

# WELCOME TO HIRST FESTIVAL!

This Winter we are bringing creativity and sparkle to our free festival in Ashington. You can enjoy lots of events with creative activities, family fun, a themed silent disco, a magical light installation, a family pop up cinema, and opportunities for the community to come together and have fun.

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE, BUT YOU SHOULD BOOK FREE TICKETS IN ADVANCE FOR SOME EVENTS.

Hirst Festival is produced by Ashington-based creative children's charity Mortal Fools in partnership with Hirst Welfare Centre and supported by Ashington Family Hub and Full Circle Food Project.

All our events are designed to support people with various access requirements. If you have any questions or access needs that you'd like to discuss with us in advance, you can:

- ✦ email us at [info@mortalfools.org.uk](mailto:info@mortalfools.org.uk)
- ✦ call us on 0191 580 1250
- ✦ send us a message on Facebook or Instagram (@mortalfoolsuk)
- ✦ pop into Hirst Welfare Centre any time between 9am-3pm Tues-Fri and their staff can help you get in touch with us.

A visual story will be available on our website soon.

Hirst Festival is part of Northumberland County Council's Animating Ashington Autumn/Winter Festival – a programme of cultural events across the town being funded by UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and North East Combined Authority, with the North East Combined Authority as lead authority.



SCAN ME FOR FREE TICKETS & INFO OR VISIT:



[mortalfools.org.uk/hirst-festival](http://mortalfools.org.uk/hirst-festival) or call into Hirst Welfare Centre to speak to staff

YOU CAN ALSO CATCH US AT:

## ASHINGTON CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON & LANTERN PARADE

(PRODUCED BY ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL)

Thursday 13th November, 3pm – 7pm  
Station Road and The Masonic Hall

- ✦ Creative workshops, family fun and carol singing 3-5pm
- ✦ Lantern Parade & Lights Switch On 5-7pm

Mortal Fools runs free activities all year round in Ashington for children, young people, families, and the community, including:

- ✦ Free weekly youth theatre groups for ages 5-19
- ✦ Free creative community workshops
- ✦ Performances, live events, films and resources

To find out more about future activities you can:

- ✦ Join our mailing list (scan this QR Code or visit: [mortalfools.org.uk/community-mailing-list](http://mortalfools.org.uk/community-mailing-list))
- ✦ Email [young.people@mortalfools.org.uk](mailto:young.people@mortalfools.org.uk)
- ✦ Send us a message on Facebook or Instagram (@mortalfoolsuk)
- ✦ Call us on 0191 580 1250

You can also pop into Hirst Welfare Centre and Ashington Family Hub to find out more about activities and services in Ashington.



[www.mortalfools.org.uk](http://www.mortalfools.org.uk)

Funded by UK Government

MORTAL FOOLS

HIRST WELFARE CENTRE  
ASHINGTON

# HIRST Festival



A FREE MINI FESTIVAL FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE, FAMILIES & THE COMMUNITY - FULL OF FUN, CREATIVITY AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT.

HAVE FUN, TRY SOMETHING NEW, AND EMBRACE THE MAGIC OF WINTER!

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North East Combined Authority, Kim McGuinness North East Mayor, Northumberland County Council

# HIRST FESTIVAL EVENTS



## HIRST WELFARE YOUTH CAFE

Thursday 20th November, 5pm – 7pm  
Thursday 4th December, 5pm – 7pm  
Hirst Welfare Centre

Calling all Ashington teenagers! Escape the dark nights, dodge the rubbish weather and break the boredom at Hirst Welfare's new drop-in youth café.

You can warm up, catch up with mates, chat with our friendly staff and try some new creative activities with *Mortal Fools*.

Suitable for ages 11 yrs+ (School years 7–13)

FREE – just drop in



## CREATIVE FAMILY DROP IN

Wednesday 3rd December, 1pm – 4pm  
Ashington Family Hub

Pop into Ashington Family Hub for a free creative family drop in. *Mortal Fools* will be running fun, creative craft activities and providing drinks and snacks.

