

HOT AIR BALLOONS TO LIFT ARUNDEL FESTIVAL TO NEW HEIGHTS

This year's Arundel Festival will rise to new heights when more than a dozen hot air balloons make a series of flights over the historic town.

Now in its 34th year, the ten-day Festival, from August 19–29, has a packed programme of events including, hot air balloons, open-air performances and even a burlesque club.

A host of new features join the regular festivities and Arundel, a picturesque town nestled at the foot of the South Downs National Park, provides the perfect setting for this eclectic mix of visual arts, music and theatre.

Here are just some of the huge range of events on offer.

The Arundel Gallery Trail will showcase the work of more than 100 artists across more than 50 venues around the town.

The Gallery Trail, now in its 22nd year, is a must for art lovers and those who admire collections of paintings, sculptures, ceramics, jewellery and textiles, all of which are on show in some of Arundel's most beautiful homes and gardens.

The Arundel Theatre Trail celebrates ten years with the Festival with a variety of performances.

On both weekends of the Festival, two stages in the Jubilee Gardens along the banks of the River Arun will play host to the Big Weekends, a series of free concerts and performances from local talent. During the week the area will also play host to workshops and family events during the day, and music in the evenings.

Across the ten days, the streets of Arundel will host some of the best street entertainers in the country who will amuse and captivate with a blend of magic, music, dance and comedy.

Arundel's very own burlesque night – the Sugar Club also returns with its inimitable blend of bawdy humour and sensual glamour.

The Festival brings a fleet of hot air balloons to Arundel for the first time.

More than a dozen balloons will launch from the meadows behind the Mill Road car park on the final weekend of the festival, by kind permission of the Duke of Norfolk.

The balloons will launch five separate times across the bank holiday weekend with Arundel Castle as the backdrop. A limited number of

places on the balloons will be available.

A balloon glow and fireworks, promises to be a highlight of the Festival. Please see photo attached

For those who prefer to keep their feet firmly on the ground, the final two nights of the Festival will include two special evenings of entertainment.

On Sunday August 28th, award-winning violinist Joni Fuller will perform on the Meadows Stage.

Then on Monday August 29th, the Glitterati Party 'The Sequin' will be held at on the Meadows Stage.

Ash Kent, the Festival's Artistic Director, said this year's event promised to be "an exhilarating experience".

He said: "This year we want to make the most of the stunning setting that Arundel provides.

"From the sight of balloons soaring over the Castle, to open-air performances, the Festival aims to show off the town's unique features.

"The Festival is going to be fun, dramatic and is fundamentally family-oriented that has something for all ages.

"It is a chance for the people of Arundel and the surrounding area to celebrate what the town has to offer and an opportunity to attract others from further afield to the town."

A registered charity run by a team of volunteers, all profits from the Festival are ploughed back into the event. We are also looking for volunteers to help out at all the events, please contact us to apply.

For more information and full listings visit www.arundelfestival.co.uk.

You can also follow the Festival on Facebook at "Arundel Experience".

Contacts:

Ash Kent, Artistic Director – ash@arundelfestival.co.uk, or 01903 884166