

Behind the

Scenes at Headington Festival

On June 1st and 2nd, local volunteers in Headington are working together to bring the community the annual Headington Festival. With one month to go, the team are hard at work preparing the event, which is attended by thousands every year.

The event will run over the first weekend of June. "On Saturday 1st June from 10am to 2pm, the weekly market in London Road will buzz with a variety of craft and food stalls," says Elsa Bell, Chair of the Festival Committee for Headington Action, who organises the Festival each year.

"To make the Saturday even more special, there will be music, a balloon artist, and a caricaturist. There will be a special section for children that will include face painting and a petting zoo."

On the Saturday afternoon and evening the festivities will move to Bury Knowle Park.

From 3pm the Round Table will host the event. There will be a bar with musicians and free showing of films at 6pm (family friendly) and at 9pm.

The main event happens on Sunday 2nd June. "We expect thousands to come to Bury Knowle Park between 1pm and 6pm. It's a bit like a village fete with stalls, food, drinks, sports taster sessions, and a funfair. There will be farm animals, entertainment from dance groups and musicians, and the ever popular Colonel Custard with his magic and circus tricks!"

Entry to all events is free.

A particular highlight for Ms Bell is the festival's work with schools. "A very exciting event is the children's photography competition in local schools in the lead-up to the festival, organised with Science Oxford. Prizes will be awarded on the Sunday, and we look forward to proud children being rewarded for their creativity and effort."

"The festival in the park is a real community event, with many of the stalls being taken up by voluntary organisations that are active in Headington," Ms Bell says. "It's a chance for these groups to introduce what they do and recruit others to join them."

In the final stages of planning, there's still an opportunity to help out behind the scenes. "The festival committee meets every two months between January and June, and is always looking for volunteers who have organising skills to help plan and produce the event," says Ms Bell.

"Energetic and cheerful volunteers are also welcome to help on the days of the festival. You can help promote opportunities throughout the event, set up and pack down, manage queries, collect donations, and keep the area clean."

To volunteer with Headington Festival or to book a stall for your organisation, visit headingtonfestival.co.uk

VOLUNTARY VOICE

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