

# The need to know of *Culture Club*

This pull out guide is designed for you to keep and refer to about all the things you might need to know about *Culture Club*.

## ...the basics

Simply put it's a club, designed to bring the best of culture, to over 55's in the Kirklees area. It aims to bring people with different and similar interests together to share fantastic cultural experiences and make accessing them all the more easy and enjoyable. Through its published programme members will be able to pick and choose from great deals on cultural experiences with a twist or with added value so, where possible, club members will enjoy benefits that could not be easily accessed by members of the general public. The cherry on the cake is that we take the hassle out of the picture and there will be a *Culture Club* co-ordinator on hand at almost every event.

*Culture Club* has been developed because we fundamentally believe in the links between participation in culture and creativity and good health and well being. We believe that if we do things that stimulate our mind, body and soul and that fill us with joy, we feel good. We don't believe that this simple equation is reflected enough in services and provision for the over 55's. In recent years there has been significant research and evidence to prove the link between creativity and well being - so it's good to know that others now understand what we've known for a long time. We also believe that people spend their lives nurturing their creative and cultural lives, in big ways and in small, sometimes consciously sometimes not and that this doesn't change just because our circumstances change – we still enjoy stimulating new experiences and good company. So we developed a club, for culture, for over 55's. Simple.

## ...the programming

*Culture Club* will try to programme for culture vultures and culture virgins alike. It matters not to us whether you've never been to the theatre or had a go at printmaking or if you know your La Traviata from your La bohème or your Pollock from your Poussin. *Culture Club* is about being open to new experiences and being prepared to give something a go. Our definition of culture is very broad ranging too and could mean artistic, educational or sporting activities, life arts such as cooking or those concerned with the natural environment and outdoor life. So we might offer up a theatre production but could just as easily go for film at the cinema – we might suggest a singing workshop but we might also offer a visit to a bird sanctuary – we might put on a painting workshop but we might throw in a night in the pub. For us it's about those things that we each do because they help us relax, they stimulate our minds and our bodies and quite often, they keep us in balance. So if you're a culture vulture, an experienced culture consumer, we hope we can satisfy your appetite and maybe introduce you to something new. If you're a culture virgin we hope we can tempt you with our varied offer.

We fully intend to embrace both populist and niche interests within our programme. We're not making any assumptions about what over 55's want. At this stage, whilst we are memberless, we are making some guestimates and taking some gambles on what any audience would want but over time we hope that members will take part in programming and tell us what they would like to see and do. Although we warn you now, we will also throw in the odd side ball as we all need to be shaken up from time to time.

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## ...sharing *Culture Club* with friends, families and neighbours

Occasionally we aim to programme events to which you can bring along friends, family or neighbours. If they are over 55 they can become a member anyway but now and again, when there's a good reason, we'll break the rules and open events to all ages.

If you know someone who you feel might enjoy what **Culture Club** has to offer then you can either tell them about it and pass on our details or get in touch with us and we will send them information about **Culture Club** directly.

## ...joining up

Membership is open free of charge to anyone 55 years or above in the Kirklees area. To join we can send you a membership form to fill in or we can do that with you over the phone, whichever you prefer. Or you could go online to [www.culture-club.org.uk](http://www.culture-club.org.uk) We'll send you a membership card with a membership number and you'll be ready for off.

## ...membership benefits

- Book places on the great value programmed events and activities
- Enjoy added extras or events specially commissioned for **Culture Club**
- Specially negotiated prices that are lower than to general members of the public
- Receive a preview copy of each new programme with preferential access to bookings and the pick of the programme
- Receive an advance copy of **Culture Club Exchange** with every new programme
- Help with transport arrangements – organising lift sharing, public transport information or coaches and taxis when required
- A little extra help – support or company through the **Culture Club Volunteers**
- Online networking for **Culture Club** technophiles seeking like minds
- Help the old fashioned way for **Culture Club** techno phobes seeking like minds
- Early stage support and advice for bunches of like minds with a mind to make their own thing happen

## ...booking your place

You can book in a number of different ways.

- A couple of tear off booking slips are provided at the back of each programme and you can send a cheque with this through the post. If you require more booking slips, get in touch.
- You can visit the website at [www.culture-club.org.uk](http://www.culture-club.org.uk) to fill in the online booking form and pay with credit or debit card
- You can email us and we can send you a booking form
- You can call us and we can take all the necessary information from you over the phone. To pay you can either provide us with your card details and we will process it through our online shop or you can send us a cheque in the post. Please bear in mind that your booking will be provisional until payment is received.

Whichever way you choose to book your place you will need to give your name and membership number as **Culture Club** events are only open to members.



## ...a little extra help

If any members require a little help to attend events or even just a little company for the journey we will do what we can to match them with a **Culture Club Volunteer** or other members of the club. It might be that you're simply not thrilled about being out and about on your own on winter evenings or there just might be something that sometimes gets in the way of you getting involved in such activities on your own and if this is the case, talk to us and we will see if we can help.

**Culture Club** events are open to anyone over 55 years old, regardless of age, ability, disability etc but because of our limited resources we do have to ask that if you are ordinarily accompanied by a carer to support you, that they attend the activity too. We will do our best to provide a carers place free of charge but we cannot guarantee this because of the different policies of our varied culture partners. Should a carer need to be provided with a place on transport provided by **Culture Club**, we will need to make a charge for that. Please talk to us about this when you book your place.

