



community

creativity

re-

Breathe

sustainability

Holy Island Arts Festival

Saturday 26th September
to Sunday 4th October

*Exploring community,
creativity,
and sustainability.*

The Re-Breathe Holy Island festival has three important strands, 'Creativity, Sustainability and Community'. Over the festival, we will be running various music events, including a live performance by the amazing 'Celtish' group; different arts workshops by various talented artists around the theme of re-using and recycling; dance workshops; story-telling sessions; poetry sessions; and talks on sustainability and the ecology of our beautiful island!

We hope that there will be something for everyone over the course of the week. Please support us with whatever you can afford to make this a great Holy Island community event.

**Support this festival by
visiting our Justgiving page.**



Saturday 26th September

**Revelation Arts free interactive
art installation**

‘What can I give?’

St Mary’s from 12pm

(installation will be up all week)

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**Holy Island history archive
open afternoon**

2-5pm

The Reading Room

-

Evening concert with ‘Celtish’

7.30pm at St Mary’s

*(including a live art creation
by local artist, Scott Brennan).*

£15 per person.



Book your ticket here
Or pay on the door.



Tide open: 6.40am-1.15pm & 7.15pm-1.20am

Sunday 27th September

Free exhibition from The Gleaning

St Cuthbert's from 10 am

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Harvest Festival Eucharist

With the Bishop of Newcastle,
the Right Revd Helen-Ann Hartley
St Mary's 10.45am

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HARVEST JAM

Join in with folk jam
with singers and musicians!
St Mary's 12pm-1.30pm

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Harvest Jam-making competition

St Mary's 12pm-1.30pm

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Book sculpture and paper engineering exhibition

St Mary's 12pm-1.30pm

(See next page for [more](#) Sunday 27th events)

Tide open: 7.30am-1.45pm & 7.55pm-1.45pm



Sunday 27th September (cont'd)

Print workshop

St Mary's 12pm-2.30pm

£2 per person

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Peter Sagar talk and workshop on the environment

St Aidan's (RC) 3.30-5.30pm

£2 per person

Tide open: 7.30am-1.45pm

& 7.55pm-1.45am

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Monday 28th September

Exhibition tour and talk from The Gleaning
St Cuthbert's 10am-12pm

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'Dance is for every body'
workshop with Andy Raine
Holy Island Village Hall 12.30-2pm
£2 per person

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Revelation arts - a listening event
'The future belongs to those
who imagine it today'
Starbank Cottage 2.30-3.30pm
Maximum 6 people.
Donations welcome

(See next page for [more](#) Monday 28th events)

Tide open: 8.15am-2.20pm
&8.35pm-2.20am

Monday 28th September (cont'd)

**Holy Island history archive
open afternoon**

The Reading Room 2-5pm

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Carol Wilson botany talk

St Aidan's (RC) 6-7pm

Donations welcome

**Tide open: 8.15am-2.20pm
& 8.35pm-2.20am**





Tuesday 29th September

Sketch, stitch, scribe workshop

St Cuthbert's 10am-1pm

Tickets are £15 per person.

Book your ticket here

Or pay on the door.



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Revelation arts

'Drawing breath, drawing nature'

Gertrude Jekyll's garden, 1-2pm

Meeting place - St Mary's at 12.30pm.

Maximum 8 people

£5 per person.

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Carol Wilson Botany Walk

Meet at St Mary's, 3-4.30pm

Donations welcome.

Tide open: 8.55am-2.55pm &

9.10pm-3.05am

Meet the artists

Nick Lewis Nick has been working for the National Trust on Holy Island since 2008 and is now Collections & House Manager for the Castle. His particular interest is in the development of the Castle since its foundation through to the present day. Lindisfarne Castle will be hosting events throughout the festival, so please check nearer the time for details.

The Poetic Apothecary Lorna Sedgwick and Avril Priestley are mother & daughter, with Avril writing & performing original poetry, using inspiration from landscape, sight & sounds. Lorna complements the poetry with art created from locally found materials.

Mary Fleeson Mary has lived on Holy Island for almost thirty years and established Lindisfarne Scriptorium at the end of 2000. Known for her distinctive freehand Celtic knotwork, Mary combines traditional skills with an intuitive, contemporary lettering, illumination and knotwork. In her workshops, participants learn how Celtic knotwork can emerge from simple weaving lines, discovering both the artistic techniques and the rich heritage behind this meditative Celtic art form. The Scriptorium aims to offer an art form and writing that draws the viewer into an experience of prayer, meditation and blessing.

