FREE FAMILY EVENT
CELEBRATING THE
RUGBY WORLD CUP 2015
IN LEICESTER (CITY CENTRE)
Friday 2, Saturday 3 & Sunday 4 October 2015

LIVE MUSIC STAGE
Humberstone Gate
CARNIVAL AND SAMBA
High Street
PERFORMANCE TENT
Jubilee Square

Activity also outside the King Power Stadium prior to each rugby match – see inside cover

www.nightoffestivals.com
Welcome to Night of Festivals, whether you have experienced our exciting FREE ACCESS event in the past, or are coming new to Night of Festivals SPECIAL EDITION, created specially to complement and celebrate Leicester hosting the Rugby World Cup.

Over a focused weekend from 2-4 October, Leicester residents and visitors will both be able to enjoy a wealth of artistic activity including carnival, samba, world music, dance, theatre, visual arts and moving image. It’s family friendly and it’s free!

Night of Festivals is lively, colourful, fun and diverse. But it does have a serious side. The event is intended to celebrate the values of freedom and democracy at a time when freedom is under such challenge and scrutiny across the globe. Hopefully some of the arts you experience will raise questions about freedom and what it means.

Our event was first devised in 2010, especially to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Latin American independence. Since then it has been developed and seen afresh in many different locations, but always with a range of arts, with new commissions and with an intent to surprise and amaze.

For Night of Festivals SPECIAL EDITION we have sought some artists and arts activity that reflect the cultures of the five nations playing rugby in Leicester – Argentina, Canada, Namibia, Romania and Tonga. Look out for the specially designed Tongan carnival section made by Mandinga Arts, the Namibian band that are travelling to the UK specially for this event, and for the Romanian visual arts work presented by artist Lea Rasovzsky in Humberstone Gate.

Bring your family, tell your friends and enjoy the event!

David Hill
Night of Festivals Director/Producer
ArtReach

PS. People ask why it’s called Night of Festivals…..in 2010 we wanted to run the event all night. It wasn’t possible, but the name has stuck. Maybe one day........
**HUMBERSTONE GATE**

**Friday 2 October**
- 5 - 6.30pm Erna Chimu – contemporary Namibian band, strong jazz influence
- 7 - 8.30pm The London Tango Orchestra – with demonstration tango dancing from international dancers
- 9 - 10.30pm Najma Akhtar and band – world music rhythms and sounds from the South Asian maestro and team

**Saturday 3 October**
- 11 - 11.40am 4 x 4 Bhangra – pulsating rhythms and high energy dance
- 12 - 12.15pm Anjali Dance – enjoy the talent and skill of this very special disability dance company
- 12.30 - 1.30pm Ist - contemporary Leicester band led by Canadian vocalist Kenton Hall
- 1.40 - 2pm Kinetika Bloco - British carnival performance group comprised of musicians and dancers
- 2.30 - 3.45pm Kolektif Istanbul - music band synergizing sounds from the Balkans and Anatolian cultures
- 4.15 - 5pm Muha – Eastern European contemporary folk band

**Sunday 4 October**
- 11.15 - 11.30am Leicester Carnival – two troupes and two Queens!
- 11.30 - 12 noon Sambando – Leicester based Samba band
- 12.15 - 12.30pm Green Candle Dance – special performance by the Senior group
- 12.45 - 1.45pm Keys and Strings – contemporary Bulgarian music group
- 2 - 2.15pm Green Candle Dance – repeat performance
- 2.30 - 3pm Sambando – Leicester based Samba band
- 3.15 - 4pm Haymanot Tesfa Trio – spellbinding Ethiopian singer accompanied by an eclectic Eastern ensemble
- 4.15 - 5.15pm Beats of Polynesia – including Tongan dances

**THE PLINTH PROJECT**

Don't miss visual arts "plinth" installations - work by Petra Kilian and Georgi Balabanov in Jubilee Square, "Be the Change" by Lea Rasovszky in Humberstone Gate and the Nanoplex and "Speaker’s Corner" at the Clock Tower.

