

THE
FESTIVAL OF THRIFT
**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2019





“The Festival of Thrift goes from strength to strength and is a fabulous way to showcase our area and the historical beauty of the Kirkleatham site to 37,000 visitors from across the Borough, the Country and the world. Thrift is a real joy to attend for all ages, with something for everyone, and a great way to show how serious Redcar and Cleveland Council are taking sustainability, clean air and climate change issues. It’s so lovely to see the community come together, not only for the days of the parade and festival, but in the planning and coordination through the year. Culture plays a huge part in who we are and I’m delighted to see it thriving in our Borough.” *Karen King, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council*



WELCOME TO THE FESTIVAL OF THRIFT – THE UK'S NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF SUSTAINABLE LIVING

2019 was a memorable fourth year working with the people of Redcar and Cleveland and the wider Tees Valley to create our unique Festival, and inviting the world in to make it their own.

We welcomed new visitors and old friends from all over the UK to our beautiful site at Kirkleatham, encouraging visitors to walk, cycle and even take a rocket to get there as we commemorated the Moon Landing and breathed in the Clean Air – our key themes for the year. The moon landing symbolised for us the aspiration we all feel to achieve something big together, plus we wanted to overturn ideas of us a smog filled region as we celebrate some of the cleanest air in the country, thanks to the hard work of businesses, authorities and individuals across the region.

Showcasing all this, our Opening night Parade doubled in size and our Viewpoints programme extended our reach to Darlington, Middlesbrough and Redcar seafront, as well as taking over the Palace Arts Gallery – the Directors would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all partners, artists, makers, visitors, traders and supporters who contributed to our shared success!

This year, more than any time since we began, issues around sustainability and climate change have risen up local and national agendas, so we are more relevant than ever. Whether or not we manage to host a Festival in this momentous year of 2020, we are sure we will all be living more sustainable lives in the future.

We send love and strength to you all in the hope we will be able to share our new knowledge together soon.

Human Sensor Kasia Molga

**Stella Hall,
ON BEHALF OF THE FESTIVAL OF THRIFT TEAM**

OUR PARTNERS



Teesside University

Working together to achieve shared aims is at the heart of what we do, and we have developed strong relationships with communities, traders, artists and above all our colleagues at Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council.

As with every year our partners play a huge part in the festival and in 2019 those partnerships became stronger and became more visible across the site.

We are proud to be the first cultural organisation to be supported by the pioneering **Tees Valley Combined Authority** which has put culture at the heart of its regional strategy. In addition to their support for **Viewpoints**, our team has been strengthened and our reach into the region significantly grown from their contribution.

Teesside University have been with us since the outset, developing our partnership to actively involve staff and students from a range of disciplines.

Northumbrian Water who provided water across the site. **The Square, Hemingway Design, BBC Tees** and **Anderson Barrowcliff**, our accountants, have all given their support. **Tees Valley Nature** Partnership initiated a new three year relationship, hosting our Talks tent.

It is our expectation that – as the reputation of the Festival grows – we will build new and lasting partnerships whilst strengthening existing ones, like **Arts Council of England** who have supported us from the outset, and of course **Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council**, who support us in so many more ways than financial.



Northumbrian Water



Stockton Riverside College



SIT, STOP, Sally Hogarth

This year's Viewpoints focused on the theme of Clean Air. We moved the dates so it bookended the Festival weekend which meant more cross fertilisation of audiences. It was wonderful to also have a central location in the Palace Art Gallery in Redcar as a hub for the project.

