

Friends of
Stainsby
Newsletter
June 2018



50th July 2018
20th-22nd

www.stainsbyfestival.org.uk



Festival Reaches Milestone - Shock Horror!

The fiftieth Stainsby Festival? Whoa! That can't be right, surely? And yet amazingly it is. Nobody thought that in 1969, when the first festival kicked off – a single Saturday – in the field behind the old school at Stainsby, that it would still be going strong in 2018. They might have thought better of it if they had!

Now the eagle eyed amongst you will have noticed that 1969 to 2018 is only a period of 49 years. In one of those interesting/amusing/boring (delete as appropriate) anomalies beloved of mathematicians/trivialists/nerds (delete as appropriate again) if you have 50 festivals there are only 49 intervening years. Much like street lights. Count the spaces between them next time you're out. It's always one less. (*Do not of course do this when driving – you may end up the one less – Ed*)

Better Late Than....

OK, OK! Enough with the diversionary tactics, we're just putting off the fact we know we're late with this newsletter. Here it is June 2018 (or eighteen minutes past eight to its friends) and the festival's only weeks away before you all get our annual newsletter. So, we're fessing up: this is the big one - it's number 50 – and we've been putting a lot of effort into trying to make it something special – a vintage Stainsby. Now because we're utterly volunteer run that means if we concentrate on doing something new, something old tends not to get done - like the words of this newsletter (*That might be a relief to some of us! – Ed*)



Busy, busy, busy...

So, what have we been doing? Well for a start trying to organise the very best of Stainsby, spending that bit more, haggling that bit more, cajoling that bit more for an all-time favourite line up. OK we can't recall those

who've already gone to the Great Gig in the Sky (©Pink Floyd & Clare Torry), sad as that is (*Yeah, I miss Vin too – Ed*) but we've spent a great deal of time negotiating with some of those you've told us are amongst your very favourites. We couldn't get them all – we're not made of money! – and some are already committed to other gigs, but we think you'll agree that this is going to be an archetypal Stainsby. (*Ah, I see you've found the dictionary app on your phone – Ed*). Not only that, we've been submitting lots of begging letters to local companies and grant applications to all and sundry. The grants have been a mixed bag so far with some high-profile refusals (*Remind me never to buy any more Lottery tickets – Ed*). And that takes gazillions of time. (*Gazillions? – Ed*). Yep! At current rates of exchange 1 gazillion equals about 10 newsletters.



The Fittival (*what, no "see what we did there"? – Ed*)

This year's fiftieth special event, the Fiftyval, is looking just fabulous. Check out www.stainsbyfestival.org.uk for the very latest in who's on when. There's really only space here to mention folk hip-hop performer, *Dizraeli* (famous for the Tesco song *), guitar virtuoso *George Borowski*, local heroes *Loscoe State Opera* and disreputable ruffians *The Lost Padres*. All of these have been regulars since our last big celebration in 1993 for the 25th when Dick Gaughan brought his folk-rock band Clan Alba and a then unknown sound engineer called *John Ramsay* (*Unknown to you, maybe. Apparently UB40, Sting, U2 and Queen spoke very highly of him. But what do they know? – Ed*). We've been unable to persuade Ramsay to stay away since, which may account for Stainsby's reputation for its sound quality ever since. (*We are trying to fix this honest! – Ed*)

*One of life's little ironies: Tesco have proved very helpful in making the Fiftyval special



A Departure From Tradition

Now traditionally this is where we make a plea for your money and include some edifying words about how if you buy a weekend ticket you save on the spondulicks - but by now many of you have already heeded our words of wisdom over previous years and snapped them up in bucketloads. (*How many bucketloads in a gazillion? – are these new Brexit related units of measurement? Must keep up! - Ed*). As a result, weekend tickets are getting in short supply. We'll keep a few back to sell on the gate, but if you want to be sure of getting one, well, our tip is: www.stainsbyfestival.org.uk/booking right now. What's more, there's no price increase again this year. Much more festival for no more moolah! (*I see you've got the east end slang app as well- Ed*). And that's part of what the festival's about. How so? Well, because...



Neo-Liberal Economic Modelling & The Market

The lying capitalist hyena approach to marketing - (oops, sorry got overtaken by a bit of sixties revolutionary zeal there!) - would be to do a bit of price gouging and jack the rate up for the fiftieth on the grounds that everybody would want to be there. Now it turns out that everybody *does* want to be there - see weekend ticket advice above - which means we can do a special celebration without upping the zlotys (*OK you're just doing it to annoy me now! – Ed*) you have to fork out.



We're collecting memorabilia for a special exhibition in the expanded Information Marquee (*Is expanded information anything to do with GDPR then? – Ed*). If you've got any old material or stories, or photos or general tat ...err, I mean treasured items about the festival, we'd love to see and hear them. We're going to put the best on display. Send anything you've got to fityval@stainsbyfestival.org.uk or contact Adele via our Facebook page.



Put Out More Flags (& Smoke Trails)

On Sunday afternoon *The House Band* will lead the celebrations and there's going to be a special birthday moment when we hope to have a giant cake for everyone to share. At which point you may be lucky enough to witness a special flypast of spitfires being done in our honour by the *RAF* (*You cannot be serious! - Ed*). Less of the channelling John McEnroe, we are perfectly serious. What's more they'll be doing a rehearsal on the Saturday to make sure they get it wing tip perfect on the Sunday. Keep watching the skies!

The Fields Appeal

What with the big five oh and grant applications we've done little in the way of new fundraising recently. We're a bit under halfway towards raising a sum that's within touching distance of a realistic price. Paddy has given us first refusal but is in no hurry to sell. He's happy for us to continue using the fields for the foreseeable future. Respect! - and very big thanks. We're keeping the appeal funds safe in a separate escrow account for now. We expect to return to fund raising to enable us to buy the site at some point in the future, so as to guarantee it'll still be here in (gulp) 2068 to celebrate a hundred (in) glorious years!

Stainsby Analytica (not!)

We didn't do a vast mail out about GDPR. Our data policy is simple. We only keep a digital data record if you've signed up to our newsletter or bought a ticket via PayPal. We only use this to tell you about the festival - and nothing else. We don't do data mining, whatever that is, and we don't and won't ever give or sell your data to anyone else. A simple unsubscribe will mean we delete everything we hold of yours. That's it!

As ever there'll be lots of other entertainment, poetry with *The Bard of Windmill Hill*, philosophy sessions with *Leech*, another book launch, this time *Hilary Wainwright's* "A New Politics from the Left", a late night showing of *Dennis Skinner's* film "The Nature of the Beast" plus the occasionally bizarre and/or unexpected (*Nobody expects the Spanish Inquisition? – Ed*). All part of what makes Stainsby what it is. Not least that we work to a set of principles we think important: volunteer run, not-for-profit, any surplus re-invested, a minimum fee for all artists (and a maximum for the well-established). We try to be environmentally aware, returning the fields to grass afterwards and work to cooperative ideals (*So where's my divi, then – Ed*). Which is where you come in too. Many of you have told us the atmosphere at Stainsby is something special. Well that's true, but that means that all of you are part of making it special, choosing to come and sign up to those same values and making it what it is. Thank you! See you

Check Out All the Latest:



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