



Sun shines at end of Didsbury Arts Festival 2013

Hundreds of families enjoyed picnics and puppets in the park as the sun shone down on the final day of Didsbury Arts Festival 2013.

More than 500 people were entertained by Punch & Judy, Mother Hen and huge, exotic birds during a magical afternoon of puppetry and storytelling at Didsbury's mysterious Parsonage Gardens on Sunday 30 June.

The event was one of the closing highlights of a nine-day celebration which drew 5000 festival goers to the area's bars, churches and other venues to enjoy music, dance, comedy, literature, theatre, film and visual arts.

Other highlights of Festival week included an evening of poetry and brass with Simon Armitage and sell-out performances by jazz star Matt Halsall and world-class pianist Kathryn Stott & Friends. The Kathryn Stott concert raised nearly £2000 for local charity Francis House Hospice.

Festival Director, Maria Stripling, said: 'We were delighted to see so many people of all ages enjoying such a fantastic and diverse range of events during DAF 2013.

The festival brought together some of the best artists – not just from Didsbury and Manchester – but from all over the UK.

'I'd like to thank everyone involved - all the artists, sponsors, volunteers and local organisations who have been so generous with their time and support and have helped make this year's DAF such a great success.'

Organised by a group of enthusiastic local residents, the aim of DAF is to celebrate the arts and the wealth of talent, diversity and the vibrant community that make Didsbury so special. Since its launch in 2009, the area's annual celebration of the arts has now become a fixture on the local calendar.

To see what happened at DAF 2013, visit: www.didsburyartsfestival.org

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