

Press Release



Listening Learning Leading

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NEW ARTS CENTRE IN DIDCOT IS MUSIC TO THE EARS OF OXFORDSHIRE RESIDENTS

Oxfordshire residents want Didcot to be alive with the sound of music when South Oxfordshire District Council's new multi-million pound centre for arts, culture and entertainment (Cornerstone) opens at the end of August.

A poll of more than 1,000 Oxfordshire residents has found that music tops the list of entertainment they would like to see at Cornerstone, with 84 per cent of respondents requesting it.

Music was followed by theatrical performances (79 per cent), comedy acts (65 per cent) and activities for families (56 per cent).

When asked what they would like to do at Cornerstone, 68 per cent of respondents listed socialising. But with 52 per cent wanting to learn to play a musical instrument, and 18 per cent wanted to exhibit or perform, Didcot could soon have its very own stars of talent competitions like X factor and Britain's Got Talent.

Other requests included Jeremy Springer-style debating shows, ballroom dancing and craft courses, such as lace making.

Emma Dolman, Director of Cornerstone, which is funded by South Oxfordshire District Council said: "We want to provide something for everyone at our new centre, hence we were keen to get feedback from local residents on what they would like to see and do.

"Our opening night event, which will feature the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain (UOGB), should prove popular with the many music lovers in this area, and we hope our varied programme of events and entertainment will appeal to old and young alike."

Cllr Bill Service, South Oxfordshire District Council's Cabinet member with responsibility for leisure, said: "Local people have been involved with this centre from the very start and we want them to continue to shape its future by giving us regular feedback on our programme."

The centre, which opens on August 29, will host a wide range of cultural and creative activities with everything from photography exhibitions and creative writing sessions to Pilates and hip hop classes. There will be entertainment and classes for children and young people too.

The UOGB concert will be held at 8.00 pm on Friday, August 29 and tickets cost £17.50. They will be available from the Cornerstone box office in advance on 01491 823 823.

Notes to Editors: Cornerstone is brought to you by South Oxfordshire District Council.

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