

Enchanted Parks 2009 – TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS



On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Twelve lords a leaping
Eleven ladies dancing
Ten pipers piping
Nine drummers drumming
Eight maids a milking
Seven swans a swimming
Six geese a laying
Five gold rings
Four calling birds
Three French hens
Two turtle doves and
A partridge in a pear tree.

Artistic Commission Proposals are invited for Enchanted Parks 2009

1. Introduction

Enchanted Parks is an innovative outdoor arts programme presented by culture¹⁰ for NewcastleGateshead Initiative in partnership with Gateshead Council and for 2009 forms part of the Gateshead Frost Festival cultural activities. Saltwell Park (see attached map and photographs) has been a Winter Festival venue for previous successful outdoor artistic productions in December 2006, 2007 and in 2008 when the programme won the award for the 'Best Tyneside Event 2008' at the annual Journal Culture Awards.

Culture¹⁰ under the direction of Stella Hall, Creative Director, will present the programme working in partnership with Gateshead Council and Magnetic Events. The programme of visual and performing arts trail will be produced and installed by artists awarded a commission budget and by producers Magnetic Events in Saltwell Park, Gateshead.

The proposed launch date for the Enchanted Parks programme is 10th December 2009 and the programme of art works will be available for the public to see and enjoy for a period of four days during the festival until 13th December.

This document provides the essential briefing details for artists, designers, performers and creative people who wish to consider the commission and make proposals for Enchanted Parks 2009.

The deadline for proposals is 5.00 pm on Thursday 17th September 2009

2 The Twelve Days of Christmas

The Twelve Days of Christmas dates back to English origins in the sixteenth century although the music is reputed to be French. The first publication date for The Twelve Days of Christmas (The 12 Days of Christmas) was 1780. Each of the The Twelve Days of Christmas has a religious significance and are symbolised following the lyrics of The Twelve Days of Christmas.

The origin and counting of the Twelve Days is complicated, and is related to differences in calendars, church traditions, and ways to observe this holy day in various cultures). In the Western church, Epiphany is usually celebrated as the time the Wise Men or Magi arrived to present gifts to the young Jesus (Matt. 2:1-12). Traditionally there were three Magi, probably from the fact of three gifts, even though the biblical narrative never says how many Magi came.

In some cultures, especially Hispanic and Latin American culture, January 6th is observed as Three Kings Day, or simply the Day of the Kings (Span: *la Fiesta de Reyes, el Dia de los Tres Reyes*, or *el Dia de los Reyes Magos*; Dutch: *Driekoningendag*). Even though December 25th is celebrated as Christmas in these cultures, January 6th is often the day for giving gifts. In some places it is traditional to give Christmas gifts for each of the Twelve Days of Christmas. Since Eastern Orthodox traditions use a different religious calendar, they celebrate Christmas on January 7th and observe Epiphany or Theophany on January 19th.

By the 16th century, some European and Scandinavian cultures had combined the **Twelve Days of Christmas** with (sometimes pagan) festivals celebrating the changing of the year. These were usually associated with driving away evil spirits for the start of the new year.

The **Twelfth Night** is January 5th, the last day of the Christmas Season before Epiphany (January 6th). In some church traditions, January 5th is considered the eleventh Day of Christmas, while the evening of January 5th is still counted as the Twelfth Night, the beginning of the Twelfth day of Christmas the following day. Twelfth Night often included feasting along with the removal of Christmas decorations. French and English celebrations of Twelfth Night included a **King's Cake**, remembering the visit of the Three Magi, and ale or wine (a King's Cake is part of the observance of Mardi Gras in French Catholic culture of the Southern USA). In some cultures, the **King's Cake** was part of the celebration of the day of Epiphany.

The popular song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is usually seen as simply a nonsense song for children with secular origins. However, some have suggested that it is a song of Christian instruction, perhaps dating to the 16th century religious wars in England, with hidden references to the basic teachings of the Christian Faith. They contend that it was a mnemonic device to teach the catechism to youngsters. The "true love" mentioned in the song is not an earthly suitor, but refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person who is part of the Christian Faith.

Each of the "days" represents some aspect of the Christian Faith that was important for children to learn.

