



PHOTO CALL

Come outside and celebrate the start of DAF 2015!

When? 11 am – 5 pm, Saturday 20 June

Where? Outside Didsbury Library, Wilmslow Road

What? Festival launch: live music, dance, theatre, craft stalls

It's here at last! DAF is back with more than 100 artists and 80 events packed into nine fantastic days of music, film, theatre, visual arts, comedy and much, much more...

Come outside for the festival launch weekend kicking off outside Didsbury Library on Saturday 20 June, (from 11 am) with Manchester Market stalls, live music and street theatre. Local MP, Jeff Smith, will attend officially to open the festival. Don't miss contributions from the Little Belters children's choir (1 pm) and dance and drama from Parrs Wood High School students (2 pm). There will be more live music, plus art on the railings, at Fletcher Moss Park later that day.

Why not celebrate the start of DAF in song? Join Stuart Overington, Didsbury's answer to Gareth Malone, for a whole day of music-making (20 June).

Bring a picnic to the magical Parsonage Gardens on Sunday 21 June for an afternoon of family fun, including music, theatre, puppets and storytelling.

Novelist Patrick Gale, comedian Jackie Hagan, and jazz star Stuart McCallum will provide some of the highlights during the nine-day showcase of talent (20 – 28 June), now in its seventh year. Alex Poots will be special guest at an evening of new music hosted by Siemens in aid of the Alzheimer's Society (25 June). Soloists from the Hallé Orchestra will be joining forces to raise funds for the Genesis Appeal with a charity concert on Friday 26 June.

For the first time ever, DAF will feature a series of specially commissioned new works, all responding to this year's festival theme, *In-between Places*, which celebrates Didsbury's position as a vibrant suburb between town and country, whilst exploring magical places of transition!

In addition, daily highlights will embrace a huge range of the arts from music, theatre, dance and comedy to visual arts, crafts, writing and film.

Said DAF Director, Daniel Williamson: 'I am delighted to welcome so many new artists, representing such a rich and diverse mix of talent, both home-grown and from further afield. With so many fantastic events to choose from there really is something for everyone this year. Pick up a programme or check online to make sure you don't miss out.

'Many thanks to the festival team, to our volunteers and to all our sponsors, friends and supporters – and, of course, artists - for your time, energy and generosity.

'Finally, thank you to the people of Didsbury and beyond for all your support over the years. Long may it continue! We look forward to an enjoyable and successful DAF 2015.'

Most events free; some ticketed. Pick up a programme from Didsbury Library. Visit the DAF website at:

www.didsburyartsfestival.org

All enquiries to:

info@didsburyartsfestival.org

DAF 2015 is sponsored by Aba Quality Monitoring Ltd and Siemens.

ENDS

Note to editors:

You are invited to send your reporter/photographer/camera person to the festival launch outside Didsbury Library, Wilmslow Road, taking place from 11 am – 5 pm on Saturday 20 June.

The Little Belters children's choir (1 pm) & Parrs Wood students' dance & theatre performance are likely to provide the best photo opportunities.

Please get in touch if there are any other events you would like to cover during DAF week.

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