Correspondents and one of Britain's most in-demand festival acts, Mr Bruce creates a unique and unparalleled live experience. Lyrically candid yet flamboyant in delivery, the bendy-bodied performer's solo show is nothing short of spectacular.

"Music grooves like a bastard." – Tom Robinson (BBC 6 Music)

10:00 PM



Afriqoi

DOKBOX

[220] 10:00 pm

ART & CINEMA TENT

Accidental Anarchist

The remarkable story of how Carne Ross, once a leading UK diplomat, became an anarchist. Rebellious against the establishment, he discovers a new form of politics, so relevant for these turbulent times. Executive produced by Alex Gibney.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[221] 10:00 pm
Slippery Slope Trio

BLUE MOON

10:00 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[218] 10:00 pm

ARENA

Afriqoi

A festival sensation, Afriqoi are bringing their uplifting fusion of African music and live electronics to our stage for a night of euphoric cross-cultural celebration. Fusing Congolese guitar, Gambian kora virtuosity, and UK electronic sensibility, this live African dance music troupe create an uplifting dancefloor.

"Wildly euphoric, ridiculously danceable." – Uncut

COMEDY

[219] 10:00 pm

STAGE

Priya Hall

Priya Hall's signature style has been described as "hilariously oversharing." Priya wrote and starred in the BBC 2 Wales sitcom *Beena and Amit* and was a semi-finalist in the BBC New Comedy Awards 2021. She is a series regular on *Sunday Morning With Joanna Page* (BBC Radio Wales) where she reports on the weekly news stories.

"Hall is a masterful storyteller." – *Broadway Baby*



Ania Magliano

10:30 PM

COMEDY

[222] 10:30 pm

THE RING

Ania Magliano

It's that time of year! Ania has some things to say and she would like you to listen please. Ania's previous show was nominated for Best Comedy Show at the Edinburgh Fringe 2023. She has opened for Ed Gamble, Marc Maron and Catherine Cohen, and she also writes with comedian, journalist and viral sensation Amelia Dimoldenberg on *Chicken Shop Date* and *Amelia's Cooking Show*. Her choices on *OH Menu* were widely regarded as one of the worst menus of all time.

"A gift for observational comedy and weaving beautifully crafted routines out of the everyday." – *The Telegraph*

11:00 PM



Raz & Afia

LIVE MUSIC

[223] 11:00 pm

THE HAT

Raz & Afia

Raz & Afia is the child of chart-topping, multi-platinum producer Raz Oliber and Ghanaian master musician Afia Sackey. Between them, they've collaborated with everyone from Gilles Peterson and Lemar to Ayanna Witter-Johnson and Ginger Baker. Together, the duo create a captivating fusion of African rhythms and electronic beats, igniting dance floors across major festivals.

"Electrifying!" – *Wanderland Magazine*

DOKBOX

[224] 11:00 pm

ART & CINEMA TENT

Fk Berlin**

This taboo-busting series throws open the doors of Berlin's famously progressive sex scene where everything is possible and no one is judged; so long as the other person – or people – are into it. Discover the radical power of self-acceptance.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[225] 11:00 pm
Jakey Boy Hughes

BLUE MOON

11:30 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[226] 11:30 pm

ARENA

James Holden

British techno sorcerer and psychedelic shaman James Holden has grown to be one of the most revered electronic music producers in the UK. His trance-like, upbeat performances, often featuring instrumentalists on stage, sell-out venues and meet rave reviews.

"Astonishing." – *The Guardian*



James Holden

CABARET

[227] 11:30 pm

STAGE

Amrou Al-Kadhi

In this blisteringly funny performance, *Glorious* explores religion, sexuality and identity, with love songs and a main-of-sized wig. Amrou Al-Kadhi was selected as a Screen International star of Tomorrow is the author of *Life As A Unicorn*, and has a TED talk called "What quantum physics taught me about my queer Islamic identity." They're the most intelligent cabaret out there.

"Amrou's story is at times painful, at times hilarious, but always completely resonant." – Emily V. Gordon & Kumail Nanjiani

12:00 AM

MIDNIGHT MAYHEM

Midnight Mayhem sees philosophers and comedians join forces in our late night intellectual showdown with a twist. A carnivalesque procession kicks off the show, before audience members pick a side, and make their voice heard alongside speakers and comedians from our star-studded programme.

[228] 12:00 am

THE RING

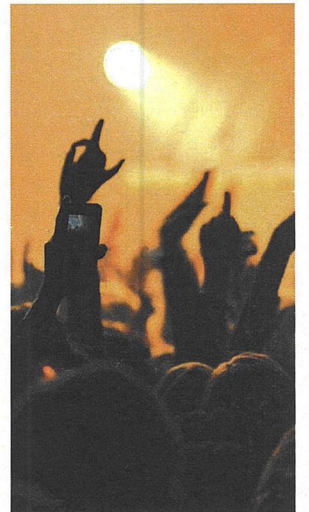
Shakespeare vs Beyoncé

All the world's a stage... and Beyoncé is on it! Pick your side for a night of debauchery and debate. Anyone can step into the ring! Tonight, whose side are you on?... *Shakespeare vs Beyoncé*.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[229] 12:00 am
Silky Disturbance

BLUE MOON



 EXPERIENCES

SPA & WELLNESS



Escape the hustle and relax for a moment at the serene Atrium Spa including Meditation, Massage and Yoga for all ages.

9:00 am BOHEMIA
Spa events are booked and paid for separately - online or in person.

FAYRE

10:00 am FAYRE
FAYRE
The market is full of surprises. Artisan food producers, vintage clothes, cocktails and sequins, as well as some truly original workshops.



RIDES

11:00 am RIVERSIDE
Vintage Rides
Our vintage rides aren't only for children. Take in the wonderful views of the Black Mountains from the Ferris Wheel. We're sure Wittgenstein would approve.

1:00 pm - late FRONT ROOM
The People's Front Room
A team of wonderfully talented musicians create a truly unique vibe as they extemporise classic tracks of every genre along with their own wicked tunes. Throughout the day and to close of play in the evening.



9:00 pm to late BOHEMIA: FIRE
Fire & Folk
With music by some wonderfully talented acoustic performers and friends along with some very special guests. Join fellow festivalgoers round the light and warmth of the wood fire and enjoy watching night fall after a day full of ideas.

FIRE & FOLK

9:00 pm to late BOHEMIA: FIRE
Fire & Folk
With music by some wonderfully talented acoustic performers and friends along with some very special guests. Join fellow festivalgoers round the light and warmth of the wood fire and enjoy watching night fall after a day full of ideas.

 The Institute of Art and Ideas

INNER CIRCLE



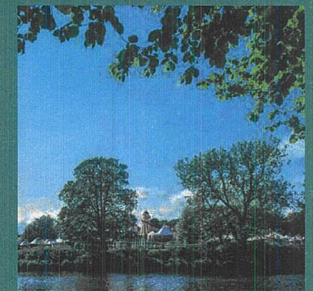
[177] 3:45 pm *From £22* INNER CIRCLE
Prosecco, Cake and Philosophy
with Robin van den Akker
Live up your afternoon with a glass of prosecco, cake and conversation with some of the world's great thinkers.

[183] 4:00 pm *From £22* INNER CIRCLE
The Philosophy of Chocolate
with Sam Bilton
Come make your day a little sweeter with a healthy dose of philosophy and chocolate.



Really important ...
Lots of policy ideas for
government ... These
opportunities are rare
and they're becoming
even rarer.

Jess Phillips,
Labour MP



IDEAS & CULTURE

IDEAS & CULTURE

9:00 AM

INNER CIRCLE

Start your day with a shot of inspiration from your favourite speakers. Expect stimulating ideas along with fresh poshies and coffee.

[231] 9:00 am From £18 INNER CIRCLE

Philosophy Breakfast with Guy Standing

How we use our time defines our success and who we are. But throughout history, some argue our time has always been controlled by the powerful. Pioneering economist Guy Standing explains how to reclaim our time.

[232] 9:00 am From £18 INNER CIRCLE

Philosophy Breakfast with Shannon Vallor

The future of technology is not set. We could be in for utopia or disaster. One major problem is we have no ethics of tech. Leading philosopher of tech and AI, Shannon Vallor, discusses her work on techno-moral virtue.

10:00 AM

TALK

[233] 10:00 am THE RING

Philosophy at the End of the World Ben Ware

Humanity faces extinction-level threats in the near future, including the prospect of nuclear armageddon, the threat from climate change, and possibly even out-of-control AI. Join leading continental philosopher Ben Ware as he argues that we should deal with our collective demise by treating it as a starting point for a new civilisation.

"One of the sharpest minds in contemporary philosophy." – Dany Nobus

IAI ACADEMY COURSE

[234] 10:00 am - 12:30 pm ACADEMY TENT
Philosophy and the Limits of Science
Bernard Carr

Stephen Hawking once proclaimed that 'philosophy is dead'. But critics argue much of modern theoretical physics is inherently philosophical and emphasises theory over evidence. Join Bernard Carr, Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy, to take a journey into the philosophy behind scientific advances, and discover how science is opening up the role of consciousness in contemporary theories of physics.

See page 58 for Part One and Two.

DOKBOX

[235] 10:00 am CINEMA
Ian Hislop's Fake News (film)
Ian Hislop mines 200 years of history to identify what motivates fake news.

10:30 AM



Photo: AnneMarieLaurance.com, Peter Singer

DEBATE

[236] 10:30 am ARENA

Humanity and the Gods of Nature
Peter Singer, Slavoj Žižek, Nancy Sherman,
Jack Symes hosts.

From the time of Socrates we have seen morality as driven by human desires and goals. But many now argue that this human focus is misguided and leaves the natural world in peril. By prioritising human well-being they contend, we have ransacked the earth, eradicated and mistreated other species, and taken insufficient care of our home, the Earth. We are even planning to do the same to other nearby planets. It is not sufficient for us to protect nature for our benefit, instead they argue nature needs to be preserved for its own sake.

Do we need to re-think morality to find a new framework that no longer places humans at the centre? If so, how are we to assess the well-being of nature independently of our human perspective? Or is the notion that we can escape human goals and desires itself deluded, risking a return to an age where humans are sacrificed to the gods of the natural world?

Friedman philosopher Slavoj Žižek, renowned ethicist Peter Singer, and Georgetown professor of philosophy Nancy Sherman, question human centred morality.

DEBATE

[237] 10:30 am INTERNATIONAL

The Agents of Life
Johnjoe McFadden, Frances Ashcroft,
Denis Noble, Shini Somara hosts.

From cats to caterpillars, hedgehogs to humans, we divide the world of living things into distinct and separate organisms. But while central to our perception of the world and evolution, these distinctions now lack dangerously simplistic. Studies show that the boundaries between one creature and the next are not clear. Forests of 'distinct' trees are often connected by networks of fungi which, like a great nervous system, are essential to their survival. And almost all large creatures co-exist with great swarms of bacteria that are essential to their very life function.

Should we move away from an organism centred biology, and recognise the interconnected character of life? Should we reject the idea that a living thing constitutes a distinct and stable entity? Or are discrete units of life essential to our understanding of the world?

Acclaimed biologist Johnjoe McFadden, pioneering geneticist Frances Ashcroft, and world-renowned biologist Denis Noble, debate life and its environment.

10:30 AM

IN CONVERSATION

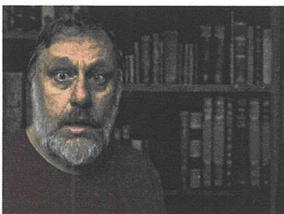
A series of events bringing thinkers together to share and explore key topics of the moment.

[238] 10:30 am THE HAT
Brave Old World
Aaron Bastani, Oli Dugmore

Demographic change is the hidden crisis of our time. The world's population is ageing. In Japan, nearly 30% are over 65, and it is predicted the number over 60 will globally double by 2050. Join co-founder of Navara Media Aaron Bastani, and head of news for PoliticsJOE Oli Dugmore, to explore the crisis and its profound consequences. The event will be a live PoliticsJOE podcast recording.

"Bastani's genius is to see the future with crisp clarity." – Paul Mason

Event Curated by PoliticsJOE



Slavoj Žižek

11:00 AM

TALK

[239] 11:00 am THE RING

AI is a Mirror on Humanity
Shannon Vallor

Many contemporary physicists argue that spacetime is fundamental and that consciousness is an emergent phenomenon. But might this mainstream picture be mistaken? Join NASA scientist and philosopher Susan Schneider as she argues that consciousness gives rise to spacetime.

"Profound and entertaining." – Martin Rees

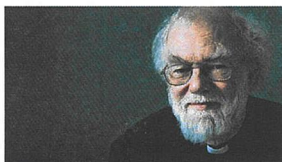
11:00 AM

Children's Programme

[240] 11:00 am MINDCRAFT
Follow the Leader with Matilda Atkins (See p.60)

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[241] 11:15 am BLUE MOON
Dragonsfly



Rowan Williams

11:30 AM

THE FUTURE SERIES

A series of events that offer visions of the future.

[242] 11:30 am THE HAT

The Future of Totalitarianism
Rowan Williams, Lyndsey Stonebridge

The international rules-based order is in decline. Power and military might rule the day. Join former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, and award-winning author and political rights specialist, Lyndsey Stonebridge as they argue the insights and contradictions of Hannah Arendt's philosophy are now more prescient than ever. Despite the shifting faces of modern evil, the ways philosophers interpreted the horrors of the 20th century are more relevant than ever to our modern world.

"Expertly analysed and beautifully written, Stonebridge on Arendt is a rare gem." – Shami Chakrabarti, House of Lords

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[243] 11:30 am STAGE
Sophia You-Weeks

DOKBOX

[244] 11:45 am ART & CINEMA TENT
Power Scramble

From mobile phones and wind turbines to weaponry and electric cars, 'rare earths' are essential for producing the technologies that shape our lives today. Travel across Asia and Oceania to uncover how the growing demand for them is set to impact our everyday lives.

12:00 PM

DEBATE

[245] 12:00 pm ARENA

Sex, Language and Gender
Felipe de Vole, Günes Taylor, Aline
Laurent-Mayard. Sophie Scott-Brown hosts.

Until a decade or so ago it was widely assumed there were two sexes and two genders. Now it is held by many that the sexes are not two but a spectrum and there are an indefinite number of genders. Hat and sometimes vicious debate has ensued. But there is a danger that we are confusing a debate about language with reality. Language provides the framework through which we make sense of the world rather than how it is in itself. The number of sexes is not therefore going to be definitively identified as a matter of fact in a lab, but is a product of how we define and use the word 'sex'.

Should we recognise that there is no right answer to the number of sexes or genders? Should we see the number of sexes and genders as a political and practical choice about the outcome we desire rather than a factual description of the world? Or is this to obscure the everyday evidence that there is a fact of the matter?

Gender theorist Felipe de Vole, award-winning molecular biologist Günes Taylor, and journalist author and podcaster Aline Laurent-Mayard debate sex and gender.

DEBATE

[246] 12:00 pm INTERNATIONAL

The Values and Prejudices of Science
Ben Ware, Tim Palmer, Marika Taylor,
Hilary Lawson hosts.

From the origins of the universe to the functioning of the brain, we see science as a quest for the underlying truth of things. The worldviews and personal opinions of the scientists are thought to be irrelevant. But might this be a dangerous mistake? Critics argue the personal experience and outlook of the scientist is a key element that cannot be eradicated. Einstein's criticism of quantum mechanics for example was ultimately based on his personal view that 'God does not play dice with the world'. While accounts of the brain reflect the historical time and perspectives of the scientists involved – once the brain was seen as a telephone exchange, now it is commonly described as a computer.

Should we conclude that all scientific theories are influenced by the personal outlook of the scientist, and the particular worldview they hold? As a result, do we need to ensure that scientists hold a wide range of different outlooks and have varied personal backgrounds? Or is such an approach fundamentally misguided, and instead science should always seek to eradicate the personal and focus on the brilliance of the theory alone?

Philosopher of extinction Ben Ware, mathematics and climate physicist Tim Palmer, and professor of theoretical physics Marika Taylor, debate science and objectivity.

12:00 PM

TALK

[247] 12:00 pm THE RING
Consciousness Gives Rise to Spacetime
Susan Schneider

We think that spacetime is fundamental and that consciousness is an emergent phenomenon. But might the mainstream picture be mistaken? Join NASA scientist and philosopher Susan Schneider as she argues that consciousness gives rise to spacetime.

"Will fascinate anyone who enjoys thinking 'outside of the box.'" – Martin Rees

Children's Programme

[248] 12:00 pm MINDCRAFT
Who Am I with Matilda Atkins (See p.60)

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[249] 12:15 pm BLUE MOON
Lucy Nadeau

THE LIFE AND PHILOSOPHY SERIES

The world's leading thinkers look back and explore what led them to their philosophy and what they have learnt from life.

[250] 12:30 pm THE HAT

The Life and Philosophy of Peter Singer
Peter Singer

Peter Singer is one of the world's leading philosophers, renowned for his challenging and often controversial views. From animal ethics to effective altruism, Singer has shaped the philosophical landscape. Join this event to uncover the key events in his life that led to his ideas, and hear him answer his critics and defend the convictions that have made him the force that he is today.

"The Dangerous Philosopher." – The New Yorker

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[251] 12:30 pm STAGE
EDDY

TALK

[252] 1:00 pm THE RING
The Art of Getting Lost
Joanna Kavenna

In the age of Google Maps, we hardly ever get lost. But might we be missing out on a key part of what makes life special? Join novelist and philosopher Jo Kavenna as she shows us how to reclaim the art of getting lost, and argues nothing truly special happens along the beaten path.

"Wonderful, impossible, dynamic." – Observe

IDEAS & CULTURE

1:00 PM

Children's Programme

[253] 1:00 pm MINDCRAFT
Dreaming with Butterflies with...
(See p. 60)

INNER CIRCLE

Tuck into a delicious lunch with our inspiring speakers over a glass of award-winning wine.

[254] 1:00 pm From E22 INNER CIRCLE
HowTheLightGetsIn Lunch with Martha Fienness

AI is now pushing at new frontiers, changing what we believe about art and creativity. Join celebrated artist Martha Fienness to join the conversation about whether AI can ever truly be creative.

1:15 PM

DEBATE

[255] 1:15 pm ARENA

Controlling the Tech Titans
Susan Schneider, Kenneth Cukier, Joscha Bach, Shannon Vallor. Roger Hearing hosts.

Big Tech was once the envy of the world, transforming the way we live, work and think. But critics claim attempts to monitor Big Tech have failed and point to the serious threat that regulators don't understand what they are regulating. A recent high-profile member of the US Congress argued lawmakers don't even understand what AI is, let alone how to oversee it. As evidence of the failure, 41 US States are suing Meta for deliberately designing features to addict children, while Big Tech's vast financial clout, funding university research and government salaries violates oversight.

Do Western governments need to follow the Chinese example and build their own expertise and tech platforms to effectively regulate Big Tech? Should we seek to regain control by breaking up the Big Tech giants? Or is the value of innovation sufficient to overcome fears of the growing political and cultural power of the technology behemoths?

Philosopher Susan Schneider, Economist journalist and editor Kenneth Cukier, AI researcher Joscha Bach, and data ethicist Shannon Vallor, ask if big tech can be controlled.



Shannon Vallor

1:15 PM

DEBATE

[256] 1:15 pm INTERNATIONAL

A World Without Values
Tommy Curry, Eva Illouz, Robin van den Akker. Isabel Hilton hosts.

Once values such as justice and equality were agreed upon by all. Now they are identified by some as vehicles to entrench or overturn power. On the left, 'justice' as a means to sustain and impose privilege, 'truth' as an attempt to claim enduring authority. On the right, 'diversity' and 'equality' as means to undermine the status quo in favour of a new elite. The danger is apparent to many. Without agreed values, society is increasingly divided. Debate is limited by tribal associations that make discussion hard if not impossible.

Do we need to re-engage with those whose values and beliefs we reject, while accepting that our own values are not universal? Should we seek to construct a new enlightenment to provide an agreed basis for progress that could apply to all? Or do we just need to reinforce the liberal democratic values of our past?

Leading philosopher of race Tommy Curry, metamodernist Robin van den Akker, and sociologist Eva Illouz, go in search of values that we can all endorse.

INNER CIRCLE

[257] 1:15 pm From E22 INNER CIRCLE
HowTheLightGetsIn Lunch with Harry Cliff

Scientists are uncovering a catalogue of weird phenomena. Unknown forces are begging on matter and defying our established theories. Join radical physicist Harry Cliff to explore the mysteries of the universe.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[258] 1:15 pm BLUE MOON
Danny Bradley

HAT SESSIONS

[259] 1:30 pm THE HAT

Destiny: Are we really in control?
Nadia Idle, Jeremy Gilbert and Keir Milburn

In the wake of the pandemic and the midst of the cost of living and climate crises, it's easy for individuals to feel helpless. But can we ever have control over our destinies, or do social conditions always control our lives? Join ACFM podcast hosts Nadia Idle, Jeremy Gilbert and Keir Milburn for a lively discussion on the social, historical, structural, and psychological forces that shape us and our fates. The event will be a live ACFM (Novara) podcast recording.

In Partnership with Novara Media and ACFM



IAI The Institute of Art and Ideas

1:30 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[260] 1:30 pm STAGE
Slippery Slope Trio

IAI ACADEMY COURSE

[261] 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm ACADEMY TENT
The Philosophy of Dehumanisation
David Livingstone Smith

From the Rwandan genocide to Nazi concentration camps, atrocities often manifest when the oppressors see their victims as less than human. Join philosopher of psychology, David Livingstone Smith, as he explores the psychology at the heart of cruelty, how our minds make us vulnerable to dehumanising rhetoric, and how we can insulate ourselves against hate.

See page 58 for Part One and Two.

DOKBOX

[262] 1:30 pm CINEMA

Breaking Brethren: Escaping a Fundamentalist Sect
Inside story of a secretive religious sect.



Avshalom Elizur

TALK

[263] 2:00 pm THE RING

What Einstein Got Wrong About Time
Avshalom Elizur

Conventional wisdom holds that time flows. But contemporary physics casts doubt on this common-sense view. According to Einstein, we live in a 'block universe', where the future is set, the past continues to exist, and there is no passage of time. Join controversial physicist Avshalom Elizur as he argues that Einstein was wrong and offers a radical new theory of time.

"A household name among physicists." - The EISM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[264] 2:15 pm BLUE MOON
Chris Bradshaw

2:30 PM

DEBATE

[265] 2:30 pm ARENA

Thinking Set Free
Subrena E. Smith, Paul Bloom, Stuart Hameroff. John Joe McFadden hosts.

We take it for granted that thinking helps us to understand the world and make good decisions. And to think is to reason. But there is a risk this is not the whole story. Studies into flow states where individuals are single-mindedly focused on a single task, without self-reflection or reasoning, have identified that less deliberation rather than more leads to better performance. A McKinsey study of top executives found them to be five times more productive and better decision makers when in such states. While researchers have also shown that scientists rely as much on 'tacit skills' and experience as on logical thought.

Should we abandon our focus on reasoning as the best means to determine action? Should we give priority to practical experience over theory, and body over mind? Or at a time when public debate is ever more divisive, is it essential we double down on rational thought to rule out mistaken and dangerous proposals?

Quantum consciousness theorist Stuart Hameroff, evolutionary psychology critic Subrena E. Smith, and best-selling author and psychologist Paul Bloom, explore the nature of thought.

DEBATE

[266] 2:30 pm INTERNATIONAL

Nightmare in Suburbia
Sophie Scott-Brown, Des Fitzgerald, Hannah Rich. Mary Ann Steghart hosts.

The classic picture of success for much of the last century has been a detached suburban house, 2.4 kids, and a shiny car. But is there a danger this dream of domestic bliss is out of touch with the realities of human psychology, economics and our evolutionary roots? For much of human history, we lived in extended groups of 20 or more. In a family of four, if one relationship fails, the whole unit is at risk. Unsurprising perhaps that 1 in 5 adults now say they always or often feel lonely. With challenges in child and elderly care and a global housing crisis projected to affect 1.6 billion people by 2025, critics argue the isolated nuclear household has to go.

Is it time to abandon the 'picket fence dream' as an unnatural, and unsustainable way of living? Should we seek to adopt a radical new model of the home which embraces co-living and shared domestic labour? Or is this an elitist pipe dream that ignores the realities of everyday life and the pleasure individuals and families get from living in their own home?

Best-selling author Des Fitzgerald, anarchist Sophie Scott-Brown, and historian and activist Hannah Rich, ask if it is time to abandon the suburban dream.

In Partnership with Theos

IDEAS & CULTURE

2:30 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[267] 2:30 pm STAGE
Deborah Rose



TALK

[268] 3:00 pm THE RING

Israel's Democracy Crisis
Eva Illouz

The conflict in the Middle East has shaken the world. But there has been little focus on Israel's own internal democratic crisis, and how this is affecting the conflict. Join renowned sociologist Eva Illouz as she reveals the hidden internal drama behind the crisis and offers an unexpected solution to the trauma of the Middle East.

"Illouz could very well be the twenty-first century's next great public intellectual." - Guernica

IN CONVERSATION

A series of events bringing thinkers together to share and explore key topics of the moment.

[269] 3:00 pm

THE HAT

The Reality of Women at War
Christina Lamb, Isabel Hilton

War is often thought to be predominantly male. But in reality, women and conflict are inseparable. Rape is "the cheapest weapon known to man", wrote Christina Lamb in her book *Our Bodies, Their Battlefield*. Amidst a career taking her from warzone to warzone, join journalist, Lamb, as she discusses the role sexual violence plays in modern war. Interviewed by Isabel Hilton.

"Lamb...does society a service by forcing us to look."
- New York Times

howthelightgetsin.org

3:15 PM

DOKBOX

[270] 3:15 pm ART & CINEMA TENT

Will's Book

400 years ago, two actors preserved Shakespeare's legacy by compiling his works into the First Folio, saving plays like *Macbeth* and *Twelfth Night* from obscurity. Led by scholars, this documentary explores the greatest rescue in cultural history.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[271] 3:15 pm BLUE MOON
Fundlewarp

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[272] 3:30 pm STAGE
Lady Nade

4:00 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[273] 4:00 pm ARENA

Blaenavon Male Voice Choir

There's a time for tradition. Each year the wonderfully magical Blaenavon Male Voice Choir have closed the HowTheLightGetsIn festival, and there's never a dry eye - or spare inch - in the house. Founded over a century ago in 1910, the premier Welsh choir is still going strong, and has toured across the world. Prepare to be moved.

"Show stopping." - LA Times



Blaenavon Male Voice Choir

 EXPERIENCES



SPA & WELLNESS

Escape the hustle and relax for a moment at the serene Arium Spa including Meditation, Massage and Yoga for all ages.

9.15 am - 4.45 pm BOHEMIA

Spa events are booked and paid for separately - online or in person.

FAYRE

10.15 am - 4.45 pm FAYRE

FAYRE

The market is full of surprises. Artisan food producers, vintage clothes, cocktails and sequins, as well as some truly original workshops.



RIDES

11.15 am - 4.45 pm RIVERSIDE

Vintage Rides

Our vintage rides aren't only for children. Take in the wonderful views of the Black Mountains from the Ferris Wheel. We're sure Wittgenstein would approve.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME

WORKSHOP
[240] 11:00 am
Follow the Leader with Matilda Atkins

WORKSHOP
[248] 12:00 pm
Who Am I with Matilda Atkins

HOWTHELIGHTGETSIN LUNCH

INNER CIRCLE

[254] 1:00 pm From £22
HowTheLightGetsIn Lunch
with Martha Finneas INNER CIRCLE

[257] 1:15 pm From £22
HowTheLightGetsIn Lunch
with Harry Cliff INNER CIRCLE

Tuck into a delicious lunch with our inspiring speakers over a glass of award-winning wine.

FRONT ROOM

1.15 pm - 4.45 pm FRONT ROOM

The People's Front Room

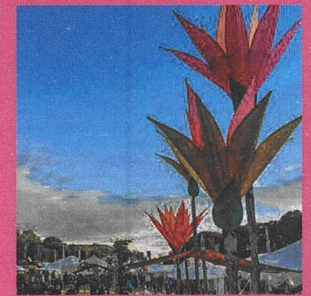
A team of wonderfully talented musicians create a truly unique vibe as they extemporise classic tracks of every genre along with their own wicked tunes. Throughout the day and to close of play in the evening.



Asking real questions ...
orchestrated much more precisely than is usual in our field



Gerard T'Hooft,
Physicist and
Nobel Prize Winner



EXPAND YOUR MIND

at the IAI Academy

Ideas are evolving. At the edge there is rarely consensus. That's why we've created a new platform for learning.

IAI ACADEMY

The IAI Academy breaks with the convention that lectures should be devoid of opinion. Our courses invite world-leading thinkers to present a case and a point of view rather than package opinion as knowledge.

IAI Academy courses offer fully-invigilated assessment, with credits earned towards an IAI Academy Award.

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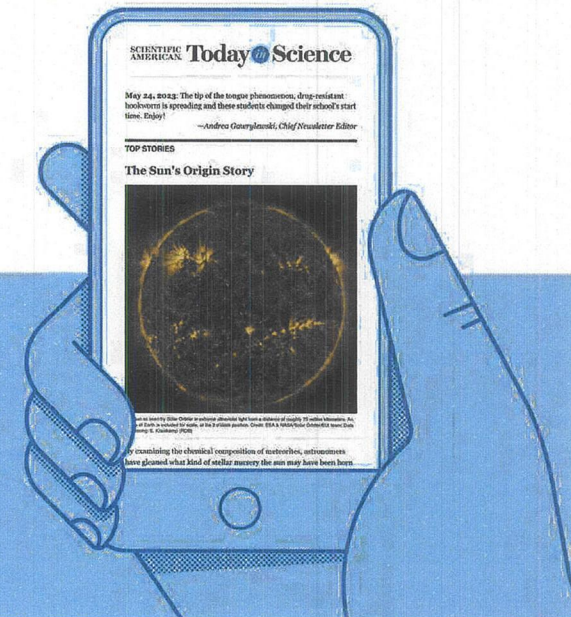


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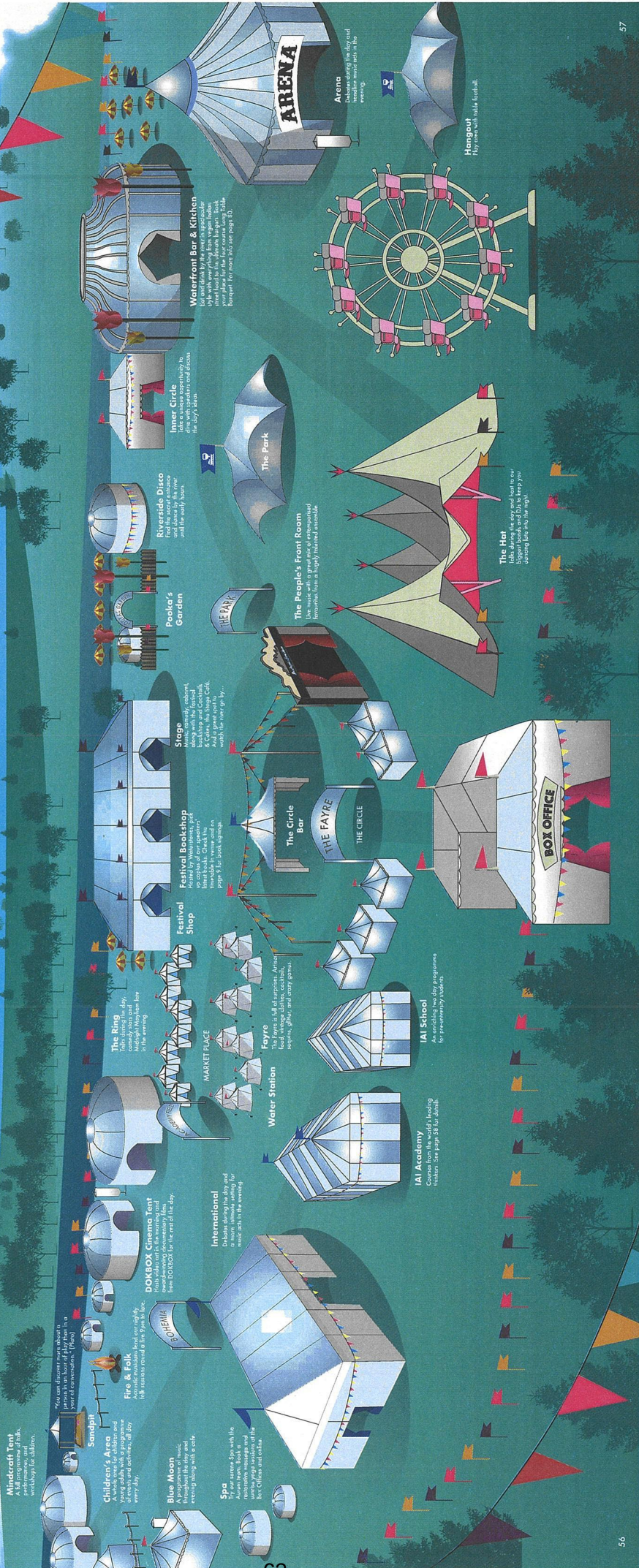
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Festival Site



Microcraft Tent
A full programme of high, workshops for children.

Children's Area
A wide area for children and young people to enjoy their every day.

Fire & Talk
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

Blue Moon
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

International
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

Water Station
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

Fayre
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

Market Place
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

The Ring
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

Festival Shop
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

Festival Bookshop
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

Stage
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

Parker's Garden
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

Riverside Disco
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

Inner Circle
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

Waterfront Bar & Kitchen
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

ARENA
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

Hengeout
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

The People's Front Room
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

The Hut
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

The Park
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

The Circle Bar
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

BOX OFFICE
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

IAI Academy
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

IAI School
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

How The Light Gets In IAI ACADEMY

The IAI Academy programme offers short, two-part courses by leading thinkers from around the world. Designed to be accessible and opinionated, the courses are your chance to hear world-leading academics put forward their views on problems at the cutting edge of their field. Courses take place in the Academy Field (see map p. 56). There will be welcome drinks, breaks for tea and coffee between classes, and time to meet other students and the lecturer.

Now in its twelfth year, both live and online, the IAI Academy breaks with the convention that lectures can and should be devoid of opinion. In an era where information is everywhere abundant and available, its goal is not to promote one approach as settled 'objective' knowledge but to encourage lecturers to explicitly provide their own take on a field, and to offer new ways of thinking. Additional IAI Academy Courses can be found online.

IAI Academy

Saturday 26th May 2024

Oliver Reisman

Has successfully completed an IAI Academy course of How The Light Gets In

For those who wish to take an assessment we offer verified certificates of attendance and credits towards an IAI Award at the end of your session. Details can be found on the IAI Academy website. But we welcome those who come for the ideas alone.

Courses Timetable	
Welcome drinks / Course info	20 minutes
Part One	45 minutes
Tea / Coffee Break	20 minutes
Part Two	30 minutes
Optional Assessment	20 minutes

For those who would like to take the assessment, which includes your results and the certificate, fees are only £12



Matthew Beaumont



SATURDAY

[48] 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

The Politics of the Body

Matthew Beaumont
We normally think of our bodies aesthetically or biologically. But there is much to be learnt about the phenomenology and philosophy of our physique, and how it interacts with, reflects, and is part of our experience of the world. Join Professor of English at UCL, Matthew Beaumont, as he guides us through the philosophy of Franz Fanon and William Reich, and argues that our bodies impact the way we see the world, our social and political experience, and our self-perception.

Part 1 - Freedom and the Body

How our humanity is revealed through our body

Part 2 - Our Body as a Guide to Knowledge

What Fanon, Reich and Walking can teach us about understanding the world.

SATURDAY

[71] 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

The Ethics of Human Extinction

Émile P. Torres
At the time of writing the doomsday clock - a metaphor for how near we are to catastrophe - stands at 90 seconds to midnight, the closest it has ever been. The capacity for humanity to destroy itself is relatively new. For centuries Christianity emphasised survival and eternal salvation, leaving us ill-prepared for a post-apocalyptic world. In its place, Émile P. Torres charts a history of apocalypse and proposes a radically new theoretical foundation for humanity to face the possibility of 'omnicide', the death of all human life.