This session is for parents, carers or community members to find out more about *Mortal Fools* and Hirst Festival. Feel free to pop in with or without your little ones.

FREE – just drop in



## MAGICAL MOVIE NIGHT: MELVA'S MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE

Friday 5th December, 5pm – 7pm  
Hirst Welfare Centre

Hirst Welfare Centre is transformed into a magical cosy cinema for a screening of *Mortal Fools'* award-winning family film: *Melva's Mountain Adventure*.

Melva Mapletree is a mountain-climbing, sweet-eating, stropy and hilarious nearly-11-year-old on an adventure to find out what she's really capable of! A feel-good film about tackling your fears and achieving things you didn't think you could.

See our magical outdoor light installation, enjoy creative activities & free snacks provided by Full Circle Food Project, and sit in the real set from the movie!

Suitable for all ages – but aimed at ages 5–11 and their grown-ups.

FREE – but ticketed  
Book in advance

(We will have a small number of walk-up tickets on the day)



## STARS & WISHES: FAMILY FESTIVAL DAY

Saturday 6th December,  
11am – 1pm, 2pm – 4pm, 4pm – 6pm  
Hirst Welfare Centre

A day full of creative fun with loads of things to see, do and enjoy!

Hirst Welfare Centre is transformed into a spectacular starry space with:

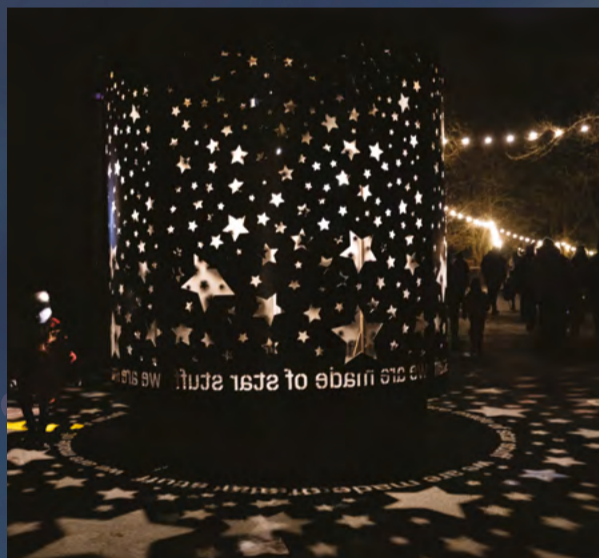
- ◆ Drop-in art activities, drama games & storytelling
- ◆ Free face painting
- ◆ Our Melva Movie set!
- ◆ A silent disco & photo booth
- ◆ A magical outdoor light installation
- ◆ Free refreshments from Full Circle Food Project

Recommended for children, families and young people up to 14 yrs.

FREE – but ticketed

Book in advance onto your preferred slot

(We will have a small number of walk-up tickets available on the day.)



## THE STARS COME OUT AT NIGHT A LIGHT INSTALLATION BY STELLAR CREATES

Opening times:  
Friday 5th December 2.30pm – 7pm  
& Saturday 6th December 11am – 6pm  
Outside Hirst Welfare Centre

'The Stars Come Out at Night' is a spectacular rotating artwork projecting starlight patterns all around as you listen to beautiful music and enjoy the glimmers of winter.

Wrap up warm and drop by Hirst Welfare Centre anytime during the opening times to see the magical light installation come to life!

FREE – just drop by



## MERRY & BRIGHT BOOGIE NIGHT: CHILDREN'S DISCO

Friday 12th December, 5pm – 7pm  
Hirst Welfare Centre

Jingle all the way down to Hirst Welfare for a merry mix of music, magic and mayhem at our family Christmas disco.

This party is for little elves and grown up grinchers a like! Enjoy creative activities, dance to Christmas tunes, and strike a pose in our festive photo booth! Santa will pay a special visit all the way from the North Pole, with party games, prizes and lots of seasonal sparkle!

Come dressed to sleigh and we promise, yule love every minute!

Special festive refreshments included from Hirst Welfare Café.

Suitable for ages 12 and under – children must be accompanied by an adult.

FREE – but ticketed  
Book free tickets in advance