However, many have questioned the historical accuracy of this origin of the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. While some have been trying to debunk this as an "urban myth" out of personal agendas, others have tried to deal with this account of the song's origin in the name of historical accuracy (see Snopes on The 12 Days of Christmas). There is little "hard" evidence available either way. Some church historians affirm this account as basically accurate, while others point out apparent historical and logical discrepancies.

However, we need to acknowledge that the "evidence" on both sides is mostly in logical deduction and probabilities. Lack of positive evidence does not automatically provide negative evidence. One internet site devoted to debunking hoaxes and legends says that, "there is no substantive evidence to demonstrate that the song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' was created or used as a secret means of preserving tenets of the Catholic faith, or that this claim is anything but a fanciful modern day speculation. . ." What is omitted is that there is no "substantive evidence" that will disprove it either.

3. Background

The brief calls for detailed proposals from artists, creative people and designers to respond with ideas for art works to be temporarily located in Saltwell Park within a winter park landscape for the duration of the Enchanted Parks project. We wish to identify some of the work which will be robust enough to be transported and re – sited, or performed for one night only at one of the twelve locations listed below during the period November 20 – December 8 to coincide with community Christmas events.

Although the actual twelve days of Christmas begin Christmas Day and end on the epiphany, we are choosing to celebrate in the pre Christmas period. We will connect the traditional Gateshead Christmas celebrations; including the arrival of Christmas trees and a musical welcome, in twelve locations across the Borough with the Enchanted park at Saltwell Park, on the themes in Twelve days of Christmas. The seven community Christmas tree sites are:

- Blaydon West
- Felling Brass
- Leam Lane – Colgate Primary
- Ryton Comp
- Whickham front St
- Low Fell – Carr Hill
- Dunston Brass

Additional sites are:

- Baltic square
- Civic Centre
- St Mary's
- Frost Fair – SageGateshead
- Gateshead West Street

4. Brief and Application Process

We wish to commission up to twelve arts works which respond to the themes of Twelve Days of Christmas.

The commission is not just for visual artworks, but for a wide range of art forms including multi media, sound, music, writing, story-telling, the spoken word, outdoor performance and live art. We are interested in the use of soundscapes, music and compositions.

The art works will be installed for the duration of the Enchanted Parks programme.

Our audiences will include groups of friends, extended families, young people and children and all proposals should be both physically and conceptually accessible to these audiences.

The Enchanted Parks look and feel for the public will be of a celebratory, wintry and seasonal event.

The arts works proposed can be for new work or interpretations or representations of existing art work. Art works can be from large scale to an intimate small scale experience

In the park, the artworks will be presented as a guided art trail which will be open to the public in the evening at dusk and after dark.

We wish for some art works to be seen in daylight and night time as the park is open to the public during daylight hours. After dusk the audience will be guided around the art trail.

The winter park environment must be taken into account; the weather could be cold, freezing, wet, snow filled, windy and uninviting as well as crisp and dry. The trees will be without leaves.

All art works must be fully visible from the hard surfaced park pathways on which audiences will follow the trail.

Proposals are welcomed for new artworks OR the reworking of existing artworks that explore your artistic ideas in the special conditions of a winter night time environment and site specific to the Saltwell Park's landscaped areas.

The park is not normally open to the public after dark except during Enchanted Parks and other special events. During the day the park is also open during the daylight hours, we wish therefore for some art works to be also viewable during daylight when the park is open to the public, as well as after dark.

The commission is for artworks that are site specific or suit a specific location in Saltwell Park and in order to be eligible proposals must be located within the designated park area as shown on the map below in the section describing the Park.

These areas include: (but are not seen as exclusive)

- The Grove lawn, Loggia and Band Stand
- South Park – several lawns spaces, low bridge trees, pathways
- Saltwell Towers – exterior and interior which has an gallery space
- The Octagon Lawn at the rear of Saltwell Towers
- The Aviary Lawn
- The Memorial Rose Garden
- The Saltwell Dene – a wooded area, bridges, pathways & stream.

5. Producer & Curatorial Support

Magnetic Events will provide a close and supportive role as producers and curators beyond the commission budget with further producer support, certain expenses, technical and event management.

