

**CHURCH ROAD
LANTERN
PARADE 2020**

PLAN F



SUPPLEMENTARY MINI EVALUATION

Church Road Lantern Parade was due to be performed on 28.2.20. It was cancelled once due to storms and a second time on 27th March 2020 due to Covid -19. All the lanterns had been made by the community before social distancing rules came into operation and sat in storage. There was a clear desire within the neighbourhood for the lanterns fabricated in the community to be seen by them. The artist team waited until late 2020 for darker skies and developed many plans within social distancing regulations which as rules changed, led to more cancellations, Plan F finally came to fruition between 22nd - 28th December 2020. Lots of lanterns were set up in the windows of St George Community Centre. Households were able to book a slot to be the only people in the garden to view the lanterns for 15 minutes. In addition the lanterns were cycled by a team of six rickshaw drivers and stewards over a 7 mile route zigzagging the neighbourhood and were seen by at least 760 people in the community. Whilst we couldn't reach everybody, we did our best and were met with smiles and waves. The route was devised by asking the community on social media where they would like us to visit, we also asked the community to maintain social distancing while viewing the lanterns. We did not publish a route to prevent people gathering and gave residents between 10 minutes and 1 hrs notice on social media. Please note: due to only having a small budget remaining, this mini evaluation is based on comments from the community on social media and questions to event workers. It is a supplementary evaluation to the Flock Together report which is independent and is produced by The Lamplighters and is not independent.



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Social Media Comments

Thanks, what
gorgeousness

Missed it on
Cossham
Road. Gutted

Just went past my house
and i missed it couldnt
find any info on the route
at all anywhere

You brightened up
the evening. We
all enjoyed
watching it. What
a treat!

So glad we saw
you!! Looked
amazing

Thanks so much for
making this happen, it
was so lovely to have
some excitement - I had
to chase you down
which added to the fun
Thanks to everyone
involved.

Thanks so much, after being postponed
due to the rain in feb and lockdown in
March it was so lovely to see you at last
love the llamas!

Looked amazing thanks guys!

I saw you ride past
and it looked great.
Made me smile.

Gorgeous. Thank you from Gilbert
Road. We also loved visiting the
community centre. Thank you for
persevering

Thanks to everyone who
made this happen... was a
treat to see you ride by...

We just caught
you racing past
- fantastic!

HOW THE COMMUNITY JOINED IN

All the big lanterns had been
completed in February 2020
before social distancing
restrictions were introduced.
However, we wanted to update
the experience and provide fun
activities for easy participation.

A lantern making film was
released on social media
which enabled people to create
lanterns at home from used
envelopes. This had 148 views
and the cycling team saw lots
of lanterns en route.



HOW WE ADHERED TO COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS

At the time of planning and event delivery, Bristol was under Tier 3 Covid -19 restrictions. Following both performing art guidelines and the rule of 6 we set out to risk assess and plan both the community centre and the rickshaw lantern event. St George Community Centre staff had been increasingly concerned for the mental wellbeing of local families and wanted to create a covid secure activity for the community to enable people to leave their homes safely . The community centre took timed bookings on Eventbrite and managed access to the garden for isolated households to view the lanterns.

Three artists set up the lanterns in the windows of St George Community Centre with no contact with the community centre management. Once set up, the artist team left and the community centre buildings management took over. Viewings were held over two nights and were fully booked.

On the night of the rickshaw parade, three rickshaws and their were hired. All the lanterns were rigged outdoors in the community centre garden maintaining social distances. One artist accompanied the three rickshaws along with two stewards. One experienced cycling steward lead the ride and the artist and a final steward followed the rickshaws.

The risk assessment was adhered to and was useful for guidance for all parties to feel safe.

WE ASKED THE STEWARDS AND RICKSHAW DRIVERS THREE QUESTIONS

WHAT WAS YOUR OVERALL IMPRESSION OF THE COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO THE LANTERNS VISITING THEIR STREET?

The reaction of many of those that came to their doors as we came passed moved me to tears. The delight, joy and much-needed bit of light, color, fun and joy that the lanterns and music provided for them , caused people to cheer, wave, dance and some even jumped with joy . More now than ever art , and creativity in general are not just appreciated but needed for easing the stress and mental health of a population suffering a pandemic.

Over the whole route the response was incredibly positive and I felt the it was so welcomed at needed in this time. There was peaks and troughs with some streets give an overwhelmingly positive response with every house on the street cheering waving and showing lanterns they've made. On the quieter streets I think some people were pleasantly surprised to see us. It was such a joy to see whole families enjoying the event.

DID YOU FEEL THAT THE COMMUNITY ADHERED TO SOCIAL DISTANCING WHILE VIEWING THE LANTERNS?

Very much so ,It was a wonder to see the family groups in their doorways or looking out of windows as we passed, very much sticking in their bubbles in their own homes .

Because the participants (audience) didn't need to leave their homes to the most people adhered to social distancing. There was a few people who followed us for bit of the route and I few people who came to a street on route to view because we didn't go down there street but mostly I felt that people remained in their front gardens, drives, doorways or windows to view them.

DID YOU FEEL THAT YOU WERE SAFE AND DISTANCED FROM THE COMMUNITY DURING THE EVENT AND PREPARATIONS?

All social distancing was adhered to in the prep for the parade as we get the rickshaws up, mostly outside and if we had to go into the community centre masks were worn etc . On the parade, we were moving the whole time with a lot of room around us

The community mostly stayed outside their houses and the lantern rickshaws were constantly moving so there wasn't any opportunity for people to come and get a closer look . I felt the community respected the guidelines. I felt safe from all participants at all times.