



## **New Director sought for Didsbury Arts Festival**

A new director is being sought to head a thriving community arts festival.

After five years at the helm of Didsbury Arts Festival, its founder, Maria Stripling, is stepping down as DAF Director in order to take up the post of Chair of a new DAF Board.

The DAF Board is now inviting applications from enthusiastic and dynamic individuals with relevant experience of managing similar festivals or working in an events/festival environment.

The new Festival Director will be expected to design, develop and deliver the nine-day programme of events, performances and workshops for the 2015 festival, planned for 20–28 June.

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 18 July 2014. Interviews will be held on Tuesday 29 July.**

Since its 2009 launch, Didsbury Arts Festival has become a key, cultural event in South Manchester, attracting high-profile artists and increasingly large audiences. The recently appointed DAF Board will be responsible for supporting the work of the festival committee in order to secure the long-term future of DAF.

Said Maria: 'I feel very privileged to have served as Festival Director. It has been so exciting to see DAF develop into such a hugely successful event and I'm delighted to have been part of that! As always, I would like to thank everyone who has supported DAF over the last five years.'

'As DAF Director I've worked with some wonderful people and will continue working with them as we take DAF into 2014 and beyond. I also look forward to working closely with the new Festival Director to hand over and support him or her in delivering DAF 2015.'

Added Maria: 'In the new Festival Director we are looking for someone with a proven track record of working successfully within the arts and local communities, and who possesses the commitment and leadership qualities needed to develop DAF into the future.'

Didsbury Arts Festival is entirely managed by volunteers. The unique celebration of local talent and local places is also supported by businesses, community organisations and many more who want to see the arts flourish in Didsbury.

DAF 2013 attracted an overall audience of around 5000 people and featured 157 events and exhibitions, including, for the first time, a successful fringe programme. More than 500 artists participated in last year's festival, which included contributions from national and international stars, such as the poet Simon Armitage and classical pianist Kathryn Stott, as well as providing a showcase for Didsbury's considerable local talent.

This year DAF is taking a year off from a full nine-day festival, although there are plans for a magical Didsbury Lantern Parade, taking place on 18<sup>th</sup> October. The next full-length festival will take place from Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

For more information about DAF please visit the DAF website:

<http://www.didsburyartsfestival.org>

All queries regarding the Festival Director appointment, including requests for the detailed role description, should be sent to: [committee@didsburyartsfestival.org](mailto:committee@didsburyartsfestival.org)

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Maria Stripling, Festival Director

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