

FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

13 March 2023

Come along to month-long St George's festival fun

A packed programme of free events will be laid on in March next month (April) for this year's first-of-its-kind St George's Festival.

A giant dragon puppet with unique scales created by the people of March with artists will take centre stage at the festival and take inspiration from the dragon in the St George and the Dragon legend.

Cllr Jan French, Deputy Leader of Fenland District Council and Chairman of the March Events Committee, said: "This is such an exciting and packed programme that will appeal to a wide audience. We'd love as many people as possible to get involved and really embrace this opportunity to come together as a community.

"We'd like to thank all the partners we've worked with to develop this programme and make it so inspiring."

The festival will culminate on Sunday, April 23, with a 10am to 4pm event open-to-all in and around March library, in City Road.

The day will kick off with a 'dragon march' where the dragon created from scales made at community events with artists Cary and Ricki Outis - commissioned by MarketPlace Creative People & Places - will parade from the bandstand in West End Park, through the park and back to the Library Mound.

The day will include:

- an open-air arts and crafts market
- speciality food stalls and live entertainment
- storytelling by Dave Tonge, the Yarnsmith of Norwich, at the library
- live chalk window drawing at the library with Cary Outis
- children's art activities
- improvised poetry with Charley Genever
- professional youth theatre and school performances on the main stage
- live music including Newmarket Samba and March Brass Band at the Bandstand
- Music creation, virtual reality and 2D animation in March Library
- circus skills, falconry display, mini golf and a static scooter club display in West End Park.

Children from Fenland primary schools are making dragon puppets at school with the aid of a specially designed art kit by Ricki Outis and will join the march with their creations.

The puppets will then be displayed, creating a giant art installation at the Library Mound for all to see.

Neale Wade Academy art club students are also producing artwork for the festival.

Town centre businesses will be invited to have their shop windows decorated by artist Cary Outis.

In the run up to the day, there will be a range of free family-friendly fun community events at March Community Centre. They must be booked in advance and are open to anyone accompanied by a participating adult aged 19 or over (maximum two children per adult) and take place on:

- **Monday, April 3:**

- **Dragon themed robotics** – two-hour long sessions – an opportunity to learn the principles of coding a robot to get it to move around a track.
 - 10am – midday, book via: <https://bit.ly/3yxynFe>
 - 1pm – 3pm, book via: <https://bit.ly/3JfF3N1>
- **Grow your own nature reserve** – multiple hour-long sessions – create a hanging planter using recycled materials and plant it with seeds.
 - 10am – 11am, book via: <https://bit.ly/3FI71Wz>
 - 11.15am – 12.15pm, book via: <https://bit.ly/407zszzr>
 - 2pm – 3pm, book via: <https://bit.ly/3yAL2r6>
 - 3.15pm – 4.15pm, book via: <https://bit.ly/3TdXiXZ>
- **St George and the Friendly Dragon mask making** – hour-and-a-quarter sessions – make a dragon mask with guidance and learn more about Chinese dragons.
 - 2pm – 3.15pm, book via: <https://bit.ly/42cvVlk>
 - 3.30pm – 4.45pm, book via: <https://bit.ly/42aOfLg>

- **Saturday, April 15:**

- **Coat of arms making** –hour-and-a-half sessions - using a dry point print press to etch on an acetate plate and create a concertina dragon. Younger children will be able to choose from a selection of preprepared printing plates to make their own crest template.
 - 9.30am – 11am, book via: <https://bit.ly/3JAyyys>
 - 11.15am – 12.45pm, book via: <https://bit.ly/427iByt>
 - 2pm – 3.30pm, book via: <https://bit.ly/3FI4f3B>
- **Dragon Beatz musical instrument making** – hour-long sessions – create a musical instrument then use it to make music.
 - 10am – 11am, book via: <https://bit.ly/3FkudEi>
 - 11.15am – 12.15pm, book via: <https://bit.ly/3LBjMw7>
 - 2pm – 3pm, book via: <https://bit.ly/3yApCug>
 - 3.15pm – 4.15pm, book via: <https://bit.ly/3Tdthaz>
- **Dragon scale screen painting with Ricki Outis** - two-and-a-half-hour sessions – create a scale to contribute to the dragon at the centre of the St George’s Festival event and print your design onto a t-shirt to take home. This activity is open to all ages and abilities, book via: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/st-georges-festival-screen-printing-workshops-tickets-567944726967>

- **Saturday, April 22:**

- **Dragon scale screen painting with Ricki Outis** - details as above

- 10am to 4pm '**Stranger Things**' inspired drop-in event with live music, food and creative activities – booking not required.

Fenland District Council has teamed up with March Events Committee, MarketPlace - Creative People & Places, March Library, The Library Presents, 20Twenty Productions and Cambridgeshire Skills to deliver the St George's Festival.

This year's St George's event is [slightly different to normal due to the ongoing transformation works](#) in March town centre.

For dragon scale screen printing sessions, book via: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/567944726967. Any groups of up to 12 people wishing to create scales for the dragon may take part too – the sessions can even come to you! Please contact Peggy Mends peggy@cppmarketplace.co.uk for more information.

For all other sessions click on the specific links listed above, alternatively go to www.cambsals.co.uk and click on the course search button or call 01353 613013.

To book a stall for Sunday, April 23, see: www.fenland.gov.uk/article/16776/Book-to-attend-a-Fenland-Four-Seasons-Event or email marketsandevents@fenland.gov.uk . The closing date to apply for a pitch is Friday 24 March. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

ENDS

Image:

St George's Festival logo