

news



Welcome to our first e-news of 2021. Due to current restrictions, our staff are all working from home for the foreseeable future. Our creative team are busy delivering on an ambitious digital training and mentoring programme for professional disabled artists in Southampton (Mayflower 400), and new courses, classes and projects are rapidly being developed. Whilst pre-Lenten carnival events and parades around the world are being cancelled or postponed, there's plenty of carnival fun online and lots to look forward to.

- **DO** revisit our amazing Virtual Carnival Club for families in lockdown. Ideas and demonstrations of 'easy to make at home' costumes and carnival dancing: <https://www.thenewcarnivalcompany.com/virtual/>
- **DO** checkout some of the amazing activities our colleagues in the sector are offering at the moment including 'Junk-a-new' with Pax Nindi and other friends: <https://youtu.be/KXCJq3xhNg>
- **DO** 'surf and see' what carnivals around the world are up to, as they stay at home for the February 2021 season. We love this — New Orleans Mardi Gras <https://www.kreweofhousefloats.org/>
- **DO** join us for our own **Mardi Gras 2021—'The Story of Carnival' - Zoom Launch event next month** (see below)

MARDI GRAS

Come what may, and who knows, there WILL be an IW Mardi Gras this summer at Ryde.

We invite all interested groups and schools, be they already registered to our theme 'The Story of Carnival' or are new and just want to find out more, to attend a **special digital re-launch event on Wednesday 10 February at 6 to 7.30pm.**

We will detail all our plans, from best to worst case scenarios, present special invited International carnival guests, answer all your questions and generally have fun and re-kindle the spirit. You must pre-register with us to get the event link. Facebook pm us, or mail us at info@thenewcarnivalcompany.com

Online courses (w. IW Adult Community Learning)

- * **Making carnival costumes in a more sustainable way.** Practical ideas and techniques, suitable for beginners or those wanting to refresh their practice. Tuesdays 6 to 8pm. 4 x weeks from 2 March
- * **Delivering community arts workshops digitally.** Which platforms to use, where to start, safeguarding, best practice, plus practical tips from our team on topics such as 'How to make a demonstration video', uploading handouts and supporting materials, and more. 4 sessions, Starts after Easter, times tbc.

Booking Essential. Places limited. IW residents only.

MERRY & BRIGHT

Remember those strange days before Christmas when Isle of Wight was still in Tier 1??



NCC presented its first LIVE outdoor arts event of 2020 on 17 Dec. We developed two Public Gardens in Ryde into illuminated nature zones and commissioned 10 Giant Lantern Boxes from community groups for a connecting one-mile trail loop between the two. Add pop up entertainers, late night shopping, thousands of happy (socially distanced) visitors, and a mild calm night. Perfect. Thanks to all funders, supporters, and contributors. Could Merry and Bright become an annual event they ask?

IN THE BIOSPHERE! On Dec 31, the five year Heritage Lottery scheme Down to the Coast (EWLP) drew to a close. We delivered many great projects with many great partners. Lantern Trails, Roman Pageants, Biosphere Mardi Gras, and the magical All along the Riverbank festival... see Stephen's short film here <https://vimeo.com/472993971>

We have plenty planned for future collaborations!

- **Crossing the Bar**, a celebration of the new National Trail—the English Coast Path (culminates 2023). Animating 82 miles around IW's coastline.
- **Creative Biosphere** programme, with IW AONB, Cultural Education Partnership, local schools and a diversity of artists and heritage organisations
- **IW Mardi Gras June 2022**, themed around the **UN Sustainable Development Goals.**