

# NEWS



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## UK premiere to feature at next Light Night Worcester

Light Night is back on Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 February from 6.30 - 9.30pm with another spectacular programme including the UK premiere of work by international company Picto Facto.

Both nights will see Worcester's city centre host another exciting programme of creative and interactive work and playful street performances courtesy of The Arches Worcester Festivals.

Strobilophones, illuminated street theatre with amazing inflatables, singers and dancers by Picto Facto will be performed for the first time in the UK. Lampounette by TILT will light up buildings and passersby with their giant desk lamps and coloured beams. Light Looper by The Kazimier will invite four participants at a time to take part in an unforgettable game of light and sound, and Colony by Mike Blow will be encouraging the audience to listen, touch and hug the large sonic sculptures and experience sound in different ways. The programme will also feature Butterfly Dream, an installation by artist Anne Bennett, Windows of Light by David Edmunds and some unusual walkabout performance surprises!

**David Edmunds, Severn Arts Festivals Director said:** "I'm thrilled with the depth and variety in the Light Night programme again for this year, its particularly exiting to once again be bringing international companies to Light Night Worcester and I'm sure our audiences will find a sense of wonder and joy in the 2023 programme."

**Laura Worsfold, Severn Arts CEO said:** "We are so looking forward to this year's Light Night Worcester event, which will be the last one under the existing Arches Festivals-funded programme of events. Light Night Worcester has surpassed all our expectations, attracting tens of thousands of people every time. We are so proud of our delivery teams and our hundreds of volunteers and artists who have made this event so successful and put smiles on the faces of people of all ages.

"The national funding for the Arches Festivals sadly comes to an end in March 2023, but we know there is great support for Light Night so we are now seeking support and funds to enable these fantastic events to continue to be a part of Worcester's cultural offer every year. If you can help or have any ideas for how we can keep this wonderful festival running in our city, please get in touch with Severn Arts at <https://www.severnarts.org.uk/2023-sponsorship-opportunities> or Worcester City Council. I know it is a hard ask in such difficult times, but Light Night really does brighten the dark winter days, offering hope and inspiration for everyone. We really want to see Light Night Worcester expand and delight audiences for a long time to come, but we will need everyone's help to make sure it continues."

**Peter Knott, Area Director, Arts Council England said:** “We’re really pleased to be supporting The Arches Worcester Festivals through the Cultural Development Fund, as it brings creativity, outdoor art installations and celebrations to the city and its many communities.

“Previous Light Night Worcester events have transformed the city centre, bringing people together and boosting the local economy - and we expect this year to be no different. From illuminated, interactive street theatre to sonic sound sculptures, the festival promises to animate the city through new and colourful cultural experiences.”

Light Night is a free event for all ages.

Keep a look out for Light Night updates on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram @ArchesFests. You can also sign up to receive the festival newsletters via the website <https://thearchesworcesterevents.co.uk/> Maps will be available from the Tourist Information centre and

Light Night is part of the festival programme produced and managed by Severn Arts and the Arches Festivals team as part of [The Arches Worcester project](#)

-Ends-

#### **Notes to editors**

Attached for your use are images of work featuring in Light Night 2023. For more information about the individual artists/acts in Light Night 2023 visit <https://thearchesworcesterevents.co.uk/light-night/>

#### **About The Arches – Worcester**

The Arches – Worcester project will see some of the beautiful Victorian railway arches in Croft Walk, Netherton Court and Cherry Tree Walk, Worcester, converted into affordable and flexible studios and offices for local artists and creative businesses. They will take their place alongside existing local businesses, restaurants and cafes to create a new cultural destination for tourists and local communities.

The area will also be home to a new flexible public space for performances, rehearsals and exhibitions, and the base for The Arches Festivals, a major programme of events for Worcester.

In January 2019 the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport awarded more than £3m from the Cultural Development Fund, which is administered by Arts Council England, towards the costs of The Arches - Worcester.

The project is being delivered by Worcester Cultural Partnership which is made up of:

- Worcester City Council
- The University of Worcester
- Severn Arts
- The Arch Company
- Worcestershire County Council

[www.thearchesworcester.co.uk](http://www.thearchesworcester.co.uk)  
[@thearchesworc](https://www.facebook.com/archesworcester)

**Arts Council England** is the national development agency for creativity and culture. It has set out its strategic vision in [Let's Create](#) that by 2030 it wants England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high quality cultural experiences. It invests public money from Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision. Find out more about [Arts Council England](#).

Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million **Emergency Response Package**, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. It is also one of several bodies administering the Government's **Culture Recovery Fund** and unprecedented support package of £1.57 billion for the culture and heritage sector. Find out more about the [Culture Recovery Fund](#).

#### **About The Arches Festivals**

The Arches Festivals organises brand new festivals, showcasing national and international creative talent and supporting local emerging work - placing culture & creativity at the heart of Worcester.

[thearchesworcesterfestivals.co.uk/](http://thearchesworcesterfestivals.co.uk/)  
[www.facebook.com/archesfests](https://www.facebook.com/archesfests)  
@archesfests

#### **About The Arches – Participate**

The Arches – Participate project offers support and advice for creative start-ups and entrepreneurs in Worcester. It works to strengthen local leadership in the city's culture and the creative industries, deepen workforce diversity, and enhance artist development and creative skills in order to stimulate growth in Worcester's economy. This is delivered through a mix of public and private sector training and support.

[www.thearchesworcester.co.uk/participate](http://www.thearchesworcester.co.uk/participate)  
[www.facebook.com/Arches-participate-101720764793208](https://www.facebook.com/Arches-participate-101720764793208)  
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