Part 1 - A Genealogy of Apocalypse

How do we understand apocalypse from those who have experienced it?

Part 2 - Ethics during the End of the World

What obligations do we have as the world ends?



SATURDAY

[97] 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Women vs the Free Market

Vicky Pryce
Gender inequality shouldn't be a part of the free market. After all, surely the best person gets the job and is rewarded for their work. But from the gendered threat of robot labour to the lack of women in economics itself, Vicky Pryce, Chief Economic Adviser at the Centre for Economics and Business Research, uncovers the deeper side to this story. Without bold decisive action that radically changes contemporary capitalism, we will not achieve the equality that we desire.

Part 1 - Women in the Economy

How are the economy and gender linked?

Part 2 - The Market's #MeToo

What are the fundamental tenets of capitalism that need to change?

SUNDAY

[140] 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Quantum Biology

Johnjoe McFadden
More than 60 years ago the father of quantum mechanics, Erwin Schrödinger, insisted that aspects of biology must be based on quantum rather than classical laws. And as the attention of 21st-century biology is probing the dynamics of ever-smaller systems, ignoring quantum mechanics is becoming increasingly untenable. Join Johnjoe McFadden as he explores recent experiments indicating that life's most fundamental processes depend on the quantum undercurrent of reality.

Part 1 - The Worry About The Very Small

How did biology ignore the quantum picture?

Part 2 - The Future is Quantum

How will quantum biology give us more powerful ways to understand and intervene in the world?



SUNDAY

[163] 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

The Mysteries of Black Holes

Priya Natarajan
Black holes hold a privileged place within the popular imagination. We all know what they are, but there is still much we don't understand. How do they form? What happens when things fall in? And what's inside a black hole? Join recent winner of the Liberty Science Center 'Genius Award' and Chair of Astronomy at Yale, Priya Natarajan, as she explores her recent discoveries about how black holes grow, form, and evolve, and how we can measure one of the most mysterious phenomena in the universe.

Part 1 - The Variety of Black Holes

How are black holes distributed around the galaxy? Why do some stay in place while others wander?

Part 2 - New Insights into Black Holes

How does the new space telescope help us understand the formation of the first black holes and the creation of supermassive black holes?



Robin van den Akker

SUNDAY

[187] 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm

The Future is Metamodern

Robin van den Akker
Modernism failed, and critics argue that postmodernism has led us down a path of confusion, nihilism and despair. But metamodernism promises a hopeful synthesis of the two. Join continental philosopher, Robin van den Akker, as he describes the metamodernist movement, and explores one of the newest frontiers in philosophy and culture, salvaging the best of modernism and postmodernism to craft a positive vision for a way forward.

Part 1 - Beyond Postmodernism

How has the state of modernity failed? And where do we go from here?

Part 2 - Yearning for Utopia

How can the spirit of metamodernism enrich our lives?



Priya Natarajan

MONDAY

[234] 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Philosophy and the Limits of Science

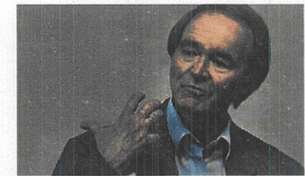
Bernard Carr
Stephen Hawking once proclaimed that 'philosophy is dead'. But critics argue much of modern theoretical physics is inherently philosophical as it emphasises theory over evidence. Join Bernard Carr, Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy, to take a journey into the philosophy behind scientific advances, and discover how science is opening up the role of consciousness in contemporary theories of physics.

Part 1 - From Myths to the Mainstream

How can scientific methods once seen as anathema become a useful part of mainstream physics?

Part 2 - Quantum Mechanics and Consciousness

How integrating consciousness into our understanding of physics can pave a pathway to a theory of everything?



Bernard Carr

MONDAY

[261] 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

The Philosophy of Dehumanisation

David Livingstone Smith
From the Rwandan genocide to Nazi concentration camps, atrocities often manifest when the oppressors see their victims as less than human. Join philosopher of psychology, David Livingstone Smith, as he explores the psychology at the heart of cruelty, how our minds make us vulnerable to dehumanising rhetoric, and how we can insulate ourselves against hate.

Part 1 - Seeing Others As Less Than Human

How tyrants and populations came to see others as less than human.

Part 2 - Defending Ourselves Against Dehumanisation

How can we protect ourselves against the psychological and rhetorical quirks that open the path to dehumanisation?

Children & Young Adult Programme

For budding space scientists, bookworms, fun-lovers, and thinkers alike, HowTheLightGetsIn has plenty on offer to keep children and young adults of all ages busy in our Mindcraft area. There's a whole programme of talks and events in the Mindcraft tent with experiences to pique the curiosity of 7-12 year olds. Elsewhere on the festival site, our sandpit will keep smaller ones entertained whilst in-between can get serious with giant games in the Hangout along with our famed vintage rides. All events in the

Mindcraft are free to attend, with the exception of our special pottery workshops; tickets for these sessions can be purchased via our website or at the Box Office.

And for sixth formers and pre-university students, there's a whole programme available at the IAI School. Tickets though must be purchased separately and in advance. (p. 63).

SATURDAY 25TH

WORKSHOP
[53] 11:00 am

Discover your superpower!

What could it mean to discover your purpose? In this interactive event, join philosophical educator Steven Campbell-Harris, delving into intriguing questions like: What is your goal in life? Who gets to decide? And why do we have certain interests and hobbies? Together, we'll learn about how each of us have our own special purpose, and how our talents and passions make us different from others. Unleash your inner superhero as we dive into this amazing philosophical world.

WORKSHOP
[62] 12:30 pm

Pottery Extravaganza

Bare Glazed Pottery Studio is a creative hub for budding artists. Join our portable pottery workshops for a fun and relaxing session of making. You will learn one of three different hand-building techniques: pinch pots, coiling or slab work and create a masterpiece that commemorates your wonderful festival experience. These workshops are structured around different levels of ability, so whether you're a complete beginner or improver, all are welcome!

Session 1: Pinched pots
Session 2: Coiling
Session 3: Slab building

Class duration: 1.5 hours (Please arrive 5 mins before the class starts)

Pricing:
Adults (16+) £12
Under 16s £10 (helpers of young children are free)

Book early to avoid disappointment!

SATURDAY 25TH



WORKSHOP
[74] 2:00 pm

Freedom Inside Out

Calling all young thinkers! Imagine a man who wakes up to find he is in prison. He finds he has a cellmate he likes, plenty of books, a television, and a kitchen. He realises that he is quite happy to be there and doesn't want to leave. However, if he did want to leave, he would be unable to. So, is the man free? Alongside Jo Webster, we'll explore how happiness can be found in the most unexpected places!

WORKSHOP
[84] 3:30 pm

Atomic Adventures with Professor Astro Cat

What are the tiniest parts that make up the world? What do they look like? And how do they behave? Join Professor Astro Cat and the gang on their thrilling adventure into the tiny world of atoms. Get ready to unleash your inner scientist, as the gang learns about energy, forces and the building blocks of you, me and the universe in this mind-blowing atomic escapade.

SATURDAY 25TH

WORKSHOP
[95] 5:00 pm

Setting Sail with Theseus with Annie Webster

Welcome aboard, explorers! Today, we're setting sail on an incredible voyage to explore the mysterious ship of Theseus. He's having some trouble with his ship -- after every adventure, something breaks and he has to replace it! He can't remember where the old ship starts and the new ship ends. Is it even the same ship? Join Annie Webster on this magical adventure.

WORKSHOP
[107] 6:30 pm

Pottery Extravaganza

Suitable for all ages
See 12.30pm Saturday slot for details



SUNDAY 26TH

WORKSHOP
[145] 11:00 am

Aesop's Animal Adventures with Steven Campbell-Harris

Join Steven Campbell-Harris for a wonderful adventure, diving into Aesop's story The Frog and The Scorpion. Together, we'll reflect on blame and responsibility. What does it mean for something to be 'in our nature'? Are we truly free to choose our actions? Come and find out what these questions mean, and how we might answer them.



WORKSHOP
[154] 12:30 pm

Pottery Extravaganza

Suitable for all ages
See 12.30pm Saturday slot for details

WORKSHOP
[166] 2:00 pm

Keep it Up! Juggling and Diabolo with Charlie Barnett

Join the masterful Charlie Barnett and learn how to diabolo - the game derived from the Chinese yo-yo! Come along and learn some of the huge variety of tricks that are possible such as the Whip Catch and the Star Cradle, and watch some advanced ones yourself!



SUNDAY 26TH

WORKSHOP
[176] 3:30 pm

Journey to the World of Alien Hats with Jo Webster

Calling all young adventurers! Prepare to embark on an extraordinary journey beyond the stars and into the realms of imagination. A dizzying journey through space and time awaits, as we explore when a chair is not a chair but ... an alien's hat! Together with Jo Webster, we'll unravel the mysteries of the imagination and discover how ordinary objects transform into extraordinary treasures.

WORKSHOP
[188] 5:00 pm

Philosophy of the Senses with Barry C. Smith

Why do we feel happy when we go outside? How does the blueness of the sky make us feel? In this interactive workshop, Director of the Centre for the Study of the Senses Barry Smith will offer a range of sensory experiences to explore how our senses and our emotions are intimately intertwined. Expect to see the world differently by the time you leave.



WORKSHOP
[199] 6:30 pm

Spellbound: The Magic Workshop Experience with Tom Barnett

Unleash the mystic within you at our enchanting Magic Workshop, led by the extraordinary Tom Barnett. Conjure spells, learn the secrets of illusions, and immerse yourself in the world of wonder and enchantment. Let your dreams take flight and your spirit ignite, because magic is real and it's waiting for you to discover!

MONDAY 27TH



WORKSHOP
[240] 11:00 am

Follow the Leader with Matilda Atkins

Rules are tedious, but know we have to follow them. Come join this fun session with Matilda Atkins to question why we tell the truth or knock on closed doors before entering and what their purpose is. Together, we'll dream up what the perfect rules might be. Let's find out together how rules and freedom go hand in hand, and if rules can actually make us more free.

WORKSHOP
[248] 12:00 pm

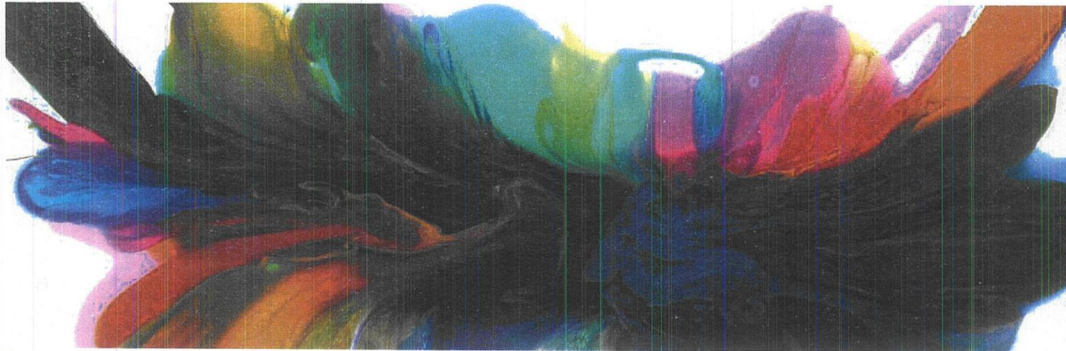
Who Am I with Matilda Atkins

Have you ever wondered if you're still the same person you were before, and if you'll be the same in the future? What makes you uniquely you? Is it your body, your thoughts, or maybe even something like your spirit? Join Matilda Atkins to answer these big questions and explore the puzzles in ourselves.

WORKSHOP
[253] 1:00 pm

Dreaming with Butterflies with Annie Webster

Welcome to a whimsical journey through the enchanting world of the Butterfly Dream! Chuang Tzu, a philosopher from ancient China, once woke from a dream where he was a butterfly. Was it only a dream, or did he transform into a butterfly? Just because it was a dream, does it mean that it wasn't real? Prepare to be swept away by this talk with Annie Webster.



Art & Cinema Tent

OPEN GALLERY

Open Gallery presents 'Danger, Desire and Destiny' a video painting series commissioned exclusively for HowTheLightGetsIn - Hay 2024. Exhibited in the Art & Cinema tent during the mornings and early afternoons of the festival weekend. Open Gallery has pioneered the medium of video painting since its inception in 2001.

In *Danger, Desire and Destiny* features work by international artists like Gabrielle Le Bayon of France as well as many UK-based artists who use the medium of video painting to create a series of dream-like images. These video paintings allow the viewer to find in the multi-layered texture of the image a myriad of unexpected detail and wonder. They challenge our standard assumption that images must depict some known object or event, and in its place uncover a rich and unknown world that typically remains hidden.

To fully appreciate this, the work is ideally viewed over a period of weeks and months; however, the installation on view made it possible to drop in on the work over the course of the weekend to approximate a fuller experience. Over time the seemingly simplicity of the subject matter is replaced by the uncovering of its unlimited potential.

Open Gallery looks forward to welcoming you to this unique viewing encounter.

Friday, 3pm-7pm
Saturday and Sunday, 9am-1pm

opengallery

DOKBOX at HOWTHELIGHTGETSIN

The hot new documentary streaming provider, DOKBOX, brings the world's best documentaries to HowTheLightGetsIn Hay 2024. Running in the afternoon and evenings in the Art & Cinema Tent, the DOKBOX programme brings together a host of award-winning films from the world's leading producers and directors.

Highlights from the programme include:

Burnout: The Truth About Work

Technology was supposed to free up our time. But we are busier than ever. Why do we work, and why do we work more than ever? This film explores how overwork is killing us, destroying the planet, and reveals what we can do about it.

Friday, 11pm [27]

Breaking the Taboo

Narrated by Morgan Freeman, this documentary uncovers the UN sanctioned war on drugs, charting its origins and its devastating impact from the USA to Colombia and Russia. The film exposes the biggest failure of global policy in the last 50 years.

Sunday, 6pm [195]

AI & You

Developments in artificial intelligence are accelerating at an astonishing pace. In this documentary, Anne-Marie Tomchak examines how this rapidly evolving technology is transforming the human experience.

Saturday 4pm [90]

Power Scramble

An international race is on. With China dominating the market for many resources, tensions are rising as other nations strive to catch up. Find out why China is so dominant and why the fight for resources is only just getting started.

Monday, 11:45am [244]

SPECIAL OFFER FOR HOWTHELIGHTGETSIN FESTIVAL GOERS:

Sign up during HowTheLightGetsIn Hay 2024 Festival and get 3 months FREE subscription to DOKBOX.

Start your 90 free trial today by scanning the QR code, and get access to the world's best documentaries, all in one place.



HowTheLightGetsIn IAI SCHOOL

The IAI School returns to HowTheLightGetsIn 2024 with its most exciting programme yet. Targeted at pre-university students who want to grow their skills of critical thinking, analysis and verbal reasoning as well as strengthen their university applications, the IAI School is a stimulating programme of talks, discussions, and workshops led by world-leading thinkers. Our biggest lineup to date is accompanied by an in-depth Q&A with an admissions tutor from a leading UK university. The course has a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary thinking and

covers specialised areas of philosophy and science, contemporary politics and critical theory. The school programme will take place on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th. Students will also have access to the full HowTheLightGetsIn programme headline talks, debates, music and comedy, as well as breakfast on both days and dinner on the Saturday evening. Students require tickets for the school event, these can be bought at howthelightgetsin.org/festival/hay

SATURDAY 25TH MAY

THANGAM DEBBOINAIRE



What's it like to be a member of parliament? What is democracy? And why should we even vote at all? Join key member of the Shadow Cabinet Thangam Debbonaire for a captivating journey, explaining how she became a politician and how society improves through piecemeal steps.

SATURDAY 25TH MAY

TOMMY CURRY



Although some might think of philosophy as rooted solely in ancient wisdom, it has always been deeply contemporary. Join radical philosopher professor Tommy J. Curry to find out why asking philosophical questions is more important than ever, and how they can help us tackle the societal issues we see in our world today.

SATURDAY 25TH MAY

SHANNON VALLOR



AI is revolutionizing industries, transforming how we work, live, and think. But with these new changes come new questions and challenges. Join leading AI philosophy professor Shannon Vallor as she debunks common myths and misconceptions about AI and how to distinguish between truth and fiction.

SUNDAY 26TH MAY

PETER SINGER



Is it ethical to eat meat? Does what we consider right and wrong change over time? If so, what moral principles should guide us now? Join world-leading philosopher Peter Singer, known for his groundbreaking work in applied ethics, animal rights and effective altruism, as he answers your questions on what ethics is, why it's still important and why it should matter to you.

SUNDAY 26TH MAY

GÜNEŞ TAYLOR



Whether you dream of decoding DNA or are simply curious about the wonders of the natural world, join award-winning researcher Güneş Taylor to explore the biggest questions in the life sciences today. From the future of sex, the latest in CRISPR technologies, and our increasingly important connection to the natural world, find out how biology can answer your biggest questions.

SUNDAY 26TH MAY

GYU STANDING



The baby boomer generations' wealth often rose with house prices, but this generation is being priced out of the market. If you are curious about a future where everyone has access to financial security, join pioneering professor Gyu Standing for an empowering talk on universal basic income, and how it could reshape the ways we think about work, education, and social welfare.

Timetable

DAY 1

9:45 AM	Introduction
10:00 AM	Thangam Debbonaire Talk
10:45 AM	Breakfast/Break
11:30 AM	Tommy Curry Talk
12:30 PM	Headline Debate & Lunch
14:00 PM	Shannon Vallor
14:45 PM	Discussion Break
15:30 PM	University Admissions Tutor
18:00 PM	Welcome Dinner with Quiz and Prizes!

DAY 2

9:45 AM	Introduction
10:00 AM	Peter Singer talk
10:45 AM	Breakfast/Break
11:30 AM	Güneş Taylor Talk
12:30 PM	Headline Debate & Lunch
14:00 PM	Gyu Standing Talk
14:45 PM	Discussion Break
15:30 PM	Headline Debates

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SCAN ME

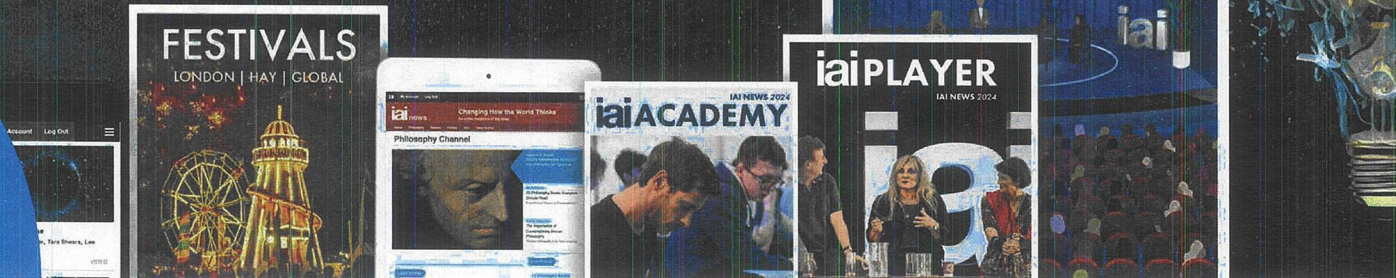


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SCAN ME



SPEAKERS

Scott Aaronson [10] [65] [172]

Scott Aaronson is a quantum complexity theorist and the Schlumberger Centennial Chair of Computer Science at The University of Texas at Austin. He is currently on leave to work at OpenAI.

Uriel Abulof [80]

Uriel Abulof is an Associate Professor at Tel-Aviv University's School of Political Science, Government and International Affairs.

Nilfar Ahmed [156]

Nilfar Ahmed is a Senior Lecturer in Social Sciences at the University of Bristol, as well as a Chartered Psychologist.

Ali Allowi [78] [201] [207]

Ali Allowi is an Iraqi politician and scholar. Over the last twenty years, Allowi has held some of the most important positions in the Iraqi government.

Caleb Althorpe [156]

Caleb Althorpe is a Research Fellow in the Department of Philosophy at Trinity College Dublin. He researches contemporary political theory and political philosophy.

Avery Anapol [156]

Avery Anapol is Commissioning Editor for the Politics and Society column at *The Conversation*. She has written extensively on language, politics, and power.

Dan Ariely [108]

Dan Ariely is a behavioural economist and author. He is Professor of Psychology and Behavioral Economics at Duke University.

Frances Ashcroft [237]

Frances Ashcroft is an award-winning British geneticist and researcher. She is known for her pioneering research on ion channels.

Matilda Atkins [240] [248]

Matilda Atkins is a philosophy teacher for the Philosophy Foundation.

Joscha Bach [10] [180] [255]

Joscha Bach is a computer scientist and renowned AI researcher. He currently serves on AI Foundation's Advisory Council.

Charlie Barnett [166]

Charlie Barnett is a senior producer, head of speaker booking, and contributing editor at the Institute of Art and Ideas, as well as a *Diablo* expert.

Tom Barnett [199]

Tom Barnett is a magician who specialises in sleight of hand. He can also solve a Rubik's Cube in under 20 seconds.

Simon Baron-Cohen [147] [169]

Simon Baron-Cohen is a clinical psychologist. He is Professor of Developmental Psychopathology at University of Cambridge and Director of the university's Autism Research Centre.

Aaron Bastani [86] [156] [172] [207] [238]

Aaron Bastani is the co-founder of *Navarra Media*. He is the author of *Fully Automated Luxury Communism* and has an upcoming book on the ageing crisis.

Matthew Beaumont [48] [68]

Matthew Beaumont is a Professor of English Literature at University College London and Co-Director of UCL's Urban Lab.

Yasmin Benoit [99]

Yasmin Benoit is a British model, award-winning asexual activist, and writer. Yasmin has won an Attitude Pride Award for her activism.

Harry Benson [99]

Harry Benson is Research Director at the Marriage Foundation. He has written several books on the benefits of marriage and family.

John Berrow [155] [191]

John Berrow is the former Speaker of the House of Commons, former Chancellor of the University of Essex and currently a professor at Royal Holloway.

Isabel Berwick [156]

Isabel Berwick is the host of the FT's *Working It* podcast. She is also the editorial lead for the FT Women in Business Forum.

Sam Bilton [183]

Sam Bilton is a food historian, author, and presenter of the *Comfortably Hungry* podcast. She is also a co-host of the *A is for Apple* podcast.

Paul Bloom [50] [108] [144] [265]

Paul Bloom is a psychologist. He is Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Cognitive Science at Yale University and Professor of Psychology at the University of Toronto.

Lisa Cameron [191]

Lisa Cameron is a Scottish politician and Conservative MP. She is a former consultant clinical psychologist.

Steven Campbell-Harris [53] [145]

Steven Campbell-Harris is a philosophy specialist and teacher trainer at the *Philosophy Foundation*. He founded the London Academy of Excellence.

Bernard Carr [142] [234]

Bernard Carr is Emeritus Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy at Queen Mary, University of London.

Amy Chua [7] [49]

Amy Chua gained global fame as 'Tiger Mom' author. She is a former law associate and award-winning academic, and a renowned commentator on everything from politics, to parenting.

Michael Clarke [165]

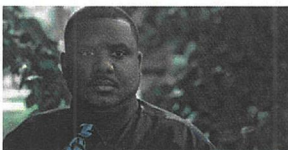
Michael Clarke is a visiting professor at King's College London and at the University of Exeter. He is also Sky News Military Analyst.

Harry Cliff [58] [143] [257]

Harry Cliff is a particle physicist at the University of Cambridge and works on CERN's Large Hadron Collider.

Kenneth Cukier [255]

Kenneth Cukier is Senior Editor for Digital Products at the Economist, a *New York Times* best-selling author, and the host of the hugely popular weekly podcast *Babbsage*.



Tommy Curry

Tommy Curry [139] [170] [191] [256]

Tommy Curry is a trailblazing philosopher of race at Edinburgh University where he holds a Personal Chair in Africana Philosophy and Black Male studies.

Theodore Dalrymple [150]

Theodore Dalrymple is an author and conservative cultural critic. He has written many notable books, including *Our Culture: What's Left of It*.

Claudia de Rham [19] [47] [58] [149]

Claudia de Rham is a Professor of Theoretical Physics at Imperial College London. She is the author *The Beauty of Falling* which will be published later this year.

Thangam Debbonaire [68] [102]

Thangam Debbonaire is a Labour MP for Bristol West and currently Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Jessica DeFino [87] [109] [179]

Jessica DeFino is a prominent reporter and beauty culture critic shedding light on the dark side of the beauty industry. She writes the *Guardian's* beauty advice column, Ask Ugly.

Daniel Dennett [169]

Daniel Dennett is a renowned philosopher and cognitive scientist. A vocal atheist and secularist, Dennett is referred to as one of the "Four Horsemen" of New Atheism.

Meghnad Desai [67]

Meghnad Desai is an award-winning economist and former Labour Party politician. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian award in India in 2008.

Felipe do Vale [50] [245]

Felipe do Vale is a Professor of ethics and theology. He works at the intersection of gender theory and theology.

Judith Donath [57] [151]

Judith Donath works at the intersection of urban design, evolutionary biology and cognitive science. She is currently an advisor at Harvard's Berkman Klein Centre.

Oli Dugmore [238]

Oli Dugmore is Politics/IOE's Head of News & Politics. He has reported from the Middle East, America, and Europe.

Bjørn Ekeberg [19] [58] [142] [149]

Bjørn Ekeberg is a philosopher of science and author of *Metaphysical Experiments Physics and the Invention of the Universe*.

Avshalom Elitzur [77] [157] [263]

Avshalom Elitzur is an Israeli physicist and philosopher, best known for his contributions to quantum mechanics. His theory was subsequently endorsed by Roger Penrose.

Martha Fiennes [57] [81] [147] [254]

Martha Fiennes is an award-winning film director, writer and producer. She is best known for her films *Onegin* and *Chromophobia*.

Des Fitzgerald [266]

Des Fitzgerald is a Professor of Medical Humanities and Social Sciences at University College Cork. His new book is *The City of Today is a Dying Thing*.

Myriam François [46] [68] [108] [147] [200]

Myriam François is a broadcaster, filmmaker and journalist. She is the founder of production company MPWR productions, and recently released her documentary, *Finding Alaa*, to critical acclaim.

Flo Gallop [64]

Flo Gallop is a pop artist who has been named "one to watch" by BBC Radio 1 & BBC Introducing. Her 2023 single "Window Shopping" turned heads with its taboo topic.

Jeremy Gilbert [259]

Jeremy Gilbert is a professor of Cultural and Political theory at the University of East London. He is the editor of *New Formations* and host of three podcasts including *ACFM*.

Camilla Hall [89]

Camilla Hall is an award-winning documentary film Director and Executive Producer. She focuses on films that explore new ideas and the human experience.

Stuart Hameroff [94] [190] [211] [265]

Stuart Hameroff is a Professor at the University of Arizona known for his controversial claim that consciousness originates from quantum states in neural microtubules.

Roger Hearing [78] [150] [255]

Roger Hearing is a journalist and broadcaster. Over a 35-year career with the BBC and Bloomberg, he has covered wars, elections, coups and revolutions across the globe.

Isabel Hilton [191] [256] [269]

Isabel Hilton is a renowned specialist on China. Founder and senior advisor of chinadialogue.net, she is an international reporter for the BBC and *Sunday Times*.

Donald Hoffman [178]

Donald David Hoffman is an American cognitive psychologist and popular science author. He is a professor in the Department of Cognitive Sciences at the University of California, Irvine.

Nadia Idle [259]

Nadia Idle is a life-long activist, intellectual, and dreamer from London and Cairo. She is one-third of the *ACFM* podcast.

Eva Illouz [256] [268]

Eva Illouz is a renowned sociologist and in 2022 was ranked 8th most influential sociologist in the world. She is Director of Studies at the School of Advanced Studies in Paris.

Abby Innes [142] [159]

Abby Innes is an Associate Professor in Political Economy at the LSE focusing on the UK state and empiricism. She is the teaching chair of the European Institute.



Aline Laurent-Mayard

Paterson Joseph [173]

Paterson Joseph is an actor known for roles in *Peep Show* and *Wonka*, and theatre career with Royal Shakespeare Company. He is Chancellor of Oxford Brookes University.

Joanna Kavenna [15] [55] [73] [147] [252]

Joanna Kavenna is an author and winner of the Orange First Novel Prize. Kavenna's works include *Zed*, *The Ice Museum* and *Inglorious*.

Vanessa King [150]

Vanessa King is a board member and the lead positive psychology expert for Action for Happiness and author of *Ten Keys to Happier Living*.

Jenny Kleeman [72] [173] [179] [200]

Jenny Kleeman is a Professor at the University of Arizona and author. She regularly appears in *The Guardian*, *The Sunday Times*, and *The New Statesman*.

Justine Kolata [22] [87] [211]

Justine Kolata is a writer and founder of *The Public Sphere* Salons dedicated to reviving salon culture and intellectual debate.

Christina Lamb [141] [207] [269]

Christina Lamb is the Chief Foreign Correspondent for *The Times* and *Sunday Times*, a bestselling author and honorary fellow of University College Oxford.

Aline Laurent-Mayard [99] [245]

Aline Laurent-Mayard is a journalist, author, and podcaster. They have published two books about gender in pop culture and are the host of the hit podcast *Free From Desire*.

Hilary Lawson [73] [159] [178] [194]

Hilary Lawson is a philosopher known for his theory 'Closure', a post-analytic return to metaphysics, and an outspoken critic of philosophical realism. He is Editorial Director of the IAI.

John Lennox [10] [18]

John Lennox is a speaker on the interface of science, philosophy and religion. He is also Emeritus Professor of Mathematics at Oxford University.

Bernard-Henri Lévy [98]

Bernard-Henri Lévy has for forty years been a major figure in French philosophical and political life. He was one of the leaders of the "Nouveaux Philosophes" and is a prolific and highly influential author.

SPEAKERS

Chris Lintott [138] [149]

Chris Lintott is the Professor of Astrophysics at the University of Oxford and is the Professor of Astronomy at Gresham College. He is also Presenter of the BBC's *Sky at Night*.

David Livingstone Smith [261]

David Livingstone Smith is an American Professor of Philosophy specializing in self-deception and dehumanization.

Bronwen Maddox [141] [160]

Bronwen Maddox is the Director and Chief Executive of Chatham House. She writes frequent op-ed columns for the *Financial Times* and broadcasts widely.

João Magueijo [13] [119]

João Magueijo is a cosmologist and Professor in Theoretical Physics at Imperial College London.

Winston Marshall [50]

Winston Marshall is the former lead guitarist of the folk rock band Mumford & Sons. He is now a influential subcultural and cultural commentator.

Dina Matar [80]

Dina Matar is the Chair of The Centre for Palestine Studies at SOAS. She has written extensively on communication practices in the Middle East.

Tim Maudlin [19] [73] [142]

Tim Maudlin is Professor of Philosophy at New York University and Founder and Director of the John Bell Institute for the Foundations of Physics.



Bronwen Maddox

Simon May [87] [200]

Simon May is a Visiting Professor of Philosophy at King's College London. His interests lie in ethics and the philosophy of emotion and love.

Kerry McCarthy [181]

Kerry McCarthy is a Labour MP for Bristol East and the Shadow Minister for Climate Change.

Johnjoe McFadden [140] [237] [265]

Johnjoe McFadden is a multidisciplinary scientist and professor at the University of Surrey, whose work has spanned molecular genetics and disease.

Keir Milburn [259]

Keir Milburn is a lecturer in Political Economy and Organisation at the University of Leicester and co-host of the ACFM podcast.

Rana Mitter [9] [15] [50] [67]

Rana Mitter is a Professor of U.S.-Asia Relations at the Harvard Kennedy School. He is also a broadcaster and presenter of *Free Thinking*, and a member of the IAI Advisory Board.

Priyamvada Natarajan [5] [149] [163] [178]

Priya Natarajan is a Professor of Astronomy and Physics at Yale University. She won the 2022 'Genius Award' from the Liberty Science Centre.

Denis Noble [69] [164] [190] [237]

Denis Noble is a physiologist and biologist. He is Professor Emeritus and co-Director of Computational Physiology at Oxford University.

Ruth Padel [15] [68]

Ruth Padel is a multi award-winning poet, novelist and non-fiction writer. She was also Professor of Poetry at King's College London.

Tim Palmer [181] [246]

Tim Palmer is a Research Professor in Climate Physics at the University of Oxford. He works on the complex problems of uncertainty in our climate and weather.

Ilan Pappé [160]

Ilan Pappé is an Israeli historian, political scientist and former politician who is highly critical of Israeli policy towards Palestinians. He is the director of the European Centre for Palestine Studies at the University of Exeter.

Roger Penrose [77]

Roger Penrose is a world-renowned mathematician, mathematical physicist, philosopher of science and Nobel Laureate in Physics.

David Petraeus [165]

General David Petraeus is the former Director of the CIA and was appointed by Presidents Obama and Bush to senior military posts. Time described him in 2011 as 'King David, the nation's most famous general'.

Jane Peyton [93]

Jane Peyton is an alcoholic drinks expert. She is the founder of the School of Booze and has won several awards for her work on drinks education.

Claire Provost [78]

Claire Provost is an investigative journalist and co-founder and co-director of the non-profit Institute for Journalism and Social Change.

Vicky Pryce [86] [97] [191]

Vicky Pryce is an economist and the Chief Economic Advisor and Board Member at the Centre for Economics and Business Research.

S.Y. Quraishi [49] [67]

S.Y. Quraishi is an Indian civil servant who served as the Chief Election Commissioner of India. He is currently an Honorary Professor at the University of Delhi.

John Ralston Saul [15] [57] [88] [137]

John Ralston Saul is an essayist, novelist and a champion of freedom of expression. He has written extensively on culture, politics and philosophy.

Lisa Randall [142]

Lisa Randall is a world leading expert on particle physics and cosmology. She is the author of *Higgs Discovery: The Power of Empty Space*.

Margie Ratliff [89]

Margie Ratliff is an American film producer. She is currently starting a non-profit organisation, Documentary Participants Empowerment Alliance.

Hannah Rich [266]

Hannah Rich is a Senior Researcher at THEOS, a leading think-tank focused on the role of religion in society.



Rama Miller

James Riley [179]

James Riley is a Fellow in English Literature at Girton College, Cambridge. He writes on modern and contemporary literature and culture.

Catherine Rowett [50]

Catherine Rowett served as the Green Party MEP and is Professor of Philosophy at the University of East Anglia.

Armen Sarkissian [52] [141]

Armen Sarkissian is the former President of Armenia. He is also a physicist, businessman, and computer scientist.

Susan Schneider [55] [247] [255]

Susan Schneider is a Professor of Philosophy. Her work has been widely discussed in media including *The New York Times*, *Science*, *Big Think*, and *Discover*.

Sophie Scott-Brown [49] [159] [245] [266]

Sophie Scott-Brown is an honorary research fellow in the history faculty at the University of St. Andrews.

Lynne Segal [86]

Lynne Segal is Professor of Psychology and Gender Studies at Birkbeck College. She is an academic and activist, and a champion of communal living.

Niki Seth-Smith [57] [86]

Niki Seth-Smith is an editor at the *New Humanist*, a journalist and a fiction writer. Her work has appeared in *The London Magazine*, *Vice*, and *openDemocracy*.

Nancy Sherman [59] [108] [179] [236]

Nancy Sherman is a Professor of Philosophy at Georgetown University who has conducted research in general ethics, moral psychology and Stoicism.

Mary Ann Sieghart [160] [266]

Mary Ann Sieghart is a journalist, broadcaster, visiting professor and author. A former *Times* columnist, her recent book 'The Authority Gap' has become a best seller.

Peter Singer [160] [170] [236] [250]

Peter Singer is a highly influential Australian moral philosopher, and author. He is perhaps best known for his book, *Animal Liberation*.

Subrena E. Smith [169] [211] [265]

Subrena E. Smith is a critic of evolutionary psychology. She is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of New Hampshire.

Barry C. Smith [51] [85] [170] [188] [200]

Barry C. Smith is Director of the Institute of Philosophy at London University. He also co-directs the Centre for the Study of the Senses, and is a member of the IAI Advisory Board.