GREEN HOUSE CABINET OF CURIOSITY STUDIO

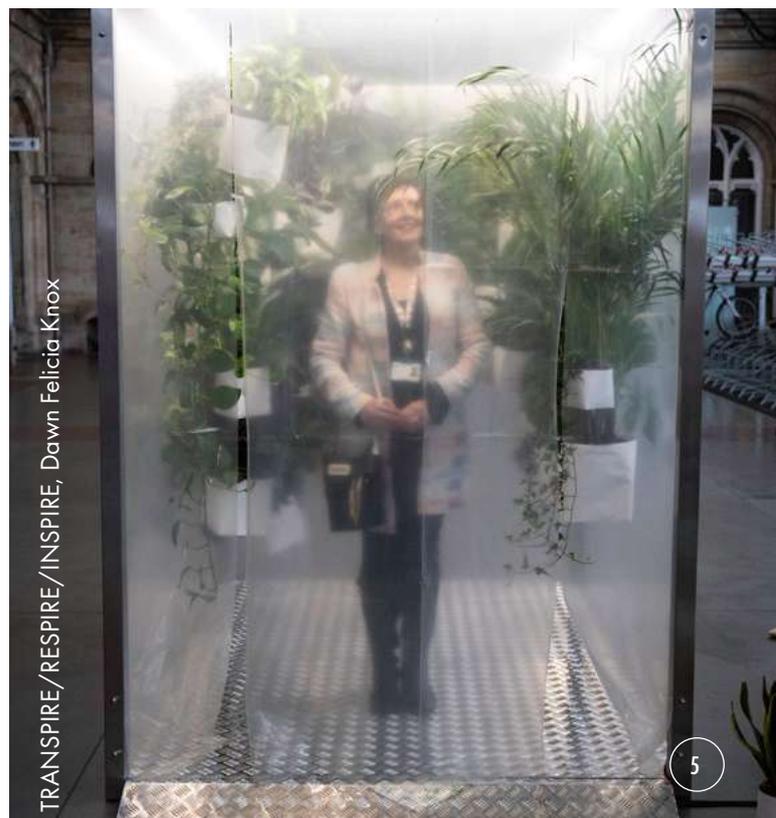
In the nineteenth century, green spaces within urban environments were identified as the 'lungs of the city' due to their air purifying qualities. This architectural installation showcased contemporary fabrication techniques using materials that reduce toxicity in the home and contained a living environment of plants that possess the most effective air cleaning properties. Cabinet of Curiosity Studio ran a number of paper craft workshops in Darlington with the support of Creative Darlington. These workshops gave participants the opportunity to contribute their paper cut designs of birds and flowers towards elements of the laser cut panels used within the Green House structure.

TRANSPIRE/RESPIRE/INSPIRE DAWN FELICIA KNOX

The chance to step inside a glowing cube filled with plants, light... and breath! This bold and immersive installation functioned as a lung cleaning station, a fresh air portal filled with plants that actively cleaned the air by removing the toxins that are released from car exhaust and the modern built environment. Transpire/Respire/Inspire was also part of Middlesbrough Art Weekender and, thanks to TransPennine Express, was sited at Middlesbrough Rail Station. The sound track was produced by Lindsay Duncanson, working with young people from The Link, Redcar.

SIT, STOP SALLY HOGARTH

A series of sit spots invited visitors to mindfully reconnect with nature through simple observation. Sit, Stop offered a unique viewpoint to a fascinating area of the Tees Valley, taking the form of a series of pavilions inspired by the coastline. Inviting visitors to sit and observe the nature before them. Sit, Stop was created using plastic collected on Redcar and Saltburn beaches. With thanks to Friends of Redcar and Keeping it Clean @ Saltburn, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council and Groundworks Trust for their support in the siting of this work.



TRANSPIRE/RESPIRE/INSPIRE, Dawn Felicia Knox

VIEWPOINTS



HALDANE, Colin Davies

HALDANE COLIN DAVIES

An enormous artwork taking over the side of the TWI Technology Centre. With a form inspired by the dazzle camouflage paint installation of HMS Vetch, a Flower-class corvette built by the Smiths Dock Company in Middlesbrough during the 2nd World War, the artwork features two giant canaries, a bird often used in mining to signify the presence of toxic gases. HALDANE gives a visual nod to Teesside's shipbuilding heritage as well as connecting us to our mining past. This exciting artwork has remained as a permanent feature to inform us on the side of TWI Technology Centre.

YOU SEE, BREATHE, FEEL PETER EVANS

Using Air-Ink™ created from recycled exhaust fumes this thought-provoking artwork showcased pollution in its physical form, making a usually invisible environmental issue, quite literally, visible. Peter was working with Graviky Labs of India, who have pioneered this extraordinary process. The work was performative in nature, developing over the course of the week at Palace Arts Gallery with live drawing taking place.

