



Darvel Music Company - Darvel Music Festival

About the Project

The Darvel Music Festival and associated Darvel Music Concerts take place at the Town hall and Bowling Club in East Ayrshire. Originally it was held to celebrate the 250th Anniversary celebrations of Darvel in 2002. It soon though became an annual music festival and a firm favourite in the Scottish music calendar. In the 22 years over 450 events have been enjoyed by audiences with an eclectic mix of music genres. Acts have included Love and Money, Hue and Cry, James Grant, Justin Currie, Glen Tilbrook, Hamish Stuart, Eddi Reader, Capercaillie, Skerryvore and the Peatbog Faeries. Many of the acts like Paul Carrack, Eric Bibb and Larry Carlton only played in Darvel as part of their Scottish and UK tours which resulted in visitors from across the world visiting the town with a major impact on the local economy and visitors enjoying the unique Darvel music experience. Up until 2007 all concerts were planned and delivered firstly by local music lover, Lynn Brown in 2002 and thereafter under the auspices of the Darvel Improvement Group.

In 2008 the Darvel Music Company was set up as a not-for-profit community organisation and took over staging music events held throughout the year in Darvel Town Hall enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. The Darvel Music Company have made a significant impact on the regeneration of the town by giving visitors across the world a reason to visit and enjoy a unique music experience. The extension to concerts throughout the year means

that Darvel Music Company are giving visitors a reason to visit all year round thereby extending the season.

This significant impact on the regeneration of Darvel is organised by an enthusiastic group of volunteers many of whom have been involved since the beginning including the co-founder. Without this hard-working group of volunteers, the Darvel music magic would not happen. Local businesses often support Darvel Music Company with sponsorship and East Ayrshire Council and other grant providers have given much-needed financial assistance.

“The festival steadily built up a solid reputation within the Scottish music scene and has received plaudits and favourable reviews from various media sources. Music fans from across Scotland, the rest of the U.K, Canada, the USA and Japan have attended shows and in turn, this influx of visitors has helped boost the local economy”.

Neil McKenna, Festival Producer

“A very brave, exciting line-up – this has really put Darvel on the cultural map of Britain” Phil Cunningham

Images courtesy of Kevin Kerr Photography



Location: East Ayrshire

Type: Do/ Enjoy

When Set Up: 2019

How Funded: Ticket sales, sponsorship from local businesses and past grants from the National Lottery Community Fund.

Beneficiaries: Locals enjoying the music events but also the significant economic impact it has and the contribution to the regeneration of Darvel. Visitors from across the world enjoying the unique Darvel music experience.

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