Shini Somara [10] [58] [237]

Shini Somara is an award-winning media broadcaster and British mechanical engineer. She has made multiple TV appearances as well as TEDx.

Guy Standing [63] [231]

Guy Standing is an economist and Professorial Research Associate at SOAS University of London and co-founder of Basic Income Earth Network.

Lyndsey Stonebridge [242]

Lyndsey Stonebridge is a Professor of Humanities and Human Rights. Her acclaimed new book, *We Are Free To Change the World*, explores Hannah Arendt's thought.

Kate Sullivan de Estrada [67]

Kate Sullivan de Estrada is Director of Oxford's Contemporary South Asian Studies Programme.

Jack Symes [55] [87] [178] [236]

Jack Symes is writer and researcher at Durham University. He is the producer of *The Panpsychist Philosophy Podcast*.

Frank Tallis [22] [55]

Frank Tallis is a multi-award winning clinical psychologist and author. His work has been adapted by the BBC in the hit show, *Vienna Blood*.

Güneş Taylor [77] [99] [169] [190] [245]

Güneş Taylor is a molecular biologist and training fellow at the Francis Crick Institute, a London-based biomedical research centre. In 2018, Güneş won the Crick Public Engagement Prize.

Sieve Taylor [55]

Sieve Taylor is a Senior Lecturer in Psychology at Leeds Beckett University. He is a best-selling author and regularly appears on Radio 4, BBC Breakfast and TalkRadio.

Marika Taylor [10] [77] [246]

Marika Taylor is a Professor of Theoretical Physics and Head of the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences at the University of Birmingham.

Janne Teller [22] [87] [170]

Janne Teller is a writer of novels, essays, and short stories. Teller's work explores existential themes and ethical questions of life and civilization.

Émile P. Torres [71]

Émile P. Torres is a philosopher and historian whose research focuses on existential threats to civilization and humanity.

Antonella Tramaccera [190]

Antonella Tramaccera is a researcher at the Department of Linguistic and Cultural Evolution of the Max Planck for the Science of Human History in Jena.

Dale Turner [170]

Dale Turner is a Professor of Political Theory at the University of Toronto. He specialises in indigenous political thought and the philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein.

Shannon Vallor [232] [239] [255]

Shannon Vallor is the Boullie Gifford Chair in the Ethics of Data and Artificial Intelligence at the Edinburgh Futures Institute, where she is also a Professor of Philosophy. Her research explores how AI reshapes our lives.

Robin van den Akker [159] [177] [187] [256]

Robin van den Akker is a Senior Lecturer in the Philosophy of Culture of Erasmus University College Rotterdam and a celebrated scholar of metamodernism.

Dominic Walliman [45] [84]

Dominic Walliman is a YouTuber and an award-winning science writer. He writes the Professor Astro Cat science books and runs the YouTube channel Domain of Science.

Ben Ware [161] [233] [246]

Ben Ware is a philosopher and co-Director of the Centre for Philosophy and Visual Arts at Kings College London. He is an expert on Wittgenstein.

Annie Webster [95] [245]

Annie Webster is a teacher for the *Philosophy Foundation*. She is a freelance writer and teacher.

Simon Wessely [150] [186]

Simon Wessely is a renowned psychiatrist and epidemiologist. He is Professor of Psychological Medicine at King's College London.

Rowan Williams [242]

Rowan Williams, the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury, is also a widely acclaimed theologian and writer. He is an Honorary Professor at the University of Cambridge.

Slavoj Žižek [236]

Slavoj Žižek has been described as 'the most dangerous philosopher of our time'. He is a prolific writer and highly influential with more than 50 books to his name. He specialises in continental philosophy, Hegel and Marxism.



Judith Danaher



PERFORMERS

Afriquoi [218]

Fusing Congolese guitar, Gambian kora virtuosity, and UK electronic sensibility, festival sensation Afriquoi are "Wildly euphoric, ridiculously danceable" (Uncut).

Ailsa Tully [203]

Ailsa Tully has created an ethereal world rooted in folk, tinged with indie, with support from BBC Radio 1's Huw Stephens and BBC Introducing.

AK Patterson [212]

Following a tour with Ali-J and performances at the Royal Albert Hall singer-songwriter AK Patterson's passes hauntingly soulful voice and powerfully emotive stories.

Alex Kealy [26]

Object of Mark Kermode's envy, Alex Kealy is a writer for *Mojo*, *The Week* and *The News Quiz*. A truly unmissable act.

Alex Seel and Jon Sanders [82] [175]

Local folk guitar stalwarts Alex Seel and Jon Sanders team up for a one-off performance in the Stage.

Amber Topaz [40]

Award-winning international cabaret sensation Amber Topaz hilariously morphs her way through musical milestones, to highlight the absurdity of human behavior.

Amrou Al-Kadhi [227]

Amrou Al-Kadhi, also known as Glamour, is a British-Iraqi writer, drag performer, and filmmaker whose work primarily focuses on queer identity.

Amy Gladhill [205]

National Comedy Award nominee Amy Gladhill is known for her unique mix of everyday observations and off-beat tangents. Join her for a show sure to drum up a buzz.

Ania Magliano [222]

Ania Magliano's sharp, witty writing combined with her warm conversational performance style make her a 'glittering new talent' (the *Paper*) of the UK comedy scene.

Ayanna Witter-Johnson [25]

Soulful singer and cellist Ayanna Witter-Johnson is musical proof that classical and alternative R&B music can and should coexist. "The artist of our time." (The *Guardian*)

Blaenavon Male Voice Choir [273]

Founded over a century ago in 1910, the premier Welsh choir, Blaenavon Male Voice Choir, is still going strong, and has toured across the world. Prepare to be moved.

Brentlee [79]

Local singer-songwriter Brentlee blends Americana and blues folk. With one guitar, one pedal and a soulful voice, he casts an entrancing spell.

Burt Williamson [32]

With multiple critically acclaimed runs at Edinburgh Fringe, Burt Williamson will bring joy to your evening. Join Williamson as he presents punchlines with charm and wit.

Cantorian y Gelli [192]

Cantorian y Gelli is an outstanding local Welsh-language choir, led by Gemma Duggan. They secured second place in their category of the National Eisteddfod last year.

Crazy P [123]

Crazy P have been leaving their mark on the landscape of British dance music for the last 15 years, winning iTunes Best Dance Album of the Year.

Dangerous Flamingo [146]

With strong vocal harmonies and foot-tapping rhythms, Dangerous Flamingo have forged a West Wales Americana sound.

Danielle Lewis [11]

Welsh dream-pop artist Danielle Lewis sings in both Welsh and English with a mesmerising, ethereal voice. Her debut album was shortlisted for the 2022 Welsh Music Prize.

Danny Bradley [185] [258]

Award-winning virtuoso guitarist and songwriter Danny Bradley has opened for Martin Carthy.

Deborah Rose [267]

Deborah Rose is a Welsh songwriter whose voice is described by legend Judy Collins as "one of the finest I've heard".

Dragonsfly [193] [241]

Folk-trance festival favourites Dragonsfly draw on musical traditions from Brittany to the Middle East.

Ebi Soda [118]

Brighton's Ebi Soda are one of the most distinctive voices in the burgeoning UK jazz scene. Their playful, funk-leaning sound has seen them rack up radio plays and devoted fans.

EDDY [251]

Hailing from a small town with big dreams, EDDY is an indie pop musician captivating audiences with her ethereal melodies and heartfelt lyrics.

Ella Clayton [3] [66]

Singer-songwriter Ella Clayton has evoked comparisons to Bon Iver and Adeline Lenker and has seen recent success performing at Latitude alongside three sell-out shows.

Eve Appleton Band [14]

Green Man Rising 2023's champions Eve Appleton Band fuse echoes of 60s Folk Revival, Americana, and Alternative Folk.

Fiddlebop [184]

Fiddlebop play "Gypsy jazz re-imagined" on violin, Spanish guitar, keyboard, and fretless bass, and with four voices in harmony.

Fran Lusty [61]

Inspired by Damien Rice and Virginia Woolf, indie-folk singer-songwriter Fran Lusty is rapidly gaining traction, including a debut spin on BBC Introducing.

Fran Minney [4]

Fran Minney's dreamy electronica has produced widespread support with live performances on BBC Yorkshire and over 1 million streams on her single 'Normal'.

Gareth Rees [56] [168]

Gareth Rees hails from a small village in the Brecon Beacons. He channels his connection to the land into his arrangements of Welsh traditional melodies for solo guitar.

Hercules and Love Affair [38]

Hercules and Love Affair are dance music legends and their chart hitting songs saw them awarded 2022 Album of the Year by The Arts Desk.

James Holden [226]

James Holden is one of the most revered electronic music producers in the UK. His trance-like, upbeat performances, sell out venues and meet rave reviews.

Johanna Warren [70] [202]

Johanna Warren has released seven acclaimed solo albums, lent her voice to Nellie's *The Midnight Gospel*, and composed music for *The Bacchae*.

John Tothill [35]

Winner of the 21st annual new act award, John Tothill is equal parts bon vivant, social commentator, and gossip spreader: "What a treat!" (The *Guardian*)

Junior Brother [105]

Chosen as one of RTE's Rising Irish Stars and The Irish Times' breakthrough acts, County Kerry singer-songwriter Junior Brother is redefining Irish folk music.

Katie Green [24]

The 2020 Funny Women Finalist, Katie Green is an exciting new comic and the podcast host of *The Green Card*.

Lachlan Werner [128]

Named "funniest new ventriloquist on the block" by The Telegraph, Lachlan Werner is an award-winning comedian whose debut solo was a sell-out hit.

Lady Nade [249] [272]

Awardee [2023] at UK Americana, songstress Lady Nade stands as one of the UK's most distinctive voices.

Leila Navabi [213]

Star of BBC's *Vanduluz* and the BBC New Comedy Awards 2022, South Wales comedian Leila Navabi grew up learning to utilize her 'minority identity' for evil and mischief.

Liv Dawn [83]

A finalist at BBC Radio Scotland Singer-Songwriter of the Year Award, folk-pop storyteller Liv Dawn is one of the brightest talents in the Scottish New Music scene.

Lou Sanders [117]

The Tom Cruise of comedy performs all her own one-liners. Lou Sanders has appeared in Russell Howard's *Good News*, *GI*, and *Taskmaster*, to name but a few!

Mad Professor [36]

Legendary dub icon Mad Professor is a longstanding collaborator of the likes of Massive Attack, Grace Jones and is a key player in dub's digital transition.

Mandrake Handshake [112]

Nine-piece Mandrake Handshake perform 'flowerkraut': a hedonistic krautrock, art-pop and psychedelia. They have performed across festivals from Shambala to Wilderness.

Micky Overman [113]

Micky Overman is an award-nominated comedian whose show is set to explore change, coping mechanisms, and Ozzy Osborne.

Milkweed [100] [209]

Milkweed have developed a cult following. Their new album, blends traditional folk with a trip-hop infused sound, was named by the *Guardian* as the folk album of the month.

Mr Bruce [217]

Former frontman of The Correspondents, Mr Bruce has become one of Britain's most in demand festival acts with his electronic and energetic performance.

Mr Tea & The Minions [31]

Mr Tea and The Minions have played over a hundred UK festivals, including Glastonbury, Boomtown and WOMAD, with extravagantly colourful, theatrical performances.

Paige Bea [204]

Trained opera singer turned all-pop prodigy Paige Bea has commanded the attention of BBC Radio 1 and Spotify and performed on the main stage of El Dorado last year.

Patrick Spicer [125]

As seen on the BBC and Channel 4, Patrick Spicer is set to ask the big questions in his new show, such as was Jesus a people pleaser? Join him for some truly unholy comedy.

Peiriant [101] [196]

Peiriant are an experimental duo based in Wales, consisting of Rose and Dan Ilin-Paol. They perform with guitar, violin and a selection of 'found' objects.

Possey Mehta [133]

A favourite of London's queer cabaret scene, trained clown Possey Mehta is "incomparable" (Broadway World), and comes to HowTheLightGetsIn in the guise of Mizzi Fitz.

Priya Hall [219]

Priya Hall is a comedian, writer, and «masterful storyteller» (Broadway Baby), whose signature style is "hilariously oversharing." (Bristol 24/7)

Pushpin [20]

Green Man Rising finalists Pushpin are among the most exciting bands on London's music scene. Apocalypse Music describes them as "brimming with energy".

Raz & Aïla [223]

Raz & Aïla is the child of chart topping, multi-platinum producer Raz Olsner and Ghanaian master musician Alfa Sackey to fuse African rhythms and electronic beats.

Richard Dawson [30]

With sell out shows at the Barbican and Berghain Northumbrian contemporary songwriter and storyteller, Richard Dawson, is a key figure in the UK's folk revival.

Robert Whyte [92]

One half of Boandagz, local stalwart Robert Whyte plays unpretentious, emotionally honest renditions of country and folk classics on guitar.

Sara Barron [119]

Critically acclaimed comedian Sara Barron talks through eavesdropping, hatred of the countryside, and one awful thing she said to her mum.



Sea Power [124]

Rockband Sea Power have been lauded by Lou Reed and David Bowie. The band's shows have earned them *Time Out* magazine's Live Band Of The Year award.

Shaparak Khorsandi [10]

Shaparak Khorsandi is a regular on shows including Live at the Apollo and *Mock the Week*. Join her as she fearlessly navigates the personal and the political.

Sister Audrey [36]

Sister Audrey is an established roots reggae favourite with international recognition supporting legendary reggae artists such as Lee Perry, Max Romeo and Mavka B.

Slippery Slope Trio [221] [260]

Slippery Slope Trio bring together a guitar, fiddle and accordion to play stomping tunes, melancholy melodies and joyful jigs.

Sophia You-Weeks [243]

Singer-songwriter, Sophia You-Weeks, was born and raised in Oakland, CA. Her latest release is three-song EP entitled *Without You*.

Tara Clerkin Trio [111]

One of the most innovative groups currently performing in the UK, the Tara Clerkin Trio have received great acclaim from the likes of *The Wire*, *The Quietus* and *Pitchfork*.

The Destroyers [129]

The Destroyers have been colliding world music for nearly 20 years. Their behemothic sound is a chaotic cacophony of klezmer, Balkan and British folk.

The Hanging Bandits [135] [198]

Herefordshire folk rock four-piece The Hanging Bandits hit YouTube fame last year with their viral ode to Mick Lynch.

The Hedgescow Collective [16]

The Hedgescow Collective perform songs and lore about trees from the British Isles in order to foster deeper relationships with our more-than-human kin.

The Lovely Good [197]

Formed at Trinity College Dublin, multi-instrumental Irish folk band The Lovely Good have already made a splash on London's new music scene.

The Orb [132]

From visionary synth-makers in the acid house revolution in the 1980s, The Orb are now one of the most revered electronic music acts around.

Toni Sancho [8]

Trinidad-born London-based Toni Sancho is capturing attention with her disarming honesty and «fabulous, unshowy voice»; she is "One to Watch." (The *Guardian*)

Truthpaste [106]

Flamboyant and multi-instrumental, a string of shows in London and Manchester have marked out Truthpaste as ones to watch.



Festival Information

Food & Drink
Venues
Festival Tickets
Maps



Festival Team

IAI TEAM

COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICITY

Charlotte Church *Press & PR Manager*; Georgina Felham-White *Marketing Executive*; Ioana Pancea *Senior Marketing Executive*; Millie Prince-Hodges *Marketing & Press Executive*; Adam Tai *Marketing Lead*; Jessa Thompson *Performance Marketing Executive*; Daniel Walker *Content Executive*

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Sara Bell *Education Executive*; Alessia Calarese *Development Trainee*; Elizabeth Oates *Education and Development Manager*; Lily Porter *Management Trainee*; Rachel Williams *Senior Development Executive*

MEDIA PRODUCTION

Mickey Dimitrova *Media Production Lead*; Alyssa Ersamer *Film Team*; Lavinia Kadar *Senior Film Crew*; Louis Norris *Senior Film Team*; Mia Patrucchi *Designer*; Taylor Purcell *Senior Film Team*; Olivia Robinson *Designer*

PRODUCTION

Charlie Barnett *Senior Producer*; Harry Carlisle *Politics Desk Lead*; Simon Custer *Philosophy Desk Lead*; Omari Edwards *Production Team*; Nour Khairi *Production Team and International Development Executive*; Hilary Lawson *Editorial Director*; Saffron Marter-Laing *Production Trainee*; Kristina Nazariyan *Talent*; Max Rogers *Production Trainee*; Beth Sullivan *Green Room*; Margherita Volpato *Arts Desk Lead*; Claudia Vulliamy *Production Trainee*; Ricky Williamson *Festival Manager & Events Production Lead*

HOWTHELIGHTGETSIN TEAM

FESTIVAL SITE

Jamie Atherton *Site Design and Management*; Rob Barnby, Max Cheyney, Colin Cameron, Darren Elliot, Jezz Bailey, Monica Diaz, Joe Doyle, Ethan Little-Col, Sean Sampson, Connor Williams *Site Team*

FOOD & DRINK

Kirsten Aiken *Inner Circle*; Charlotte-Lucy Bottrill *Stacked*; Colin Cameron *Circle Bar & Site Team*; Monica Diaz *F&B Manager & Site Team*; Dan Keen *F&B Manager*; Lauren Mulhearn *Design & Paoko's Garden*; Bob Stirling *Circle Bar & Site Team*; Paul Cameron *Little Hat*; Hannah Zaman *Mindcraft*; Evie Andrews *Hendricks Bar*; Pascale Loftus *Paoko's Bar*; Henry Yeomans *Waterfront Bar*; Amber Reeves *Marble & Green*; Laura Baker *Merch Shop*

GLOBE TEAM

Josy Dray *Box Office Manager*; Charlotte Herbert *Box Office Team*; Mandy Houghton *Globe and Festival Manager*; Linda Kelly *Hospitality Manager*; Eloise Jefferson *Loveday Box Office Team*; John Morgan *Publicity*; Bill Parkes *Sound Engineer*; Mary Pardoe *Box Office Team*; Mally Vera *Publicity*

KITCHEN

Wieslaw Janik *Head Chef*; Piotr Michalski *Executive Chef*; Sylwia Michalska *Kitchen Assistant*; Ashley Street *Chef de Partie*; James Street *Chef de Partie*; Kia Cross *Chef de Partie*; Danny Street *Sous Chef*; Dan Whillock *Head Chef Banquets*

STEWARDS

Anna Campbell *Accreditation*; Jed Hartley *Steward Captain*; Jasmine Payne *Steward Captain*; Nayarou Penrose *Steward Captain*; Sophie Phillips *Head of Stewards*; Yicki Stone *Steward Captain & Traders Coordinator*; Sophie Yardley *Publicity Team Leader*

TECHNICAL & ACCOUNTS

Oliver Bevan *Financial Control Lead*; Jazz Bhakar *Finance Director*; Alroy De Araujo *Finance Executive*; Lisa Duong *Ticket Control Lead*; Albina Erganokova *Stock Control Manager*; Beth Fitzpatrick *Office and Talent Manager*; Wooju Han *Ticket Control Executive*; Vijay Lalwani *IT Executive*; Ajay Patel *Ticket Control Executive*; Maria-Alexandra Ralar *Finance Executive*; Will Sowerbutts *IT Guru*

ADVISORY BOARD:

Simon Blackburn, Nancy Cartwright, Philip Collins, Kimberlé Crenshaw, Hannah Dawson, Stanley Fish, Joanna Kavenna, Laura Mersini Houghton, Rana Miller, Carlo Rovelli, Robert Rowland Smith, Barry C. Smith

ART AND IDEAS TRUST

Kathryn Bennett *IAI Trust Lead*; Anatole Kaletsky *Trustee*; Joanna Kavenna *Trustee*; David Lebor *Trustee*

We would also like to thank everyone who has helped us with setting up the festival site; loaned us technical or catering equipment; helped us with publicity, stewarding and PR; helped with guest hospitality and transport; donated advertising space and practical assistance; and the many whose contribution and support, in work or in kind, have enabled HowTheLightGetsIn to happen but print deadlines have prevented us from naming.

howthelightgetsin.org

WINE TASTING & PHILOSOPHY

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FRANCE  1743

MOËT & CHANDON
CHAMPAGNE

Inner Circle

HowTheLightGetsIn

*"If you could have a dinner party with anyone (dead or alive)
who would you choose?"*

Have breakfast, lunch, dinner, or an evening salon,
with the world's leading thinkers.

LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE

Book your place at the box office
or book online



SCAN ME

Pookas
Garden
at HowTheLightGetsIn

*Cocktails • Pizza • Dancing
by the River Wye*

Find us by the Waterfront

21ST - 22ND September

HowTheLightGetsIn
LONDON 2024



SUPER EARLYBIRD TICKETS

ON SALE FOR 24 HOURS ONLY

AT HOWTHELIGHTGETSIN HAY 24 BOX OFFICE **ONLY**
4PM SUNDAY 26TH MAY

Food & Drinks

Whether you're after exotic world foods or a quick snack between sessions, a glass of Champagne or a slice of homemade cake, you'll find a whole range of exceptional venues across the festival site.

THE PARK

The Waterfront

With stunning views of the River Wye, The Waterfront offers a delicious array of artisan food including gourmet burgers, fresh summer salads, fresh seafood, Persian street food, organic steaks and fresh ramen, curry and poke bowls. Alongside this you'll find local beers and ciders, perfectly chilled prosecco and a soundtrack of vintage soul. We're open for breakfast, lunch and dinner from 8am till 1am.

Inner Circle

As the finest minds of our time gather for a drink and a meal, take your seat alongside them for a truly unique experience. Converse with leading politicians, challenge top columnists and explore the universe with particle physicists. Be part of the company, not merely an observer. You might not get another chance. Experiences include Philosophy breakfasts, lunch and dinner as well as Champagne Afternoon Teas and the Philosophy Salon.



Pookas Garden

Come on down to Pookas Garden to enjoy a truly magical experience whilst soaking in the Welsh mythology of Hay on Wye. Located next to the beautiful River Wye... By day, relax, unwind and take in the riverside views with Greek street food. As night falls, expect incredible hand crafted cocktails, chilled beers and dancing with the Pookas - mischievous creatures reaping havoc on The Wye Valley.

Marble & Green

From fresh Summer salads to barbequed meals and artisan baked breads, Marble & Green boasts a delicious array of freshly prepared and sustainably sourced food. We use ingredients from the Brecon Beacons. Find us in The Waterfront - open for Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner 8am - 12am

Blue Moon Café

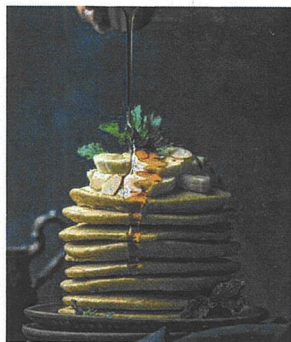
Once In A Blue Moon Café is a nomadic festival venue, chill-out and wellbeing space, with comfortable seating, low tables, cosy carpets and candle-lit lanterns to make you feel right at home. They serve a diverse menu all day and late into the night, using delicious organic and locally grown ingredients. Step inside to discover plant-based adaptations of cuisine from around the world, indulgent cheese toasts, exquisite cakes and last but not least the famous choco-coconut chail

The Circle Bar

A HowTheLightGetsIn favourite, The Circle Bar is where everybody goes to wind down. You'll find some great local beers and ciders from Westons in Muchmarcle including the much acclaimed Rhubarb Cider and Butty Bach from Wye Valley. If that's not your thing, enjoy a perfectly chilled glass of Champagne.

Stacked

You haven't tried a burger until you've tried Stacked! There are burgers to suit all tastes whether it's been made with 100% organic beef, free range chicken or Wye Valley lamb. Whatever your pleasure, enjoy with a cold beer. Find Stacked at The Waterfront from 12 till midnight.



THE FAYRE



Open Sesame

A new kind of kebab, fusing flavours from the Mid-East and beyond with the best local ingredients and fire cooking. Bringing super fresh flavours to the festival foodie.

Thyme & Tide

Also located in the Waterfront, Thyme & Tide celebrate the abundance of fresh seafood that is available off the coast of Cornwall. You can expect delicious crab, crayfish, kedgeree, whitebait and a great Sri Lankan fish curry.

Origin Pizza

We looove pizza, we eat, sleep and dream it! We spent a lot of time tasting to make sure we cook only the best pizzas using fresh ingredients. So, whether you're vegan, veggie, gluten free, lactose intolerant or a meat lover, we got you.

Big Malakas

Big Malakas offer fresh Greek Gyros and Souvlaki amongst other tasty sides such as Halloumi fries, Greek Salad and Crispy Calamari. You can find them in Pooka's garden.

Adrianos Gelatos

Delicious artisan gelato & sorbet.

Hendrick's Bar

Straight from their Cabinet of Curiosities, freshen up and bloom like a flower for a taste of Hendrick's Flora Adora, the floral new limited release gin. If you prefer to stay classical, the Hendrick's ultimate G&T with cucumber is the perfect pick me up on a hot Summer day.

Yushoku

The name YUSHOKU means pleasure, happy, rejoice in Japanese and also used to invite people for dinner. For the menu, expect delicious, fresh ramen, curry and poke bowls, gyoza and dipping sauce plus fresh, organic Asian style salad. There are vegan options throughout.

Chill Bill Frozen Yoghurt

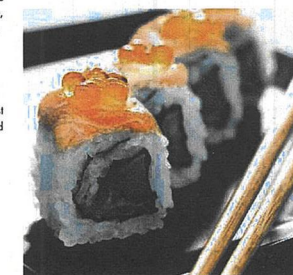
We sell homemade frozen yoghurt. All our yoghurt is served with a selection of fresh fruit, nuts, seeds, treats and sauce.

Meats

All of our meats are farm assured and free range. Our beef is from the native Ruby Red breed, sourced in Hereford. Pork is from West End Farm, Bishop Cannings. Our lamb is reared by Lizzy Withers of Cloverham.

Bread

All of our breads, cakes and pastries are baked on site by our kitchen team each day.



MARBLE & GREEN

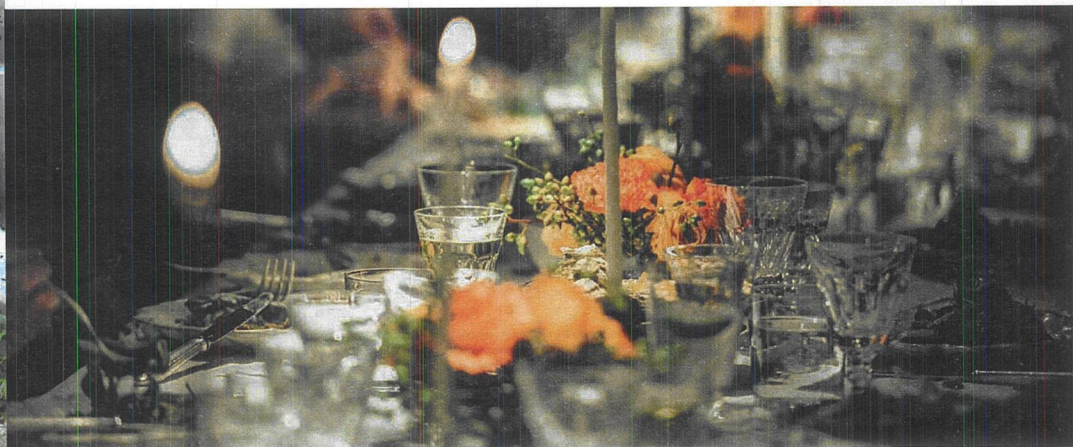
ORGANIC MEATS & SALADS



Find us at:
THE
WATERFRONT
FOOD HALL

FRANCE 1743
MOËT & CHANDON
CHAMPAGNE

LONG TABLE BANQUETS



FRANCE 1743
MOËT & CHANDON
CHAMPAGNE

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Perfectly chilled glass of Rhubarb Spritz
- Four course banquet
- Wine & water with dinner

Book your place at the Box Office or Online at HOWTHELIGHTGETSIN.ORG

Venue Guide

The festival site opens onto a glorious stretch of the River Wye. Home to twelve stages including four debate and talk venues, eight live music stages and our new Mindcraft area for children and young adults and much more.

THE PARK

The Hat
Our biggest party venue. Home to the Hat Sessions during the day - a range of inspiring talks, in depth interviews and interactive workshops. In the evening it plays host to wicked tunes and DJs to keep you dancing into the night.

The International Tent
In the International Tent you'll find the world's leading thinkers debate the biggest global issues each day. In the evening, the International transforms into a music venue with remarkable soloists and outstanding musicians.

The Ring
Meet the great thinkers and performers of our time in the Ring, an intimate venue hosting our programme of inspiring solo talks. In the evening you'll find cutting edge comedy and Midnight Mayhem.

Riverside Disco
Opening up onto the river bank, you can dance inside the tent or under the stars to the hottest DJs. Find the secret entrance - there's a café area open all day hidden inside and the big tunes start from 9pm and don't stop until the early hours.

The Waterfront
With a spectacular view over the River, the Waterfront Restaurant is the place to go to feed your soul with a delicious array of freshly prepared artisan cuisine. Book your place at the spectacular four course Long Table Banquets, limited places, so book early! Waterfront is open from 9am till 11pm daily.

Vintage Rides
Including a ferris wheel where you can catch spectacular views of the festival site Hay and the Black Mountains.

YOUNG ADULTS AND CHILDREN

Mindcraft Area
A range of activities and a full programme for young adults and children. At the centre the Mindcraft tent hosts talks from leading thinkers, tech workshops and interactive philosophy. It's got something for everyone.

Pop-ups
There are pop-up activities running all day every day; create games using magical lanterns, leaf rubbings with the National Trust, a masterpiece out of sand or design animal masks.

YOUNG ADULTS AND CHILDREN

Hangout and Sandpit
Near Mindcraft there's a play area for children of all ages with a sandpit by the river for the younger children and a hangout tent with table football and giant games for the in-betweens.

IAI ACADEMY FIELD
The IAI Arena
The IAI Arena hosts the festival's biggest debates. After the day's philosophy sessions, the IAI Arena erupts with our Live music and performance programme - a wondrous collection of the UK's hottest bands and finest DJs.

Academy Tent
The IAI Academy gives you the chance to take courses led by the world's leading thinkers. For more information see p. 58.

DOKBOX Cinema Tent
DOKBOX, the new documentary streaming service, brings its hottest films to HowTheLightGetsIn. Streaming in the Cinema tent in the afternoon and evening, the programme features award-winning, critically acclaimed films from some of the most innovative and creative producers from around the globe.

BOHEMIA

Blue Moon
Featuring live music throughout the day with a café space to relax. Enjoy the atmosphere away from the pace of the bigger venues.

Spa & Wellbeing
Escape the hustle and relax for a moment at the festival's serene Spa hosted by wellbeing specialists Aurum. Offerings include massage, facials, Reiki and yoga. You'll feel invigorated, if you want to, or blissful if that's more your need, enveloped in luxurious, organic scents, oils and balms enhancing all your senses. To book, visit our website.

Fire and Folk
Acoustic musicians lead our nightly folk sessions round a fire. 9pm till late.

THE FAYRE

The Stage - Festival bookshop
You'll find the Waterstone's Festival Bookshop in the Stage tent open throughout the day. Talk to speakers here after each event and get signed copies of their books. A book signing timetable can be found in the venue. In addition there's a café, a champagne bar and a comedy and music stage. Browse the books, find a sofa, order a glass of wine and great conversation is sure to follow.

The Market
The market is full of surprises. Artisan food producers, vintage clothes, cocktails and sequins, as well as some truly original workshops. And try out the games!

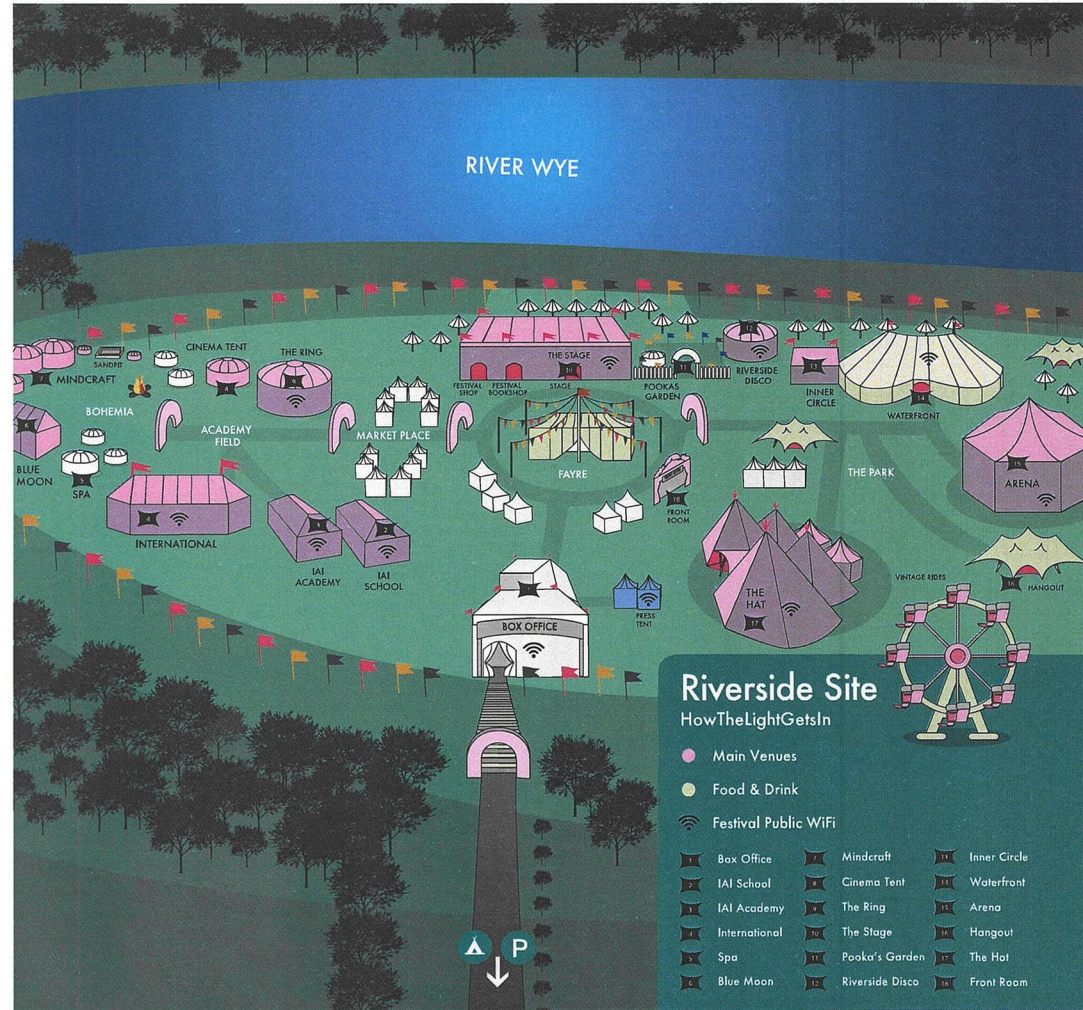
The People's Front Room
A team of wonderfully talented musicians create a truly unique vibe as they extemporise classic tracks of every genre along with their own wicked tunes. Throughout the day and to close of play in the evening.

YURT AND CAMPING FIELDS

Yurt Field
With all the luxuries of a hotel in a splendid countryside setting, the Yurt Field hosts camping like you never experienced before. Visit our website for details.

Camping Field
For those looking to pitch up and enjoy a traditional summer festival experience, look no further than the Camping field. There are also pre-pitched tents if you want to avoid fighting with the guy ropes.

Box Office
Get the latest information and updates. Festival Tickets, Fast Passes for upcoming events, and tickets for Extra Experiences such as Inner Circle events or Philosophy Salons can be purchased here.



Festival Tickets / Info & Travel

For latest prices and to book tickets visit the HowTheLightGetsIn website or visit the Festival Box Office

TICKETS

Festival Tickets

From £178
Festival tickets provide access to all events aside from 'Extra Experiences' and the IAI School. Valid from 1pm on Friday 24th May to close of play on Monday 27th May.