HUMAN SENSOR KASIA MOLGA

Human Sensor was a large scale, futuristic narrative in the form of wearable tech costumes and performance artwork. It explored how the human body, especially that which is more sensitive to changes in the air, reacts to daily exposure to air pollution, and how it can be utilized as a sensor about air conditions. Wired up to a series of breathing and air pollution data sensors, the costumes are activated by the breath of a wearer. Illuminations are a real-time response to pollution levels – the fluctuation in pollution influences the colours and configurations of light on the wearable, which fades in and out with dancer's inhalations and exhalations. Choreographed by Ruth Jones, dancers from Urban Kaos led our Parade in these costumes.

"At the moment, sustainable living seems more important than ever. Each year the Festival of Thrift gives 40,000 of us a creative focus to engage with sustainability together, to try something new, be inspired by each other and to have fun. Growing and sustaining such a distinctive and successful national festival is a huge ask and a great achievement. As this report shows, it's thanks to all the partners involved across Tees Valley and beyond and to the thoughtful leadership of Stella, Wayne, Gerardine and the team. Thank you." Jane Tarr, Arts Council

OUR THRIFTY PARADE launched the seventh Festival of Thrift in joyful style, championing creativity and community in Redcar and helping to spread the Thrifty message of good living in sustainable ways. It also doubled in size and explored the theme of clean air in the Tees Valley and the region's commitment to improving air quality for all who live, work and visit. Led by Stellar Projects, the procession included a combination of local community groups, professional performers and musicians, including 2018's year's popular Cowcar by Andy Hazell, to restate the highly topical warning of the dangers of methane emissions, and dancers from Urban Kaos wearing Kasia Molga's extraordinary Human Sensor costumes, which measure and reflect diesel emissions in the atmosphere.



THE FESTIVAL OF THRIFT

In the anniversary year of the Moon Landing, we thought about what we aspire to on our own planet, and how to look after it better. We built our own DIY rockets with Woodshed Workshop, and Little Inventors showed us the sky is not the limit when it comes to ideas. Whippet Up took us on a journey like no other while Space Rebel Princess proved that dreams can come true.

We also looked at how we might live better together here on earth as we welcomed aliens from another continent with Manic Chord and their new show **The Unknown**. Some of us on this part of the earth we call the Tees Valley are proud to call ourselves smoggies, but we have been steadily improving the air quality of our lovely area, so CLEAN AIR was an important theme for us in 2019.

As always, getting involved featured at every turn from energetic space themed dance sessions with Urban Kaos to The Bee Cart from PIF PAF teaching us the pollen packing dance, the waggle dance and how to look after our bees.

Our performance zone featured Zoo Humans who had forgotten how to move and The Best of All Possible Wolrds told the story of a trio of innocents continuously buffeted by fate.



We continued to focus on doing and not just viewing with a bike powered stage that thanks to many volunteers kept our performers from **Tuned In** with enough power to perform all weekend. We had a dance space that offered clogging workshops and groovy dance sessions to all ages. Our **Junkyard Orchestra** helped visitors make sweet music from objects that have been saved from landfill.

Mr. Wilsons Second Liners and **Bombay Baja** promenaded across the site with feet tapping tunes and kept audiences from just staying in one place. Many were happy to just sit and relax at the **Sabic Stage** and watch a specially curated music line up with themes of homegrown and sustainability taking the stage. **All Together Now's Paul Martin** and **BBC Tees Adam Clarkson** helped compere both stages and wowed the crowds with a return of **Best in Show**. Combatting fast fashion was the central message of the festival's fashion show, **OxGlam**, where costumes were upcycled and created by local designers in partnership with Oxfam Darlington and Teesside University's fashion department, to reflect the festival's themes.

We welcomed and launched **Tees Valley Nature Partnership's World Café** with thought-provoking range of discussions about the role of plastic in modern society the environment and fast fashion and welcomed **Little Inventors** to the stage.