We recommend that a site visit is made to Saltwell Park before a commission proposal is made. Specific dates with after dark access have been arranged.

Artworks if possible are to be technically self supporting. But we will if required look at providing main electrical power for lighting, sound and other electrical equipment. We are keen to also promote the use of 12v DC powered equipment and lighting systems.

Proposals must be feasible, and will be expected to be fully realisable and achievable within the artwork production period and commission budget. The budget should include technical equipment costs but there may be economies of scale within the overall budget.

All proposals must address the practical issues of installing and presenting artworks outside over period of up to 6 days in December.

We will however look at ideas that require some works due to their nature, to be demounted and re mounted each day.

The production or making process of the artwork/s will take place in the artists own facilities or spaces. The completed artworks will be delivered to Saltwell Park for their final production and installation on site by artists with support from the Magnetic Events production and technical team.

Proposals made can be for a commission budget for proposals costing from £ 2,000 to £ 5,000. The majority will be selected for art work proposals in the range of £ 2,000 - £ 3,500.

6. Making a Proposal

There Is No Application Form

Proposal ideas should be submitted on not more than 4 sides of A4 in 12 point type within an Acrobat PDF type document. In addition where appropriate a small number of appendices and supporting documents may be included such as sketches and practical information. You should describe the proposal in your own words, setting out the main ideas behind it. In writing your proposal, please pay close attention to the information provided in this briefing document for the Enchanted Parks commission.

Supporting visual images, video, audio & sound media files may be included separately. Details of websites where additional relevant artistic or creative work can be seen are to be included. The total file size of all the combined proposal material to be sent by emails must not be more than **a total of 10 megabytes**. All material is to be sent in file formats that can be opened and read using Windows Vista software. We take no responsibility for email material that is not received. We will acknowledge the receipt of emails received.

The Commission Proposal should include the following:

- Who is involved in the project?
- The main ideas and issues the artwork seeks to address
- An identified site or area in Saltwell Park, Gateshead which you are proposing for the artwork or works to be located. You can suggest more than one
- The process for developing the project from late September 09 to the completion of the installation on site by 10th December 09.
- A full budget for your proposal showing a breakdown of the main areas for commission expenditure including fees, materials, equipment purchase or hire. Please tell us if there is any in-kind income or expenditure in your budget.
- If you are VAT registered please indicate this.
- Information about your work including images or links to websites.
- A CV resume on one page

Who Can Make a Proposal?

- Individual artists, creative people and designers
- Arts organisations and creative companies
- Artists may collaborate with others on the development of ideas (other artists, makers, community participants, engineers, technical experts - for example),
- Applicants from ethnic minority backgrounds or with disabilities are welcomed. We will try to meet the access requirements of any applicant on request.

Proposals can be submitted by email to: commission@magneticevents.org

7. Commission - Practical Support for Artists

Magnetic Events on behalf of culture¹⁰ and Gateshead Council will provide a close and supportive role as producers working with artists, creative people and designers.

They will provide:

- Advisory and technical support for artist's and the commissioned artworks
- Commission programme administration including budget payments and monitoring
- The Producer and Curatorial roles for the artistic and programme management
- Transport or delivery from the artist's commission studio or making space of art works to the Park as required.
- Lighting and Sound design advice and practical support
- Permissions for the use of the park spaces
- On site sound & lighting equipment advice & technical support
- On site Health & Safety Management and advice
- Assistance towards travel costs for the installation period
- Local accommodation if required, for the installation period
- Onsite catering during the installation period in the Park
- Production and Technical support staff for the installation and exhibition period
- Practical help onsite through a programme of arts and media intern placements from HE & FE courses
- Audience and Public Management throughout the programme
- 24 hr Site Security
- Removal of artworks and recycling after the programme has finished

8. The Selection Process

The selection of commission proposals will be made in September 2009 by a panel consisting of representatives from culture¹⁰, Magnetic Events, Gateshead Council and other professional arts individuals. Proposals will be assessed against the Enchanted Parks 09 commission brief and the excellence of the artistic quality of the proposed work.