The site opens at 1pm on Friday and at 8.30am on other days.

See website for latest prices and availability.

Under 25s and Students: Up to 30% off Festival Tickets.

Children under 12: Free.
Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times and must register in advance via the website.

Festival Day Tickets

Friday from £42
Saturday from £84
Sunday from £84
Monday from £42

Valid for each day of the festival from first thing to site close.

Festival Flexi Tickets

Drop into the festival and see a few events on different days. The Festival Flexi Ticket gives you access to 4 of our headline events (debates, talks, music, comedy, Ho!Docs, and IAI Academy sessions). Combine with a Flexi Day Pass for the day/s you want to attend the festival.

You do not need to specify your four headline events in advance - decide on the day if you like.

In addition to the headline events, the Flexi Day Pass gives you access to the festival site and a host of unticketed events that run throughout the day and evening.
See our website ticket page for details and prices

Fast Passes

Fast Passes provide fast entry to an event and reserve a prime seat in the venue skipping all queues. Fast Passes for each event are strictly limited. Fast Passes are only valid with a Festival Ticket, Day Ticket, or Flexi Ticket.
To purchase Fast Passes visit the Programme Page of our website.

BOOKING INFO

Book online: www.HowTheLightGetsIn.org

Book in person:
Throughout the festival the Box Office has the latest information on events, prices and any updates or special additions to the programme. You can get passes or tickets for any event at the Box Office. The Box Office is open until midnight each day and until 4pm on Monday.

Extra Experiences

Events involving food & drink, Inner Circle events, Pottery workshops and Wellbeing sessions are booked and paid for separately. Inner Circle events are a unique opportunity to dine and discuss ideas with the world leading thinkers you'll find in our programme. Sample menus will be available on our website. Tickets are available online or at the Box Office during the festival.

See programme pages for details of each event which can be booked in advance.

Seating

Seating is on a first come first served basis. We cannot guarantee entry to an event if it is already full. If there's something you are really keen to see, make sure you get there in good time or get a Fast Pass.

We reserve the right to refuse entry to latecomers or restrict this to standing room only.

Terms and Conditions

All events and speaker performer details are correct at the time of going to press. We reserve the right to change the programme and artists if circumstances dictate. In the event of cancellations of Extra Experiences, tickets will be refunded. Fast pass tickets will be refunded if associated events are cancelled. Otherwise tickets cannot be accepted for refund or resale.

Access

To book wheelchair access or our designated parking area for those who disabilities please get in touch via enquiries@howthelightgetsin.org. The Festival Site has disabled access via the vehicle and service entrance and not via the main pedestrian entrance since this involves a long flight of steps. The festival site has some gentle slopes and there is matted pathway across some of the site only. In the case of adverse weather we cannot guarantee the condition of the ground.



iai The Institute of Art and Ideas

ACCOMMODATION & TRAVEL

With the majestic Black Mountains as a backdrop, our accommodation options provide a cosy haven and comfortable beds to retreat into, rest up and relax between the jam-packed days and nights. With access to plenty of luxury showers, toilets and a pamper parlour, glamping never felt so glamorous.

To book visit:
<https://howthelightgetsin.org/festivals/hay/accommodation/boutique-yurts>

Thinking of staying longer? Our yurts are bookable for stays from 28th May - 1st June.

Getting to Hay

The nearest railway station is Hereford, about twenty miles away. Our Travel Partner GWR runs trains to Hereford. Book your train travel now at GWR.com.

Train times from key UK cities include:
Birmingham New Street (1 hr 30min)
Bristol Temple Meads (1hr 30 min)
Cardiff Central (1hr)
London Paddington (3 hrs)
Manchester Piccadilly (2hrs)
Oxford (3hrs)
Swansea (2hrs)
Sheffield (3hrs)

The bus service from Hereford to Hay-on-Wye (T14) is frequent with additional services for the period of the festival. Or share a taxi with another festival visitor!

By Car

Hay-on-Wye is situated between Brecon and Hereford, off the A345. Cross the bridge into Hay and turn left. Follow signs to the Festival Site. See map opposite.

Camping & Parking

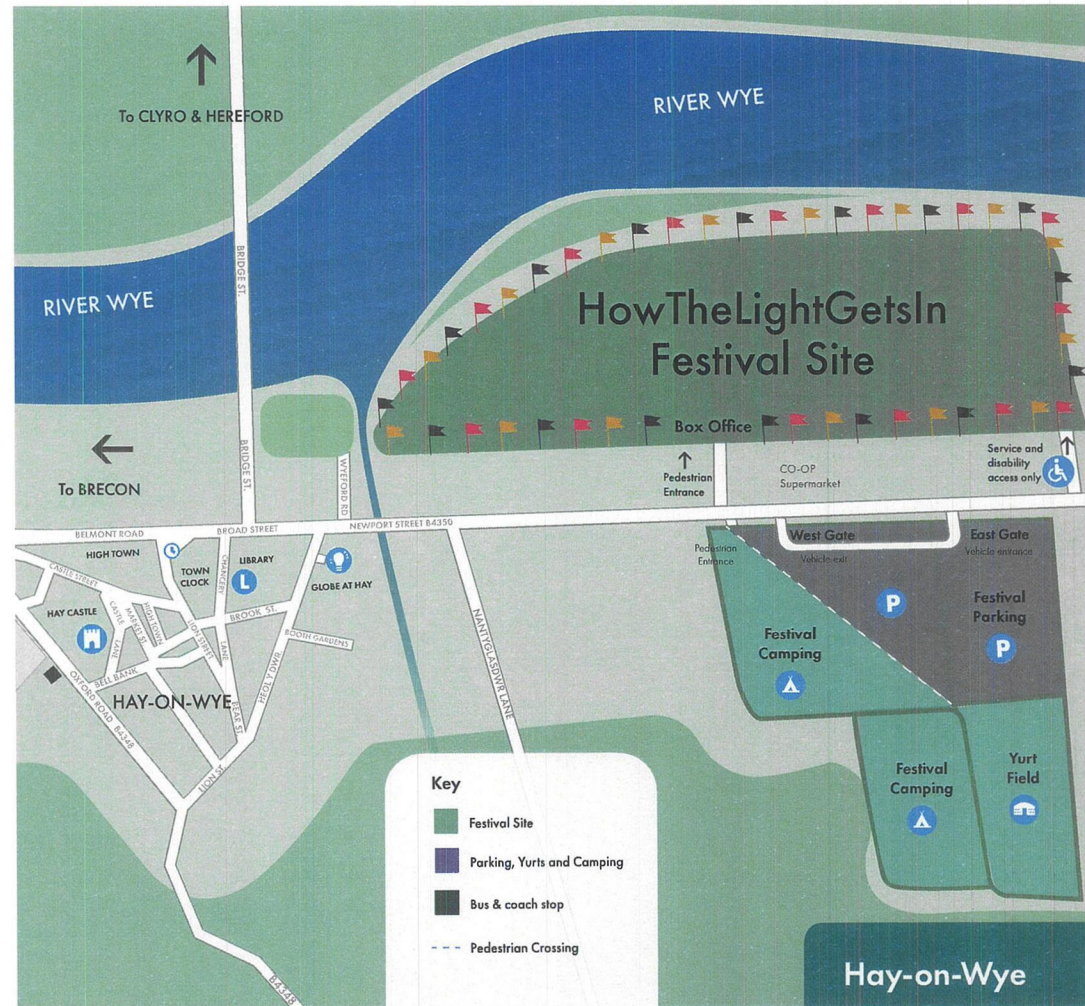
Parking and the Yurt and Camping Fields are immediately opposite the Festival Site. Enter by the East Gate when arriving by car.

Taxis

A1 Cabs 07910 931 099
A2B Taxis 01874 458 899
Julie's Taxis 07899 846 592

WiFi Access

There are WiFi hotspots throughout the site (see map previous page).
Network name: HowTheLightGetsIn Free WiFi
Password: philosophy



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How The Light Gets In Festival

APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF PREMISES LICENCE

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

MH5 – Economic Impact Assessment

Economic Impact Assessment

In this appendix we assess HowTheLightGetsIn Festival's impact using a standard means of analysis called an economic impact assessment. This involves quantifying economic impact across three channels:

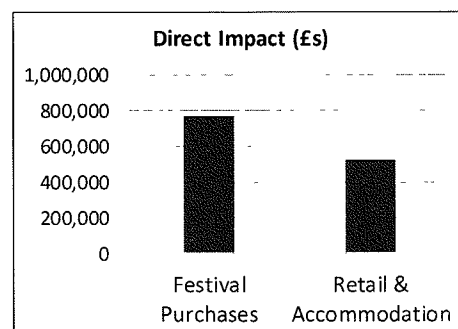
Direct impact — economic activity and employment supported directly by the HowTheLightGetsIn Festival itself.

Indirect impact — benefit HowTheLightGetsIn Festival brings to local suppliers and their employment of others.

Induced impact — wider economic benefits that arise from spending by individuals as a result of the Direct and Indirect economic impacts of HowTheLightGetsIn Festival (for example, in local retail & leisure establishments).

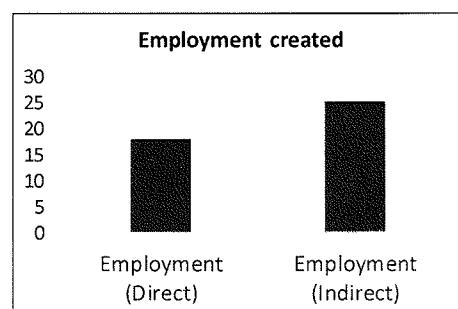
DIRECT IMPACT

- HowTheLightGetsIn directly employs a core team of 18 and a freelance team during the festival of 220 (the majority of whom live in the local area).
- Festival purchases on site infrastructure, equipment and other site costs, in combination with personnel costs represent expenditure per annum of £770,000 on goods, services, and salaries.
- In addition, there are goods & services purchased from at least 30 businesses and 50 accommodation providers in the immediate area as a result of expenditure by the festival team and festival goers. Generating income for suppliers of more than £520,000 each year.
- Overall there is £1,290,000 of Direct Impact per annum, 70% of which, £905,000, is spent locally.



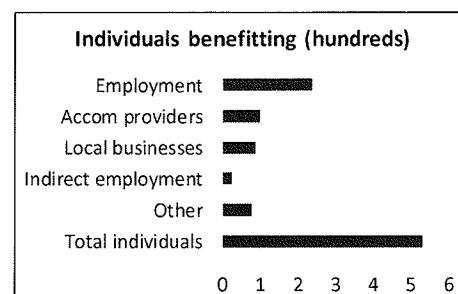
INDIRECT IMPACT

- We estimate that across all local businesses and accommodation providers we contribute to the employment of a further 25 people.
- In combination with direct employment, more than 40 jobs and livelihoods at risk if the festival was not to continue, as well as the loss of income to a freelance team at the festival of 220 per year.
- Supply of £1,290,000 of goods & services from Direct Impact leads to Indirect Impact where those suppliers in turn make required purchases from businesses and individuals, estimated at £410,000.



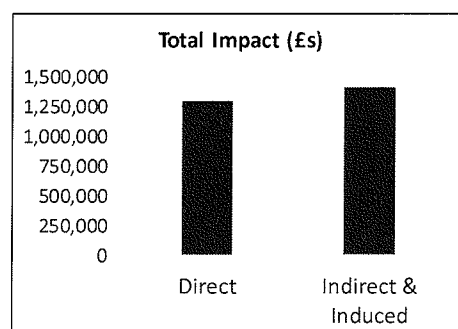
INDUCED IMPACT

As a result of the Direct and Indirect impacts, there are more than 500 people significantly impacted financially by the festival. Each of these increases their expenditure as a result, and the impact of their resulting spending on the local economy during any one year is estimated to be in excess of £1m as well as contributing further to local employment.



TOTAL IMPACT

In combination the economic impact of the festival, the majority of which applies directly to Hay-on-Wye and the local area, is £2.7m annually as well as the direct and indirect employment of 43 people, with hundreds affected through employment in the period of the festival itself.



Economic Impact Assessment - workings summary

Impact type	Area	Total	Local	Elsewhere	Check	Comments
DIRECT	Festival purchases on site infrastructure, equipment and other site costs, in combination with personnel costs	770,000	385,000	385,000	0	<p>Each festival requires a large amount and wide ranging set of infrastructure, equipment and other site costs. Infrastructure, for example, includes event tents, audio/visual tech, power & lighting, trackway, accommodation yurts, toilets and showers, fencing, entrance stairs. Equipment, for example, includes radios, furniture, decor, wristbands, etc. Other site costs, for example, includes field rental costs, marketing, performer fees, IT/wifi costs, site build and take down teams, etc.</p> <p>Then, on the personnel side, there is a large number of people across several teams involved in putting the festival on, as well as all of the individuals involved in building of the events, marketing and delivery planning in the many months preparation leading up to the festival.</p> <p>Having done around 10 years of HTLGI festivals in Hay we have records of our spending in all of these areas together with our budget and forecast final spending for 2024. We also have a good grasp of how much of this spending is with local parties. Note, for example, a significant proportion of Globe Team (all of which are of course local to Hay) time is also spent on the preparation and delivery of the festival.</p>
	Goods & services purchased from at least 30 businesses and 50 accommodation providers in the immediate area as a result of expenditure by the festival team and festival goers	520,000	520,000	0	0	<p>The 520k is a rounded down conservative figure which includes:</p> <p>a) our expenditure on accommodation and local travel at each festival (informed by our actual spending in previous years and the budget for this year) for everyone taking part in the build, delivery and take down of the festival (this itself is c100k) plus what festival goers spend on accommodation and local travel. Together this would easily get to beyond 155k.</p> <p>b) conservative assumption of what festival goers spend at the many local shops during the stay in Hay for HowTheLightGetsIn - we based it on 2500 festival goers each with total local expenditure of £150 for the festival period (so 375k in total).</p> <p>Note - (a) and (b) come to more than 530k but we rounded this down to 520k.</p>
	% Split		70%	30%		
INDIRECT	Supply of £1,270,000 of goods & services from Direct Impact leads to Indirect Impact where those suppliers in turn make required purchases from businesses and individuals, estimated at £410,000	410,000	215,727	194,273	0	<p>Providing all the items included under Direct Impact in many cases requires those businesses and individuals to purchase items from other businesses and individuals. For example many suppliers of infrastructure/equipment/other items noted above will have team costs that come specifically from team members (typically local freelancers) brought in for provision of their services at HTLGI. This would be the case for the freelancers employed by providers of tech, tents, and IT/wifi, as well as several other areas. Similarly there will be purchases of underlying of kit/materials by these suppliers of the Direct impact items and much of this will be with local building and hardware stores.</p> <p>We conservatively estimate that of the 1.29m of Direct Impact items around 1/3 of it is taken up by these sorts of "input" expenditures made by the suppliers themselves, which we've rounded down to 410k.</p> <p>To get a split of how much of the Indirect impact is local vs elsewhere we conservatively assumed that just the local element of the Direct impact would involve any indirect spending with local business and individuals, and in that case 75% of that spending would be local.</p>
	% Split		53%	47%		
INDUCED	As a result of the Direct and Indirect impacts, there are more than 500 people significantly impacted financially by the festival. Each of these increases their expenditure as a result, and the impact of their resulting spending on the local economy during any one year is estimated to be in excess of £1m as well as contributing further to local employment.	1,000,000	750,000	250,000	0	<p>The 1.7m of Direct and Indirect Impact items result in additional income for many individuals, both the business owners themselves and the individuals that work for them (and we estimate this to be in excess of 500 people). We conservatively estimate that 60% of the 1.7m is spent by these individuals implying the Induced impact of the 1.7m is more than 1m.</p>
	% Split		75%	25%		
	TOTAL	2,700,000	1,870,727	829,273		

How The Light Gets In Festival

APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF PREMISES LICENCE

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

MH6 – Letters of support

19/04/24
jackbiggs10@gmail.com

Hi Mandy,

Hope this email reaches you. I am just writing to let you know that I have only experienced positive things from how the light gets in and look forward to this year's festival.

I have lived at number 20 Bookers Edge (Newport Street) for over 5 years and have never experienced any issues with noise or problematic behaviour. I Personally think the festival benefits the whole of Cusop and brings money into the area. Although that does bring extra traffic It is no different from when Hay Festival is on.

Anyway best of luck for this year's festival!

Thanks,
Jack Biggs

17/04/24

finbranson475@gmail.com

To whom it might concern,

I am aware of the current license application for HowTheLightGetsIn Festival and as a resident of Bookers Edge (number 5) I live in very close proximity to the site (directly opposite the Co Op Entrance). I have never experienced any levels of anti social behaviour at all during the festival also.

I would like to state that I very much look forward to the event each year and I have not been disturbed by any noise from it over previous years. I am not aware of any road safety issues relating to the festival either, despite the increase in road traffic.

Myself and all my local family members and friends all agree that the festival is an enormous asset to the town and we look forward to it each year.

I hope this is helpful.

Your sincerely Finley Branson

17/04/24

deb@francisedwards.co.uk

Dear Mandy

I am emailing you once again to offer you the full support of the Hay Cinema bookshop for the upcoming How The Light Gets in Festival 2024.

The Hay Cinema Bookshop is the largest of the Bookshops in Hay on Wye, and arguably the best. We have been located at the Old Cinema since the 1960s. We remain 100% supportive of HTLGI.

Whilst the mainstream Hay Festival is of course of great value to the town it is a decent one mile hike and it remains true that the clientele are actively encouraged to remain on site all day obviously to the detriment of the local businesses. HTLGI has fortunately filled that breach, actively promoting Hay on Wye as a venue and, being significantly closer to Hay on Wye remains very much a part of the town.

The local businesses make much of their profit during festival week, but obviously that will only continue if the clientele actually venture into Hay. We are of course very lucky to have two such interesting and diverse festivals, both of which receive significant attention worldwide.

Where else in our beautiful border country would you be lucky enough to listen to the Orb and (Former) Archbishop Rowan Williams next to the beautiful river Wye, whilst enjoying a delicious meal and sipping a glass of prosecco Should I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kindest regards

Deb Clark

Retail Director

Hay Cinema Bookshop

Hay Cinema Bookshop
Castle Street
Hay on Wye
via Hereford
HR3 5DF

01497 820071

sales@francisedwards.co.uk

www.francisedwards.co.uk

'Francis Edwards' is part of Hay Cinema Bookshop Ltd.

Registered in England No. 2335573 at the Hay Cinema Bookshop, Castle Street, Hay on Wye, via Hereford, HR3 5DF

19/04/24

paultrees@btinternet.com

Good morning,

I live at Rivers Edge, Newport Street, Hay on Wye, HR3 5BA, and am literally moments from the Festival Site. I just wanted to say that I have never experienced any nuisance or disruption from the Festival happening, whether in the form of noise, anti social behaviour or any other form of annoyance.

In fact, I believe the Festival contributes to the rich cultural diversity of our town, and brings a much welcome economic boost by attracting extra visitors.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Trees

20/04/24

thehayrunner@gmail.com

I'm writing this to support the festival. As a resident of Millbank we live in close proximity to the festival.

We have no disruption to our lives during the few days it's on. In fact we feel our selves lucky to have such an amazing programme on the door step.

When Hay Festival took up its regular site off Brecon Road, shops and businesses on our side of town suffered.

HTLGI pulls visitors into town ensuring good trade for all. Our lovely town only survives because of visitors.

The organisers go out of their way to make HTLGI assessable to locals, giving affordable discounts on local tickets.

Of course we hear the music, but for 3 days we embrace it and take part.

Yours sincerely

Jo Lord

20/04/24

sue@hayretreats.com

Dear Mandy

Thank you for the email you circulated to me and other residents some weeks back. I apologise for not replying sooner.

I am happy to say that I have no concerns to discuss with you, and wanted to write to reassure you on that score. As I think you know, I have a small holiday accommodation business that I run out of the two houses in Mill Bank immediately adjacent to where I live at no 24. Not only have I never received any complaints about noise or antisocial behaviour from any of my guests historically over the period that HTLGI and the main Festival have run, but I have never experienced any issues personally. This is very important to my business, as you might imagine.

I do spend quite a bit of time on site over the weekend that HTLGI runs. I have always been impressed by the friendly atmosphere between everyone. Generally people seem to be in good spirits and it has always felt very relaxed. I am usually there with my son Callum, who suffered a traumatic brain injury seven years ago, and I would not want to spend time there with him if I felt anything might trigger or upset him. Even walking down and back from the site can take ages, in a good way, as everyone wants to stop and chat.

I do understand that residents who have recently moved into the estate opposite the Coop may be affected more than me, and hope that should they have any concerns, that they have been in contact with you directly, as I have always felt you have been extremely approachable and always in problem solving mode. In my opinion, it would be unconstructive if they took their issues to Hay Town Council instead, without giving you the opportunity to resolve things.

I remember the days when HTLGI used to operate out of the Globe, almost directly opposite my house. Of course there was music into the evening. But I always took the view that it was only for one long weekend in the year, and that all those attending would also be bringing their business and money into the town. This injection into the local economy is more needed than ever, to tide over small businesses through the rest

of the year. And since the main Festival migrated to the far edge of town, fewer visitors from that end make it into the town centre.

I think it is a wonderfully stimulating and enjoyable weekend, which complements the main Festival. I have noticed how you make great efforts to include everyone, so that the event can be as enjoyable for locals as for those visiting.

I wish you every success this year and in the years to come.

Kind regards

Sue

Sue Campbell

Hay Retreats

20/04/24
mel@poetrybookshop.co.uk
Melanie Prince
The Poetry Bookshop
The Pavement
Lion Street
Hay-on-Wye
HR3 5BU

To whom it may concern.

I am writing to register my support for the How the Light Gets in Festival, not only as a business owner in the town but also as a resident of 25 years.

Hay is a vibrant independent town, but it most definitely has a short tourist season due to most of its attractions becoming increasingly more difficult to enjoy in the colder months of the year. As such we find ourselves with a short period of time in which to make a living so, I believe any initiatives that increase the number of visitors to the town such as this festival should be very much encouraged.

The high quality of the performers and world class writers & thinkers that this festival brings to this area, not only attracts large volumes of likeminded cultured visitors. It also improves the town's reputation and offers opportunities for residents to experience diverse cultures and viewpoints something our small town could achieve on its own.

Unlike, other nearby festivals it offers extremely generous discounts which allow locals and students an opportunity to experience this high calibre of artists and performers at an affordable price all on their doorstep. The festival's commitment to offering local businesses opportunities to trade & collaborate with the event is another example of the festival's commitment to supporting the local community.

The type of bookish cultured visitor it attracts is not commonly associated with anti-social behaviour and I have never observed or experienced any problems with vandalism or crime during this festival. I also think that the average age of visitor being much lower than the more established Hay Festival is to be commended and promoted, and very important if the town is to sustain a tourist economy in the future and should be encouraged.

If there is any disruption to our daily lives, I would argue that it is so short lived and completely outweighed by the value of the festival experiences on offer. I am proud to be a vocal supporter of this festival and its sister organisation The Globe, that does so much ALL year round to cater for and support the community of Hay.

Best regards,

Melanie Prince

Co-owner: The Poetry Bookshop

Trustee: Hay2Timbuktu

21/04/24
david.cerami@gmail.com

Mandy,

We wanted to write with regard to our full support of the How the Light Gets In Festival. We have lived just 100m from The Globe and 400m from the festival itself and have never had any issues with sound or disturbances. We would be extremely sad to see the festival get restricted for any reason as we believe strongly in its value in the community. We hope the council hears our perspective and look forward to a wonderful festival!

Cheers,

David

David Cerami

[+1 917.952.5202](tel:+19179525202)

david.cerami@gmail.com

20/04/24

bernieandlindacrook@hotmail.co.uk

12 Millbank
Broad Street,
Hay-on-Wye
Hereford
HR3 5DH

Mandy Houghton
The Globe
Newport Street
Hay-on-Wye
Hereford
HR3 5BG
20 April 2024

Dear Mandy

I am writing to express my support for the forthcoming How the Light Gets In Festival. I have lived at the above address, which as you know is very close to the Festival site, since 2016 and have always found the event to be extremely well organised. I have never been affected by noise or been aware of any issues with public disorder or nuisance behaviour connected with this event. My opinion is that the HTLGI Festival brings valuable visitors and revenue to our Town and I am very happy to give it my ongoing support.

Kind regards

Bernard Crook.

20/04/24
lindacrookatmillbank@gmail.com

12 Millbank
Broad Street,
Hay-on-Wye
Hereford
HR3 5DH

Mandy Houghton
The Globe
Newport Street
Hay-on-Wye
Hereford
HR3 5BG
20 April 2024

Dear Mandy

I am writing to express my support for the forthcoming How the Light Gets In Festival. I have lived at the above address, which as you know is very close to the Festival site, since 2016 and have always found the event to be extremely well organised. I have never been affected by noise or been aware of any issues with public disorder or nuisance behaviour connected with this event. My opinion is that the HTLGI Festival brings valuable visitors and revenue to our Town and I am very happy to give it my ongoing support.

Kind regards

Linda Crook.

19/04/24

gillathay@icloud.com

Dear Mandy,

This email is to express my support for the How the Light gets in festival. I have lived opposite the Globe for more than ten years and having had a career in the arts I am very pleased to live near and endorse our local arts centre.

This annual festival is important to the town particularly in that it provides a weekend event that caters for young people and has an interesting music focus. Since the festival has moved to the site on the field near the Co-op there is very little noise pollution from either events or festival goers and it seems well organised. This festival also offers local caterers the opportunity to sell food onsite at a reasonable fee which is positive to the local economy.

Hay is a town that relies on its festivals and its bookshops to remain a successful tourist destination and therefore have a healthy economy. Both festivals contribute to this and How the Light Gets in is important in that it is bringing in a younger generation. Many of the festival goers camp near the site and we are never disturbed by any late night rowdiness.

The town does feel very busy during festival time but for most of the population it brings excitement and some very good talks and music to our doorsteps.

Long may it last.

Yours sincerely

Gill

Gill Lloyd
Riverside
Newport Street
Hay on Wye
HR3 5BG

20/04/24

jcanoes@icloud.com

I went to this festival for the first time in 2023 having never attended before although I have lived in the area for nearly 50 years.

It was beautifully set up, with a lot of locals being given work here and I was so impressed with the smooth running of the Festival and attitude of the staff on duty. They were so helpful and polite. It was clean and well managed.

I live close to the site and can occasionally hear some music but it does not go on late and I have never been troubled by it in any way.

In fact quite the opposite. I believe strongly that these Festivals are a huge asset to the town and to the people who are given opportunities both to work in them and to be a part of such an inspiring and educational event. It can shape the futures of young people and I applaud the organisers for their hard work and attention to detail.

I had the most memorable few days there, as did my children and my grandchildren.

Jane Hughes
21 Millbank,
Broad Street.
HR35DH

19/04/24

ruthiegilbert5@gmail.com

We are writing this in support of the festival, How the Light Gets In.

I live with my husband Andrew and two young children. We live directly opposite the festival entrance at 3 Bookers Edge and attend the festival every year.

The festival is welcomed to the town, its tourism brings much-needed trade to our local shops and restaurants.

We are from a local farming family, which is on Nantyglassdwr Lane just up the road from the festival. Our family is in support of the festival and all the campsites.

The festival noise levels do not disturb us in any way, it is monitored by the festival and doesn't interrupt our sleep or everyday activities with the children. We appreciate the festival shuts off the music at an appropriate time in the evening.

We also haven't experienced any antisocial behavior outside our home during the festival, I feel confident if this were to happen it would be dealt with quickly by the festival security.

There are always people walking to town from the festival, but we have always been treated with respect by visitors at the festival, it can be busy at times but with the staff welcoming and directing the visitors it has no impact on us as residents living at Bookers Edge.

Looking forward to visiting the site again this year

Kind regards

Ruthie and Andrew Gilbert

How The Light Gets In Festival

APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF PREMISES LICENCE

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

MH7 - Event Safety Management Plan

HowTheLightGetsIn

FESTIVALS

EVENT SAFETY MANAGEMENT PLAN 24th – 27th May- 2024

Version	Date	Reason
1.	12/02/2023	Initial Issue
2.	22/03/2024	Updated emergency exit routes
2.1	27/03/2024	Security provider updated
2.2	23/04/2024	Update to site plan and Lost Child Procedure

How The Light Gets In- Event Safety Management Plan

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DRAFT

How The Light Gets In- Event Safety Management Plan

1. Overview of event

The Institute of Art and Ideas is an arts organisation founded in 2008 in London. Its programming includes the world's largest philosophy and music festival, *HowTheLightGetsIn* and the online channel IAI TV, where talks and debates can be accessed for free, under the slogan "Philosophy for our times."

We will be running this event as part of the ongoing schedule of our existing philosophy festival, *HowTheLightGetsIn* (HTLGI). HTLGI started over 10 years ago and has since become the world's largest philosophy and music festival (howthelightgetsin.iai.tv). Across the team we have decades of experience in festival management and alcohol is provided by an organization within our group that has enjoyed many decades of responsible alcohol sale through a number of very popular venues in Bristol. (<https://qrter.com/>). All of our staff undergo comprehensive training in health and safety, crowd management and venue management in advance of the event.

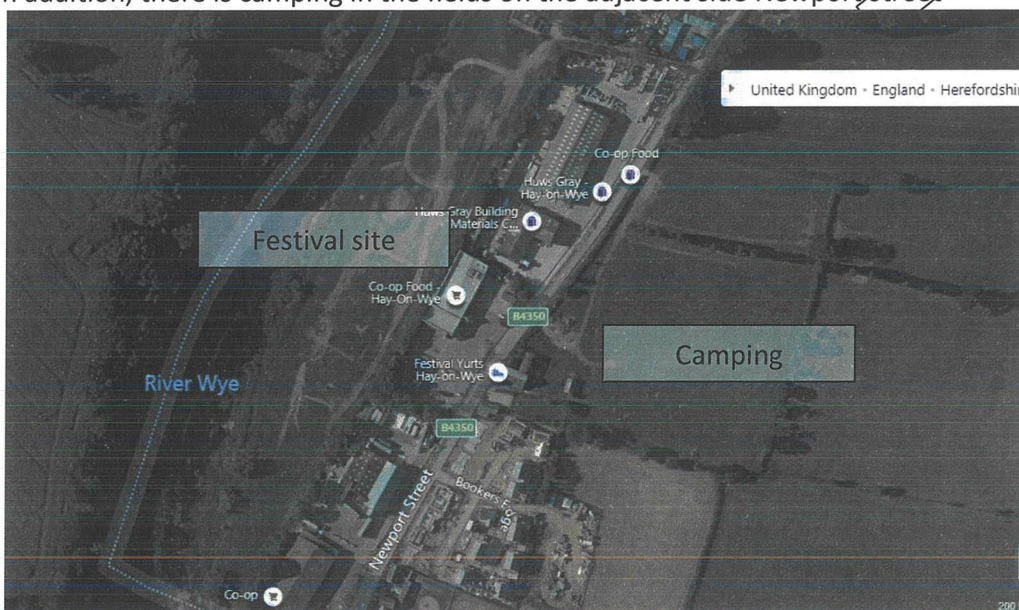
The festival will be running from Friday 24th May to Monday 27th May inclusive. The site will be open daily to the public from 12.00pm to 01.30am Friday, 8.30am until 1.30am on Saturday and Sunday, with an early closure of 5:00pm on Monday.

Our event features world-leading thinkers on philosophy, art, science and every subject in between, engaging in talks and debates on the topics that bring these issues to the forefront of public discussion. We have been described by the Total Politics as "Europe's answer to TED" and in a Guardian editorial as "bringing Britain back to big thinking."

Alongside our primary output of talks and debates, we create our unique festival atmosphere of collectively and understanding by integrating live music along with our events. Our venues are enclosed tents, provided by suppliers we have known and relied on for excellent service for the past ten years.

The live events take place at the fields on the Riverside, located behind Coop and the industrial units for which Dwr Cymru Welsh Water have given their permission for access routes.

In addition, there is camping in the fields on the adjacent side Newport street



How The Light Gets In- Event Safety Management Plan

1.1. Legal Duties

It is the Event Management's policy to provide and maintain safe and healthy working conditions, equipment and systems of work for all employees, volunteers, contractors, subcontractors and others involved. Supervision and information will be available and while every effort will be made by the management team to ensure that the all areas of the event are safe, all personnel should be aware that they have a duty to take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and of others who may be affected by their acts or omissions.

A record of risk assessment carried out for this event is attached at the end of this document.

1.2. Aim of Event Management Safety Plan

The plan outlines the site arrangements, emergency procedures and general control measures of all the major parties involved in this event.

The plan has been compiled acknowledging the managing health and safety at work regulations 1999 and the guidance contained in the purple guide to health, safety and welfare and music and other events (Referred to as The purple guide)

The aim of the plan is to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety of all persons on site (including guests, performers and working personnel) and to enhance the visitor experience whilst promoting a safe and co-ordinated response from all agencies in the event of an emergency arising at the event.

Objective

There are several objectives of this plan to include:

- To communicate the organisational arrangements for the event to relevant parties
- To identify the roles, duties and responsibilities for each organisation.
- To identify clear lines of command and control
- To allow a co-ordinated and effective response to unscheduled occurrences

In order to determine the requirements needed for the event, such as stages, tents, toilets, first aid, concessions, exits, entrances, hospitality, sight lines, power, water, fencing etc., we will ensure that we have considered the following factors in accordance with the Event Purple Guide.

- Proposed occupant capacity
- Event and Artist profile
- Audience profile
- Duration and timing of the event
- Venue evaluation
- Alcohol sales
- Whether the audience is seated, standing or a mixture of both
- The movement of the audience around the site between activities and facilities
- Artistic nature of the event

How The Light Gets In- Event Safety Management Plan

1.3. Construction and Design Management Regulations 2015

The build-up, load in, load out and breakdown phases all feature construction related activity and therefore fall under the CDM regulations. Notification: As the onsite activities do not exceed 30 days and the construction activities do not exceed 500-person days it is not notifiable to the HSE under regulation 6 of CDM 2015

Contractors will take primary responsibility for the safe working procedures for activities under their control and will ensure that their staff are briefed accordingly including on the findings of their own risk assessments and any site-specific requirements including the site safety rules. The erection and construction of the structures will be monitored by the Event Management who will ensure that contractors and personnel follow safe working practices and erect the temporary structures as detailed in the specification. The contractors will also be required to demonstrate how by means of barriers/stewarding/etc. the public will be protected from the construction activity. In all sites, the public are excluded during the CDM phases to ensure safety and separation.