In the festival's Pink Zone visitors enjoyed a packed schedule that included an interactive re-imagining of the moon landing by **Whippet Up**; **Fully Booked Theatre's** fun-packed performance of **Space Rebel Princess**; **Urban Playground's** high-level parkour show, **Zoo Humans**; a bicycle-powered **Bewonderment Machine** carousel and enchanting storytelling by **Ian Douglas**.

KEEP MOVING!



OxGlam



Bike Powered Stage

GET HANDS ON



Rocket Building

There were hundreds of opportunities to get active and involved over the Festival weekend. Encouraging children to play outdoors and create with **Rocket building** alongside the popular **Jamalittle jammaking workshops** and the return of **Noisy Toys** – scavenging old computers into new instruments. The return of **spoon carvers, lampshade makers and weavers**. Many of our 130 stallholders demonstrated skills from **upcycling crafts and printmaking**.

OxGlam then demonstrated how good you can look in those remade clothes in the fashion parade – and our **Fix It Café** as ever demonstrated that if it's broke – you can fix it!

Food workshops included cooking outdoors and wild baking, and once the activity was done there was plenty of food choice for all tastes, with an increased emphasis on vegetarian and vegan options on all stalls.

A YEAR OF IN THE LIFE...



Fix It Café

MARCH/APRIL VIEWPOINTS

With Navigator North, Mima and TVA, we select six fantastic artists to be part of our September Viewpoints programme, to be sited in locations across Redcar, Middlesbrough and Darlington. All focussed on the theme of Clean Air they propose very different interpretations of the subject. Site visits begin, including a trip down the River Tees with River Shack to see how different it has become. We begin working with the Dormanstown Steel Gala and attend the launch of the new Steel Stories exhibition at Kirkleatham Museum which will run right through the Festival period.



Green House, Cabinet of Curiosity Studio



Urban Playground

JULY/AUGUST FASHION DISASTER

Our fashion show organisers, Oxfam, have to step down due to illness and Abby Dennison comes to our aid. We go to the Innovation Festival, speak at the Tees Valley Nature Partnership Conference on clean air, head over on a study tour to Cyprus to meet like-minded sustainable folk, and hear of the success of the Creative People and Places bid. We confirm the stage programme and the involvement of **BBC Tees Adam Clarkson**. Thrilled to hear **Dylan Cartlidge** can join us – and **Biscuit Head and the Biscuit Badgers** are back with their David Attenborough song!

JANUARY/FEBRUARY INNOVATION

Festival of Thrift plans to go “on the road” as we are invited to join Northumbrian Water’s Innovation Festival in July. We agree to take Festival favourites **Fix It Café** and **Sam Storey**, runner up as BBC Chef of the Year who brought us **Jamallot, Jamalittle** and **The Whole Hog!** We also got involved in bidding for a Redcar and Cleveland and Middlesbrough Creative People and Places programme in partnership with both councils, Palace Arts, Tees Valley Arts, Teesside University and others!

MAY/JUNE FESTIVAL ARTISTS CONFIRMED

We begin to confirm artists for the Festival weekend such as Saltburn based **Whippet Up** with **Mission Out of Control**, **Woodshed Workshop** who decide to build rockets not go-karts and **Urban Playground** who propose a performance about a future world where humans can no longer move. **The Little Inventors** are commissioned to launch their next callout to young people whose imaginative ideas can influence and affect change in the world. Traders are also confirmed and we start to book stalls, stages, equipment, barriers, security – it’s happening!



Dylan Cartlidge



You see, breathe, feel, Pete Evans



Parade led by Cow Car, Andy Hazell



Festival signage

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER WRAPPING UP 2019

As we look over the photos, edit the video, thank participants and partners and evaluate 2019, we are planning another action packed year to come! We hear that we will be moving into a building in Redcar in 2020 and imagine what might happen there. We agree that Energy is a great theme for 2020 and Water should be our focus in 2021 – the Year of the English Coast! Are we getting a bit ahead of ourselves? We've only just finished 2019. No, we want to let you all know what we are thinking – so you can join in too. Get in touch – after all, it's your Festival and we will continue, but perhaps rather differently in 2020.

