**Warwick Folk Festival 21st July to 24th July 2022**

The 2022 festival took place at our new site on the Castle fields and was a huge relief as the previous 2 had to be cancelled due to COVID

Yet again the festival was a great success starting out on the Thursday with Granny’s Attic and the folk opera “The Undoing of Polly Button”. All visitors left the venues in high spirits some to the food venues and others to the bar run by Nigel Smith of the Fleece Inn from Bretforton. In addition there were other groups playing that evening.

Friday brought more performances with a vast array of talent ranging Show of Hands and Nancy Kerr on the Kingmaker Stage to various artists performing in town from Brimstone to Alkevan. It was very heartening to see the town alive with performers after these years away.

Saturday had meet the artists sessions in the morning on the Avon Stage and Jester Stage and again various artists performed in town ranging from Graham Sutherland giving a talk on Secret Warwick to KC Jones at Dough and Brew On site Cork singers club with whom we are twinned performed at the songhouse as well as Ellie Gowers (a local artist) Les Barker (who sadly has since passed away) and Speirs and Boden at the Kingmaker Stage.

Sunday mixed weather started with the church service and Rob Halligan and Strictly Clog. On the site we had The Young Uns Will Pound & Jenn Butterworth Granny’s Attic the irrepressible Keith Donnelly and many many more.

Over the weekend In town lots of entertainment ranging from Morris Dancing to a Bob Dylan tribute band and the Steamchicken Stollers

Sunday evening was finished off in the Fourpennyshop with Quigley’s Favourites

Throughout the weekend there were many workshops for adults and children including dance, playing instruments, recycled crafts, and other entertainment for the children. Throughout the weekend were many ceilidh band performing. We take great pride in making it a family friendly event and throughout this festival we believe we attracted in excess of 30,000 people in audience numbers who come to the town and festival to enjoy themselves bringing a great deal of spending power to the town. We cater for all ages from the very young who can learn circus skills and enjoy other forms of entertainment to workshops where budding artists can hone their skills in their chosen field. We put on 40 events for children and young people with a participation of in excess of 500 over these events with an audience of nearly 3000 watching them. We put on 40 workshops with a participation in excess of 1000 people. This is in additional to bringing an estimate spend of £500,000 into the area over the period.

All in all, yet another marvellous weekend with a special mention going to Dick Dixon (Festival Director) and the team (over 280 volunteers) which if costed out is in excess of £90,000 volunteer time given

Also, many thanks to all our partners including Warwick Town Council also including a special thanks to the Castle and the farmer Chris Taylor for use of their entrance and land.

J R Plumb Chair