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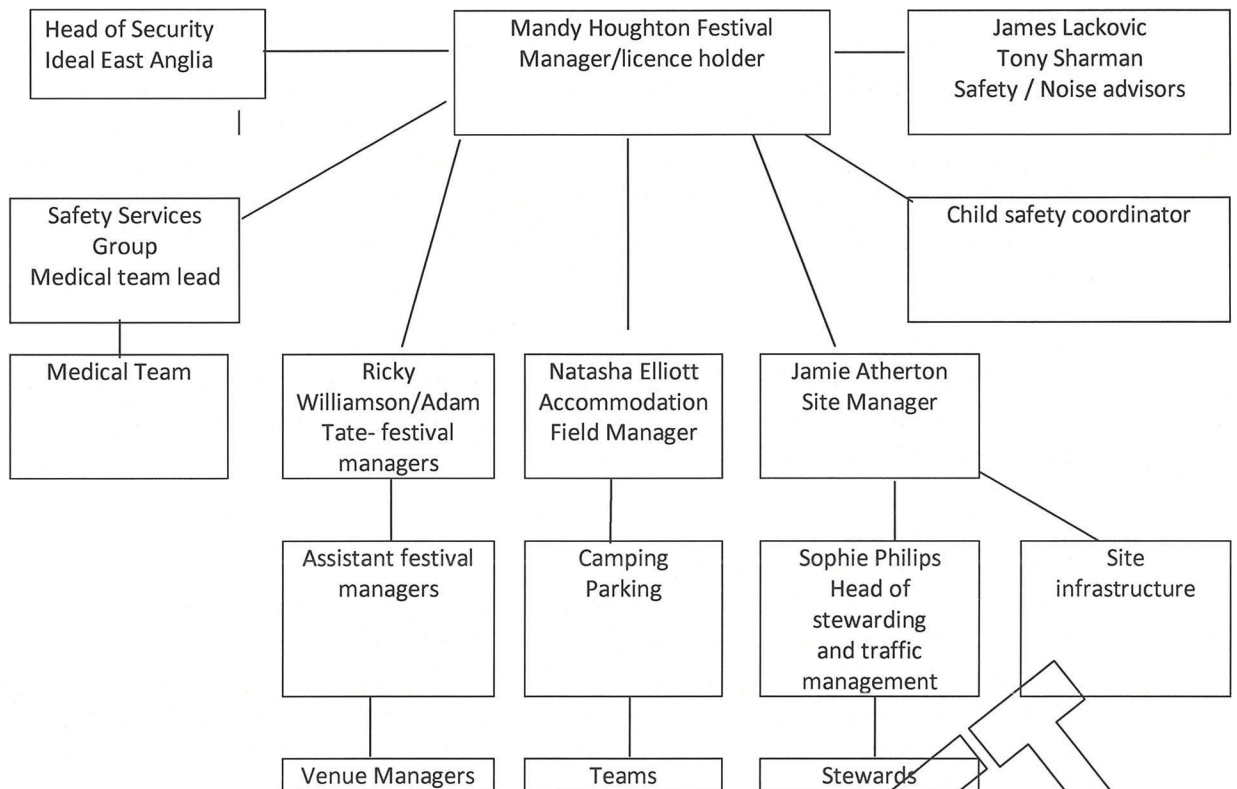
How The Light Gets In- Event Safety Management Plan

2. Planning and management

2.1. Event management structure

The event is operated by the Institute of Arts and Ideas (iai.tv) who have extensive experience in festival management. The event will be attended on Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday by a designated safety officer with the role fulfilled by: James Lackovic

2.2. Event Safety Roles and responsibilities



Festival Manager

The duty festival manager is on site at all times when the festival site is open to the public. The FM is responsible for making sure that the festival runs smoothly, that events run on time, that we respond to all problems calmly, swiftly and effectively. To help them do this the Festival Manager calls the running order through handheld radios. The FM is based in the site production office. The FM is also responsible for ensuring in incidents of emergency that the emergency services are called.

Event Safety Officer

The event safety officer is a contracted outside specialist who is responsible for health and safety on site and is present throughout the festival and during the Thursday build to offer advice guidance and support to the festival manager. They will be supported by a second team

How The Light Gets In- Event Safety Management Plan

member from 19.00 hours on Friday, Saturday and Sunday to enable dedicated noise monitoring.

Assistant Festival Manager

There are always 2 AFMs on the festival site at all times. The FM is supported by two assistant managers who are available to visit any point on the site to address issues raised by venue managers or their teams and report back to the festival manager. They are also based in the production office with the FM. However, the role of the AFMs are to ensure that any issues are resolved quickly and efficiently which means they often leave the production office. If an AFM is on the festival site they have the authority of the FM.

Site production manager

The Site Manager is responsible for the co-ordination and safety of the site team. They will ensure that the build and take down is completed safely. They will also ensure that all members of the site team are trained in health and safety and safe workplace procedures. They will also ensure that the site team is able to effectively address any site issues that occur during the festival in co-ordination with the Festival Manager. They are also responsible for ensuring the safety of all temporary structures and keeping records of supplier health and safety documentation.

Security Lead-

The Security Lead is responsible for the co-ordination and management of all SIA trained security on site. We have worked closely with security for many years and have not had any significant issues with safety on site.

Head of Stewards. Traffic management

The Head of Stewards is responsible for ensuring the training of all stewards and for managing and ensuring all stewards are at any given point doing their duties.

The head of stewards is also responsible for traffic management on the highway, ensuring all traffic signage remains in place for the duration of the event and during the build and takedown. Also, the implementing the delivery schedule to ensure there is no avoidable build-up of traffic on the highway.

Venue Managers

Each of our venues is overseen by a trained venue manager who is supported by a team of festival stewards. The number of stewards varies according to the capacity. Before each event every venue manager will report the venue capacity back to the festival manager for crowd control purposes. They will also report any event feedback or issues back to the production office.

Our venue managers are also responsible for the safety and supervision of all third parties who are contracted to perform within their venue. They will ensure the safety and supervision of all performers and artists. All venue managers and security staff are aware of individual venue capacities and the number of attendees on site at all times using a combination of our online ticketing matrix, our radio systems of communication between management and staff, our door

How The Light Gets In- Event Safety Management Plan

control policy, and our clicker system. In all venues with seating, venue managers are trained on seating arrangements which facilitate easy escape in instances of fire

Accommodation and Parking Manager

The accommodation and parking manager is responsible for the safe running of the camping, glamping and parking field including but not limited to staffing, organisation, health and safety documentation and supervision and security.

Bars Manager

The Bar Managers are responsible for any venue serving alcohol. They will ensure that all staff adheres to the challenge 25 policy and that alcohol is served responsibly. We ensure that there are at least 2 personal license holders on site at all times.

Any local authority representatives, or SAG members that are on site are welcome to meet with any of the above during the event days.

The FM, AFMs will have a daily festival meeting prior to site opening to run through any issues raised and will be in constant radio contact throughout the day to monitor the event activities.

In the event of an emergency all the above will convene at event control. All of the above will be on the radio communications grid.

2.3. Event control centre

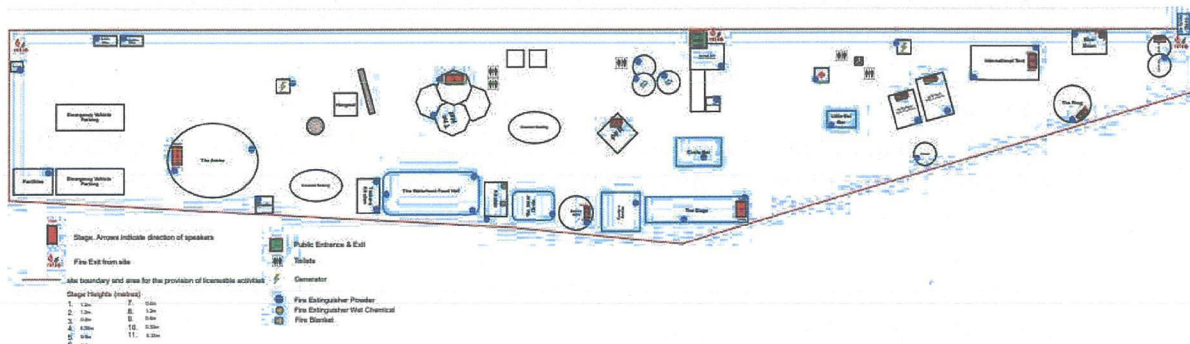
A dedicated event control composed of the Festival Managers, head of security and safety advisor will be set up.

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How The Light Gets In- Event Safety Management Plan

3. Venue and site design

3.1. Site plan



3.2. Access and egress

Access for pedestrians will be via a dedicated pedestrian route through the co-operative store land, with their consent. This will be separated from vehicles. Due to the height differences in the terrain, pedestrian steps will be constructed at the entrance Riverside field. The plan is provided in the appendices.

Lighting will be provided along the pedestrian entrance and steps to ensure suitable visibility after dusk.

Stewards will be present at the top of the entrance steps and the coop car park after midnight to encourage guests to leave quietly and respect the local neighbours.

As the event map shows, camping sites are across the road from the event site, which means those leaving the event to the camping do not need walk south along Newport Street and thus do not pass residential areas,

3.3. Licences

Premises licence is in operation for this event.

The Premises Licence Holder or a nominated deputy (in writing) must be on these licensed premises and available to the Responsible Authorities and the Licensing Authority at all times when Licensable activities are taking place.

Details of the Premises Licence Holder or his deputy who is on duty when licensable activities are undertaken shall be recorded, on these premises, at the time. These records shall be made available to the Licensing Authority or a Responsible Authority on demand. Such record shall be

How The Light Gets In- Event Safety Management Plan

kept for a period of 12 months after the end of licensable activities. This information post event must be provided to the Licensing Authority or a Responsible Authority within 24 hours of the request.

The name and contact details of the Premises Licence Holder's deputy(s) will be provided to the Safety Advisory Group in writing no later than 7 days prior to the first date of the festival. At all times there shall be one personal licence holder on these premises for each 2 bars which are open for the sale and supply of alcohol.

A schedule will be provided of details of the personal licence holder who is on duty and their areas of responsibilities when licensable activities are undertaken on these premises at that time. This will be made available to the Licensing Authority and or other responsible authority during the period of the event on demand. Such record shall be kept for a period of 12 months after the end of licensable activities. This information must be provided to the Licensing Authority or a Responsible Authority within 24 hours of the request.

The names and contact details of the personal licence holders will be provided to the Safety Advisory Group no later than 7 days prior to the first day of the festival.

3.4. Site safety rules

- No vehicle movements on public days within the fenced off arena area from 30 minutes before opening until 15 minutes after last member of the public has left.
- Do not leave your keys in an unattended vehicle.
- 5 mph speed limit at all times
- Fire extinguishers and electrical control boxes must not be blocked in.

Vehicles must use the provided turning area on the event site before leaving so that all vehicle movements onto the main road are forward. Vehicles must not reverse onto public roads. Vehicles may only be moved in the "back of house " area during opening hours. There should be no movements on the public site during opening hours

3.5. Audience profile and capacity

The event features world-leading thinkers on philosophy, art, science and a range of other subjects engaging in talks and debates. Based on data from previous events, the audience profile is estimated to be:

57% female, 43% male

28% under 30

38% from education and arts/media backgrounds

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How The Light Gets In- Event Safety Management Plan

The Riverside offers an area of over 17,600 square metres. Allowing for structures, infrastructure, roadways, stalls, fairground etc this leaves an area of over 10,000 square metres. At 0.5 square meters per person capacity, this offers space for 20,000 people and therefore there is ample capacity for the proposed maximum attendance of 3000 however for premises licence banding purpose the maximum capacity will be 4999.

It is also noted that due to the range of location of the campsite there will be a flow across the sites at varying times of the day. It is known from previous events that no more than 75% of ticket holders are on the event site at any time (as the remainder are at campsite etc). This means that there would be expected to be no more than 2250 on the licensed event site at any one time.

Our experienced team use a ticketing matrix to allow us to make informed predictions on attendance. Each venue will be staffed by stewards whose sole role is to monitor numbers. And ensure no further access will be permitted once individual structure capacity is reached.

The event site will be completely fenced off and entrance to the main site controlled by SIA staff and stewards. Wristbands will be in use and checked on entry and refusal made to anyone without appropriate accreditation

3.6. Duration

The event is composed of a mixture of debate, discussion, seminars, live music and comedy. A programme is provided in the appendices. Due to the event and attendance profile each of the above elements has equal status such that the event is not live music focussed.

Planned opening times for all activities at Riverside are:

Friday	12.00-01.00
Saturday	08.30-01.00
Sunday	08.30-01.00
Monday	08:30-17.00

3.7. Sanitary facilities

There will be multiple temporary toilets positioned at various locations throughout the site. These will be provided by an approved contractor. Toilets will be cleaned and restocked on a regular basis according to usage and a schedule agreed with the contractor for this. It is noted on the attached site plan that toilets are located by the perimeter fence to allow the cleaning vehicle to use the provided temporary roadway without hindrance for access.

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A Sanitation Management Strategy will be provided to the satisfaction of Herefordshire Council's Environmental and Trading Standards Service at least 60 days prior to commencement of the event. Once agreed, the strategy will be implemented throughout the event.

A Water Management Strategy for the provision of drinking water will be provided to the satisfaction of Herefordshire Council's Environmental and Trading Standards Service at least 60 days prior to commencement of the event. Once agreed, the strategy will be followed throughout the event. No significant changes will be made without consultation with Herefordshire Council.

3.8. Waste management

The festival has a 'leave no trace' policy on site and there will be bins around the site which will be emptied on a regular basis. There will be litter pickers operating throughout the site. Recycling and Waste will be collated into separated larger containers and removed by the approved contractor who is licensed waste carrier.

There is a site crew who will monitor the site constantly and remove any rubbish from public area to the refuse collection point

A litter patrol will take place each morning in the area from Coop car park along Newport Road to junction by The Globe.

3.9. Electrical installations and lighting

All electrical installations will be provided by an approved contractor. This includes generators and lighting, which also includes lighting on the pedestrian access to Riverside.

Generators will be located out of public areas and fenced off to deter unauthorised access.

Onsite electrical installations will be handled by the approved contractor who will comply with the general requirements of the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989. Their work will be monitored by the Event Safety Manager who will also get their work signed off once it is complete including any specific user handover safety information.

Installation

All electrical equipment will be installed as far as is reasonably practical, so that the public or other unauthorised personnel cannot interfere it with. All equipment exposed to the weather will be suitably protected. All electrical installations will be fitted with Earth Leakage Circuit Breakers and Earth Spikes where needed.

Cabling

Wherever possible, cables will be routed or buried so they will not cause a tripping hazard or be crushed by vehicular traffic. Cables carrying hazardous voltages, will be protected against contact with sharp edges or crushing by heavy loads. Cables will be flown or buried to prevent injury to the public. Where this is not possible, suitable cable protectors will be used.

How The Light Gets In- Event Safety Management Plan

Venue Lighting

Due to the event continuing into the evening all significant parts of the event arena and surrounds will be sufficiently lit from portable generator lighting towers, flood lights or fluorescent lighting.

Emergency lighting will be on all main exit gates within the arena to assist persons in the unfortunate event of an emergency.

All exits within main structures will have emergency lighting.

A lighting test will be carried out on the Thursday evening to ensure that all the lighting is operational and sufficient for the event.

Break down lighting will be installed around the stage area to assist all contractors when the show concludes for de-rig.

Temporary electrical wiring and distribution systems shall be signed off by a competent person prior to any licensable activity taking place at the premises. The competent person must be a member of a recognised electrical association such as NICEIC, NAPIT, ECA or other association as agreed by the licensing authority. The sign off certificates shall be kept on the site during the event and shall be produced for inspection on demand of an 'authorised person' (as defined by Section 13 of the Licensing Act 2003).

3.10. Barriers

Heras fencing and chestnut paling will be provided to enclose the whole riverside field site and willow hurdles will be used to separate front of house and back of house areas.

On the side where the ground adjoins the river, signage will be attached to the fencing to remind that there is no access or swimming. In addition, steward patrols are scheduled specifically for this area to monitor and ensure compliance.

Production and other backstage areas will be in their own separate area outside of the main arena fencing.

3.11. Facilities for people with disabilities

Accessible toilets are provided. Due to the public access being via steps, anyone requiring unstopped access will be directed in their vehicle via the access road to a designated separate parking area with a dedicated pedestrian access to the site.

How The Light Gets In- Event Safety Management Plan

The site is a temporary Greenfield site and as such access across it for people with mobility issues is not straightforward. We highlight this in our festival information.

3.12. Camping

There are 2 areas for camping on Newport Road:

- A maximum of 550 pitches are available for those bringing their own equipment. Temporary sanitary facilities will be provided along with onsite stewarding for the duration
- Yurt site. Temporary sanitary facilities will be provided along with onsite stewarding for the duration

3.13. Temporary Structures

The structural integrity of the marquees will be the responsibility of the supplier/owner. Their work will be monitored by the Safety advisor. Temporary structure certification must be provided by the contractor.

The Premises Licence Holder will ensure that all temporary structures have been inspected and signed off as being safe prior to the commencement of their use. A copy of each safety sign off certificate shall be kept on the site during the event and shall be produced for inspection on demand of an 'authorised person' (as defined by Section 13 of the Licensing Act 2003). In this condition the term temporary means any structure which could cause injury to someone if it collapsed.

Once erected, the structures will be monitored by the Festival Managers and general stewarding staff. Safe access and egress will be maintained from all marquee exit routes.

Wherever possible, pedestrian routes will be sited away from marquees to avoid any tripping hazards such as pegs and stakes though frame marquees are being used so the risk should be minimal. In an instance where large numbers of people are expected to pass by, any stakes will be suitably covered. All contractors will be required to sign a handover certificate once their work/service is installed to confirm that both parties are satisfied and to provide any safety data required such as wind speed safe loading.

Emergency and fire considerations

Each marquee will contain fire extinguishers and have designated fire exits. All membranes and fabrics used shall be flame retardant and free of flaming molten droplet characteristics.

There will be a minimum of 2 fire exits available at each structure however other side panels of these can be opened quickly if needed allowing further immediate exit. Capacity of each structure is shown below. Capacity will be monitored by stewards with counters at each venue. Most venues are seated and capacity is restricted by this.

How The Light Gets In- Event Safety Management Plan

Exits will be spread around the structure to avoid exits being close to one another or discharging into the same location. Structures and exits are shown in the fire safety section/

Stages

All staging will be provided by a reputable company with past experience of this event, and many others, and will have provided risk assessment documents for their activities on site.

The structural integrity of the staging will be the responsibility of the supplier/ owner. Their work will be monitored by the Event Safety Manager who will also get their work signed off once it is complete including wind speed loading and restraint methods. Once erected the structures will be monitored by the Festival Managers.

3.14. Staff welfare

All IAI/HTLGI staff will be rotated throughout the day to ensure they have sufficient rest breaks in line with the working time directive. During the day all staff will have access to refreshments and staff locker room.

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How The Light Gets In- Event Safety Management Plan

4. Food and drink

4.1. Food

Food will be provided on site through a range of vendors who will need to provide all relevant paperwork in advance of the event. This will include food safety ratings, HACCP plans and training records. Throughout the event the safety officer will monitoring the vendors and take any necessary action required to make the area safe which includes closing the vendor if deemed necessary.

All power for vendors will be supplied by the event eliminating the risk of unsafe use of portable generators.

4.2. Water

Water is available to buy from the various catering concessions and there is a potable water supply on the main event and campsites which comes from mains supply. Please see Sanitation and Water management plan for details.

4.3. Alcohol

Challenge 25 will operate throughout the site (ID – Pass card (proof of age standards scheme), Driving Licence or Passport) will be the only forms of identification used.

SIA registered security officers will be present at all times during events where licensable activity is taking place. No binge drink promotion will take place at the event. The licensee will ensure clear signage at all venues serving alcohol.

Any persons who appears to be drunk or aggressive will not be permitted into the event. No open alcohol containers will be allowed to leave the event. All bars will use plastic glasses, if a purchase is made which comes in a bottle it will be decanted into a plastic glass except if it was a purchase from an exhibitor to take home and must not be opened on site.

A written or electronic register of refusals will be kept including a description of the people who have been unable to provide required identification to prove their age. Such records shall be kept for a period of 12 months. It will be collected and reviewed on a daily basis by the Designated Premises Supervisor and produced to the police or an 'authorised person' (as defined by Section 13 of the Licensing Act 2003) or an authorised Trading Standards Officer of Herefordshire Council on demand.

All staff engaged in the sale of alcohol will be trained according to the guidelines set out in BIIAB level 1 Manual. No person shall be authorised to sell or supply alcohol until this training is completed. Training records shall be kept on the premises and produced to the police or an 'authorised person' (as defined by Section 13 of the Licensing Act 2003) or an authorised Trading Standards Officer of Herefordshire Council on demand.

How The Light Gets In- Event Safety Management Plan

An incident log must be kept at the premises, and made immediately available on request to an 'authorised person' (as defined by Section 13 of the Licensing Act 2003) or the Police, which

must record the following: (a) all crimes reported to the venue, (b) all ejections of patrons, (c) any complaints received, (d) any incidents of disorder, (e) seizures of drugs or offensive weapons, (f) any refusal of the sale of alcohol, (g) any visit by a relevant authority or emergency service

A First Aid Kit capable of treating for 21-50 people shall be kept fully stocked at the premises and kept behind the bar. Such kit shall contain: 1 x Guidance Leaflet, 60 x Washproof Plasters, 6 x Eye Pads with Bandage, , 8 x Triangular Bandages, 12 x Safety Pins, 16 x Assorted Sterile Dressings, 20 Moist Wipes, 3 Pairs Disposable Gloves

No adult entertainment or services or activities will take place at the premises

There will be a personal licence holder present at all times to ensure compliance with the law in relation to the consumption of alcohol by persons under 18 years of age, including prevention of adults buying alcohol for children.

No unaccompanied children will be allowed in any bar

5. Special effects, fireworks and pyrotechnics

In the event that there is a plan for the installation and use of laser beams, pyrotechnics or real flames, explosive or highly flammable or smoke/foam producing agent, for any purpose, they shall not be permitted without prior notification to the Licensing Authority. A detailed description of the method of use, shall be made to the Licensing Authority not less than 14 days prior to the day on which the above equipment is to be used.

Paper lanterns will not be sold on site and will be listed within the ticketing terms and conditions as items that may not be brought to the venue.

6. Amusements, attractions and promotional displays

Fairground rides will be provided by a professional specialist. ADIP certification will be provided in advance of the event.

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How The Light Gets In- Event Safety Management Plan

7. Communication

7.1. Event staff communication

Communication is essential for site control and the prevention of crime. Each member of key staff and venue managers has a radio and can communicate at any point across the site and direction to the production office. We carry out thorough training of staff to ensure effective use of the radios

Call signs will not be used and people will be referred to by name or organisation whichever is the most appropriate to ensure clarity. Staff will be asked to state their own name clearly before that of the person they are wishing to contact. Any member of staff that is unfamiliar with the workings of a two-way radio will be briefed. Additional radios will be available to other emergency services should they wish to attend the event at any time

7.2. Radio procedure

Radio channels:

Channel 1 - Site Team

Channel 2 – Main Channel

Channel 3 – Tech Team

Channel 4 – Film Team

Channel 5 & 6 – Conversations

Channel 8 – Security

Channel 9 - Medical

The art of good communication is clear and concise information being passed.

Phonetic Alphabet

Alpha	Bravo	Charlie	Delta	Echo	Foxtrot
Golf	Hotel	India	Juliet	Kilo	Lima
Mike	November	Oscar	Papa	Quebec	Romeo
Sierra	Tango	Uniform	Victor	Whiskey	X-Ray
Yankee	Zulu				

How The Light Gets In- Event Safety Management Plan

WANTING TO SAY	CORRECT TERM
Call another person	HELLO call sign 1 THIS IS Call sign 2
To answer a call	SEND / GO AHEAD
End of sentence	OVER
End of message	OUT
Where are you	LOC STAT
What are you up to	SIT REP
Understood	ROGER
If transmitting a long message, break it down into chunks with:	SO FAR?
Answer to above	ROGER
Helping relay messages in bad area to bridge comms.	(Person called), THIS IS (your name), RELAYING FROM HOTEL blah blah blah
Need time to answer up	WAIT-OUT/STAND -BY
Important info and can't get on net	PRIORITY MESSAGE
Need HELP now	URGENT ASSISTANCE

In the event of an accident or incident that needs reporting, it is helpful to follow an organised procedure of reporting. A practical format helps the person providing the information to include the necessary details, quickly and efficiently and in the correct order. It also helps the person receiving the information to anticipate and recognise items that helps them note the information so they can deal with it quickly.

The following procedure should be followed:

- Identification - name of caller, called parties
- Location- exact details of where the incident is
- Incident - precise details of what is involved

For second or further transmissions the following items are of particular importance

- Warnings details of hazards - (present or potential)
- Casualties- Any details known about injured or sick people
- Control Point - details of who to contact and where for more information from the scene
- Access -Any details about what might affect access to the scene or advise on the quickest route Other information- Any other relevant information

7.3. Incident codes

- Code Green – Medical situation
- Code Red – Fire on site
- Code Blue – Security matter
- Code Black – Dangerous or threatening person on site including potential terror alert

How The Light Gets In- Event Safety Management Plan

7.4. Communication with the public

All parts of the event will be covered by the PA system. Any gaps in the PA coverage will be addressed with stewards who will be provided with loudhailers. Pre-planned announcements are provided in the emergency plans for use in the event of incident.

If the event has to be cancelled shortly before the event we will use local radio and our social media streams and road signs to inform the public.

If the event has to be cancelled one or more days ahead:

- Signage will be placed to advise that the event is cancelled
- Social media channels will be used to advise of cancellation
- All ticket holders will be contacted to advise them not to attend and to offer a full refund. In addition, a manned customer care point will be provided at The Globe for the original event dates to deal with any in person enquiries.

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How The Light Gets In- Event Safety Management Plan

8. Crowd management

Stewards and SIA personnel will be in place to facilitate crowd management.

The nature of the event is that public access and depart the site at varying times over the opening hours. There is no “headline act” at the end of the licensed period and as such the public disperse over time, not all at once. It is recognised that the closing time for the site has the potential to put a number of public out onto the public footpaths. Therefore stewards will be deployed from 1 hour before event close each day at the co-operative car park to ensure noise levels are kept reasonable and direct people to the controlled road crossing and to use footpaths.

8.1. Security and stewarding

The rendezvous point for all security will be the area outside the production office.

The management reserves the right to search anybody entering the event.

A contractor will be appointed to carry out the security of the main event area and the nearby external areas (including car parks) to control access and to deal with any public order/safety issues. They will be supported by a team of volunteer stewards operating in shifts of 35 at any one time during licenced hours.

The security manager appointed by the contractor will liaise with the Head of Stewarding who is responsible for the effective Stewarding of the Event.

Security duties shall include: -

- Extraction of injured/distressed persons
- Ensuring security at the event;
- Carrying out fire patrols;
- Investigate immediately any disturbance or incident and to take such action as deemed necessary;

All Security and Stewarding Staff will be at least 18 years of age and shall be easily identifiable. Any staff carrying out security duties will be SIA Licensed and on the current register, as part of the requirements under the private security act 2001, all licensed staff will display their SIA badges whilst on duty.

A written schedule shall be provided at least 1 month prior to the start of the event, of the number and position of SIA Security personnel to be employed on site by hour of day, during the period the premises is licensed for licensable activities.

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A written schedule shall be provided at least 3 months to the start of the event, of the number and position of personnel to be employed as Stewards on site by hour of day during the period the premises is licensed for licensable activities. Such schedule must be agreed by the event operational commander of West Mercia Police at least 14 days prior to the first day of the festival.

The security contractor shall maintain a register of door supervisors at the event which shall be kept on the premises showing the names of the door supervisors and their badge numbers. The register shall be made available on demand for inspection by Police, Licensing Authority or an authorised officer of the Security Industries Authority. Should further details be required in the event of an investigation, then they can be requested by the investigating police officer through the security contractor who will hold this information as part of their vetting process in line with BS7858: 2019

No security staff or stewards are to consume or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs whilst working. They shall be fit to carry out the duties required of them.

Radios shall be used to maintain communications and all operators shall be competent in radio procedure. Any serious disturbance or any other emergency at the event area, which cannot be dealt with by the Stewards or Security, shall be reported at once to the Police via the Control Room.

All security SIA staff will wear a clearly identifiable uniform which includes orange high viz with logo and security written on it and their badge with their unique personal identification number. All stewards wear uniform bearing the wording steward. Stewards in key positions will also wear high viz with steward on it.

The number of stewards is dependent on the size of the event. Careful consideration to the quantity implemented at the event is given based on ticket presales and weather forecast. All stewards will wear identifiable uniform when on duty.

Stewards who are undertaking vehicle parking duties will have been trained in and use hand signals per Health and Safety (Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996.

The event organisers reserve the right to conduct searches of persons or bags and notices to this effect will be displayed.

Inside the event there will be a roaming team of security.

Stewards

Steward general functions will include:

- Control of traffic movements on site.
- Control of unauthorised access to backstage areas.
- Staffing the Artists Reception tent.
- Carry out fire patrols.
- Scanning tickets at entrance

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- Monitor the emergency route and ensure that it is kept clear at all times and report any problems if route is not clear.
- Remain vigilant for any activities that may cause problems within the audience.
- Support the event control, dealing with enquiries and logging incidents.
- Provide information to customers.
- Reporting important information to the Event Control.

Stewards will be competent in their specific duties that include:

- Learning the layout of the site, enabling them to assist the public by giving information about available facilities, remembering the needs of people with disabilities.
- Be aware of the location of entrances, exits and first aid points.
- Ensure that no overcrowding occurs in any part of the event site by managing and directing the audience particularly on entering or leaving the event site.
- Keep gangways and exits clear at all times.
- Monitor unruly behaviour and investigate immediately in the case of any disturbances or incidents and report to the Event Control. Stewards are not to try and deal with the situation. Ensure that combustible refuse does not accumulate.
- Communicate immediately with the Event Management Team in the event of an emergency. Know and understand the arrangements for evacuating the audience and be prepared to undertake specific duties in an emergency.
- Be aware of the location of and, if trained, be able to use firefighting equipment.
- Observe crowd behaviour and communicate anything out of the ordinary to the Event Management Team.
- Stewards are to report anything that they feel is out of the ordinary about a person and/or situation.

Event Management Team's expectations of a steward

All stewards will be fit to undertake the duties that are allocated to them. When on duty they will:

- Concentrate on their duties and not on the performances.
- Not leave their position or the site without permission to do so.
- Not consume or be under the influence of alcohol / drugs.
- Not smoke whilst on duty. Any steward wishing to smoke must do so during breaks and out of sight of the public and in spaces where it is legal to do so.
- Remain calm and be courteous towards members of the public and audience at all times.
- Wear distinctive clothing provided for them

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Locations (Named)			
Camping Pedestrian Entrance	2	Box Office Stairs (top)	1
Co-Op Pathway	1	Box Office, Entrance	1
Deliveries Access - Road	1	Box Office, Bag Check	5
Deliveries Access - Gateway	1	Press Tent / Green Room Entrance	1
Deliveries Access - Accred. Office	1	Box Office Site Entrance	2
Fire Escape / Fence Perimeter	1	Picnic Area / Floating	1
Staff Tent / Fence Perimeter	1	The Hat	2
Bohemia Field / Fence Perimeter	1	International	2
Stage / Fence Perimeter	1	The Stage	2
Disco / Fence Perimeter	1	The Cinema	1
		The Arena	2
		The Academy & School	2

8.2. Counter Terrorism

The event lay out has been designed to take account of recent terrorist events using vehicle born attacks and vehicle routes have been planned to prevent vehicle being able to drive at speed into event site.

The nature of the site is that vehicle access to Riverside is very restricted and only available by one road. This is controlled by gate and stewards. In addition, suitable blockages will be placed at pedestrian entrance by disabled parking to reduce access width in-case of possible vehicle attack.

If the current terrorism level threat is upgraded, all staff will receive counter terrorism brief as part of the pre-deployment briefing either by the head of security or the contracted safety officer who has undertaken ACT training.

Run, Hide, Tell posters will also be displayed in key public areas and HOT posters displayed in staff areas as well.

The security operation plan will detail search procedures in place at this event which will include random person and bag searches.

8.3. Policing. Crime & disorder

We specify within our terms and conditions that illegal items or behaviour will result in removal from site, removal of wristband and refusal for readmittance. We also provide a list of prohibited items at point of ticket sale. Records will be kept of ejections including whom and why.

Any suspicious activity or behaviour will be notified to the police via our security provider. Pre event suitability checks will be carried out on volunteers and employees.

Cash transporting will be done at varying times by varying trusted personnel to avoid creating patterns and if not able to be banked will be placed in suitable safe.

Our alcohol sale policy aims to encourage responsible consumption.

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The Police are welcomed and reserve the right to access and patrol the event site but are not contracted to provide resources to this event.

When a crime or other incident, requiring Police attendance, is reported to and/or discovered by a security operative, they need to obtain as much detail as possible with importance being placed on identifying any victims, suspects, witnesses, and scenes of crime. Each agency will endeavour to provide a named contact person when requesting the attendance of another agency. A pre-determined RVP point will be assigned and filtered through to all relevant agencies prior to the event. A security representative will be sent (where possible) to meet any arriving officers at the designated RVP point if required.

It should be noted that in event operational times the dangers of bringing a vehicle (with emergency lights and sirens or without) onto the event site is highly dangerous as the public are not expecting to encounter a motor vehicle whilst on the event site. Vehicles will therefore only be allowed into the main show site in exceptional circumstances and ALL officers should abide by the safety instructions provided by the security supervisor sent to meet them.

Ejections

The decision to eject a person or persons from site will be at the discretion of the Event Management Team or Security Manager. In making the decision to eject an individual or groups from the event site, several factors will be considered:

- Warnings received
- Seriousness of the offence
- Physical state of the Individual to ensure their own safety
- Mental state of the Individual to ensure their own safety
- Availability of a suitable location to eject too

Safety will be the overriding concern for any decision to eject and the consideration will be balanced on the individual's concerned safety and the safety of the general public at large. Security recognises its duty of care to individuals attending the event. The Police will only become involved in an ejection to prevent a Breach of the Peace, or when a crime has been committed, or when a large number of individuals are involved

Typically, ejections will be made from an event site for the following reasons (or similar):

- Noise & nuisance
- Verbal abuse to staff or others
- Low level physical abuse to staff who do not want to bring charges
- Accusation of more serious offence with no evidence and no charges being pressed where the subject's presence could be construed to inflame a situation

Theft or Allegation of theft will be taken very seriously. Should a member of the public approach a member of staff accusing an individual of theft, staff will:

In the first instance – security will be called to assist if a member of the public approaches a steward.

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- Obtain as much details as possible from the victim and a description of the item alleged to have been stolen using report form.
- The accused individual will be asked to step to the side away from the general public and would be asked their side of events. Their details would be recorded with proof of name and address sought (driving license, passport).
- In the likely event the suspect denies any such activity they will be asked to consent to a search of their person (limited to bags, clothing, pockets and wallet like items). Should the individual consent and no items found they would be allowed to continue their business unless the victim insisted on calling the Police. It is usual that all such allegations be directed to the local Police station and as such security would make all incident reports and statements available to the police at the closest opportunity.
- Should the individual consent and items are found the individual would be detained and the Police called.
- Should the individual not consent then security would consult for advice from the Police.

Security staff have no right to search an individual without consent therefore security would ensure the suspects details are correct (via official documentation) and after acquiring the suspect's photo, the matter would be referred to the police

Assault

Any allegation of assault is serious, and security will take steps to tend to and reassure the victim whilst gaining as much information as possible. This will include the gathering of any available witness statements and details. Should injuries be apparent these will be documented by means of photos and medical reports. Depending on the seriousness of the assault and the wishes of the victim the Police may be notified. Should the victim not wish to bring charges, provided the injuries sustained are not life threatening or serious then security is to inform the Police at the earliest opportunity of the incident.

If the suspect is not available, security will instigate a search of the site if a description is available. Dependant on the victims wishes, a site walk may be conducted to identify the suspect.

Should the suspect be identified, they will have their details recorded and verified (via official documentation) and dependant on the wishes of the victim either detained to await Police arrival or ejected from the site with consideration to section 1 above.

Other Serious Crime

In the event of a criminal act of a more serious nature security staff will act to ensure the safety of the victim and public, gathering of witness statements and the preservation of any crime scenes and evidence that may be available from the victim (i.e. prevention of hand washing should scratching have taken place). In the event where a suspect can be detained, they will be moved to a separate location away from the victim and any witnesses. Due consideration to the safety of security staff will be considered (i.e. should a weapon be involved).

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In cases where a suspect violently resists licenced security staff, after they have identified themselves and stated the reason for wanting to talk to the individual, the appropriate use of restraint techniques may be used.

In all cases the Police will be notified immediately of any serious crime committed on the event site whether this is the wish of the victim or not. Further advice will be sought from the Police until their arrival where all information will be handed over.

Confiscation

Should a member of public consent to a search on the event site and illegal material is found - this material will be confiscated. Small amounts of illegal substances will be logged, secured and disposed of, and the details of the person taken and verified.

Bladed, edged or projectile weapons and large quantities of illegal substances will be confiscated, details of the holder taken and verified, and the Police informed immediately, security will then act upon Police advice.

Preservation of a crime/incident scene

Security Management and wider team are trained in identifying a serious incident and ensuring that the crime scene be secured until Police arrival.