SEPTEMBER VIEWPOINTS

Viewpoints showcases five artworks challenge views on clean air. From Haldane the giant canaries created by **Colin Davies** and **Sally Hogarth's** Sit, Stop on Redcar beach via **Peter Evan's** drawings from ink made from car exhaust fumes, **Dawn Felicia Knox's** aircleaning station and Cabinet of Curiosity's Green House at Darlington Indoor Market the artworks spark conversations which precede and follow the Festival.

A YEAR OF IN THE LIFE...

OPENING PARADE

Thanks to **Stellar Projects**, we launch the festival weekend with our second parade from Redcar town centre to the bandstand in a vibrant celebration of our creative community spirit. A familiar giant steel cow welded to the roof of a VW car by **Andy Hazell** leads the procession on Friday night and **Kasia Molga's** Human Sensor dancers bring it to a finale. **Whippet Up** and **Phoenix Choir** are followed by **Tales of the Tees**, **Imaginarium Dance**, **Redcar Phoenix band**, **Backchat Brass**, **Bombay Baja**, **Urban Kaos dancers**, **Grenfell Club**, **The Link**, **Anchor Housing** and **Tuned In** all join in the fun.

THE FESTIVAL AT LAST!

No worries about the weather this year (Just a spot of rain plops onto our plates at **The Town is the Menu – Guisborough**) An alien is spotted in the top field, it's **Manic Chord theatre**, and an exquisite glass orchestra from the **Lawnmowers** plays *Fly Me to the Moon* in St. Cuthbert's. Sabic launch their **Eco Challenge** to a full house and **Tin Arts** pack the dance floor with inclusive dance moves. Grownups want a go on **Bird in Hand's** **Bewonderment Machine** but join **MIMA's** bio burst planting or birdbox making or **Noisy Toys** inventing or outdoor cooking or **Tees Valley Nature Partnership's** **World Café** ... or any number of other activities... and then it's over and they've missed so much – but there's always another year!



The Town is the Menu

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Each year we look at a number of economic aspects of the festival so we can understand the impact we have on the local economy. In 2019 we used Fuze research after their work in 2018 provided some really useful insights. Once again we looked at how much each visitor spent per head, this figure was £62.92 compared to £48.70 in 2018. We then analyse our overall number of visitors which for 2019 was 35k over the weekend.

To get a more accurate economic contribution we then reduce that figure to account for 17% visiting for more than one day and 69% of these who specifically came to Redcar because of the Festival. So in 2019 the festival generated £1,333,211 spend in the local economy.

£62.92
AVERAGE SPEND
BY EACH VISITOR

90% feel the Festival gets the audience immersed & involved in the arts, skills and sustainability

80% feel the Festival raises the area's cultural profile nationally

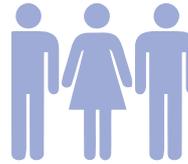
70% feel the Festival is a celebration of the sense of place for the Tees Valley



£1.3M
NEW SPEND INTO THE
LOCAL COMMUNITY

60% feel more informed about thrifty concepts & ideas

71% agreed that they felt inspired to save money by recycling, upcycling or reusing



AVERAGE GROUP
SIZE WAS 2.77
PEOPLE





RED CAR & CLEVELAND
MORE
THIS
WAY

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are an essential element of the Festival and contribute in many different ways. We are grateful for the support received from colleagues at Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council in recruiting volunteers for the Festival itself. In 2019 a total of 35 volunteers gave their time to support us; staffing the information points, stewarding and stepping into roles in the artist liaison team. All the volunteers were a credit to the team and we will be growing more year round opportunities and developing training for 2019 with support from the #Iwill2019 via the County Durham Community Foundation.

- 64% felt adequately informed during the festival
- 50% felt inspired to volunteer more and that they had made more friends and connections
- 21% felt more confident as a result of volunteering



TRADERS

“ We love this festival, it’s the best in the UK let alone the North East”

“The footfall was fantastic and was very pleased with overall takings.”

“Once again, very well organised event. Looking forward to next year!”

“The atmosphere was magical, friendly full of positivity”

“I love Festival of Thrift, great atmosphere, ethos & attendance.”

