

Chairs report: Brecon Frazz 2024-2025



Key achievements of Brecon Frazz Parade 2024

- Reached approx 400 families and children from Brecon area and visitors at workshops. 400 plus joining the parade
- Saw the creation of 4 big builds, in the form of 3 huge swifts and a parasol of creations 'on the wing'- including a flying pig!
- Created a community art installation on the Swift theme with artist Signe Lydersen at the town museum
- Paid 9 artists/ art practitioners
- Booked Wonderbrass community band, Cardiff and Shake Rattle and Roll, Brecon.
- Utilised 6 distinct venues/ settings across Brecon (and Tal y Bont)
- Distributed 79 Swift books and quiz sheets
- Engaged over 14 high street shops and businesses in the parade and theme of "on the wing" with the swifts in window display
- Engaged young people and adults with learning difficulties and additional needs through links to Penmaes School and L'Arche Brecon
- Enabled over 950 card swifts to be decorated, taken home and incorporated into successful community artwork in Y Gaer town library and museum.
- Added to the family friendly colourful and creative atmosphere of Brecon Jazz and Fringe Festivals for 2024

In 2024, the Brecon Frazz Parade partnered with the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park via the Local Nature Partnership Gateway, receiving funds of a little over £4000 to assist with the dual aim of creating the Parade and to highlight the plight of the amazing bird –the swift. Swifts are becoming increasingly rare, threatened by environmental changes, but grace our town each year. The 'swifts' arrival in May and migration in August fitted our parade timings. This partnership led to the theme 'On the Wing' was a great vehicle for visual displays, puppets, costumes and entertainers. We were also delighted to receive a £1000 grant from The Ashley Foundation. With these funds we designed and carried out a plan of workshops, events and created an art installation for y Gaer Brecon's museum and library.

Workshop activities :

Colouring station, Willow weaving, costume making - wings and streamers, Screen Printing Story telling, Shake Rattle and Roll music for under 5s, swift book distribution, provide a platform for Swift and Wildlife trust stalls. For the uplands workshop we provided free refreshments

Workshops and Events:

- Welcome back the Swifts Day Y Gaer Brecon Museum , gallery and library 30th May 2024
- Hay and Brecon Sanctuary for Refugee day Tal y Bont 21st July 11am-4pm
- L'Arche Brecon workshop at Rebound Books Monday July 27th
- Brecon Show Day Saturday August 3rd 10am-4pm
- Brecon Jazz Family Day Sunday August 4th 2.15-4pm
- Uplands family afternoon Wednesday 7th August 2pm-5pm

Parade day Saturday 10th August: The Brecon Frazz parade 2024 was a joyous, engaging celebration that brought the whole town together during the Jazz Festival weekend. Approximately 400 people of all ages joined the parade. Hundreds more lined the procession route. Many brought flags and umbrellas which had been decorated at earlier workshops or wore costumes created at the Uplands family day. The bird puppets were entertaining and eye-catching. Appreciative comments were widely shared on social media.

Conclusion:

Overall 2024 was a hugely successful year. Building on previous years, planning and communication with other stakeholders - Brecon Jazz Festival organisers, Local Police, Highways, Brecon town Council and the LA -went smoothly and positively. We look to continue this going forward.

As a group we are always looking to find new contributors, makers and supporters and this will be vital going forward. We are also on the lookout for fresh funding avenues to explore, and keep growing our identity as a known and enjoyed aspect of the Jazz and Fringe Festivals and summertime in Brecon.

Thank you very much to our funding partners, all the artists and creatives involved, and to the community that engages with the parade and also a big thank you to the incumbent Brecon Frazz Committee - the marvellous Lindsay, Nick, Andrew.