Through the use of a combination of hazard tape, barriers and staff, security will ensure that the crime scene will be left as found, no items moved or cleaned, ensuring no one enters the area unless explicitly needed (e.g. medics to attend to casualties). Should the weather become adverse all actions would be taken to attempt to preserve the scene to the best of the available material (e.g. tarpaulin).

Witness Statements

Security staff are all trained to record accurate incident reports of any incident they are involved with. These details include victim details, witness details, statements of account, emergency service officer numbers and incident references and ambulance hospital destinations.

Protection of Children from harm

- Challenge 25 age verification conditions, ID requirements, staff training and signage conditions wording.
- Nobody under the age of 16 shall be permitted on site unless accompanied by an adult.
- Staff with responsibility for the welfare of children shall be satisfactorily DBS checked and carefully selected for the role they will be carrying out.
- Nobody under the age of 16 will be permitted to be employed on the site. Those aged 16 and above may work at the event under the supervision of an adult and a risk assessment will be carried out for this work specifically relating to the person aged 16-17.
- No under 18's shall work at the licensed site unless a suitable and sufficient risk assessment has been carried out and all control measures effectively implemented.
- Any persons believed to be drinking under-age shall be intercepted by security personnel and alcohol disposed of.

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- Any person under the age of 18 attempting to purchase alcohol, or any adult attempting to purchase alcohol for any person under 18 shall be asked to leave the event after event organisers have considered that it is safe for them to leave site.

Prohibited Items will be confiscated or alternatively the person in possession of the item will be offered the opportunity to dispose of the item in the waste bins provided at each entrance or be refused entry to the event arena. Items prohibited in the event arena include (but are not limited to):

- Fireworks, flares and smoke canisters.
- Laser pointers or projectors.
- Guns (including BB guns), knives, clubs, bats or other items that could be used as a weapon.
- BBQ and camp cooking equipment
- Bicycles.
- Illegal substances.
- Paper lanterns (Also known as: Chinese lanterns, sky lanterns)
- Nitrous Oxide canisters.
- Naked flames and candles.
- Own alcoholic drinks.

Should the stewards discover an item such as a gun, knife or other item that is cause for concern, that individual will be detained by security, and the Police will be informed. The decision to detain an individual and inform the Police will be at the discretion of the gate supervisor and Security Manager.

8.4. Child Protection Policy / Lost children procedure

Introduction

Everyone who participates in the event is entitled to do so in an enjoyable and safe environment. The event has a moral and legal obligation to ensure that children/ young people in attendance are safeguarded.

The event is committed to devising and implementing policies so that everyone in the event accepts their responsibilities to safeguard children from harm and abuse. This means to follow procedures to protect children and report any concerns about their welfare to appropriate authorities.

The aim of the policy is to promote good practice, providing children and young people with appropriate safety/protection whilst at the event and to allow staff and volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues.

A child/young person is defined as a person under the age of 18 (Children Act 1989)

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Policy Statement

The event is committed to the following:

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- All children, whatever their age, culture, ability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity should be able to participate in a fun and safe environment
- Taking all reasonable steps to protect children from harm discrimination and degrading treatment and to respect their rights, wishes and feelings
- All suspicions and allegations of poor practice or abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- all event employees who work with children will be recruited with regard to their suitability for that responsibility, and will be provided with guidance and/or training in good practice and child protection procedures
- Working in partnership with parents and children is essential for the protection of children

Monitor and review the policy and procedures

The implementation of procedures should be regularly monitored and reviewed. The delegated welfare officer should regularly report progress, challenges, difficulties, achievements gaps and areas where changes are required to the management committee.

The policy should be reviewed every year or whenever there is a major change in the organisation or in relevant legislation.

Promoting Good Practice

It is not always easy to distinguish abuse. It is therefore NOT the responsibility of employees or participants in the event to make judgements about whether or not abuse is taking place. It is however their responsibility to identify any poor practice and possible abuse and act if they have concerns about the welfare of the child, as explained in section 4.

This section will help you identify what is meant by good practice and poor practice.

Good Practice

All personnel should adhere to the following principles and action:

- Always work in an open environment (e.g. avoiding private or unobserved situations and encouraging open communication with no secrets)
- Make the experience of the event fun and enjoyable: promote fairness, confront and deal with bullying
- Treat all young people equally and with respect and dignity
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact with young people. Where any form of manual/physical support is required it should be provided openly and with the consent of the young person. Physical contact can be appropriate so long as it is neither intrusive nor disturbing and the young person's consent has been given

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- First aiders/medical staff MUST keep a written record of any injury that occurs, along with details of any treatment given
- Maintaining confidentiality and not broadcasting lost children's names over radio.

Poor Practice

The following are regarded as poor practice and should be avoided by all personnel: particularly security staff/ volunteers escorting children to our designated "Lost child area"

- Unnecessarily spending excessive amounts of time alone with young people away from others
- Engaging in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay
- Allow or engage inappropriate touching of any form
- Making sexually suggestive comments to a young person, even in fun
- Allow allegations made by a young person to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon

If during your care you accidentally hurt a young person, the young person seems distressed in any manner, appears to be sexually aroused by your actions and/or if the young person misunderstands or misinterprets something you have done, report any such incidents as soon as possible to the child welfare officer and make a written note of it. Parents should also be informed of the incident.

Defining Child Abuse

Child abuse is any form of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm, it commonly occurs within a relationship of trust or responsibility and is an abuse of power or a breach of trust. Abuse can happen to a child or young person regardless of their age, gender, race or ability.

There are four main types of abuse: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect. The abuser may be a family member, someone the young person encounters in residential care or in the community, including sports and leisure activities. Any individual may abuse or neglect a young person directly or may be responsible for abuse because they fail to prevent another person harming the young person.

Abuse in all its forms can affect a young person at any age. The effects can be so damaging that if not treated may follow the individual into adulthood.

Young people with disabilities may be at increased risk of abuse through various factors such as stereotyping, prejudice, discrimination, isolation and a powerlessness to protect themselves or adequately communicate that abuse had occurred.

Types of Abuse

- Physical Abuse: where adults physically hurt or injure a young person e.g. hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, biting, scalding, suffocating, drowning. Giving young people

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alcohol or inappropriate drugs would also constitute child abuse. All staff should be aware of this during the event and report accordingly.

- Emotional Abuse: the persistent emotional ill treatment of a young person, likely to cause severe and lasting adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve telling a young person they are useless, worthless, unloved, inadequate or valued in terms of only meeting the needs of another person. It may feature expectations of young people that are not appropriate to their age or development. It may cause a young person to be frightened or in danger by being constantly shouted at, threatened or taunted which may make the young person frightened or withdrawn.

Ill-treatment of children, whatever form it takes, will always feature a degree of emotional abuse.

- Bullying may come from another young person or an adult. Bullying is defined as deliberate hurtful behaviour, usually repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those bullied to defend themselves. There are three main types of bullying.

It may be physical (e.g. hitting, kicking, slapping), verbal (e.g. racist or homophobic remarks, name calling, graffiti, threats, abusive text messages), emotional (e.g. tormenting, ridiculing, humiliating, ignoring, isolating from the group), or sexual (e.g. unwanted physical contact or abusive comments).

- Neglect occurs when an adult fails to meet the young person's basic physical and/or psychological needs, to an extent that is likely to result in serious impairment of the child's health or development. For example, failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect from physical harm or danger, or failing to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

Refusal to give love, affection and attention can also be a form of neglect.

- Sexual Abuse occurs when adults (male and female) use children to meet their own sexual needs. This could include full sexual intercourse, masturbation, oral sex, anal intercourse and fondling. Showing young people pornography or talking to them in a sexually explicit manner are also forms of sexual abuse.

Indicators of Abuse

Even for those experienced in working with child abuse, it is not always easy to recognise a situation where abuse may occur or has already taken place. Most people are not experts in such recognition, but indications that a child is being abused may include one or more of the following:

- Unexplained or suspicious injuries such as bruising, cuts or burns, particularly if situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries
- An injury for which an explanation seems inconsistent
- The young person describes what appears to be an abusive act involving them
- Another young person or adult expresses concern about the welfare of a young person

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- Unexplained changes in a young person's behaviour e.g. becoming very upset, quiet, withdrawn or displaying sudden outbursts of temper
- Inappropriate sexual awareness
- Engaging in sexually explicit behaviour
- Distrust of adult's, particularly those whom a close relationship would normally be expected
- Being prevented from socialising with others
- Displaying variations in eating patterns including overeating or loss of appetite
- Losing weight for no apparent reason
- Becoming increasingly dirty or unkempt

Signs of bullying include:

- Behavioural changes such as reduced concentration and/or becoming withdrawn, clingy, depressed, tearful, emotionally up and down, reluctance to go training or competitions
- Physical signs such as stomach aches, headaches, difficulty in sleeping, bed wetting, scratching and bruising, damaged clothes, bingeing e.g. on food, alcohol or cigarettes
- A shortage of money or frequents loss of possessions

It must be recognised that the above list is not exhaustive, but also that the presence of one or more of the indications is not proof that abuse is taking place. It is NOT the responsibility of those working at the event to decide that child abuse is occurring. It IS their responsibility to act on any concerns.

Use of Photographic/Filming Equipment at Public Events

There is evidence that some people have used public events as an opportunity to take inappropriate photographs or film footage of young people. All employees should be vigilant, and any concerns should be reported to the organiser.

Responding to Suspicions and Allegations

It is not the responsibility of anyone working at the event in a paid or unpaid capacity to decide whether child abuse has taken place. However, there is a responsibility to act on any concerns through contact with the appropriate authorities so that they can then make inquiries and take necessary action to protect the young person. This applies BOTH to allegations/suspicions of abuse occurring within the event, and to allegations/suspicions that abuse is taking place elsewhere.

This section explains how to respond to allegations/suspicions.

Receiving Evidence of Possible Abuse

We may become aware of possible abuse in various ways. We may see it happening, we may suspect it happening because of signs such as those listed in section 3 of this document, it may be reported to us by someone else or directly by the young person affected.

In the last of these cases, it is particularly important to respond appropriately. If a young person says or indicates that they are being abused, you should:

- Stay calm so as not to frighten the young person
- Reassure the child that they are not to blame and that it was right to tell

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- Listen to the child, showing that you are taking them seriously
- Keep questions to a minimum so that there is a clear and accurate understanding of what has been said.

The law is very strict and child abuse cases have been dismissed where it is felt that the child has been led or words and ideas have been suggested during questioning. Only ask questions to clarify

- Inform the child that you have to inform other people about what they have told you. Tell the child this is to help stop the abuse continuing.
- Safety of the child is paramount. If the child needs urgent medical attention call an ambulance, inform the doctors of the concern and ensure they are made aware that this is a child protection issue
- Record all information
- Report the incident to the welfare officer

In all cases if you are not sure what to do you can gain help from NSPCC 24-hour help line Tel No: 0800800500

Recording Information

To ensure that information is as helpful as possible, a detailed record should always be made at the time of the disclosure/concern. In recording you should confine yourself to the facts and distinguish what is your personal knowledge and what others have told you. Do not include your own opinions.

Information should include the following:

- The child's name, age and date of birth
- The child's home address and telephone number
- Whether the person making the report is expressing their concern or someone else's
- The nature of the allegation, including dates, times and any other relevant information
- A description of any visible bruising or injury, location, size etc. Also, any indirect signs, such as behavioural changes
- Details of witnesses to the incidents
- The child's account, if it can be given, of what has happened and how any bruising/injuries occurred
- Have the parents been contacted? If so what has been said?
- Has anyone else been consulted? If so record details
- Has anyone been alleged to be the abuser? Record detail

Reporting the Concern

All suspicions and allegations **MUST** be reported appropriately. It is recognised that strong emotions can be aroused particularly in cases where sexual abuse is suspected or where there is misplaced loyalty to a colleague. It is important to understand these feelings but not allow them to interfere with your judgement about any action to take.

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The event expects its members and staff to discuss any concerns they may have about the welfare of a child with the welfare officer and team and subsequently to check that appropriate action has been taken.

If the nominated child welfare officer is not available you should take responsibility and seek advice from the NSPCC helpline, the duty officer at your local social services department or the police.

As mentioned previously in this document, the event are not child protection experts and it is not their responsibility to determine whether abuse has taken place. All suspicions and allegations must be shared with professional agencies that are responsible for child protection.

Social services have a legal responsibility under The Children Act 1989 to investigate all child protection referrals by talking to the child and family (where appropriate), gathering information from other people who know the child and making inquiries jointly with the police.

NB: If there is any doubt, you must report the incident: it may be just one of a series of other incidences which together cause concern

Any suspicion that a child has been abused by an employee or a volunteer should be reported to the event organiser who will take appropriate steps to ensure the safety of the child in question and any other child who may be at risk. This will include the following:

- the event will refer the matter to social services department
- The parent/carer of the child will be contacted as soon as possible following advice from the social services department
- The chairperson of your organisation should be notified to decide who will deal with any media inquiries and implement any immediate disciplinary proceedings
- If the Child welfare officer is the subject of the suspicion/allegation the report must be made to the appropriate manager who will refer the matter to social services

Allegations of abuse are sometimes made sometime after the event. Where such allegation is made, you should follow the same procedures and have the matter reported to social services. Anyone who has a previous conviction for offences related to abuse against children is automatically excluded from working with children. All security staff will hold full clear DBS checks and appropriate qualifications.

Under 16s: Any unaccompanied person under the age of 16 years found on the Licensed Premises will be accompanied to the production office. This task will be undertaken by at least 2 members of staff. Any personnel whose role involves the looking after of children or vulnerable adults shall have a current DBS.

Confidentiality

Every effort should be made to ensure that confidentiality is maintained for all concerned. Information should be handled and disseminated on a need to know basis only. This includes the following people:

- The parents of the child

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- The person making the allegation
- Social Services/police
- The event management board

All information should be stored in a secure place with limited access to designated people, in line with data protection laws.

Internal Inquiries and Suspension

The event welfare officer and management team will make an immediate decision about whether any individual accused of abuse should be temporarily suspended pending further police and social services inquiries. Irrespective of the findings of the social services or police inquiries the event management will assess all individual cases to decide whether a member of staff or volunteer can be reinstated and how this can be sensitively handled.

This may be a difficult decision; especially where there is insufficient evidence to uphold any action by the police. In such cases the event management must reach a decision based upon the available information which could suggest that on the balance of probability, it is more likely

than not that the allegation is true. The welfare of the child should remain of paramount importance throughout.

Recruiting and Selecting Personnel with Children

It is important that all reasonable steps are taken to prevent unsuitable people from working with children. This applies equally to paid staff and volunteers, both full and part time. To ensure unsuitable people are prevented from working with children the following steps should be taken when recruiting.

Controlling Access to Children

- All staff and volunteers should complete an application form. The application form will elicit information about the applicants past and a self-disclosure about any criminal record.
- Consent should be obtained from the applicant to seek information from the DBS where employees will have direct contact with children (Security and child welfare)
- Evidence of identity (passport or driving licence with photo)

Training

The event requires:

- All staff and volunteers who have direct access to children to undergo a DBS check.
- All staff and volunteers to be aware of the events child protection policy and information informing them what to do if they have concerns about the behaviour of an adult towards a young person.
- All members of the welfare team to have a sound awareness of the child protection procedures
- All members of the welfare team to possess relevant training and qualifications

Lost Child area

All lost children must be escorted to the designated area immediately at the production office.

Security staff/ volunteers must:

- Explain to the child what is happening

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- Reassure them and treat them with respect
- Escort them straight to the area without force or physical contact
- Remain in sight of others at all times
- Inform control you have a lost child but DO NOT broadcast the child's name over the radio.

Child welfare staff will:

- Explain to the child what is happening
- Reassure them and treat them with respect
- Record the child's name, parents name, age, address and phone number if they know them
- Record the time they enter the designated area
- Check if the child has a telephone number for their parent/guardian & contact
- Contact any other numbers given of people in the festival
- Inform management the child's name via direct contact.
- Provide the child with basic activities E.g. colouring to help them calm down
- When the child's parent/ carer returns they must:
 - Match information given by the child where possible E.G- address, child's name or age.
 - Sign the child out giving full name and address checked by ID

*If a child is not collected by close of event social services will be informed and appropriate action taken.

If a child is reported as missing:

The loss of a child should be classed as a priority incident, exceeded only by imminent threat to life. When a child is reported missing the following procedure should apply:

If someone reports a lost child, the information will be immediately referred to the production office either via a venue manager or an Assistant Festival Manager. The parent/guardian will then be directed to meet with the lead steward at the production office

The lead steward with designated responsibility for child safety will then take a detailed description of the child including age, gender, ethnicity and the time and place last seen. All these details will be conveyed across the site to event personnel via radios. If after 5 minutes the child is not found venue PAs will be used to announce a child as missing but all personal details such as the child's name will not be revealed. No one will be permitted to leave the site until the child is located. The announcements will be repeated at 5-minute intervals until the child is found. If (after 10 minutes) this does not happen 999 will be called and the incident reported to the police

If a child is found

We have procedures in place for any 'found' children on site and all staff and stewards are trained to follow this procedure. Any 'found' child will be taken to the production office. Staff will then radio all venue managers who will make an announcement at the close of the current running event. The announcement made will describe the parents' identity rather than the child's for purposes for safety. Parents must confirm their identity in separate location (usually green room) before collecting child. If there is no parental response within 30mins the police will be called by the festival manager.

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In both instances of 'lost' and 'found' children the Lead Steward responsible for child safety will have DBS clearance.

****CHILDREN REMAIN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THEIR PARENTS/CARERS AT ALL TIMES.**

DUE CARE AND ATTENTION SHOULD BE TAKEN TO PREVENT CHILDREN BECOMING LOST.

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8.5. Lost property

All lost property is to be handed in to a member of security who will then pass this to the lost property point where it will be logged. At the end of the event any unclaimed lost property is to be handed to a senior member of event organisers.

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9. Traffic management

There is no public vehicle access (except for disabled access) to the Riverside site. All public parking will be at the camping site on Newport street and then on foot to Riverside. A temporary controlled crossing will be installed on Newport street to facilitate safe crossing area. Application through approved channels will be made for this.

Access for build and de-rig for vehicles will be via the service access road off Newport Street (B4350). Road traffic regulations and highway-code will apply throughout with no authority for stewards to control traffic. Drivers will be reminded of their duties. Large vehicles turning into the site will be directed to access from the North East of Newport road and then turn right into the access road, due to the tight corner if turning left (from South West).

A traffic order is in place for the duration of the event to place a temporary 20mph speed limit on the area of Newport Street outside of the event and the immediate vicinity. This will be managed by a competent traffic management contractor.

9.1. Parking

We will be parking all our visitors on the camping & yurt camping sites in the designated car parks. We have enough onsite parking which we know from past events of this size we will not exceed. Those attending the event will be sent pre-event information that tells them to park only on the approved event car parks and not to park on public highways.

Blue badge holders will be permitted to park at Riverside in a designated area. The only other on-site parking is available to musicians and pre agreed staff parking all other staff and contractors will need to park in car park opposite.

9.2. Road closures

None

9.3. Traffic controls

An order has been granted for the provision of a light controlled crossing on Newport street where pedestrians will cross from the camp site to the event site. This is detailed in the plan attached. This will be supported by the order reducing the speed limit on Newport Street to 20mph. Signage will be provided per the attached schedule for vehicle accessing the campsite.

All deliveries and contractor vehicles for the Riverside site will enter via the Welsh water access road as permission has been granted by them. Vehicles will turn in the Riverside area on the provided temporary roadway in order to exit forwards. A steward will be available on the opposite footpath of Newport Road to assist with visuals on exit but will not control any traffic. Responsibility remains with the vehicle driver to drive in accordance with Road traffic safety regulations. Traffic entering/ exiting the site will be controlled by stewards, so no vehicles meet on the lane. Priority will be given to vehicles coming off the highway to prevent queuing on the road.

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10. Health and safety

Health and safety is the primary concern and will be monitored at all times by the event management team and contractors on site.

Event organisers will liaise with the appropriate authorities where appropriate. The event management team will undertake a full risk assessment prior to the event. Continued dynamic risk assessments will be undertaken to cover all areas of potential hazard by the event management team and any contractors on site.

The event has been planned and organised in accordance with the HSE's Managing health and safety at work 1999 and the event purple guide.

Prior to the event opening to the public, a full pre-opening check will be conducted by the contracted safety officer, security manager and the event manager. Once confirmed that it is safe to open an event sign off will be conducted.

10.1. Risk Assessments

See appendix

10.2. First aid

The Purple Guide provides a Guide to levels of medical cover and gives examples of the cover that may be required. The purple guide states in section 5 about medical cover "The advice given in this chapter is offered as guidance only and should not be regarded by organisers or licensing authorities as regulatory requirement or used as such."

Using the Purple Guide, this event would be classed as Tier 3. Using the guide chart can help give an indication of requirements but is not a prescriptive statement of needs. The Purple Guide in section 5 states "The following matrix sets out an indicative level of resource at peak times for each tier of event. It is NOT intended to be directive and will need to be modified in the light of the circumstances of individual events."

A medical needs analysis has been undertaken, based on using The Purple Guide, previous event data and event knowledge. Safety Services Group has been contracted to supply the required human resources and medical infrastructure including CQC registered ambulance provision with Paramedic led crew for transport of urgent patients if needed. This will include an onsite provision of a team dedicated for overnight cover on the campsite.

The contracted medical services provider will strategically plan and manage the deployment of resources across the event site. They will be responsible for the production of a comprehensive medical operational plan and risk assessment for their activities.

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All staff working the event will have been DBS checked and be able to provide proof of qualifications upon request of the safety officer or event organiser. For the licenced hours, the provision will be Paramedic led service supported by Technician and responders, plus an ambulance.

The Riverside venue will have a dedicated first aid post that is manned during licenced hours. This is located by the temporary roadway for vehicular access. The campsite will have a separate team for overnight manned provision.

During the build phase first aid provision will use the services of the client's first aiders (iai.tv)

10.3. Fire safety at the event

Events are subject to the requirements of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, which came into force in the Autumn of 2006. A fire risk assessment is appended for all sites.

Fire /Emergency Exits

Industry standards state that 82 people per minute per liner metre can be evacuated from sites. We have reduced this to 75 due to the profile of event and the terrain.

From the event site there are 3 exists:

- 1: roadway of 3m width
- 2: steps of 3m width
- 3: steps of 2m width

We have used the recommended exit capacity of 66 people per metre per minute on the steps and we will ignore the widest route, the roadway. Therefore:

Steps of 3m x 66 x 10 minutes = 1980 people
Steps of 2m x 66 x 10 minutes – 1320 people
Total of 3300 people able to evacuate within 10 minutes
This is suitable for the planned total event capacity of 3000

This is suitable given that even the event site is a large open area with smaller structures and public will be readily able to exit structures.

Each structure has at least 2 emergency exits of all marked with signage and if used after dark, lighting.

Venue	Size	Capacity seated	Standing	Number of exits
Arena	18m x 24m	466	500	3 x 2m
Academy	9m x 15m	80	0	3 x 2m
Hat	3 x Tipis	N/A	450	2 x 2m plus open front

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				of 4m
Cinema	8m Diameter	40	NA	2 x 1.5m
Schools	9m x 12m	80	300	3 x 2m
Waterfront	14m x 26m	300	400	4 x 2m
Ring	15m Diameter	210	250	2 x 1.5m
Stage	9m x 15m	252	252	3 x 2m
International	24m x 12m	390	450	3 x 2m

However, in the event of emergency, if needed, due to the size of the site, the public can also be moved around the site to other areas away from risk. It is also noted that the event site is a series of smaller structures each with a fire break in between, such that the public can be moved away from one structure without threat to another.

Please see the Fire Risk Assessment for the details of the disabled refuge, exit details and safe areas to use in event of need.

FIRE FIGHTING FACILITIES

Fire extinguishers shall be positioned in each structure at exists of 1 x CO2 and 1 x water.

All temporary catering facilities will be contacted and are obliged to provide suitable fire-fighting equipment as follows: -

- * Non Cooking: One x 2kg dry-powder extinguisher
- * Cooking: One x 2kg dry-powder extinguisher and a 1m² fire blanket (BS6575:1985) or if deep fat frying, 9L foam-type extinguisher and a 1m² fire blanket.

LIQUIFIED PETROLEUM GAS

LPG Cylinders used in any mobile or temporary catering facility shall so far as is reasonably practicable be located in the open air. Only cylinders using pressure relief valves shall be used and they shall be positively secured in the upright position and are secure from interference by the audience.

All LPG Cylinders which are not being used, shall be stored in the open air away from any fixed or temporary source of ignition, and a suitable temporary hazard warning sign shall be placed at these locations.

No concession will bring more than sufficient LPG Cylinders for the day of the event or a maximum of 90kg whichever is the least.

FIRE SPREAD

Fabrics or other materials used in conjunction with tents, marquees and similar structures, roof coverings, weather protection covers, curtains, drapes and other materials, used in or upon structures shall consist of flame resistant materials or shall be rendered flame resistant to British Standard 3120:1959 (until December 1995), or 7157 (Tents, Marquees, etc.) or BS5867 Parts 2 - (other materials).

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Rigid linings and wall boarding used in any structure shall be not less than Class 1 surface spread of flame quality as described in BS476: Part 7. Any flooring used shall comply with the BS4790.

The event manager will ensure that the layout and separation distance of the concessions complies with the requirements of the Fire Officer.

The separation distance agreed shall be kept clear at all times of any rubbish, litter or any flammable or combustible material.

No petroleum spirit shall be permitted at the site except in the fitted tanks of petrol driven motor vehicles/plant/equipment or in controlled authorised container by authorised personnel and only sufficient but not excessive amount to support equipment.

Mobile Concessions

All mobile food units will be self-equipped with their own firefighting appliances and any gas will be suitably stored. This will be monitored by the Event Safety Manager throughout the event

Fire Risk Assessment – attached to appendix

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10.4. Noise management

Owing to the nature of the event there is a required element of Noise expected within the site and there is an expectation of off-site noise.

It must be recognised that the event by its nature will create noise.

Measures have been put in place to control environmental sound levels and to reduce overall levels especially off site relating to amplified sounds.

Effective management will be achieved by Use of modern sound system using advanced speaker technology has been shown to increase the efficiency of sound reinforcement. Sound can be focused and controlled to a much higher degree. This has allowed the production teams to reduce the size of sound system to achieve the required sound reinforcement within the audience area.

Noise readings will be taken at the arena & property perimeter to monitor sound levels. Records will be kept by the appointed acoustics contractor – see noise management plan

Residential properties in the area will be forewarned of potential disruption by way of leaflet drop ahead of the event. The named contact for complaints is Amanda Houghton 07854 724786

A separate noise management plan forms part of the event plan and is appended. This includes the use of a professional to monitor noise levels at the event.

10.5. Noise at Work Regulations

In addition to Environmental nuisance issues the organisers are aware of the risks of damage to hearing for all event participants. Event and contractor risk assessments details the potential health risks, safeguards and responsibilities surrounding noise at work for event staff and contractors.

The Sound System deployed at this event is design specifically to provide sound reinforcement within the audience area.

Noise monitoring per agreed requirements will take place during the event.

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10.6. RIDDOR/Accident reporting

The safety advisor will collate data from the first aid provider across all sites on all and any incidents. If first aid is not required but an incident or near miss occurs this will be recorded by the event safety coordinator.

All accidents / injuries reported to the first aid provider will be recorded on the appropriate form. Should the Event Management Team require access to these details, they will be provided by the first aid provider. If the incident is of a serious nature and causes the person to be taken to hospital from the site or causes a member of staff to be off work for more than 7 days, the HSE will be informed. If the incident is attributable to the event then an accident form will be completed and reported to RIDDOR if required. Any action that falls under RIDDOR will be reported via the HSE online portal within the required time limit by the event safety coordinator.

The first aid provider will provide information for this and it is recognised that under GDPR this constitutes a legal compliance requirement.

10.7. Drinking water

Camp sites have drinking water available from mains connected supplies and drinking water available to purchase from vendors across site.

10.8. Lighting

It is recognised that suitable lighting levels are required to facilitate smooth and safe passage of all personnel.

Whilst there will be light emitting locally from venues on Riverside, additional location specific lighting will be provided by way of temporary lighting at:

- Pedestrian access walkway from Newport Road to Riverside
- Along the fencing by the river
- Backstage and access road and turning area.
- Main campsite walkways

Please see lighting plan in the attached Maps appendix.

10.9. Animals

Animals are not permitted on any of our sites with the exception of assistance dogs.

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10.10. Show stop

Immediate Show Stop

If at any point there is an immediate danger of serious injury to members of the audience, staff or performers at a particular stage (for example broken pit barriers) the show will be stopped at that stage.

This decision will be taken by the relevant supervisor immediately without consulting the Event Management Team first.

The relevant supervisor will communicate directly with the front of house production staff and will then inform event control, and the PA operator to advise the audience of the reason for the stop. The Event Management Team will respond to manage the situation further. All communication must be clear and precise to manage the situation and prevent further risk to safety.

Escalated Show Stop

The crowd will be monitored by stewards at all times. If at any point the situation is considered to be unsafe than a steward will inform the Event Management Team. At this point the Event Management Team, Security Manager and any available steward will immediately go to that area concerned to monitor the situation. The steward will be placed at the sound/light desk and remain in radio contact with the Event Management Team.

The Event Management Team and Security Manager will make the decision whether to down grade the situation or if it has the potential to escalate further. If the situation becomes more serious, the Event Management Team will radio 'STOP STOP STOP' to the steward at the point of control. The steward will relay this to the sound engineer and stop the show.

Stopping a show in one area of the event may not mean that the whole event needs to be stopped. However, if one area is stopped the whole event will be automatically be on alert as a precaution, and stewards will be placed at the other sound desks on site. Should the Event Management Team decide to stop the event, the emergency procedure will be initiated

10.11. Adverse/severe weather

Extreme weather conditions have the potential to make a significant impact on this event and may pose a threat to the safety of public and staff and may impact on the integrity and safety of some of the site infrastructure. Specific weather conditions that may cause an issue are high winds, thunderstorms (lightning strikes) heavy rain or extreme temperatures.

The Event Management Team will monitor weather forecasts in the lead up to the event and during it to establish if any weather is forecast that may lead to problems. Any weather identified as posing a threat will be communicated to all relevant personnel throughout all phases of the event in order to allow for an early response to the situation.

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Staff should be able to get shelter and/or wear protective clothing. If ground conditions become unsafe then alternative options for access routes may need to be considered or some areas may need to be closed. Electrical equipment may need additional protection, but this should be done with caution in order to ensure that additional protection does not cause the equipment to overheat and become a fire risk.

Wind speed ratings will be held for all temporary structures (from installer handover) and will be kept accessible. Wind speeds will be monitored, and action taken to vacate structures if wind speed is or is expected to be over the safe limit. An adverse weather plan will be in use.

10.12. Management of Contractors

All contractors providing services to the event will be required to provide risk assessments, method statement(s) and insurance valid for duration and services provided to the event.

All contractors working on site during the build and main event will have to report to accreditation to receive a wrist band that must be worn at all times.

The current appointed contractors are:

Security – Ideal East Anglia
Technical Production- TBC
Medical and Welfare- Safety Services Group
Power and Distribution- Figure of Eight
Toilets- Prestige
Waste Management- What Rubbish.
Traffic Management- NTR Plant services
Health and Safety- CalvinHanks
Noise Management- CalvinHanks

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11. Major incident planning

11.1. Emergency co-ordination team

Festival Manager
Assistant Festival Manager
Event safety advisor
Event Security manager

11.2. Emergency vehicle access

An emergency vehicle access route exists for the event via the Welsh Water access road and onto the trackway holding area.

Emergency vehicles attending and entering the site will be stewarded through public areas where possible.

Vehicles should either have flashing blue lights or orange lights on when moving through areas containing public (Inbuilt hazards/indicators are not to be used as these are required for directional indication)

See the site plan for details of this route.

11.3. Emergency procedures

The event ELT will manage all responses to an emergency on site where possible, should they not be able to do this, then they will request the assistance from the emergency services. The steps outlined in the emergency plan will form the basis of the actions in the event of a situation requiring an emergency response.

Rendezvous Point for the emergency services will be located as indicated on the site plan.

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12. Appendices

- Medical operations plan (when available)
- Security operations plan (when available)
- Risk assessment (main site)
- Risk assessment (camp site)
- Fire risk assessment (main and camp site)
- CDM plan
- Infection prevention and control plan
- Traffic management plan
- Noise management plan
- Wind and weather plan
- Sanitation and waste plan

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How The Light Gets In Festival

APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF PREMISES LICENCE

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

MH8 – Noise Management Plan

Noise Management Plan

How The Light Gets In Hay on Wye 2024

Version	Dated	Notes
1.0	12/02/2024	Initial draft for review
1.1	23/04/2024	EHO conditions added Updated residents engagement letter

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1. Introduction

As professional operators we acknowledge that we have a primary responsibility to ensure that our premises do not generate excessive noise disturbance. The purpose of this Noise Management Plan is to detail the procedures we aim to adopt to ensure, as far as possible, the minimisation of disturbance to local residents by activities of our event

A balance of needs must be achieved by ensuring social activity is not marred whilst controlling potential adverse noise effects. Our aim is to adopt the best practicable options. The purpose of this document is to predict the noise levels produced from the event, provide an assessment of the offsite noise levels and describe the noise monitoring and management scheme that will be put in place to manage the music noise levels throughout the event. The main focus of the event is debates and discussions and especially during the day music levels are kept low to enable talks and debates to operate.

Our 2023 post event report shows any complaints received and our response to these.

For 2024 the times of operation with music ceasing are at 1am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights and 5pm on Monday. These are designed to reduce the impact on the local community.

2. Key aims of this plan:

This plan seeks to:

- Minimise impact to local residents
- Satisfy the Licensing Authority
- Identify the range of potential noise sources relating to the premises and the acceptable levels of noise arising from all specified events
- Show a list of steps taken to manage noise pollution
- Outline a defined programme of noise measurement to check that compliance has been achieved through monitoring and testing
- Establish a Complaints Procedure for local residents

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3. National Guidance on Noise Control at Concerts

The established guidance for noise from outdoor music events is contained in the Noise Council's Code of Practice on Environmental Noise Control at Concerts (1995), known colloquially as the Pop Code.

Since its publication in 1995, there have been a number of recommended modifications to the Code. One of the criticisms of the Pop Code is that the difference in the Laeq criterion between urban stadia or arenas and 'other venues' is too large and that a limit of 75 dB(A) is recommended for stadia and arenas whilst a limit of 65 dB(A) is recommended for some other urban and rural venues. Furthermore, it is recognised that the range in the number of events with the same Laeq noise criterion is too large. For example, one event day per year has a different impact on the local community than three events per year.

Therefore, given the location and our desire to minimise impact on the local community, the suggested criteria is that the Music Noise Level (MNL) would be a maximum of 60 dB Laeq, 5min, measured at the façade of the nearest residential property to reflect the rural venue on the edge of an urban area.

4. Licensing Act

In 2003 existing licensing provisions in England and Wales were revised. The Licensing Act 2003 took a more liberal and de-regulatory approach to the previous licensing system. As part of their new responsibilities, local authorities are encouraged to promote cultural activity in their communities.

The Code of Practice on environmental noise control at concerts places emphasis on the need to minimise disturbance and annoyance to the local community. The Licensing Act 2003 introduced the concept of the "Promotion of the Prevention of Public Nuisance" which sets the threshold at a different level. This distinction must now be considered when setting licence conditions for a music event.

5. Competent advice

This plan has been compiled by Calvin Hanks, MSc, MSc, PgC, CMIOSH, FHRSM, MICEH, TechIOA who has been working in event safety including noise management for over 20 years and is highly experienced in preparing noise management plans, liaison with local authority noise nuisance teams, live event noise management and post event reporting. His experience in noise management includes large scale fireworks displays, including those set to music, concerts, festivals and more.

He holds both an MSc in Environmental Health as well as the Institute of Acoustics Certificate in Environmental Noise Management and is a Technician member of the Institute of Acoustics.

