

Holmfirth Food & Drink Festival

Organisers of Holmfirth popular Food & Drink Festival are gearing up for a very busy weekend. The weekend actually starts in Huddersfield with a French Market taking place on New Street in the town centre as a warm-up event, raising awareness of the weekends activities in Holmfirth.

The French Market will then move to Holmfirth on Saturday morning and be joined by a superb selection of the regions best food producers, as well as the incredibly popular German bar which first visited the festival in 2008. Taking centre stage in the German beer garden is the Frumptarn Guggenband who are performing on both days, and remain one of only two German parading carnival bands in the country.

Entertainment is also provided for the youngsters, with Colonel Custard shows on Saturday and Pete and Jed Moss comedy shows on Sunday. Also on Saturday, the library are making smoothies between 11am and 1pm and children are welcome to call in and have a go.

The festival kitchen, located on the upper floor of the Market Hall, offers a truly varied selection of demonstrations over the two days. Both days open at 11am with Ready Steady Cook competitions, featuring local headteachers and sportsmen, but the programme also features Holmfirth tea tasting, a masterclass of oils and vinegars, a cheese wedding cake demonstration, as well as a butchery demonstration. The programme welcomes back Old Bridge Chef Jason Bedford cooking the festival dish on Saturday, plus Yorkshire Chef of the Year, Tim Bilton.

Local businesses are taking part over the weekend, with Carniceria offering complimentary wine and tapas tasting all weekend. For evening dining, on Friday, Carniceria have 'Around the World in 80 ingredients' a select tasting menu with matched wines, beers and ciders and Harrows Wine Bar are hosting a French evening on Saturday immersing diners in French food, wines, music and ambience!

The Mayor of Kirklees will be attending the festival on Saturday afternoon to judge the children's healthy lunchbox competition. Six finalists are going forward to be judged on the day, with a superb prize of £50 for the pupil, £100 of cookery equipment for the school, and a cookery masterclass for their class by Chef Pam Mollan at their school. The judging will take place at 2pm with the winner announced at 2.15pm.

On Sunday afternoon there is also the chance to have a tour – with tastings- of the Nook brewery. Call at the Nook to book your space.

Local eateries are also showcasing their menu's in the German beer garden on both days, with Old Bridge Hotel, Carniceria and Smythes Bistro serving food from their menu's including Yorkshire Puddings, Paella's and Jerk Pork and Curried Goat.

For the energetic, on Saturday at 10am there will be blackberry picking walk leaving from the front of the library in Holmfirth. Lasting 3 hours, the 2 mile walk is a family friendly leisurely walk with plenty of time for blackberrying and picnicking along the way. A picnic is provided of fresh bread and of course Blackberry Jam. The walk is restricted to 20 walkers, tickets are available from the Tourist Information Centre at £2 per person, which includes the small picnic.

Later in the day, for the hardier walker, a real Yorkshire walk complete with traditional pub tea awaits. Leaving the Huntsman Inn at 3pm for a good 2 hour circular walk including Digley Reservoir, followed by a hearty pub meal at the Huntsman at 5pm. Tickets are restricted to 30, available from the Tourist Information Centre at £10 each including a wonderful and well earned pub meal at the Huntsman Inn.

A free Park and Ride scheme is operating on both days, with two car parks serving the town centre. Dunsley Heating off Huddersfield Road will collect and drop off in Crown Bottom Car Park to access the town via the river walkway,

and on Dunford Road, next to Underbank Rugby Club, dropping off at the bottom of Dunford Road.

Cllr Peter McBride, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, said ‘the festival at Holmfirth has a reputation for being a real fun event, celebrating foods both local and international, as well as creating plenty of opportunity for visitors to relax and enjoy the social aspects of food and drink. The demonstration programme is very varied and the additional activities such as brewery visits and local walks, make this festival truly unique in the area.’