

16 March 2020

## Cancellation of Ludlow English Song Weekend 2020

After much heartfelt thought and discussion over the past days, we have made the very sad decision to cancel Ludlow English Song Weekend 2020.

We have worked through every scenario in an endeavour to continue but the ongoing and deepening national crisis caused by the CoronaVirus (Covid-19) outbreak means that it would now be unwise and irresponsible to do so. Our overarching concern is the health of our visitors and the staff and volunteers at our partner venues. Our events are such that people would be in close proximity to each other for extended periods in indoor venues and clearly this is against all current advice, particularly as we know a number of people may be vulnerable to infection in spite of rigorous cleaning protocols. There is also a very real risk that one or both of the venues could be closed at very short notice if a case of confirmed Covid-19 is reported.

In recent days, it is also clear to us that an increasing number of people are complying with advice to stay at home and are deciding not to travel. Ticket sales have slowed dramatically as enquiries about cancelling continue to rise. This, together with the likelihood of increasing cases of self-isolation of visitors, staff, volunteers and indeed contributors and artists, gives further weight to our decision. We also hope that by giving this much notice, any prebooked accommodation or travel costs may be recouped.

### **Ticket refunds:**

**We will be refunding all tickets in full.** If you paid online or by telephone with a debit/credit card, you need take no action as these transactions will be refunded automatically by our ticketing system. Please understand that there is a high volume of event cancellations across the UK and refunds may take up to 10 working days to be processed. If you paid in person at the Ludlow Assembly Rooms Box Office, either using Chip & PIN card transaction or cash, you will need to attend in person again to process your refund.

### **Financial status of Ludlow Song and our artists**

Ludlow Song is a not for profit, registered charity and we operate within extremely tight financial constraints. Regrettably, our Festival Insurance does not provide cover for cancellations due to communicable disease, so we have to cover all the costs we have incurred thus far. Whilst we are able to now cancel a lot of expenses, including not paying our artists, we will be left in a precarious position with no income in the foreseeable future. If you are in a position to do so, we would be so grateful if you would donate all or part of your refunded ticket money in order that we may cover some of our costs and contribute to those of our artists who have already worked hard and rehearsed what would have been fantastic performances. We are in the process of setting up a JustGiving page and will send details of this once available. However, if you are able to make a payment by BACS or cheque, please email Steve Catanach, Festival Administrator at [ludlowsong@gmail.com](mailto:ludlowsong@gmail.com) who will provide details.



# The Ludlow English Song Weekend

## **The future**

Obviously, we will be back with Ludlow English Song Weekend in 2021. But, we will try to do something before that. We need to let the current global and national situation stabilise and then we can begin planning something suitable. Please ensure you are signed up to our mailing list so you can be kept informed.

We send our most sincere apologies to you but know that you will understand our decision and, for many of you, we know that it is probably a relief to have this disappointing news now.

If you have any queries, please contact our Festival Administrator, Steve Catanach, at [ludlowsong@gmail.com](mailto:ludlowsong@gmail.com). Obviously, Steve is going to be very busy in the immediate future, so please allow him up to two working days to respond.

Our warmest wishes

**The Board of Ludlow Song**