Jane Hewitt Jane works full-time as a headteacher in Edinburgh, but also a very skilled artist & crafts-person. In 2025 one of her book sculptures was exhibited at the Royal Academy's prestigious 'Summer Exhibition' in London (and the piece sold almost immediately!)

Scott Brennan Scott is a skilled painter working largely in oils, & lives on the Island.

Celtish Husband-and-wife duo, Nigel Cameron and Julie Cameron- Hall, create the unique folk sound that is 'Celtish'. Ranging from upbeat to reflective, instrumentals, original songs, & familiar lyrics set to timeless melodies, their music is often based on stories of the ancient Celtic Saints from Ireland, Iona & our own Island.

Meet the artists

Brothers Gillespie Described by Folk Radio UK as ‘weaving an especially compelling magic’, Northumbrian duo The Brothers Gillespie sing songs of great lyrical power, animated by the sound of soaring sibling harmony, inspired guitar playing & a rich array of acoustic instruments.

Revelation Arts Liz Crichton is the Creative Director of Revelation Arts, a registered charity since March 2025, aiming to inspire people to engage imaginatively with creative & contemporary arts as a revelatory & transformational practice. Promoting physical, mental & emotional wellbeing through the advancement of the arts.

Carol Wilson Carol has been studying wildflowers for over 40 years. She visited Holy Island first during the 1970s & more often since 2024. Holy Island is a botanical paradise with many plants thriving here that are becoming rare elsewhere in the UK. Her talks & walks will focus on some of the special plants of the Island alongside a brief look at its history.

Andy Raine Writer & dancer, a passionate advocate for the arts, Andy has slowly absorbed Celtic history because of living on Holy Island.

Thea Soltau A creative practitioner specialising in physical theatre & dance, Thea is an experienced choreographer, director & performer, also large-scale animator often at work in community theatre & festivals.

The Gleaning ‘The Gleaning’ art installation is a collaboration between artists & writers, Fiona Campbell, Gill Sakakini, Polly Hall & Rosalind Teesdale-Ives, all based in Shepton Mallet in Somerset, they have individual creative practices & lead community engagement projects through the arts.

Kenneth Steven Kenneth Steven is a writer of faith: first and always a poet. Many of his much-loved works began with the island of Iona, where he & his wife Kristina led retreats for ten years. ‘A Song among the Stones’ was inspired by the story of Celtic Christian hermit monks making the voyage to Iceland from Iona in open boats in the 7th & 8th Centuries.

Meet the artists

Sarah Small Following her UK-wide concert tour by bicycle in 2025, viola da gamba player Sarah Small returns to Holy Island to perform 'Good Again?' a solo recital weaving together exquisite baroque melodies with traditional folk tunes & original compositions to help us reflect on our relationship with the natural world. For more information: sarahsmallviol.crd.co

Peter Sagar A teacher, writer & historian, Peter has been active in human rights work for 35 years. He also is passionate about how we can respond to climate change. He is convenor of Newcastle NW and Central URC Green team & a member of the URC Northern Synod Environmental Group. His workshop examines why we should care about creation & how churches/community groups can help protect it.

'Pipers Fancy' - Northumbrian Pipes 'Pipers Fancy' was formed several years ago to be the "playing out" arm of the Northumbrian Pipers Society. The group from the Alnwick area & Newcastle play at local Shows, WIs, retirement homes, church events & music-festivals. Helping introduce the tradition of the Northumbrian pipes and music to a wider audience.

Chris Adriaanse A storyteller & spoken-word artist based in Berwick-on-Tweed, Chris tells stories in the oral tradition where 'each telling, each time begins afresh'.

Kit Hobkirk Now based in the Scottish Borders, Kit has worked as a professional singer, trained musician & voice-coach and directs a 'Come & Sing' workshop.

Penny Dot A lively & well-loved Ceilidh band from north-Northumberland!

Look out for other artists creating, collaborating, displaying work, sketching or making music in various locations around the Island through the week.



