



SteYning Festival to erect 100-foot statue on Chanctonbury Hill

To celebrate its theme of Carnival (in honour of this year's Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro), the organisers of SteYning Festival are planning to erect a life-size, 100-foot tall replica of Rio's Christ the Redeemer statue on the summit of Chanctonbury Hill. The picture below shows an artist's impression.



The statue will be taller than Brighton's i360, and will be visible from the coast. Initially intended to be a temporary exhibit, like the Eiffel Tower it may become permanent if sufficiently popular with local residents.

SteYning also announced that it is twinning with the fabulous city of Rio de Janeiro. Being a future-oriented town with a modest budget, we are doing this via Skype, and we are delighted that one of the founders of Skype has agreed to chair the proceedings!

The SteYning Festival is growing at nearly 20% a year, and maintaining its reputation for high-quality events, with something for all the family. At its present growth rate it will overtake both Chichester and Brighton Festivals in 2022, having already passed Edinburgh's International Festival in 2018.

The small, attractive, and slightly quirky Downlands market town of SteYning has a population of just 6,000, but it is home to the UK's 25th largest school, and it has a lively community of writers, artists and other creative people, as well as a very active sports and social scene.

The 2016 Festival is bigger and better than ever, with some of the headline acts housed in a 200-seat Big Top marquee. Among the highlights of 100-plus events are The Comedy Store Players, DJ Craig Charles, tours of the intriguing Wiston House (normally closed to the public), talks by best-selling writers including Peter James, Frank Gardner and Alison

Weir, and performances by children's authors Julia Donaldson and Cressida Cowell (creators respectively of The Gruffalo and the How to Train Your Dragon series). Stars from The Archers will be presenting the wit and wisdom of Philip Larkin, and local talent will be strongly represented in the Art Trail, a production of Bedroom Farce by The Steyning Festival Players, and the finals of The Steyning Festival Young Dancer of the Year Competition.

PS. As you read this, please bear in mind the date!

www.steyningfestival.co.uk