5.1. Methodology and Monitoring

The main sound level meter used will be a class 1 meter (Cirrus Optimus). Details of the precise meter will be provided on the record forms and all meters and calibrators will be within required calibration timescales of 1 year for calibrators and 2 years for Sound level meters. The Sound level meter will be set up and calibrated using the systems specific calibrator prior to commencement of monitoring to confirm accuracy of meter.

The operative will use the same point every time a location is visited.

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If the noise is audible from the event the operative will set up meter facing towards the event, the meter will be approximately 1.2-1.5m from the floor and parallel to the floor.

Operative will initialise meter and start monitoring. Readings are recorded on the meter, the operative will also record on written record as per appendix two.

If the operative sees that levels are above those stated at the time in this document, they will radio through to control with a description of the sound and how many dBs need to be reduced/or at what frequency. Repeat readings will then be taken at the same point to determine if the levels are within parameters.

This process will be repeated as needed until levels are within agreed limits for the time of day.

6. Background

To enable:

- Identification of suitable criteria for the control of music and dispersal noise impact from our event
- Measurement of noise levels at the perimeter of the site and at neighbouring residential premises
- Set threshold levels of music noise & ensure stage managers will be aware of the levels set

Fixed points will be allocated to enable readings at the event both internally and externally.

The event management team have run this event for 12 years and have extensive experience in event management. The event is focussed on philosophy and debate during the day and music is part of this activity but not the sole reason for public attendance. The current schedule is appended to this plan which shows the focus. Due to the nature of debates and discussion, great care is taken internally on site to ensure that noise emitting from one venue does not disturb another on site. The benefit of this then is that there is limited volume emitting from venues during talks.

The live events take place at: Riverside, for which Dwr Cymru Welsh Water have given their permission for access routes. It is noted that the Riverside site is adjoined by mainly Industrial premises with residential properties on the other side of the main road. In addition, there is camping in the fields off Newport street

The profile of the attendees is focussed in the 30-60 age range and reflects in the priority given to debates and discussion, with music being secondary to this. These are also recorded for IAI TV and thus noise emitting from other onsite venues must be minimised to facilitate sound capture on this footage. Live and amplified music will also reflect the profile of attendees in its nature.

7. Noise origins

Aside from the day-to-day bustle and movement of people, it is noted that key types of noise can cause disturbances to neighbours. This plan aims to control these to balance event enjoyment and social aspects with neighbour comfort. Key sources are:

- Vehicle deliveries early in the morning or late at night

How The Light Gets In - Noise Management Plan

- Emptying of rubbish bins especially glass, outside of day time hours
- Amplified music especially bass ranges and repetitive beats
- Amplified voice especially repetitive words, phrases or “hying”
- Large numbers of public leaving site late at night

7.1. Site/Sound System Design

The appointed sound system suppliers will be informed of the requirements of noise control and the location/ orientation of their systems. Their contract of hire should also specify that the overall control of sound levels will be set by the event Promoter and/or their appointed agent. The noise advisor will review sound systems installed and meet each operator to ensure they are aware of the requirements of the event and noise management procedures.

The sound systems for each stage will be set up in such a way as to minimise the noise impact at noise sensitive properties. Where possible, sound systems should be 'line-arrays' which provide improved sound coverage and reduced overspill to intended coverage areas. It is recommended that the sound system is hung as low as possible in order to take advantage of any barriers provided around the event arena and minimise the distance between the sound sources and audience areas. The loudspeakers should have as narrow horizontal dispersion as possible and be directed inwards to reduce overspill from the intended coverage area. Sub- bass loudspeaker units will be set up and configured in a cardioid arrangement in order to take advantage of phase cancellation at the backs and sides of the loudspeaker stacks. An example of a cardioid sub bass speaker arrangement is to stack them three units high and turn the middle unit around 180 degrees and invert the phase. In addition, multi-band compression and graphic equalizer units should be included as part of every sound system in order to control and limit the output from the sound systems. Careful and detailed alignment of the system will be ensured to optimise the coverage throughout the audience areas and balance this against the off-site environmental noise impact.

8. Steps taken to manage noise pollution

- Generally, the overriding requirement is for control of noise “at source” by considering:
- the event location, orientation and design
- the specification, selection, and operation of equipment
- the specification, selection and operation of amplified music equipment
- managing operations on site
- barriers to control or reduce noise (insulation, acoustic baffles, trees/vegetation. Geography & topography) make customers aware of the consequences of late-night noise and to be proactive in dealing with the problem via internal and external signage, e mail etc
- Stewards & Security on exit route to remind those leaving late at night to keep volume levels low.

9. Controls

We have placed the following controls in place to reduce the risk of disturbance as much as possible:

Noise source	Control
Amplified music	<p>Amplification systems used are designed to give directional amplification and will be directed into the site rather than towards the perimeters.</p> <p>The nature of the event is such that debates and discussion are the main activity.</p> <p>Bass levels will be monitored within the main site. Audio visual (AV) technicians will be instructed to reduce levels if determined to be of nuisance or concern.</p> <p>Regardless of any pre-event noise level setting, AV technicians will be briefed that they are to turn down bass or other levels if instructed by the event manager, venue manager, noise consultant, or an environmental health representative from the local authority.</p> <p>In addition to electronic monitoring of octave bands, the noise consultant will use "ear" monitoring to determine if bass levels are potentially a disturbance, even if within the agreed dB limits as it is recognised that bass frequencies are a particular concern.</p> <p>Where needed, instruction will be given to AV technicians to reduce levels to be acceptable, even if this takes them below agreed measurement limits</p> <p>The Noise advisor will meet with each technician to explain and ensure the technicians understand the process and that noise reductions must be made immediately when instructed.</p> <p>1/3 octave bands will be measured and reductions made on lower frequency if required.</p>
Emptying of rubbish	<p>All rubbish will be emptied into large containers on the venue site away from main venue perimeter, thus making it unlikely noise will be audible at or beyond the site boundary</p>
Public leaving site	<p>Signage will be displayed on exit routes to request those leaving keep their voices low and respect local residents.</p> <p>Prominent, clear and legible signage (in not less than 32 point font bold) shall be displayed at all exits to the premises requesting the public to respect the needs of local residents and to leave the premises and the area quietly.</p> <p>Stewards will be briefed and placed on the exit routes to speak with anyone who is particularly noisy to ask them to keep the to a reasonable level.</p>

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Deliveries	No contractor or vendor is permitted to have a delivery after 23.00 hours and before 06.00 hours.
	Due to the nature of the event, supplies will generally arrive during standard working hours. The only exceptions, which will be bound by and operate within the timings above would be toilet cleaning and rubbish removal.
	Additionally, vehicles will enter the main site and unload within the site not at the boundary.
Vehicle noise	A 10mph site speed limit will be in force and engines must be turned off when stationary (unless powering equipment such as cranes or hiab)
Repetitive words, phrases, "hyping" etc	<p>All those using PA systems will be instructed to avoid these types of verbal potential nuisances.</p> <p>Regardless of any pre-event noise level setting, AV technicians will be briefed that they are to turn down levels if instructed by the event manager, venue manager, noise consultant, or an environmental health representative from the local authority.</p> <p>In addition to electronic monitoring, the noise consultant will use "ear" monitoring to determine if voice levels are potentially a disturbance, even if within the agreed dB limits as it is recognised that voice noises are a particular concern.</p> <p>Where needed, instruction will be given to AV technicians to reduce levels to be acceptable, even if this takes them below agreed measurement limits</p>
Generators	There are generators on site that supply the event. One will operate throughout the night to keep food safely in providing power for kitchen fridges and is a "low noise" generator.
Complaints	<p>A dedicated complaints number will be made available that is attended throughout the opening hours of the event. This number will be available on information given to local residents on a specific letter prior to the event commencement to the addresses agreed with the local authority.</p> <p>The Premises License Holder will maintain a noise log which will be available at all times for inspection by Herefordshire Council.</p> <p>The dedicated number will map to a mobile telephone that will be held in the production office and will be identified as "NOISE HOTLINE" solely for this purpose. The production office is manned constantly whilst the event is in operation. Those manning this office will be briefed that this telephone must be answered and details taken of the complaint (using the complaints log form shown in appendix one) and have a training briefing with the noise advisor on what data to record, how to use the form and action to be taken. As soon as the call is finished, the CH noise advisor must be contacted and given details of</p>

How The Light Gets In - Noise Management Plan

	<p>the complaint for them to follow up and take action. CH noise advisor will log details of all complaints in their noise management log including action taken.</p> <p>A schedule of production office duty roster will be provided in appendix</p> <p>After main arena close at 1am, the noise complaint telephone will be passed to the night duty staff at the campsite who will be available to answer throughout the night and to attend to any complaints about noise from the campsite.</p>
<p>Geography and Topography</p>	<p>The site is on field next to the river, and is lower than the surrounding roads and bordered by trees and bushes. We are aware that sound will travel distances depending also on weather conditions.</p>
<p>Customer car parking</p>	<p>The only public car parking on site is limited and for blue badge holders only and is within the site grounds. Therefore noise from this is expected to be minimal</p>
<p>Noise level monitoring</p>	<p>Background noise levels will be taken prior to the event using LA90 readings and across 1/3 octave bands.</p> <p>During the event, readings will be taken at key locations identified in section 10.3</p> <p>Records will be kept of checks & adjustment made to system sound levels if needed. Action taken will be immediate by sound technicians when instructed.</p> <p>A reading of LAeq (5) will be taken each hour varied across the monitoring points on 10.3 on a rotational basis</p> <p>Noise or vibration shall not emanate from the festival site so as to cause a nuisance.</p>
<p>Noise consultant</p>	<p>The person responsible for noise management (or noise consultant) shall be available for daily meetings with Environmental Health Officers from Herefordshire Council, if required at times to be agreed. A consultant is retained for noise monitoring on Thursday, Friday & Saturday 19.00 to 01.30 hours and Sunday until event close at 20.00 hours, and will undertake monitoring at identified points each hour during this time using a class 1 meter (Cirrus Optimus). Details of the precise meter with serial number and calibration date will be provided on the record forms and all meters and calibrators will be within required calibration timescales of 1 year for calibrators and 2 years for Sound level meters.</p> <p>Measurements will include LAeq and 1/3 Octave bands, enabling identification of any bass or other frequency issues. Measurements will be taken throughout this time on a rolling basis with focus on any key issue areas or to respond to complaints.</p>

How The Light Gets In - Noise Management Plan

Authorised Person	The Premises Licence Holder or DPS must immediately comply with any request to adjust noise levels/ frequency spectra made by an ‘authorised person’ (as defined by Section 13 of the Licensing Act 2003) or the Police.
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10. Monitoring Process

10.1. Noise Levels.

The Music Noise Level shall be measured at a distance of 1 metre or as close as possible from the façade of any noise sensitive premises reflecting the non-city location of the event.

Noise level when measured as above shall not exceed:

1. 60db(A) between 09.00 and 23.00 hours
2. 45db(A) between 23.00 hours and event close when measured as Leq (A) 5 minutes

The licensee shall ensure that the promoter, sound system supplier and all individual sound engineers are informed in writing of the noise control limits and that any instruction from the approved consultant or local authority environmental health representative regarding noise levels shall be implemented immediately.

Sound technicians will bring with them appropriate means to measure and keep a record of noise levels at their sound desks along with a diagram of positioning of sound desk and sound system within the structure

The approved consultant shall monitor the noise from the event at various locations surrounding the event as per plan in section 10.3 and shall advise the sound engineers accordingly to ensure that the noise limits are not exceeded. The Local Authority shall have access to the results of noise monitoring at any time during the event and will be provided with the final data records within 14 days of the event finish.

Noise levels will also be monitored by ear to facilitate review of noise that whilst within the agreed dB limits, may be considered a nuisance, such as bass frequencies or voice. Where the consultant or approved Environmental Health representative of the Local authority deems the levels to be a potential nuisance, instruction will be given to reduce levels, regardless of whether or not they are within agreed dB parameters

Records will be kept and available on request for up to 90 days from the last day of the event. Where the reading taken is more than 1 metre from the building façade a 3dB correction will be added to the reading

Notes: *The Music Noise Level is defined as Leq (A) of the music noise measured at a particular occasion, defined as the continuous equivalent noise level which at a given location and over a given time period contains the same A-weighted sound energy as the fluctuating noise at the same location over the same time period.

10.2. Background noise tests before the festival begins

We will undertake sound monitoring at the agreed points in section 10.3 to measure the background noise without entertainment noise and prior to the start of the festival. (Subject to receiving permission from property owner). All background noise monitoring data gathered will be available if requested. This will be conducted between midday and event commencement on Friday

dB(A) L90 readings will be used for background noise level data and will records of these readings will be kept on file and available to an authorised representative of the local authority on request during the event and will be provided within 7 working days of the event close.

Sound Checks and system alignment before the festival begins: The house sound engineers will provide their own equipment (or be provided with suitable equipment) to monitor noise levels at the desk position to prevent creeping noise levels. Tests will be run – a stage at a time and then an accumulative test across all the noise sources at once based on requirements of the event programme to reflect the maximum number of stages playing at any time. Sound propagation tests will be carried out prior to the start of the event. These tests will involve playing music similar to the proposed programme through the various sound systems and measuring the sound levels at the front of house mixer position whilst simultaneously measuring sound levels at areas located outside the venue as per plan in section 9.3. This will enable an appropriate sound level to be set for the stages that will ensure the Music Noise Level is not exceeded.

The conditions of the Noise Management plan will be made clear in writing to all on site operators and a production meeting held with the Production supplier in advance to discuss any potential artist related problems. Thus all other parties, including artists, production managers and sound engineers will be instructed not to increase the sound level from the agreed level following the sound propagation tests unless specifically agreed by the approved consultant's staff.

Guidance information giving details of the sound restrictions in place on site, timings during which music is permitted to be played on site and the approved consultant's role on site will be sent to operators of all ancillary sound systems on site in advance of the event – this will include caterers, traders, funfair and sponsors.

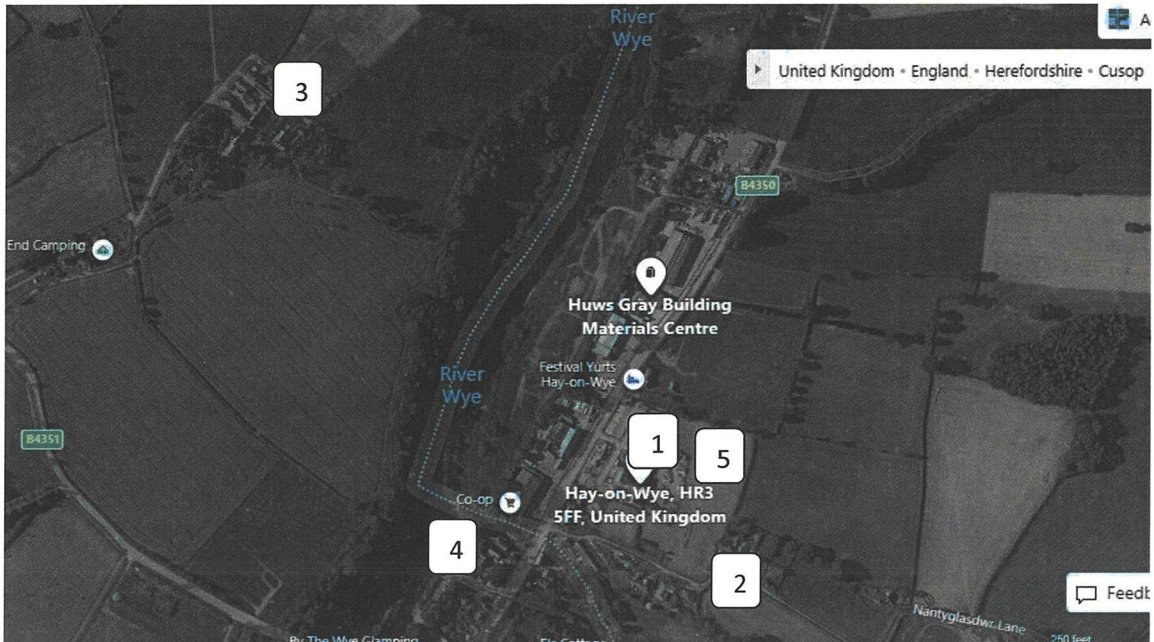
All entertainment parties operating (DJs, musicians, sound engineers etc) within the festival will be required to provide contact details for the member of their team with overall responsibility for operating and controlling their sound system and will act as a point of contact throughout the festival with members of the approved consultant's team. The designated person in charge of the sound system is required to remain on site during all times covered by the Noise Management Plan and must respond to any requests made by the approved consultant in relation to sound levels of their system. This information will be circulated by The Festival Management Team prior to the event and a full list of noise sources on site will be supplied to the consultant.

Any testing of sound equipment will not take place before 09.00hrs and will last for no more than 2 hours on any one day.

10.3. Monitoring Points

- 1: Bookers Edge HR3 5FF
- 2: Nantyglassdwr Lane HR3 5EN
- 3: Boatside Farm. HR3 5RS.
- 4: HR3 5BJ (last property on the right when accessing from Newport Street)
- 5: Bookers Edge, HR3 5FF

These points have been agreed with the Local Authority Environmental Health liaison.
If additional monitoring points are required, we can amend the plan to account for these.



Bookers Edge monitoring points below (point 5 is to help ensure traffic noise is not affecting readings)



10.4. Meter Measurements

The main sound level meter used will be a class 1 meter (Cirrus Optimus) Details of the precise meter will be provided on the record forms and all meters and calibrators will be within required calibration timescales of 1 year for calibrators and 2 years for Sound level meters.

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11. Complaints Procedure

There will be a dedicated handset and mobile phone number for raising noise complaints. This will be published to all local residents on the letter that is delivered by no less than 7 days before the festival.

This number will be attended the whole time the event is operational. The production manager on duty will answer the phone, the phone will be kept fully charged at all times. The phone will have priority answering over all other activity (Unless in the case of an emergency).

A noise hotline will be installed and publicised so that local residents can report any noise issues directly to the Festival. All calls will be logged by time, location and contact number and address will be requested. The log will be kept on site and be readily available at the request of a duly authorised Council officer. The noise hotline number will be operational throughout the hours of regulated entertainment. If requested by a duly authorised Council officer, all calls received by the noise hotline will be reported immediately to the on-duty representative from the Council. The complaints log in Appendix one will be used for this.

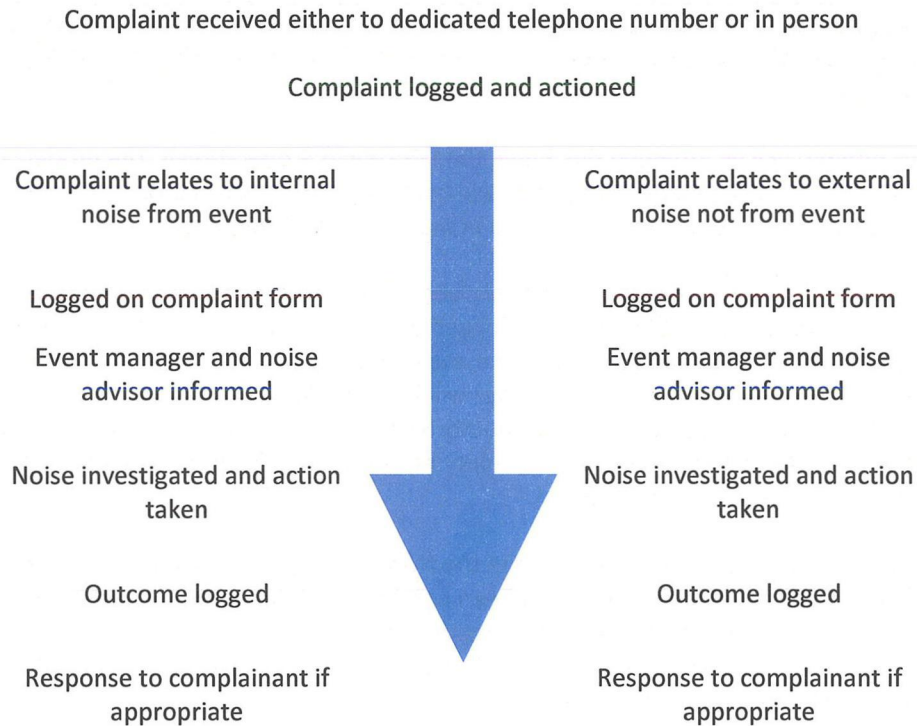
Irrespective of noise levels prescribed in the Noise Management Strategy, The Premises Licence Holder or DPS or any person who has been nominated as their deputy must immediately comply with any request to adjust noise levels/ frequency spectra made by an 'authorised person' (as defined by Section 13 of the Licensing Act 2003). This person is Mandy Houghton 07854 724789 who can also be contacted for any noise complaints.

When a complaint is received, the provided process (Action protocol 11.1) will be used and records kept on Complaint log (Appendix one) along with actions taken. Additionally the noise advisor will use their noise monitoring log (Appendix two) to record actions taken (using the comment column) and any monitoring undertaken as result of the complaint that has been received.

If an authorised person instructs a reduction in noise levels, this will be undertaken immediately and a record made in the noise logs. Any instruction, whoever it is received by, must be conveyed to the noise consultant to ensure that their log is updated and records kept.

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11.1. Action protocol:



Notes to complaints procedure:

- Any noise complaint off site will be investigated and readings taken even if not one of the agreed monitoring points in 10.3
- A log will be kept of all complaints, investigation and outcome and any action taken. This will be available for inspection on request and will be submitted to the local authority within 14 days of the event end. A record will be made of all the calls received to the Noise Line and the record form kept in the Production office. The noise advisor will keep record of all concerns notified to them and action taken on their event noise log.

11.2. Pre-Event Information

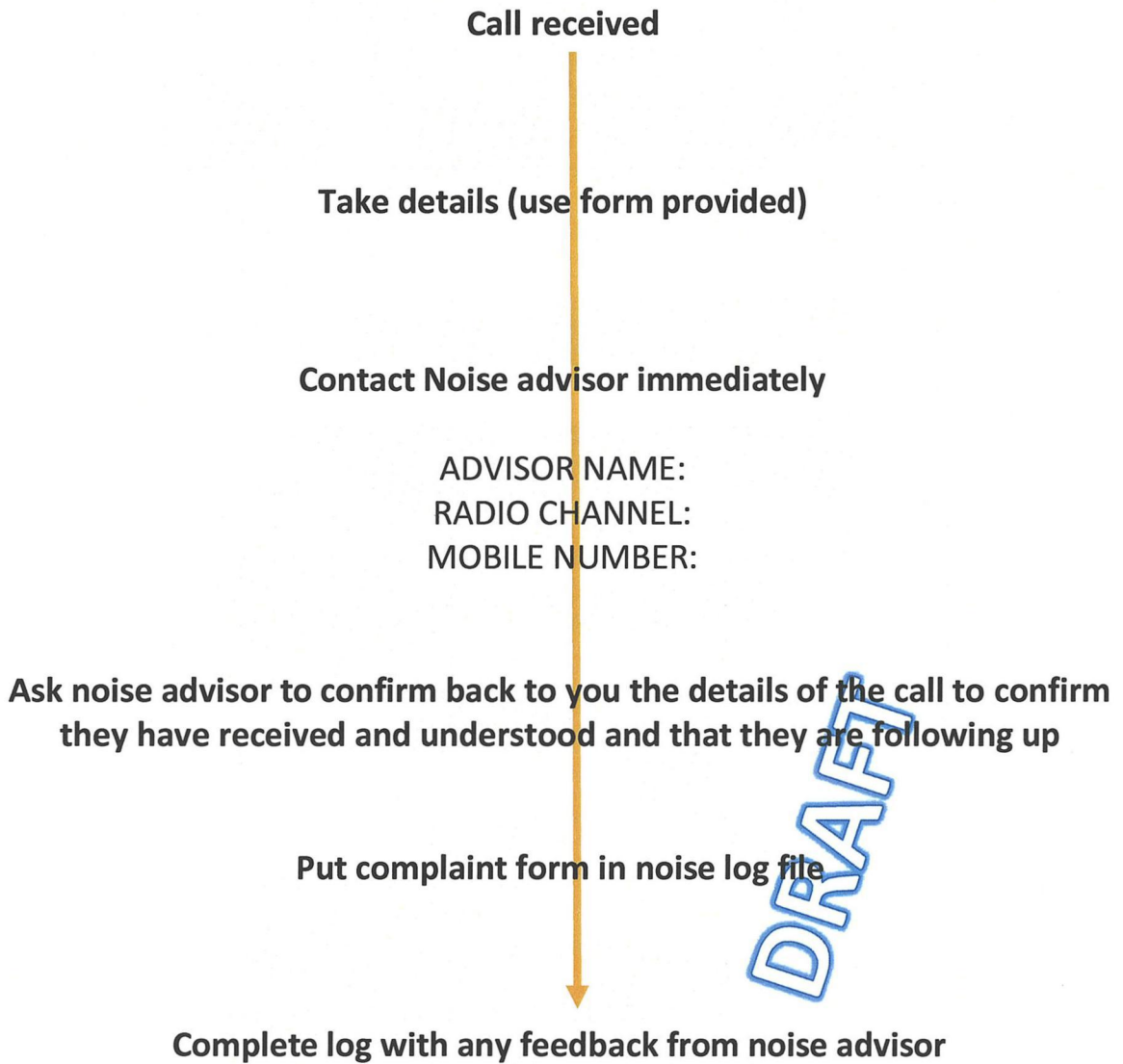
A letter will be circulated to local residents no less than 7 days prior to the event, informing them of the details of the event, including start and finish times of both the event and any sound-checks. This will also include a dedicated telephone number for noise complaints. The information contained in the letter and the addresses of residential areas to receive the information will be agreed in writing prior to distribution with the local authority. A copy of the final letter will be attached to this plan.

Appendix One – Noise Complaint form

Date of call (dd/mm/yy)	
Time of call (24h clock)	
Name of person receiving call	
Name of caller	
Location calling from	
Details of complaint	
Caller's number (if happy to give for any follow up)	
Any advice/guidance/response advised to caller	
Time noise advisor contacted to advise of complaint (24h clock)	
Method of communication with Noise advisor (circle appropriate)	Mobile telephone / Walkie-talkie / In person
Feedback from noise advisor (if relevant) and action taken (noise advisor will also record on monitoring log and note action take under "comments" field.	

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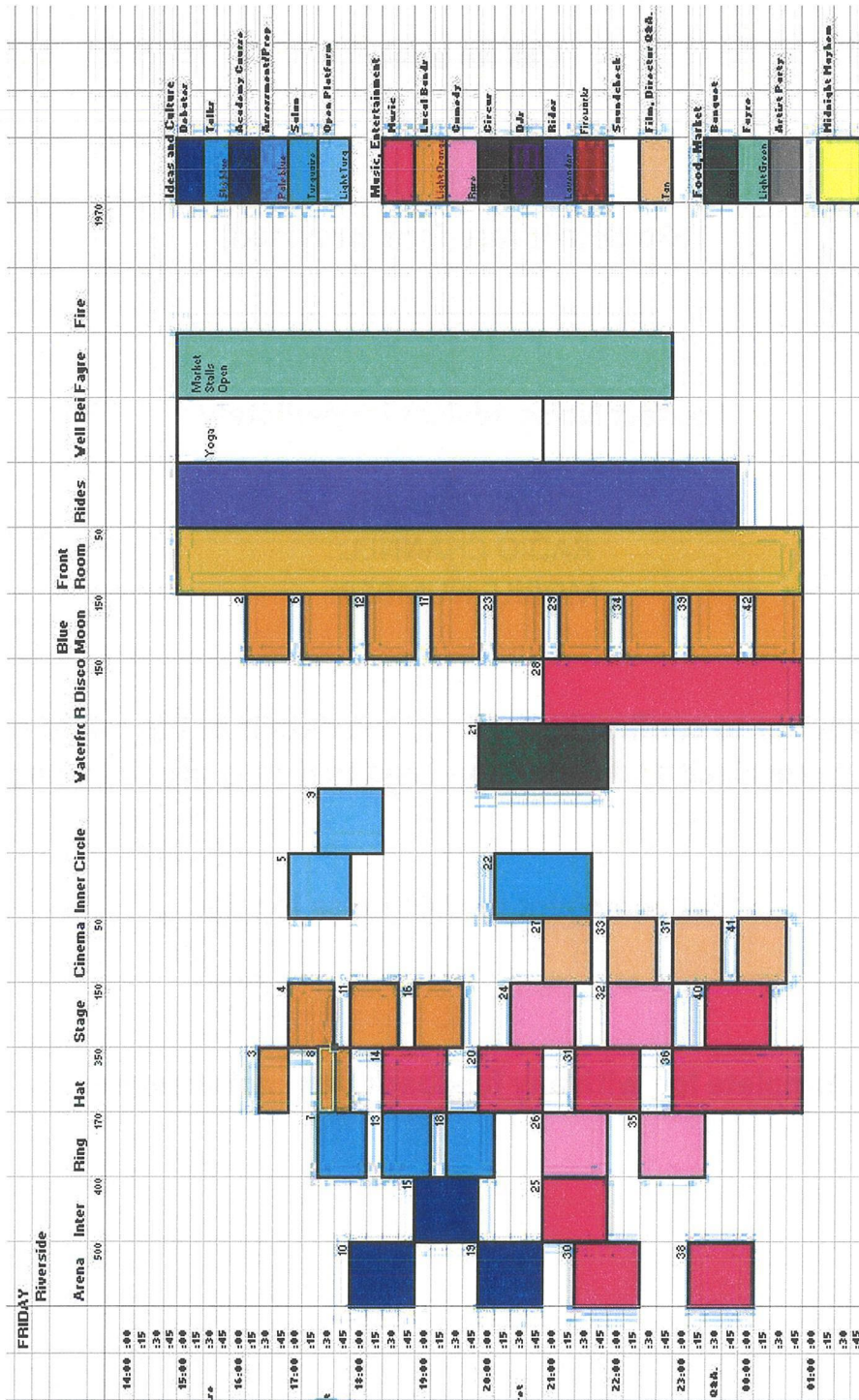
Appendix Three – Noise management action flow on receipt of complaint to Hotline



Appendix Four – Schedule of Locations and Times by Genre

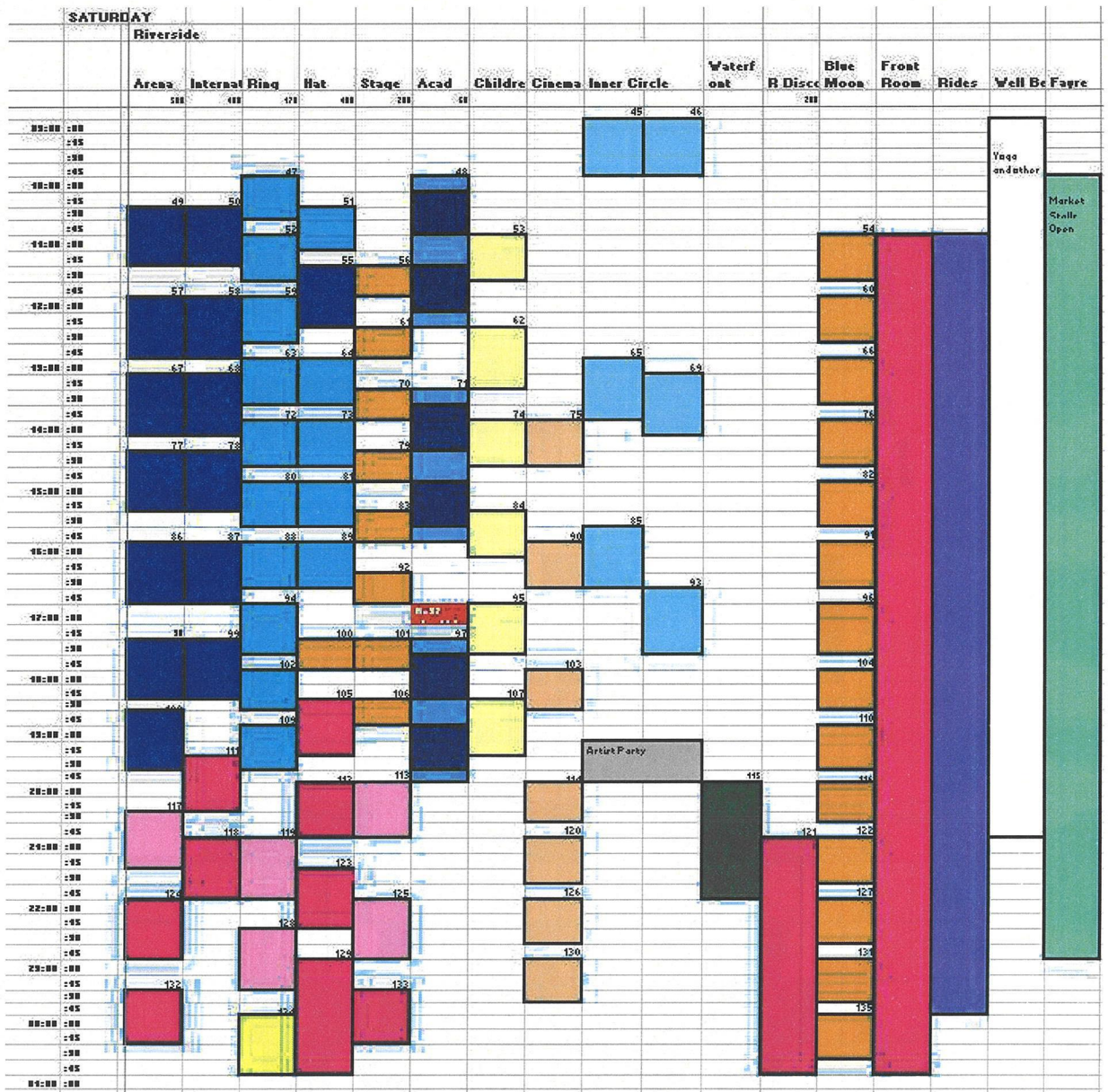
This is all stages, events and activities. These are not all amplified music sources.