Wednesday 30th September

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Carol Wilson 'Botany for beginners'

Marygate House 10-12.30pm

Maximum 6 people

£5 per person

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Revelation arts

**'A listening walk, landscape, soundscape,
soulcape'**

Starting at the St Cuthbert's Centre's garden

11.45-1pm

£5 per person

Maximum 10 people

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**'From the edges of the field,
re-telling the story of RUTH the Gleaner'
with Andy & Anna Raine**

St Cuthbert's 1.30-3pm

**Tide open: 9.30am-3.40pm & 9.35pm-
3.55am**



Thursday 1st October

Scratch choir with Kit Hobkirk

Rehearsal at St Mary's 10.30-12pm.

(Participants need to read music)

& Scratch Choir performance

St Mary's 2.30pm

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Carol Wilson

'Botanical drawing for botany beginners'

Marygate House 10-12.30pm

Maximum 6 people

£5 per person

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**Poetic Apothecary exhibition,
workshop & readings**

St Cuthbert's - workshop 1-3.30pm

(Exhibition open all day from 10am)

Workshop £2 per person.

(See next page for more Thursday 1st events)

Tide open: 10am-4.30pm & 10pm-4.55am

Thursday 1st October (cont'd)

Nick Lewis and Joe Wood (National Trust)
'Gertrude Jekyll's garden, past to present'

Holy Island Village Hall 1.30-2.30pm

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Holy Island history archive
open afternoon

The Reading Room 2-5pm

Tide open: 10am-4.30pm
& 10pm-4.55am





Friday 2nd October

An audience with Kenneth Steven

Poetry-reading & chat

St Cuthbert's 11am-12.30pm

£5 per person

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Mary Fleeson 'freehand knotwork' workshops

For over 25 years Mary Fleeson has developed her freehand knotwork here on the Island.

Come along to this hands-on beginners workshop to learn how you can draw it too!

St Cuthbert's 2-4pm

*Max 20 spaces per 1 hour session.
(2 sessions available £5 per person)*

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Nick Lewis (National Trust)

on art inspired by Lindisfarne Castle

Holy Island Village Hall 1.30-2.30pm

Donations welcome

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(See next page for more Friday 2nd events)

Tide open: 10.25am-5.30pm & 10.20pm-6am



Friday 2nd October (cont'd)

Sarah Small concert - Viola de Gamba

St Mary's 3-4.30pm

£5 per person

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Botanical talk

with Carol Wilson

St Cuthbert's 6-7pm

Donations welcome.

Tide open: 10.25am-5.30pm & 10.20pm-6am



Saturday 3rd October

Kenneth Stevens

'A song among the stones'

Meditative story-telling with music

St Cuthbert's 11am -1pm

£12 per person



Book your ticket here

Or pay on the door.

Dance workshop 'Get it. Together.'

led by Thea Soltau

For all levels of ability & those who've never danced, exploring **aspects of kindness** through everyday movements.

Working together towards a short informal performance.

Holy Island Village Hall 1.30-4pm

£10 per person



Book your ticket here

Or pay on the door.

(See next page for [more](#) Saturday 3rd events)

Tide open: 10.50am-6.40pm & 11pm-7.25am

Saturday 3rd October (cont'd)

Children's art workshops

St. Mary's 11-12.30pm

& 3pm-4.30pm

*£2 per child per workshop**

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Chris Adriaanse - Children's storytelling

St Mary's 2pm

*£1 per child**

**Children must be accompanied by an adult*

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Felicity Edmonds & 'Pipers Fancy' on Northumbrian pipes

St Cuthbert's 1.30pm-2.30pm

£2 per person

Tide open: 10.50am-6.40pm

& 11pm-7.25am

(See next page for [even more](#) Saturday 3rd events)



Saturday 3rd October (cont'd)

'Brothers Gillespie' folk concert

St Cuthbert's 4-6pm

£15 per person

Maximum 30 people



Book your ticket here

Or pay on the door.

Film night 'Mrs Lowry & Son'

Holy Island Village Hall 7-8.30pm

£5 suggested donation per person

Tide open: 10.50am-6.40pm

& 11pm-7.25am





Sunday 4th October

Closing Festival service

St. Mary's 10.45-12pm

Donations welcome

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Celebration lunch at St.

Cuthbert's

1-2pm

Donations welcome

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Shanty Singers

St Cuthbert's 2pm-3pm

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Village Ceilidh with

Penny Dot band

Holy Island Village Hall

5.30-7.30pm

£10 per adult

(no admission cost for children)

Book your ticket here

or pay on door



Tide open: 11.35am-8.05pm

& 12.05am-9am