Each year our traders at the Festival of Thrift help to create our diverse festival offer. We have a carefully selected array of food and drink providers, crafters, artists, up-cycled, recycled, sustainable and thrifty producers. We also prioritise local and regional traders so we can ensure the best impact to the local economy and we showcase them on our website for 6 months of the year.

Of our 200 traders in 2019, 44% made between £1000 and £2000 over the festival weekend, 11% stayed in a hotel or B&B in Redcar, 60% of stallholders are based in the Tees Valley and the average stall purchase at the Festival was £24.40.

We are dedicated to our traders and are investing in future festivals and our online offer to improve the experience they have during, before and after the festival weekend.

RECYCLE UPCYCLE REUSE

"One of the best Festival on this side of the North Pole, in a beautiful setting. Easy to get to and well provided for anyone who needs accessible access, if you have never been, Why???. my first time there was amazing. I will be back tomorrow and hopefully next year I will have a stall there. Everyone friendly and plenty to see, eat and drink. Thank you for an amazing day"

"I look forward to this event all year! It's quirky, diverse, immersive and fun. Love the atmosphere, the shopping, the schopping and the food, it's fabulous"

VISITORS





Pif Paf, The Bee Cart

In the run up to the Festival weekend we create a responsive media campaign that shares the festivals messages and ethos. The content we create is also used on the Festival's digital channels alongside ongoing messaging about the event programme. A live digital media campaign ran throughout the Festival weekend with content created by an on-site volunteer social media team.

Year on year we grow our knowledge, partners and skills to be more targeted, innovative and thoughtful.

IN 2019:

- We increased our social media reach across all channels.
- Our website generated over 135k sessions with 45k users.
- Our media reached 1.45m readers and listeners and had a paid advertising space (AVE), the equivalent of £359.55k.
- Coverage for the Festival of Thrift was both regional and national.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

On national broadcast media – an interview with Wayne Hemingway MBE on Radio 5 Live (BBC).

In national 'green' trade media – Recycling + Waste World.

Via an endorsement by the Guardian's Eco Chef, Tom Hunt, of Town is the Menu on Twitter

On all regional broadcast channels – BBC Look North (a news item about **VIEWPOINTS**, coverage on the Festival weekend and news bulletins from Thursday 12 – Monday 16 September), ITV Tyne Tees (news item about the Festival weekend and news bulletins), extensive coverage on BBC Tees' programmes, news item on TFM and coverage on community radio stations, Zetland FM as well as Middlesbrough-based CVFM.

In all key regional press and magazines – including the Darlington & Stockton Times, Northern Echo, Evening Gazette, The Journal, Evening Chronicle, North East Living Magazine, Living North magazine.

In Yorkshire press including the York Evening Press and The Telegraph and Argus.

There was a positive response from The One Show to an invitation to come and cover the event maybe next year?!

"Teesside University are delighted to be a long-standing partner of the Festival of Thrift, contributing to the development of such a creative and innovative event since its inception in 2013. The variety of activities, from talks, performances, hacks and research showcases, reflect the diversity of the event and its audience. The Festival's position as the national festival of sustainable living aligns perfectly with the University's commitment to responsible, ethical and sustainable business, and ensuring a positive social impact across our operations. We continue to see new initiatives and concepts spin-out of our engagement with the Festival of Thrift and are pleased to see the growth of the event to be a flagship in the Tees Valley cultural calendar." Dr Joanne Heaton-Marriott – Teesside University

AT A GLANCE...

- We increased our visitor numbers to 37,000 people connected directly with the Festival over the course of the year.
- Delivered additional communications campaigns to coincide with festival.
- Communications around Launch Parade and Celebration on Friday 13th September with a VIP event to preview Viewpoints and the parade.
- Developed a new thrift 365 website with an in house payment service as part of our steps to become future proof and self sustainable.
- Reduced print costs and print wastage.
- Developed new site signage by using reusable materials.
- Increased social media reach and followers across the board.
- Developed an interactive map and increased website usage.



OUR VISITORS

As in 2018, the largest proportion of respondents were from Redcar and Cleveland (35.3%) and 24.3% of respondents were from the North East and 20.4% were from elsewhere in the Tees Valley. 19% came from outside the North East (4% up on 2018) we also increased our visitors from Yorkshire.