FRIDAY



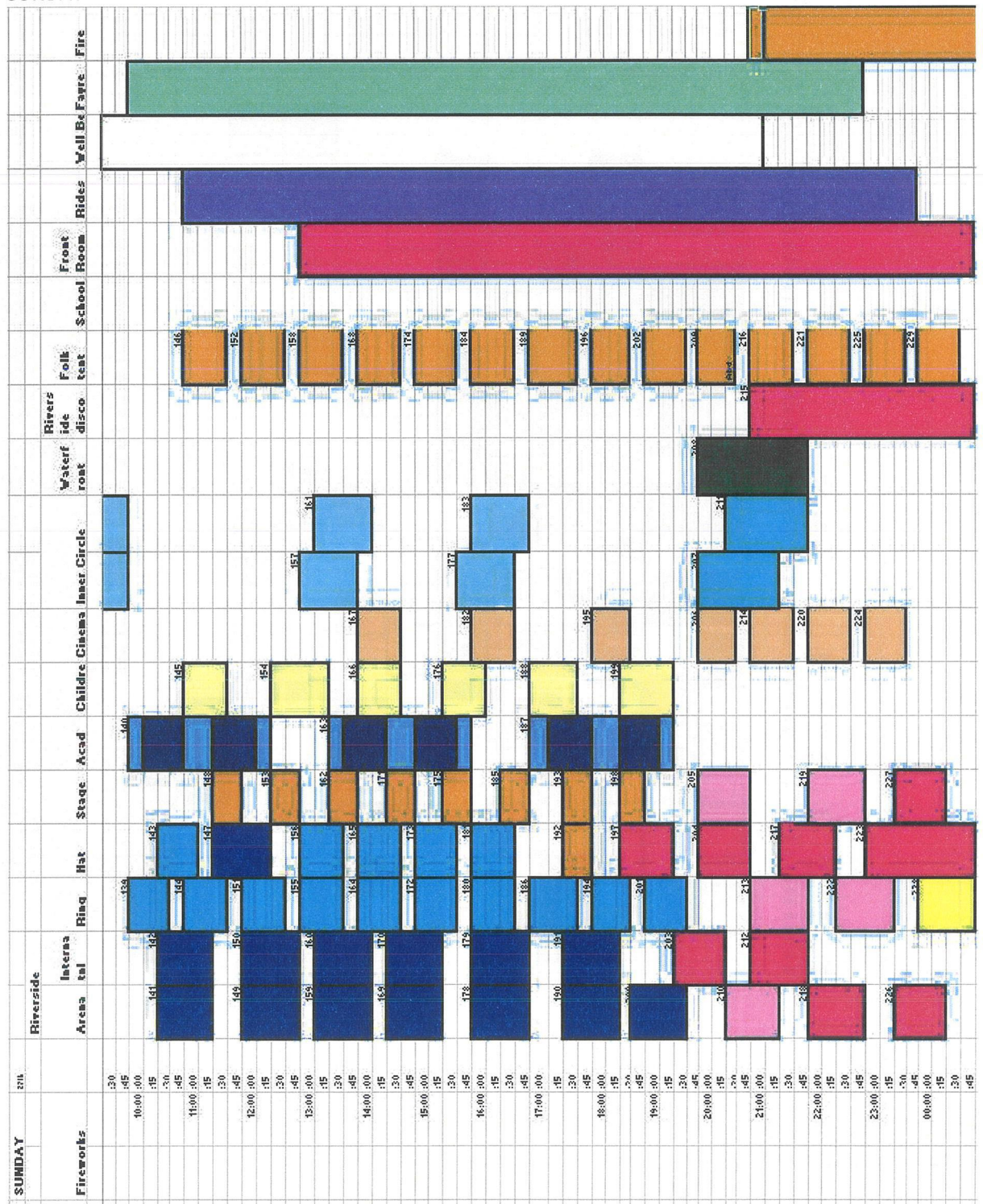
SATURDAY

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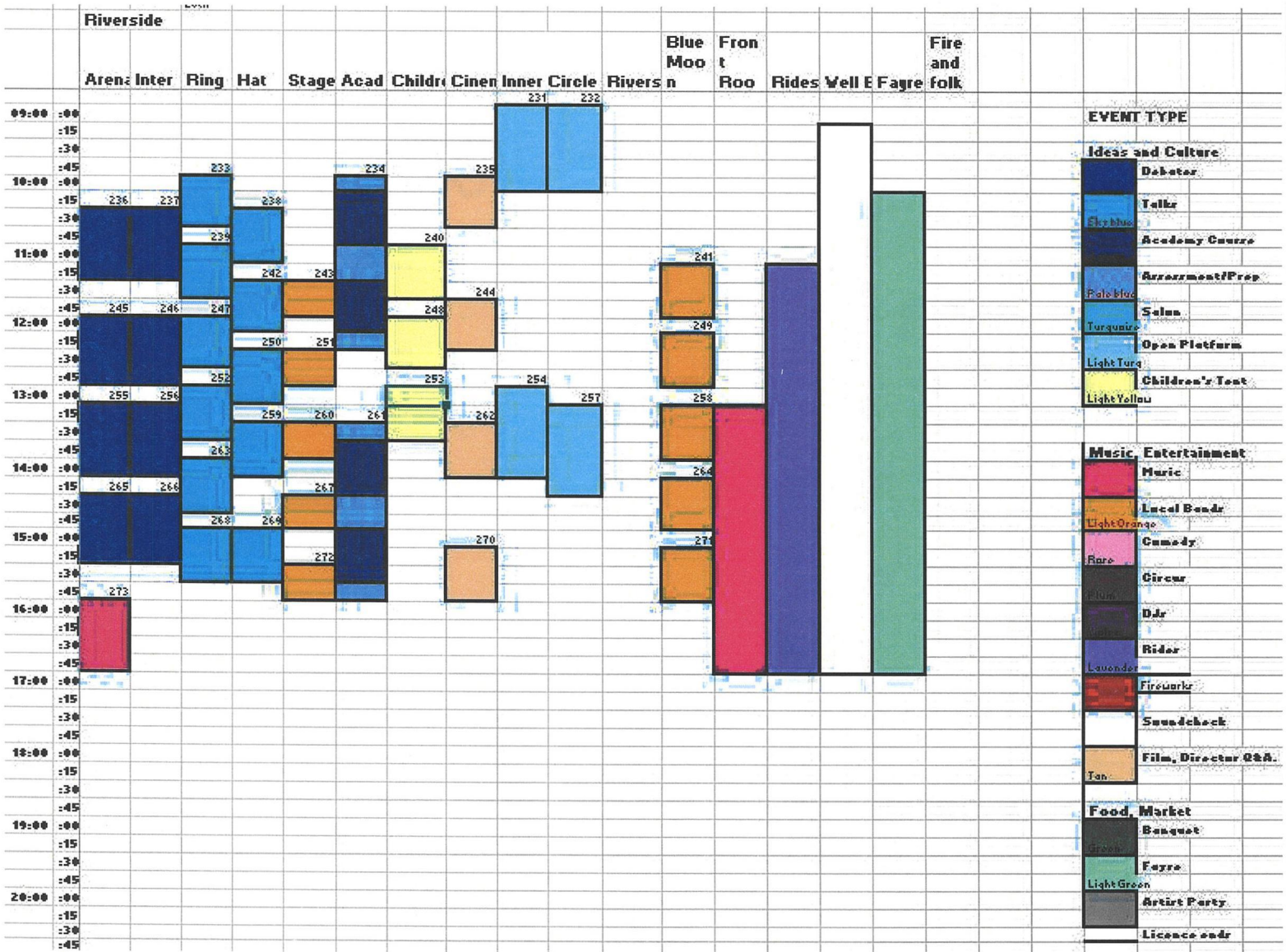


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SUNDAY



MONDAY



- EVENT TYPE**
- Ideas and Culture
 - Debate
 - Talk
 - Academy Course
 - Arrangement/Prep
 - Sales
 - Open Platform
 - Children's Test
 - Music, Entertainment
 - Music
 - Local Bands
 - Comedy
 - Circus
 - DJ
 - Rider
 - Firework
 - Soundcheck
 - Film, Director Q&A
 - Food, Market
 - Banquet
 - Faire
 - Artist Party
 - Licence endr

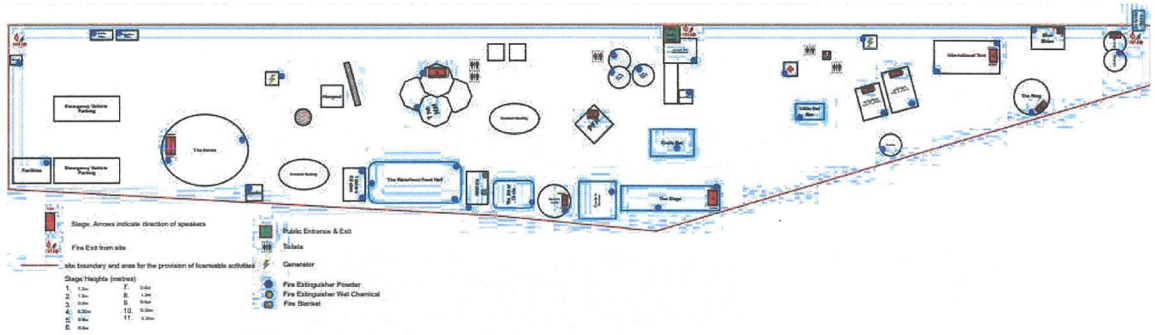


How The Light Gets In - Noise Management Plan

Appendix five

Duty production office roster (to be added once crewing is finalised)

Appendix six Site layout plan



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Appendix Seven - 1st Residential engagement letter



The Institute of Art and Ideas
375 City Road
London
EC1V 1NB
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)20 7837 3000
F: +44 (0)20 7833 2185
E: emily.baker@artandideas.org
W: howthelightgetsin.org

HowTheLightGetsIn 2024

Local Stakeholder Letter

Proposed Event	HowTheLightGetsIn (HTLGI)
Dates	24th to the 27th of May 2024
Location	Greenfield site, Newport Street HR3 5EW

Introduction

The Institute of Art and Ideas (IAI) will again shortly be applying for a premises licence to hold this year's HTLGI Festival.

We wanted to contact local businesses and residents to inform them of this application in advance and to provide you with details of the proposed event. After the successful consultation process last year we wanted to ensure that we again gave this opportunity for feedback.

In line with the feedback last year we have made some alterations to our site plan and hope these new arrangements will have a positive impact on the hosting of this years event.

We have secured the site for 5 years and will be applying for a licence for 5 years, to host 1 event (lasting no more than 4 days) over the course of the next 5 years.

About the event

This year's event is due to take place over the late May bank holiday starting on Friday 24 May at 12 noon, and running through to the bank holiday Monday, 27 May when the festival will close at 1700

How The Light Gets In - Noise Management Plan

The event will be follow the now well-established combination of speakers, cabaret, comedy and performance

There will be the same 8 performance areas across the site. Each performance area will be within a tented structure

There will be 4 bars across the site and a wide selection of food outlets

The planned maximum capacity of the event is 3500

Over the course of the weekend the operating hours of the site will be:

Friday	1200 to 0130
Saturday and Sunday	0800 to 0130
Monday	0800 to 1700

The proposed hours for the sale of alcohol are

Friday	1300 to 0045
Saturday and Sunday	1100 to 0045
Monday	1100 to 1645

Entertainment will be provided during the following hours

Friday	1300 to 0100
Saturday and Sunday	0900 to 0100
Monday	0900 to 1700

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Late night refreshment (the sale of hot food and drink) will be provided Friday – Sunday from 2300 to 0100

The area around the site will be fenced off to provide a safe and secure environment for those who wish to attend the event.

It is anticipated that the build of the site will take place on 12th to 23rd May and the take down will occur on the 28th of May to the 3rd June

How The Light Gets In - Noise Management Plan

We will again operate a noise hotline as outlined in our Noise Management Plan last year and details of this will be circulated to the local community in due course. The accompanying Event Management Plan will also be submitted to Herefordshire Licensing Authority.

Full details of the event can be found on our website –

<https://howthelightgetsin.org/festivals/hay>

How to contact the Event Organiser

You can contact the Event Organiser by emailing mandy.houghton@globeathay.co.uk with any questions you may have about the event.

This email is monitored by the event team who will respond directly to any questions asked.

Local residents' ticket

Local tickets are again available to anyone living within 5 miles of the globe and offered at 50% discount.

These tickets can be purchased directly from the globe. ID confirming your address is all that is needed.

Email updates

We will be providing a further update on the planning for the event, including details of the noise hotline, shortly before the event starts but, in the meantime, if you would like to be kept updated about the festival, then please email Emily.baker@artandides.org and we can arrange for you to be added to the mailing list

Mandy Houghton

Manager

globe at hay and HowTheLightGetsIn Festival

Appendix Eight - 2nd Residential Engagement letter (and distribution list)



The Institute of Art and Ideas
375 City Road
London
EC1V 1NB
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)20 7837 3000
F: +44 (0)20 7833 2185
E: emily.baker@artandideas.org
W: howthelightgetsin.org

Hay 2024

Local Stakeholder Letter

Event

HowTheLightGetsIn (HTLGI)

Dates

24 to the 27 May 2024

Location

Greenfield site, Newport Street HR3 5EW

Update

The purpose of this letter is to update you in relation to HTLGI which is due to take place on the 24 to 27 May 2024

This letter contains details about

- The Premises licence
- The Noise Complaints Hotline
- Local residents' tickets

The Premises Licence

The Premises licence for this years' festival was granted following a hearing of the Herefordshire Licensing Sub Committee on the 3 May 2024. The days and hours permitted for licensable activities under the licence are as follows:

Dates of Festival - Friday 26 May 2023 to Monday 29 May 2023

Films (Indoors), Live Music (Indoors), Recorded Music (Indoors), Performance of Dance (Indoors), Anything Similar (Indoors)

Friday 13:00 – 01:00

Saturday & Sunday 09:00 – 01:00

Monday 09:00 – 17:00

Late Night Refreshment (Indoors/Outdoors)

Friday – Sunday 23:00 – 01:00

Sale/Supply of Alcohol (consumption on and off the premises)

How The Light Gets In - Noise Management Plan

Friday 13:00 – 00:45

Saturday & Sunday 11:00 – 00:45

Monday 11:00 – 16:45

The Noise Complaints Hotline

During the course of the event, HTLGI will be maintaining a Noise Complaints Hotline.

The number of the hotline is **insert number**

The Hotline will be manned throughout the duration of the event by a member of festival staff. When the festival site is closed the hotline will be manned by a member of the festival campsite team.

Staff manning the Hotline will receive a training briefing with the Festival Noise Consultant on what data to record, how to use the complaints form and what action to take when a complaint is received.

As soon as the call is finished, the onsite Festival Noise Consultant will be contacted by the site office and given details of the complaint. The Festival Noise Consultant will then investigate the complaint and take whatever remedial action is required. A record of any remedial action taken will be made.

A record of the complaint and remedial action taken will then be provided to the licensing authority at the conclusion of the festival.

Local residents' ticket

Local tickets are still available to anyone living within 5 miles of the globe and offered at 50% discount.

These tickets can be purchased directly from the globe. ID confirming your address is all that is needed.

Further information

If you require further information about any aspect of the festival, please contact Mandy Houghton by email at mandy.houghton@globeathay.co.uk

Mandy Houghton

Manager globe at hay and HowTheLightGetsIn Festival

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Appendix Nine - Authors Biography

This plan has been prepared by Calvin Hanks, MSc, MSc, PgC, CMIOSH, FIIRSM, MCIEH, TechIOA. Calvin's registrations and qualifications include:

- Chartered Safety & Health Practitioner
- Master of Science in Environmental Health (with Distinction)
- Institute of Acoustics Certificate of Competence in Environmental Noise measurement (Via Southampton University)
- Technician member of the Institute of Acoustics
- Fellow of the International Institute of Risk and Safety Management
- Postgraduate certificate in Infection Control (with Distinction)
- Member of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

Calvin has extensive experience in events and festivals and teaches in event safety alongside his work with live events. Calvin has been involved in the safe management, including noise management, of many events including:

- How The Light Gets In, Hay on Wye since 2017
- How The Light Gets In, London since inception in 2018. This involves management of safety and noise at an English Heritage Historic building, where effective noise management is critical to safeguard the integrity of the property. Additionally, the event is in a London Borough surrounded by residential properties and effective noise management is required to ensure a balance between enjoyment of the event and needs of local residents.
- Medicine Festival, initially looking after Noise Management and infection control since 2020 but since 2022 brief was extended to include all aspects of Health & Safety. This site is in Berkshire of a private estate surrounded by residential properties. Since our appointment we have worked with event and residents and reduced complaints to single figures, with our proactive "at time of complaint" response.
- Kaya festival, Port talbot, responsible for all aspects of health & safety and noise management resulting in no noise management issues arising
- Tour de moon, Hackney- a government funded event where we oversaw all Health & safety and noise management for a street festival in East London for many thousands.
- Great events, Cambridge who hold Christmas parties in marquees in the fields adjacent to a hotel in a residential area of Cambridgeshire. Providing all noise management, we helped successfully secure the event license after a hearing due to noise concerns, and provide on and offsite noise management for their events every year. This location is especially challenging as there is a large housing estate within 100 yards of the event location.
- East London mela, a cultural event for many thousands with multiple sound stages and more, in a public park in a residential area of East London. For this we provided noise management including multiple noise advisors on and off site on the live event to ensure compliance and responding to any concerns.
- University of Surrey Students' Union, where we provide ongoing support of noise management and monitoring to ensure that local residents needs are accounted for and balanced with event enjoyment.
- Ride the night, a series of overnight charity bike rides and walks, overseeing all health & safety. This includes noise management especially at the Kings Cross, London venue.

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- Firework champions, a series of events across the UK involving firework displays set to music with 4 separate displays in a competition. Since 2020 providing on site health and safety and noise management services
- Spooktacular, an annual event for 8000 people on the town's edge involving funfair and fireworks set to music, and since 2021 overseeing all onsite safety and on and off site noise management
- Deebday, a festival for 1500 but within a quiet village location, overseeing all health & safety and noise management.
- Lighthouse Gospels festivals, overseeing health & safety and noise management of festivals in town park locations.
- Love Wycombe, a religious event in the town centre on a Sunday morning with large sound stage and live music, overseeing all health and safety and noise management.
- Springfield events, a series of 9 festivals over a 14 week period, for 1000 to 5000 attendance composed mainly of Dance music by DJs. Overseeing all health & safety and off and on site noise management to ensure licensing conditions are adhered to. This event required being available for immediate response to any complaints including visiting affected properties and liaison with residents.
- Transitions Beach Festival, a DJ led Dance music festival for 3000 alongside a residential area in surrey. Looking after all health & safety and noise management.
- Matts BBQ, a DJ dance music festival for 5000 in South London park, looking after all health & safety and noise management.
- Beyond Festival in public park in Leicester for 9999 people of live and amplified music, looking after all event health and safety and noise management.
- Sladefest 2023, a 2 day event for up to 5000 in a country location in the South East near villages and residential areas.
- Chesford Bridge House events, a village location in Warwickshire of multiple events

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How The Light Gets In Festival

APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF PREMISES LICENCE

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

MH9 – Pre application consultation email

Matthew May

From: Ewen Macgregor
Sent: 16 January 2024 12:28
To: Spriggs, Fred
Cc: Licensing; Thornett, Bryan; Hustwayte, Alexander; O'Mahony, Jacqueline; Hay, Sophie; Baker, Ian; licensing.herefordshire@westmercia.pnn.police.uk; ethelpline@herefordshire.gov.uk; Cooper, Richard; Laughland, Elisabeth
Subject: HOWTHELIGHTGETSIN 2024 24 to 27 May 2024 (and future years) Licensing Act 2003 - Pre Application Consultation
Attachments: HTLGI OS 2024.docx

Good afternoon, Fred

Firstly, HNY! It probably seems some time ago now, but I hope that you had a good break

I emailed you on the 13 October 2023 about the proposed dates for the HTLGI festival for 2024. The festival is due to take place over the course of the late May bank holiday weekend (as was the case last year) on the 24 – 27 May

I am sending this to the RAs that I have been able to locate from your website (and from previous meetings we have had on this matter) but there may be others who you will wish to share this email with (and which my client is of course happy for you to share) – possibly those at Powys.

If you are able to forward this email, then can you please copy me in so that I have a complete record of consultees.

Draft Operating Schedule

My client is keen to engage with the responsible authorities as part of the pre application process (as they have done in previous years) and I am now in a position to share with you a proposed operating schedule for the festival for the coming years.

This is attached

A few observations from me at this stage:

- The length of the festival remains in line with what was approved last year – 4 days, starting on the Friday at 1300 and closing on the Monday at 1700
- In line with other festival applications that we have made across the country we are seeking a licence for more than one year – in this case we are seeking a permission for 5 years.
- The date of the licence for year 1 has already been communicated to you
- The intention is to give the Licensing authority and SAG at least 6 months' notice of dates for future years.
- The licence in previous years has contained significant number of conditions and you will see from the attached that we have structured the proposed application around an Event Safety Management Plan (**ESMP**)
- The premises licence holder shall comply with the ESMP. and will be shared with the relevant RAs at least 2 months in advance for the proposed event date
- The ESMP will be a living document and will include but not be limited to sections on the following.
 - Site plan
 - Premises licence
 - Health and Safety Responsibilities
 - Venue and Site Design
 - Fire Risk Assessment

- Major Incident Planning (Emergency planning)
 - Communication
 - Crowd Management (including steward and security numbers and their roles)
 - Transport
 - Management Structures
 - Barriers
 - Electrical Installations and Lighting
 - Food and Alcohol
 - Sanitary Facilities
 - Waste Management
 - Sound: Noise and Vibration
 - Special Effects, Fireworks and Pyrotechnics
 - Camping
 - Facilities for People with disabilities
 - Medical, Ambulance and First Aid Management
 - Information and Welfare
 - Children - including Lost Children's Policy
- The OS has bespoke sections attending to the 4 licensing objectives
 - Whilst I appreciate that the authority – and RAs may have a view on the approach being adopted it is an approach that we have adopted (and been accepted by licensing authorities) in recent years for both festivals and large-scale events

Layout plan

I am hoping to be able to share a proposed layout plan with you shortly and will send this on as soon as I have it but was keen to get the draft OS to you as soon as I could

Residents

I will discuss with my client how they are proposing to engage with the local community and will confirm this to you in due course. It seems clear to me that the significant engagement with the residents in advance of last year's festival lead to the significant improvement and positive feedback from local residents and Cusop Parish council" as highlighted in the SAG de brief minutes that took place following the event in 2023.

Next Steps

1. Could I ask that the attached is circulated to any RAs/members of SAG that I have missed off
2. I look forward to receiving any observations or comments that you and the RAs may have on the attached document
3. That if you wish to have a pre app meeting then I am happy to facilitate this online
4. We will send to you an updated plan as soon as received by me
5. That we aim to submit the application no later than the second half of February
6. My client will of course continue to engage with you, the RAs and other relevant members of SAG during both the pre application and statutory consultation process.

If you wish to discuss this matter with me then please do not hesitate to contact me – mobile number below is probably best.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes

Ewen Macgregor
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The Employment (Allocation of Tips) Act comes into force on the 1 July 2024

The Government is consulting to gather views on the [draft statutory Code of Practice](#) on the distribution and allocation of tips

A link to the consultation, which runs through to the 22 February 2024, can be found [here](#)

**HowTheLightGetsIn
Greenfield Site
Newport Street
Hay on Wye
Herefordshire
HR3 5EW**

Draft Operating Schedule

Opening Hours

- Friday – 1200 to 0100
- Saturday and Sunday – 0800 to 0100
- Monday – 0800 to 1700

Licensable Activities

Films, Live Music, Plays, Recorded Music, Performance of Dance, Anything Similar

- Friday 13:00 – 01:00
- Saturday & Sunday 09:00 – 01:00
- Monday 09:00 – 17:00

Late Night Refreshment (Indoors/Outdoors)

- Friday – Sunday 23:00 – 01:00

Sale/Supply of Alcohol (consumption on and off the premises)

- Friday 13:00 – 00:45
- Saturday & Sunday 11:00 – 00:45
- Monday 11:00 – 16:45

Operating Schedule

General

1. There will be one event per year lasting a maximum of 4 days on each of the following years
 - Year 1 2024
 - Year 2 2025
 - Year 3 2026
 - Year 4 2027 and
 - Year 5 2028
2. The event in year 1 will take place on the 24th to the 27th May 2024
3. The Premises Licence Holder will provide the Licensing Authority and SAG with no less than 6 months of the proposed dates of the events in years 2 – 5 inclusive
4. The total capacity of the event will not exceed 4,999, excluding staff, crew, artists and performers and will be subject to a fire risk assessment
5. The premises shall maintain a live Event Safety Management Plan ('ESMP') that shall contain all the document that is required and necessary to operate a safe premises. This shall be risk assessed, reviewed and revised as is necessary, and shared with the licensing authority and responsible authorities on request.
6. This shall include but not limited to policies relating to the following: -
 - a. Site plan
 - b. Premises licence
 - c. Health and Safety Responsibilities
 - d. Venue and Site Design
 - e. Fire Risk Assessment
 - f. Major Incident Planning (Emergency planning)
 - g. Communication
 - h. Crowd Management (including steward and security numbers and their roles)
 - i. Transport
 - j. Management Structures
 - k. Barriers

- l. Electrical Installations and Lighting
 - m. Food and Alcohol
 - n. Sanitary Facilities
 - o. Waste Management
 - p. Sound: Noise and Vibration
 - q. Special Effects, Fireworks and Pyrotechnics
 - r. Camping
 - s. Facilities for People with disabilities
 - t. Medical, Ambulance and First Aid Management
 - u. Information and Welfare
 - v. Children - including Lost Children's Policy
7. The premises licence holder shall comply with the ESMP.
 8. A draft ESMP will be circulated to the Safety Advisory group, or similar, (SAG) at least 2 months prior to the event. This will include roles and responsibilities of the event management team particularly relating to event safety.
 9. Updates will be circulated as necessary and final versions issued at least 2 weeks prior to the event.
 10. Major incident and emergency procedures will be discussed with emergency services and agreed at least 2 weeks prior to the event.
 11. A written schedule shall be provided at least 1 month prior to the start of the event, of the number and position of SIA Security personnel to be employed on site by hour of day, during the period the premises is licensed for licensable activities.
 12. At the request of the Licensing Authority or SAG, the Premises Licence holder will attend an event de-brief after each event

Prevention of crime and disorder

13. A personal licence holder, or suitably trained individual, will be on site at all times
14. An incident log must be kept at the premises, and made immediately available on request to an 'authorised person' (as defined by Section 13 of the Licensing Act 2003) or the Police, which must record the following:
 - (a) all crimes reported to the venue

- (b) all ejections of patrons
- (c) any complaints received
- (d) any incidents of disorder
- (e) seizures of drugs or offensive weapons
- (f) any refusal of the sale of alcohol
- (g) any visit by a relevant authority or emergency service

Public safety

15. The name and contact details of the Event Safety Co-ordinator will be supplied via the Safety Advisory Group no later than 14 days prior to the start of the event.
16. The maximum permitted numbers of persons in the premises including staff shall not exceed the numbers set within the fire risk assessment for the site.
17. The installation and use of laser beams, pyrotechnics or real flames, explosive or highly flammable or smoke/foam producing agent, for any purpose shall not be permitted without prior notification to the Licensing Authority. A detailed description of the method of use, shall be made to the Licensing Authority not less than 14 days prior to the day on which the above equipment is to be used.
18. Paper lanterns will not be sold on site and will be listed within the ticketing terms and conditions as items that may not be brought to the venue.
19. Details of any temporary demountable structures will be given in the ESMP. The event management team will request appropriate documentation from structure contractors including structural calculations, wind loadings and wind management and monitoring policies where appropriate.
20. A competent electrical contractor will be appointed and used to provide any distribution from existing mains supply or generators. Cable routing will be considered so as to minimise trip hazards.

Prevention of public nuisance

21. Noise or vibration shall not emanate from the festival site so as to cause a nuisance.
22. The Noise Levels are to be checked at the intervals and locations as agreed within the Noise Management Strategy.

23. Any testing of sound equipment will not take place before 09.00hrs and will last for no more than 2 hours on any one day.
24. The person responsible for noise management (or noise consultant) shall be available for daily meetings with Environmental Health Officers from Herefordshire Council, if required.
25. The Premises License Holder will maintain a noise log which will be available at all times for inspection by Herefordshire Council.
26. A noise hotline will be installed and publicised so that local residents can report any noise issues directly to the Festival. All calls will be logged by time, location and contact number and address will be requested and will include details of any remedial action taken. The log will be kept on site and be readily available at the request of a duly authorised Council officer.
27. The noise hotline number will be operational throughout the hours of regulated entertainment.
28. Prominent, clear and legible signage (in not less than 32 font bold) shall be displayed at all exits to the premises requesting the public to respect the needs of local residents and to leave the premises and the area quietly.

Protection of children from harm

29. The premises shall operate a Challenge 25 Policy. Such policy shall be written down and kept at the premises.
30. Clear and legible signage shall also be displayed at all entrances to the premises as well as at, at least one location behind any bar advertising the scheme operated.
31. A written or electronic register of refusals will be kept including a description of the people who have been unable to provide required Identification to prove their age. Such records shall be kept for a period of 12 months and will be collected on a daily basis by the Designated Premises Supervisor and produced to the police or an 'authorised person' (as defined by Section 13 of the Licensing Act 2003) or an authorised Trading Standards Officer of Herefordshire Council on demand.
32. No adult entertainment or services or activities must take place at the premises (Adult Entertainment includes, but is not restricted to, such entertainment or services which would generally include topless bar staff, striptease, lap-table, or pole-dancing, performances

involving feigned violence or horrific incidents, feigned or actual sexual acts or fetishism, or entertainment involving strong and offensive language).

TVF Limited (“the Applicant”)

HOWTHELIGHTGETSIN 2024 (“the Festival”)

SUMMARY OF APPLICANTS SUBMISSIONS

1. This submission is aimed at assisting the Herefordshire Council Licensing Sub Committee, officers and local residents who are party to above matter. In essence, it summarises the submissions that the application will make to the Licensing Sub Committee on Friday 3rd May 2024.
2. The application, which is for a time limited licence for 5 years, authorising 1 four-day festival for each of the 5 years is supported by a statement from Mandy Houghton (with appendices **MH1 – MH9**).
3. **Council Licensing Act 2003 Policy**

The Licensing Authority Policy (Page 2) recognises *“that the licensed entertainment business sector and community licensed facilities in Herefordshire contribute to the local economy and social infrastructure”*.

The Festival will make a significant contribution to the local economy (see the Economic Impact Assessment, paras 26 - 33 of the statement of Mandy Houghton and at **MH5**).

The Policy also states at page 2 that *“the Licensing Authority wishes to encourage licensees to provide a wide range of entertainment activities throughout their opening hours and to promote live music, dance, theatre etc. for the wider cultural benefit. They are a factor in supporting an economy which builds on the county's strengths and resources, which is one of Herefordshire Council's aims.”*

The Festival (see paras 12 - 17 of the statement of Mandy Houghton) meets all of these aims.

The policy also acknowledges the need to strike the right balance between the needs of businesses and of local residents (see Foreword by Chair of the Licensing Committee). This is achieved through the Event Safety Management Plan (and supporting policies and risk assessments) and the significant schedule of conditions that have been proposed with the application.

4. HowTheLightGetsIn

HowTheLightGetsIn has a unique identity as a philosophy and music festival (paras 12 – 17 of the statement of Mandy Houghton and **MH4**).

This provides significant benefit to the local and wider community (**MH5**).

The festival was founded in 2008 and has taken place in Hay-on-Wye since 2009 – moving to its current location in 2018. Historically, the festival ended at 0200am each day, this was voluntarily reduced to 0100am in 2022.

5. SAG De-brief 2023

The applicant engaged in significant post event meetings with the Councils SAG attending three meetings on the 10 July 2023, 22 August 2023 and the 24 October 2024 (**MH1, MH2 and MH3**).

- 6.** The feedback from these meeting was overwhelmingly positive (see the statement of Mandy Houghton paras 18 – 22) with the comment being made that the “steps taken by HTLGI appear to have improved relationships with the local community which is very positive”.

7. The Application

The application is for a 5 year licence.

The 2024 event shall run from Friday 24th May 2024 until Monday 27th May 2024. Notification of these dates were given to the Licensing Authority on the 13 October 2023.

8. Operating Schedule

The application is supported by a substantial schedule of conditions underpinned by an Event Safety Management Plan.

In the course of the statutory consultation process, save for the Environmental Health Officer (see below), none of the responsible authorities sought to add to or amend the draft operating schedule.

9. Pre-application Consultation – the Licensing Authority

Pre-application consultation has been carried out with the Licensing Authority and Responsible Authorities (see the statement of Mandy Houghton at paras 45 - 47 of and **MH9**) on the 16 January 2024 when all relevant parties were provided with details of the proposal and a draft operating schedule.

Save for some observations from the Fire Officer no comments were made about the proposal or any suggestions to amend or adapt the proposed operating schedule.

10. Pre Application Consultation – the Local Community

The Applicant engaged with the local community in advance of submitting the application (see the statement of Mandy Houghton at paras 48 - 50). The Applicant attended a meeting of the Cusop Parish Council (where the operation of the campsite was of particular concern). The campsite management plan has been amended and updated to attend to these concerns.

A residents engagement letter was circulated.

A further residents engagement letter will be sent to the local community with details of the Residents Hotline in advance of the Festival.

11. Event Safety Management Plan (ESMP) and Noise Management Plan (NMP)

The ESMP (**MH7**) is a significant and substantial document to which are attached a number of appendices setting out specific policies which include, amongst others, the NMP (**MH8**).

The ESMP and all supporting policies are living documents which will be subject to ongoing scrutiny by the Council's SAG (the most recent meeting of which took place on the 18 April 2024) up to, and during, the event.

12. The National Guidance

The Committee will be familiar with the following paragraphs of the s.182 National Guidance to Licensing Authorities (December 2023 edition):

Crime and Disorder

2.1 - Licensing authorities should look to the police as the main source of advice on crime and disorder. They should also seek to involve the local Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

Public Nuisance

2.21 - The 2003 Act enables licensing authorities and responsible authorities, through representations, to consider what constitutes public nuisance and what is appropriate to prevent it in terms of conditions attached to specific premises licences

The Role of the Responsible Authorities

9.12 Each responsible authority will be an expert in their respective field, and in some cases it is likely that a particular responsible authority will be the licensing authority's main source of advice in relation to a particular licensing objective. For example, the police have a key role in managing the night-time economy and should have good working relationships with those operating in their local area

Determining actions that are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives

9.44...the authority should aim to consider the potential burden that any condition would impose on the premises licence holder (such as the financial burden due to restrictions on licensable activities) as well as the potential benefit in terms of the promotion of the licensing objectives

Proportionality

10.10 The 2003 Act requires that licensing conditions should be tailored to the size, type, location and characteristics and activities taking place at the premises concerned. Licensing authorities and other responsible authorities should be alive to the indirect costs that can arise because of conditions. These could be a deterrent to holding events that are valuable to the community or for the funding of good and important causes. Licensing authorities should therefore ensure that any conditions they impose are only those which are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

13. The Responsible Authorities

As stated above, the Responsible Authorities have been engaged as part of the pre application consultation (see the statement for Mandy Houghton at paras 45 - 47).

The EHO requested an additional condition be attached to the licence (see the Executive Summary in the statement of Mandy Houghton). This has been agreed and as a consequence of this the EHO has withdrawn his representation.

The Applicant says that it is of significance that none of the responsible authorities have requested any other changes to the operating schedule (specifically the life of the licence, days and hours requested) and that there are no outstanding representations to the Application from any of the responsible authorities (see para 9.12 of the National Guidance quoted above).

14. Representations – other persons

The Application has drawn representations to the application from a number of other persons.

The Applicant has responded positively to these representations and is attended to in the statement of Mandy Houghton at para 55.

15. Representations and Letters in Support

The application is supported by two positive representations in support of the application.

The application is also supported by 13 letters in support of the festival (see the statement of Mandy Houghton at para 56 and **MH6**) from local residents (a number of whom live in close proximity to the site) and businesses.

Conclusions

16. There is only one question of significance here - is this application, by this applicant, at these premises, likely to undermine the licensing objectives?

17. The National Guidance issued under s.182 of the Licensing Act 2003 states as follows

The Authority's determination should be evidence based, justified as being appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives and proportionate to what it is intended to achieve

18. It is submitted that, on the evidence presented, the Committee should grant the application because:

- (i) The Applicant is an experienced operator of the Festival at the site
- (ii) The festival is unique and supports the underlying principles of the Councils own licensing policy providing a "*wide range of entertainment activities throughout their opening hours and to promote live music, dance, theatre etc. for the wider cultural benefit.*"
- (iii) The application is for a time limited licence for 1 four day event each year over the course of 5 years
- (iv) The Festival brings with it significant positive benefits to the local and wider community
- (v) The feedback from the post event SAG de-brief included an observation that the "steps taken by HTLGI appear to have improved relationships with the local community which is very positive"
- (vi) There was no review of the licence nor any regulatory enforcement notices issued after the 2023 Festival which would be expected had the licensing objectives been undermined
- (vii) The Applicant has engaged in significant pre application consultation with the council, responsible authorities and SAG and save for one additional condition agreed with the EHO at no stage have any of these bodies sought to amend or restrict the application as presented to the Licensing Authority
- (viii) There has been significant pre application consultation with the local community and this engagement will continue up to, and where necessary, during the Festival
- (ix) The application is supported by a significant schedule of conditions contained within the operating schedule
- (x) Key to the operating schedule is the ESMP which provides a further "lock step" in ensuring that the licensing objectives are promoted
- (xi) The ESMP and supporting policies will be subject to on going scrutiny by the SAG
- (xii) The ESMP will be updated/amended up to, and during the course of the Festival.

- (xiii) There are no representations to the application from any of the responsible authorities
- (xiv) The application is supported by local residents and businesses
- (xv) The Applicant is committed to engaging with all relevant stakeholders post the end of each year's festival and will modify and adapt their operating procedures (as they have done in the past) in a proportionate and responsible manner

Ewen Macgregor

TLT

Dates the 25 April 2024

