



Steypning Festival 2018

26th May – 9th June

PRESS RELEASE

Steypning Festival Serves Jam and Ukuleles

Jam and ukuleles may sound an unlikely combination for a retired Executive Chef to turn out, but Derek Parr is no ordinary chef. As part of this year's 16 day Steypning Festival a Ukulele Jam is served up in the Big Top as hundreds of ukulele players, from beginners to experts, gather under Derek's enthusiastic eye. And singers are encouraged too. 'We'll have a big screen up displaying the songs for people to follow. If you like 60s and 70s music it's for you,' says Derek.

This is the second time there's been a Ukulele Jam. The first was in 2016 when the Big Top was an experiment. 'I approached Christine Aubrey, the chair of the Festival, about doing a Jam as a fringe event in one of the pubs. Two days later she said there was good news – there was an evening free in the Big Top.' Derek asked how many that would hold. 'About 200,' was Christine's answer. Derek thought he would have his work cut out to fill it, but two days later Christine was back again, 'We're going for an even bigger Big Top – another 100.' 'But,' says Derek, 'it worked out brilliantly and the rest is history!'

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'We didn't know how many people would turn up on the night, but I had done a lot of marketing around the local ukulele clubs.' Derek's efforts paid off. '200 ukulele players turned up and many people came to sing. The evening was a huge success and I was absolutely thrilled to have pulled it off. To my delight people were still talking about what a great evening they'd had long after the event.'

'You can download the song books from the Steypning Festival website,' says Derek and adds, 'people will go away with a completely different view of what the ukulele is all about. They will see how much fun everyone is having. Ukuleles are for any age from the very young upwards. One of our seniors is over 90.' The Ukulele Jam is served in a variety of flavours on 7 June.

The Steypning Festival starts on 26 May. For more information visit the website

www.steyningfestival.co.uk

PRESS RELEASE ENDS

NOTE TO EDITORS

- For further information please contact: Nigel Hartley media@steyningfestival.co.uk 01903 810085
- 2 photographs accompany this press release: the Ukulele Jam in the 2016 Festival and Derek Parr (back row 2nd from left holding ukulele)

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