Commission Timescales

The selected commissions will be announced in late September 2009 and the decisions of the Enchanted Parks 2009 selection panel will be final.

Successful Commissions

The successful commissions will then develop their proposals between September and November with advice and support from Magnetic Events. We will ask for a mid-production period report with images on process of your artwork. We will provide a commission agreement with a schedule of payments

The commissions must be ready to be collected for delivery and installation in Saltwell Park from 6th November 2009. You will be asked to install your commissioned artwork in Saltwell Park with the support of the Enchanted Parks technical and production team. This will take place between 7th December and 10th December. The dates for this work will be agreed with you nearer the time.

The Enchanted Parks programme as part of the Gateshead Winter Festival will be previewed and launched on Thursday 10th December 2009 (TBC), to which you will be invited and we hope you will attend.

The Enchanted Parks art trail programme will take place between Thursday 10th December and Sunday 13th December. Artists are not required during this period unless they are part of the presentation of their art work.

At the end of the programme all artworks after Sunday 13th December will either be removed to be disposed and recycled or if the artwork is to be kept, the off site transportation and return delivery will be your responsibility.

All artworks are to be removed from the Park by Monday 14th December.

Please also fill in and return the Monitoring form attached.

9. Further Information / Enquiries

If you have further questions or request for specific information about applying for the commission or Saltwell Park, please email these to:

commissions@magneticevents.org

Or to speak to us please call: 01273 530051

www.magneticevents.org

10. Commission Sites

All proposals need to consider a potential site specific location or locations for the proposed artwork/s for installation within the Enchanted Parks prescribed programme areas of the Park. The winter park environment must be taken into account; the weather could be cold, freezing, wet, snow filled, windy and uninviting as well as crisp, dry, still and dreamlike. The majority of the trees will also be without leaves.

Saltwell Park Briefings and Site Visits

Magnetic Events are arranging a series of dates for artists to make site visits and to discuss the commissions at Saltwell Park.

We **recommend** that these site visits will help you to form your art work proposal. The Park normally shuts at dusk, so we have made special arrangements for us to stay in the park after closing time to see the potential artwork spaces in full darkness.

The Saltwell Park Artists Site Visit days are:

Monday 3rd August 2009 8.30 pm – 10.45 pm (sunset is at 10.00 pm)

Wednesday 19th August 2009 8.30 pm - 10.45 pm

Please email or call us to book your preferred site visit date to:

commissions@magneticevents.org

Or call Lesley Cooperwaite, Project Manager on 07970 323 771

Part of the site visit period will be after dusk so that the park spaces can be seen in both daylight and after dark. We advise the use of suitable sturdy clothing and footwear for the outdoors and you may wish to bring a hand torch. There will be the opportunity to discuss the park sites, the commission and any other issues with us during the visit.

Please advise us if for the site visit you have any access or interpretation requirements.

Saltwell Park, Gateshead

Saltwell Park is one of the finest and largest municipal Parks in the North of England. The park has won a series of high profile awards and has undergone a major Heritage Lottery funded renovation. The Victorian park is built around the 'fairytale' style architecture of Saltwell Towers, it owes a large part of its character to the vision of the eccentric stain-glass maker William Wailes.

Created with a combination of 'never-ending' vistas, a series of Garden Rooms and the picturesque Dene, the park is an extraordinary mixture of Victorian municipality and a wealthy man's dream. The park has a resident Keeper and is locked at dusk. There is a quiet beauty which pervades it at night when nature seems to take over again.

SALTWELL PARK GATESHEAD



The Enchanted Parks areas that are available and in which the artwork commissions are to be sited are located, are in the southern half of Saltwell Park as shown. These are:

- A The Grove and Bandstand - between South Park and the Crematorium
- B South Park - to the right of Saltwell Towers
- C Aviary Lawn
- D The Octagon Lawn - at the rear of Saltwell Towers
- E Saltwell Towers – interior
- F Saltwell Towers - exterior
- G The Memorial Rose Garden
- H Saltwell Dene – ravine from Saltwell Towers to Saltwell Road Gate.

