

Broadway Arts Festival is now widely considered to be one of the top arts festivals in the UK, offering a hugely varied programme of events of the highest quality to inspire, entertain and encourage participation in the arts.

The festival is a celebration of this beautiful Cotswold village's unique artistic heritage and its enduring relationship with a world-famous colony of American artists, writers and musicians, who visited and worked here in the late 19th century and made it their creative inspiration. Often described as 'The Jewel of The Cotswolds', Broadway now attracts celebrity speakers, nationally renowned artists, award-winning outdoor theatre productions and world-class musicians.

In 2020, the main event has inevitably had to be cancelled, however much of their work in encouraging participation in the arts has continued.

As Chair of the Management Committee Andrew Dakin says, "We feel that the arts and creativity will come into their own during this period of social isolation, providing vital comfort and a source of joy. There has never been a better time to get creative."

THE 2020 OPEN ART COMPETITION & ONLINE SELLING EXHIBITION

The festival's international open art competition attracts 1,000+ entries from across the world competing for a top prize of £1,000 with further prizes for representative, figurative and 3D art totalling £2,500.

The competition went ahead and was open to any artist, in any medium including painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, film, ceramics, textiles, printmaking, digital art, installation and designer makers. The theme was 'Hinterland', to be used as an inspiration but not a necessity. Stewart Geddes, esteemed Past President of the RWA and renowned artist Ann Blockley, RI, SWA were on the judging panel.

Artists' work that was selected for the final judging stage (200 entries) will now be displayed in an online gallery/ selling exhibition on the Broadway Arts Festival website from May 29 to the end of the year.

New for 2020: The Julia & Martin Wilson Short Story Prize

To encourage creative writing during the initial period of lockdown, a short story prize was added as an additional category for the main competition with a main prize of



'Flaming Parrot', by Gabriella Blakey, veneer inlay

The healing power of art

Although this year's Broadway Arts Festival has inevitably been cancelled, there's still much to inspire, entertain and encourage artists and art-lovers alike in the virtual festival



'Icarus', by Robert Page, bronze resin on oak

£400 and under 16s prize of £100.

Free to enter, with a maximum of 2,000 words, the winning stories will be published on the festival website for all to read & enjoy from the end of May.

Arts Bursaries to support those in full time arts education

The Broadway Arts Festival Trust aims to maintain and develop Broadway's artistic heritage as an established venue for artistic excellence and offers student arts grants to play a pivotal role in this.

Eight talented local students studying the Arts have been awarded substantial financial help in 2020 in the form of grants to help them in their studies.

These annual bursaries are given to

full-time students studying Fine Art, Applied Arts, Music or the Performing Arts. The grants are awarded to help students with expenses and travel relating to their chosen field of study. Priority is given to applicants who live in the parish of Broadway or WR12 postcode, but applications are considered from neighbouring areas too.

The arts bursaries have been made possible thanks to the huge success of the 2018 Broadway Arts Festival, and the support of the festival Benefactors and sponsors.

The grants were awarded to students on a wide range of courses including Music, Architecture, Stage & Screen Performance, Art & Design, Music, Film Production and Drama.

Applications for 2021 bursaries open in September through the website.

Funding free arts activities in primary schools

During the Spring term, the festival trust funded a series of free arts activities and workshops in the two Broadway primary schools, the aim being to inspire the next generation of

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Painting at Springfield House



Sterling silver candelabra, by Karen Lockton



'Shingle-Street, Field Edge', by Jane Strother, oil on canvas

artists and emphasise the importance of a creative mindset in education.

The project was called 'This is Me' and was designed to support positive mental health by exploring themes of identity and individuality. The children took part in self-portrait workshops with local artists line-drawing, working with clay, and the youngest ones creating their self portraits Arcimboldo-style out of pasta, fruit and vegetables!

Creative workshops for all

For those who enjoy getting creative and a chance to try something new, the hope is to be able to run some smaller art workshops by the end of the year, led by a variety of talented and engaging artists in sketching, sculpture, jewellery design, glass or ceramics. Follow the festival on their Facebook and Instagram pages and sign up to receive their email newsletters on the website at www.broadwayartsfestival.com to be the first to know.

In the meantime, rescheduling the next full festival in 2021 is already underway and it will be the most diverse, creative, educational and entertaining programme of events the festival has ever presented. ♦

For more details and to purchase tickets for festival events visit: www.broadwayartsfestival.com



'The Hikers', by Broadway Arts Festival artist in residence Antonia Black