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BRAMPTON IS BACK!

- Last minute funding secures future of biggest folk roots festival in north of England -
- Barbara Dickson, Andy Fairweather Low & Drever/McCusker/Woomble among headliners -

Eleventh hour news of a successful **Arts Council England** grant application means the 15th Brampton Live folk roots festival will go ahead this July – with one of its strongest line-ups to date.

Delighted organisers of the popular three-day festival near **Carlisle, Cumbria** will receive a £35,000 Lottery-funded Grants for the Arts Award - to support the festival's migration from Carlisle City Council management into ownership by a newly formed independent company, **Brampton Live Festival Ltd.** The company has been set up by Ken and Sue Bradburn, who founded the festival in 1995.

Co-director Mick North said: "This is fantastic news and absolutely crucial to the future of the festival. Without this grant, we'd be facing the possibility of scaling the festival down or even taking a year out. We're really pleased that the Arts Council have recognised the festival's achievements and potential with some serious funding. Now it's all systems go to deliver Brampton Live 2009 and we hope supporters old and new will get behind it."



Among the headliners: Barbara Dickson and Drever, McCusker, Woomble

Carlisle City Council's £30,000 commitment to the festival for the next two years was instrumental in securing Arts Council support. Council Leader Mike Mitchelson, who is also Brampton's local councillor, said: "Brampton Live is a well established event and by working with the new management company we can ensure it develops and grows. This year's event signals a new era for the festival and we look forward to working with, and supporting, Brampton Live Festival Ltd."

The Cumbrian festival will be buzzing again, returning to its home at Brampton's **William Howard Centre** from **July 17-19** and offering music on three stages, workshops, camping and a festival market.

Co-director Ken Bradburn, who books the musicians, now faces a big challenge to complete an all-star line-up in time. He says: "We couldn't contract anybody until funding was confirmed and we were certain the festival had the green light. We're playing catch-up but I'm confident we will be offering another spectacular mix of home-grown and international artists."

Award-winning singer and West End actress **Barbara Dickson** is already confirmed as the Sunday night headliner. Says Ken: "It's fabulous news. Some might think she's a more mainstream performer than they'd expect to see at Brampton Live, but she has impeccable folk credentials from her early career and she's increasingly returning to her roots."

Dickson's singing career started in folk clubs around her native Fife in the Sixties and, in the early Seventies she sang at a Liverpool folk club run by a young student teacher called Willy Russell! This led to her appearing in his award-winning musical, *John, Paul, George, Ringo...and Bert*, her idiosyncratic interpretation of Beatles songs making the show hugely successful.

Barbara, who had chart hits with *Answer Me* and *Another Suitcase, Another Hall* from *Evita* in the Seventies, went on to star in *Blood Brothers*, her acclaimed performance winning her the Society of West End Theatres "Actress of the Year in a Musical" award in 1984. Her recording of the song *I Know Him So Well* (a duet with Elaine Paige) from the Tim Rice musical *Chess* held the No 1 UK chart spot for weeks and became a worldwide hit while in 2000 Barbara was named "Best Actress in a Musical" for her role as Pools winner Viv Nicholson in *Spend Spend Spend*.

Her latest album, *Time and Tide* features writing collaborations with the acclaimed West Cumbrian multi-instrumentalist **Troy Donockley**, who has also produced the album.



The Spooky Men's Chorale

Eliza Gilkyson

James Fagan & Nancy Kerr

Adding to a strong Scottish contingent in the line up will be one of the bands of the moment – the much-lauded trio of **Kris Drever, John McCusker and Roddy Woomble** (with special guests **Heidi Talbot** and **Boo Hewerdine**); 2008 Scots Singer of the Year **Emily Smith** and band and high octane festival favourites, **Peatbog Faeries**. Other confirmed artists include the indefatigable **Oysterband**, **Andy Fairweather Low**, **The Spooky Men's Chorale** (Australia), **Mary Gauthier** (USA), **Eliza Gilkyson** (USA), **Mabon** (Wales), **Chris While & Julie Matthews**, **Nancy Kerr** and **James Fagan**, **Chris Sherburn** and **Denny Bartley**, **Elbow Jane**, and comedy folk band **The Lancashire Hotpots**, with more to be announced.

Early Bird tickets will soon be on sale until the end of April via the festival's website at www.bramptonlive.net and from Carlisle's Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery on **01228 618700**, where tickets can also be bought in person.

ENDS

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For further information, artist interviews, images and CDs for airplay or review in connection with Brampton Live please contact Jane Brace PR on (01243) 789554 / j.brace@virgin.net or Sue Bradburn 01237-451933/451931/sue.emerging@btinternet.com

WHO'S BEHIND THE NEW BRAMPTON LIVE?

The festival's directors are Ken and Sue Bradburn, Steve Henderson, Grace Kirby, and Mick North.

Ken and Sue Bradburn founded Carlisle Folk & Blues Club in 1989. In 1995, they founded Brampton Live with Mick North, then Carlisle City Council's Arts Development Manager. Both social workers by profession, they took early retirement to concentrate on running their artist management and tour booking agency Emerging Music. They lived near Brampton until 2003 and are now based in north Devon.

Steve Henderson lives in Lancashire and lectures in Event Management at Leeds Metropolitan University. His "Mr Kite Benefits" has raised over £50,000 for a range of charities by promoting gigs at prestigious venues such as The Lowry and Leeds City Varieties. When a mere nipper, he promoted acts as varied as Elvis Costello, The Chieftains, The Clash, Iggy Pop and Ian Dury before becoming involved with myriad folk and roots acts.

Grace Kirby is a former professional actor who teaches drama at William Howard School in Brampton. She has worked backstage as a senior festival volunteer for many years. She came to Cumbria in 1989 to establish the first Performing Arts course at what was Cumbria College of Art & Design (now the University of Cumbria).

Mick North was Carlisle City Council's Arts Development Manager until December 2008 and now runs *bigupnorth*, a multi-disciplinary creative practice specialising in consultancy, event management and production, and public art projects.

The festival's directors manage the event in conjunction with an advisory group representing volunteers (the festival is supported each year by over 80 voluntary stewards and stage crew) and the local community.