Travel Directions

The park is open from dawn to dusk, including public holidays and is located behind the former Gateshead College off and signposted from the A167. The Park can be accessed by pedestrians only from East Park Road, West Road, Saltwell Road South, Saltwell View and Joicey Road. Public car parking including for disabled visitors, is available off Joicey Road

Address: Saltwell Park, Saltwell Road, Gateshead, NE8 4SF

Website:

<http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/Leisure%20and%20Culture/home.aspx>

SALTWELL PARK - SELECTED SITE IMAGES



The Grove and Band Stand



Band Stand Loggia with Seating, The Grove



The Grove's Lawn & Trees



South Park and War Memorial



Saltwell Towers from the South Park lawn



Octagon Lawn and Saltwell Towers



Memorial Rose Garden



The Saltwell Dene



The Saltwell Dene Stream and Walkways



Saltwell Dene in winter

11. The Gateshead Install Sculpture Trail, Saltwell Park

Gateshead has an international reputation for its Public Art Programme. Since its start in the 1980s this commitment to improving the public realm has resulted in over 80 works of art sited around Gateshead. The sculptures are a proud feature of the borough and have attracted British artists of international acclaim such as Andy Goldsworthy, Richard Deacon, Colin Rose and Antony Gormley.

As part of Gateshead's Sculpture Festival 2006-7, 14 artists were invited to create artworks for a temporary sculpture trail in Saltwell Park. The sculptures create new interest in the park and raise the profile of the role of outdoor sculpture.

The theme for the Trail was 'World Culture' and the artists interpreted this in a variety of ways. Sculptures ranged from traditional stone carving to temporary works incorporating plastic and sound.

Following the success of the Install Sculpture Trail, most of the sculptures remained in situ until the end of July 2007. The sculptures were commissioned by Gateshead Council for the Install Sculpture Trail as part of the Gateshead Sculpture Festival 2006-7.

Artists and Art Works:

- Juxtaposition - Hideo Furuta
- Ventifact - Cate Watkinson
- Foliate Carving - Gilbert Ward
- This way up - Stephen Newby
- Wriggle - Colin Rose
- The Language Stone - Gordon Young
- Seedling - Daniel Clahane
- Pavilion for Cultural Exchange - William Pym
- Chrysalis - Sam Brewster

Look at: www.gateshead.gov.uk

Then follow the links to Art in Gateshead and Public Art & Temporary Art

12. Outdoor Arts Practice – Additional Information

Useful information links on art in the public realm:

Commissions North

Commissions North was established within Arts Council England, North East to support public art commissioning within capital and regeneration projects.

www.commissionsnorth.org

Public Art South West

The Online Resource for Detailed Information on Public Art Practice

www.publicartonline.org.uk

Art Plus is a competitive award scheme led by Arts Council England, South East and the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA)

www.artscouncil.org.uk/artplusawards

Enchanted Parks Application Monitoring Form 2009

Name

Address

Town/City

Postcode

Telephone number

Mobile

Email

Where did you hear about the Enchanted Parks commission?

Did you contact anyone before applying? Yes/No

If Yes was this by email/telephone

Name of the person who responded to your enquiry? (if known)

Did you make a site visit organised by Magnetic Events to Saltwell Park? Yes/No

If Yes – on what date?

Did you make your own site visit to Saltwell Park? Yes/No

If Yes – on what date?

Do you consider yourself disabled? Yes/No

What is your main area of artistic practice?

What is your age group? (Please tick a box)

Under 21 21-30 31-40 41-50 Over 50

Would you define yourself as a member of an ethnic minority? (Please tick a box)

White: British

Irish

Asian or British Asian:

Asian Bangladeshi

Asian Indian

Asian Pakistani

Any other Asian background

Black or British Black:

Black African

Black Caribbean

Any other Black background

Chinese

Asian and white

Black African and white

Black Caribbean and white

Chinese and white

Any other background from more than one ethnic group

Any other ethnic group

If you have ticked 'any other ethnic group' please give details:

Information from this form will be held on a database at Magnetic Events and NewcastleGateshead Initiative and will be used for monitoring purposes. You may be contacted again and asked for more feedback on the Enchanted Parks programme management and development. We will not make your details available to organisations other than Magnetic Events and NewcastleGateshead Initiative without permission.