## ...transport

Where we feel it beneficial either because of distance or event experience we will organise coach or other travel as part of the event and it will be included in the ticket price. This is ordinarily from a set of fixed Kirklees pick up points which we will inform you of when you book. Information on whether any transport is included can be found in the information on each event in the programme.

We recognise that some members may require transport to and from set pick up points or to a venue when transport is not included. Please indicate when booking if you require this and we will aim to find you the most economical option. Options currently available to us include:



- Volunteers providing transport or providing help to travel on public transport or to walk



- Members wishing to car share



- Taxis (we would try and link you with others needing a taxi)



- Car companions through Batley Resource Centre

Not all options are always available so we will aim to provide you with the most economical option within that which we have available to us at the time.

We also recognise that some members may wish to opt out of transport so please talk to us for revised event prices.

## ...prices etc

We want **Culture Club** to be accessible for as many people as possible which means we work hard to negotiate special deals and prices as well as raise money from charities and the public sector to help keep prices reasonable. But we need your help too.

There will always be people who can afford and people who can't and to balance things out we have a 3 tier charging system which means that we ask that you are honest with us about what you can afford to pay.

If you are on a lower income we may be able to help you access a Kirklees Passport, which will entitle you to a bigger discounted rate or we may be able to help you in other ways, so just talk to us. If you are more comfortable financially we have a Standard rate which is still discounted and offers really good value. Finally, if you consider yourself blessed financially we ask that you consider paying a little more. This rate reflects what it costs us to offer the place and even this often offers a better price than that which you would access without being a member as on most occasions we are able to negotiate group discounts. Paying a little extra when you can afford it will help us offer discounted rates to people who need it most. So the rates look something like...

**Rate 1: Low** – Kirklees Passport holders – approximately 50% reduction

**Rate 2: Standard** – non Kirklees Passport holders – approximately 25% reduction

**Rate 3: Full** – those who can afford to and want to pay more - full price (but still benefitting from group discounts)

Of course if you are feeling particularly flush...you can always make a donation to **Culture Club** to help keep the whole initiative going.

## ...getting a Kirklees Passport

### What is a Kirklees Passport?

The Kirklees Passport is a council-run discount scheme which is administered by Kirklees Culture and Leisure Services. It incorporates discounts from other services, so it can save you a lot of money.

### Who can get a Kirklees Passport?

- Residents of Kirklees who receive or who are directly dependent on someone who receives certain benefits
- Residents of Kirklees who are registered blind, or partially sighted, or deaf, or who are named on the wheelchair users' database
- Residents of Kirklees, aged 16 and over, who are full-time students

### Cost of a Kirklees Passport

The Passport costs £2 and £3 for an adult, depending on which type of passport they qualify for, and you can get a passport from most libraries. To find out more you can talk to us at **Culture Club** or contact Kirklees Passport:

#### Kirklees Passport

Civic Centre

1 High Street

Huddersfield

HD1 2NF

Tel: 01484 234056

Email: [kirkleespassport@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:kirkleespassport@kirklees.gov.uk)

## ...donating to Culture Club and fundraising

**Culture Club** has developed out of a passionate belief that no matter what age we are and what circumstances we are in, we should be able to access cultural experiences, enjoy mental stimulation, meet new people and expose ourselves to challenges. We know for some it might seem like a luxury but we think it's important for a healthy, fulfilling life and hence **Culture Club** began. But we need to be constantly raising funds to keep it going.

The prices charged to **Culture Club** members reflect the costs of delivering the activities e.g. ticket prices, refreshments, transport etc but they do not reflect the true costs of developing and running the project. These costs, along with the subsidies provided on prices for Kirklees Passport holders and Standard rate payers, come from constant fundraising activities including making applications for grants to Local Government, Charities, Trusts and Foundations.

## ...volunteering with Culture Club

**Culture Club** will really get into it's stride when we've recruited a lovely gang of volunteers to help us in our mission. Volunteering is a brilliant way to get something out, whilst putting something in, as it offers the chance to be part of something you value, to meet and work with new people and gain new experiences. We are looking forward to working with enthusiastic culture and people lovers, who have a little or a lot of time to offer. **Culture Club Volunteers** will help new members settle in to **Culture Club**, by offering help with travel arrangements, or a bit of company for someone who is on their own. Or they might prefer to help us with fundraising or practical support with events. If you or someone you know might enjoy volunteering with **Culture Club**, put them in touch with us for an informal conversation to start with, and we'll sort out the rest from there.

## ...programming group

We hope **Culture Club** will very much be a conversation with many voices and we would love member input into our planning and delivery. If you have ideas about things you would like to see in the programme or if you have comments about what works well and what doesn't, you can let us know by dropping us a line or you could be more actively involved in our Programming Group. The group will contribute to a range of things relating to planning and delivering the programme – anything from researching what's on, canvassing opinion, contributing ideas, assessing the suitability of suggestions, negotiating good deals etc. If this would be just up your street, let us know and we can tell you more about it.

We are also starting to look at new ways of generating income for the project and if you are in a position to do so you can help in the following ways:

- Share with us any ideas you have for raising funds
- Volunteer to join our fundraising group
- Make a donation at [www.culture-club.org.uk](http://www.culture-club.org.uk)
- Encourage others to donate or volunteer too

Large print format available as a word document if required – please get in touch.

If you would like to contact us please:

Email: [cultureclub@open-art.org.uk](mailto:cultureclub@open-art.org.uk)

Tel: 0870 990 5075 / 01484 663 518

Web: [www.culture-club.org.uk](http://www.culture-club.org.uk)