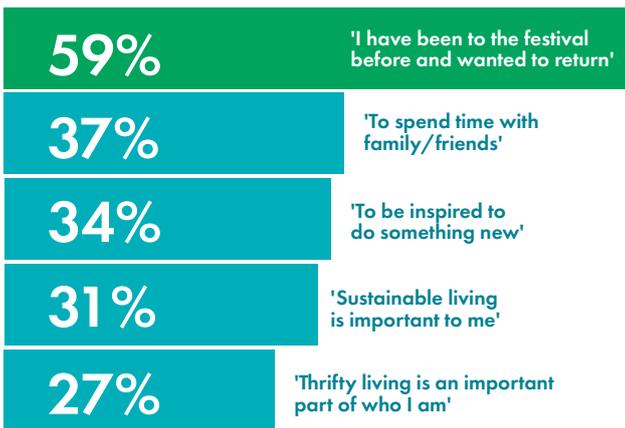
Again, very similar to in 2018, 77.5% of respondents travelled to the festival by car, 10.4% on foot, 4.8% got a lift and 4.3% travelled by bus. Only 2.6% of respondents travelled to the festival by train and 0.4% by bicycle.

89.6% of respondents were day visitors and 10.4% stayed overnight. The largest proportion of respondents were in the 45-54 years age group (27.5%).

94.8% of respondents were white-British, 0.4% white-Irish, 2.6% other white background, 0.9% mixed – white and black African and 1.3% mixed – white and Asian.



There were very few poor scores, which represents a positive story when assessing the overall project against its aims and vision.



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 Facebook: /festivalofthrift
 Twitter: @thriftfest
 Instagram: festivalofthrift

Images © Tracy Kidd Photography

END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS

INCOME £

Adverts & other income	24,323
Car Park	12,501
Catering	3,789
Grants	240,300
Sponsorship & donations	34,000
Stall Fees	34,854
Workshops	2,873
TOTAL	352,640

EXPENDITURE £

Advertising & other marketing	40,569
Artists Performers & workshops	120,443
Staffing and overheads	113,452
Production	77,634
TOTAL	352,098

Net (deficit) surplus	542
Brought forward from 2019	3,009
Carry over to 2020	3,551

OUR VISITORS

- 35% REDCAR AND CLEVELAND
- 24% NORTH EAST
- 20% ELSEWHERE IN TEES VALLEY
- 20% ELSEWHERE IN THE UK



MAJOR FUNDING PARTNERS	
KEY PARTNERS	

MEET THE TEAM

FOR THE
LOVE
OF
THRIFT

Dan Adams (Head of Operations)
Alicia Carroll (Artist Liaison)
Joanna Deans (Graphic Designer)
Stella Hall (Festival Director)
Della Haq (Finance Officer)
Steffi Harrevelt (Production & Operations Assistant)
Laura Hunter (Stalls Coordinator)
Tracy Kidd (Photographer)
Maddie Maughan (Viewpoints Producer)
Simon Preston (Food Guru)
Cara Pringle (Marketing Coordinator)
Rachel Smith (PR)

Plus Joanne Hodgson, Lesley Strickland, Karen Preston,
Andy Pearson and too many members of Redcar and
Cleveland Borough Council to mention.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stella Hall
John Orchard
Gerardine Hemingway MBE
Wayne Hemingway MBE

WORKING TO
SEE YOU
12 & 13 SEPTEMBER
THE **2020**
FESTIVAL OF
THRIFT



“Festival of Thrift plays an important role in ensuring the vibrancy and creativity that makes our region such an exciting place to live, work, visit and invest. Over the years, the festival has captured the imaginations of audiences across Redcar & Cleveland, the wider Tees Valley and beyond and supported people to learn new skills and live in a more environmentally conscious way. It is also a hugely positive platform for the many traders and small businesses that attend each year and makes a strong contribution to the Creative Economy of Tees Valley. We’re proud that Festival of Thrift is leading the way in the national dialogue around sustainable living from its home here in Tees Valley.”
Charlie Kemp, Tees Valley Combined Authority