



Urban folk festival for the urban folk of Manchester

Unique festival back for third year

The New Islington Festival returns after a huge success in 2007 and will be mixing a fresh blend of Urban Folk in east Manchester on Saturday 6th September from 2pm-8pm.

Thousands attended the free festival last September and this year organisers are promising the “ultimate urban playground” on Old Mill Street. The event celebrates the creation of New Islington - Manchester’s newest community - by merging the latest urban arts, culture and entertainment with their traditional folk counterparts.

Highlights include a 21st century rendition of the Manchester Hornpipe, a collaboration between folk group The Boat Band and Manchester’s Unity Radio MC, and a canalside art project titled Pimp My Barge.

On the Old Mill Street stage, some of Manchester’s emerging musical acts showcase their talent. Twin sisters Abi and Sophie Wyles sing with their band The Mouse Outfit, already creating a stir in the city after just a handful of gigs. Also confirmed are The Jesse Rose Trip, Katie Ware, Tim and Sam’s the Tim and Sam Band and Matt Stalker and the Fables.

The Unity Radio bus, complete with soundsystem and dancefloor, brings the latest urban sounds to the festival and Gulliver’s Boombox – a larger than life ghetto blaster – will pump out soul funk filled 70s disco, 80s rap and modern classics. Bursting out of the Boombox are performers with Company Fierce showing the evolution of dance moves down the decades.

Old Mill Street is also the base for Spectangular – an all day light show with short films and photography including specially commissioned premieres from Manchester filmmakers.

Over on Cotton Fields, Manchester's new waterside urban park, the traditional crafts of the canal community are brought right up to date by Art Yarn, Knot Krazy and the ladies of the Kings Arms Knitting Club who take part in Yarn Bombing, also known as graffiti knitting.

Urban Folk cocktails are mixed by Fluid Bar, real ales and cider provided by the Marble Brewery, while barbeques, entertainers and story telling round off an amazing day out.

Lisa Ashurst, chair, New Islington Festival Ltd said: "We're really excited by this year's line-up as we build on the theme of merging traditional folk music and art with unique, new performance and sound. The New Islington Festival has something for everyone and we look forward to welcoming families, friends, old and young to this year's event.

"New Islington is about creating a brand new community and the festival really adds to what Urban Splash and its partners are achieving with the huge regeneration project at the site."

New Islington Festival 2008 is funded by Urban Splash, Manchester City Council, New East Manchester Ltd, English Partnerships, Manchester Methodist Housing Association, ISIS, Windmill Demolition, Adana, Simon Fenton Partnership and Price Waterhouse Coopers.

For more information on the New Islington Festival visit www.urban-folk.com. The festival is free to attend.

-ENDS-

For further information, interview requests and images please contact:

Tracey Gallagher

New Islington Festival Press Officer

07771 911961 / tracey.gallagher@virgin.net

Note to Editors

New Islington, Manchester's Millennium Community, is one of national regeneration agency English Partnerships' seven Millennium Communities, New Islington is a partnership between English Partnerships, Urban Splash and New East Manchester Ltd together with appointed social landlord, Manchester Methodist Housing Association. The 30 acre site, just east of Manchester city centre is being radically transformed to a strategic and ambitious vision created by Will Alsop. A new canal and water park, over 1700 new homes, office space, a school, a health clinic, shops, bars and restaurants are planned to be created, using the worlds best architecture.