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**JUBILEE SQUARE**

**Saturday 3 October**
- 11 - 11.15am King John ("Magna Carta") – giant puppet
- 11.15 - 11.45am Storytelling, Mike Payton
- 12 - 12.30pm Storytelling, Mike Payton
- 1 - 1.45pm Springboard East - children’s show
- 2 - 2.15pm Anjali Dance
- 2.30 - 3.15pm Springboard East - children’s show
- 3.30 - 4pm Storytelling, Mike Payton
- 4.05 - 4.30pm Storytelling, Mike Payton
- 5.10 - 5.40pm Paraiso Samba
- 5.45 - 6pm King John ("Magna Carta") – giant puppet
- 6.30 - 7.30pm KGB - Leicester Jazz Band
- 8 - 9.30pm Three the Hard Way - Part Two

**Sunday 4 October**
- 11 - 11.45am ACD Arts – South African music/dance
- 12 - 12.30pm Storytelling, Wendy Shearer
- 12.30 - 1pm Storytelling, Wendy Shearer
- 1 - 1.30pm Paraiso Samba
- 1.30 - 2pm Storytelling, Wendy Shearer
- 2.15 - 3.15pm Storytelling, Wendy Shearer
- 3.30 - 4.15pm ACD Arts – South African music/dance
- 4.30 - 5pm Storytelling, Wendy Shearer

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**HIGH STREET**

**Saturday 3 October**
- 11am - 5.30pm Continuous carnival on the street presented by Mandinga Arts, Stelzen Arts and Oakleaf Creativity - performances move between the Clock Tower and Jubilee Square PLUS Paraiso Samba - spectacular Rio Samba dancers at the Clock Tower and Jubilee Square

**Sunday 4 October**
- 11am - 5pm Continuous carnival on the street between the Clock Tower and Jubilee Square presented by Mandinga Arts

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**NIGHT-TIME LIT CARNIVAL**

**Saturday 3 October**
- 6pm Carnival procession leaves New Walk Museum - 50 performers in lit costumes with still artists and Sabar Sounds drummers. Procession along New Walk to the FanZone in Victoria Park.
- 7 - 7.20pm Finale carnival performance in the FanZone
FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER

5pm-6.30pm Erna Chimu and band
With two albums released to date, Erna’s compelling music blends the traditional Namibian sounds of her Damara – Nama cultural heritage with smooth modern jazz. Awarded Best Female Artist in 2014 and representing Namibia at the World Expo, Erna and her band are travelling to the UK especially to perform in Leicester where the Namibian rugby team play and are based in Loughborough. 2015 is also the 25th anniversary of Namibian independence!

7pm-8.30pm The London Tango Orchestra with special Argentinian guests!
The London Tango Orchestra is the largest professional tango group in the UK, and its vivacious Latin sounds, provided by a host of exotic instruments, are sure to spark your Friday night into life! The orchestra will be accompanied by the world famous tango violinist Leonardo Suarez Paz and the mesmerising tango dancer Olga Suarez Paz – sharing the true sexiness and flair of Argentinian tango

9pm-10.30pm Najma Akhtar and band [Five Rivers]
Najma Akhtar has released 8 critically acclaimed solo albums under her own name and has collaborated with many world-class artists, as diverse as Jah Wobble, Jimmy Page and Robert Plant, Andy Summers, Basement Jaxx, to Jethro Tull, Philip Glass and many more.
Her voice has been used in films, documentaries, theatre and her work has been widely acknowledged not only as a leading light in the development of East/West fusion in the West, but also as an independent Asian woman and feminist role model.
Najma’s unique vocal performances grip audience members with sheer elegance and beauty – expect to hear a range of musical tones from her five piece band, with a blend of Eastern and Western influences including Indian classical music, Urdu ghazals, western folk pop and modern jazz.

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER

11-11.40am 4 x 4 Bhangra
Don’t miss this vibrant and colourful start to the Saturday entertainment at Night of Festivals SPECIAL EDITION! 4 x 4 (“The Kings of Bhangra”) is an established and hugely successful bhangra dance group, which has brought its performances of traditional folk bhangra and bhangra fusion, with dhol drummers and singers, to numerous locations in Europe, the Middle East, and North America.

12-12.15pm Anjali Dance Company
By exploring and celebrating the creative potential of people with learning disabilities, Anjali Dance Company has astounded audiences with its innovative dance choreography, energetic vigour and professional performances. This is a contemporary dance performance comprising two pieces, Reflection and Trio, that will not only challenge perceptions, but delight, engage and entertain audience members at Night of Festivals SPECIAL EDITION.

12.30-1.30pm ist
Led by the Canadian singer/songwriter Kenton Hall, the contemporary pop/rock band ist’s distinctive sound (featured on several albums) jumps across genres – from ska to jazz to classical. Comparisons have been made with artists such as the Squeeze, Elvis Costello and the Beatles! Night of Festivals celebrates freedom and diversity – and ist share these ideals with a name designed to denoe a lack of prejudice. They’re also supporting the Canadian rugby team in Leicester!!

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1.40-2pm Kinetika Bloco
Kinetika Bloco’s carnival performances are famous for extraordinary exuberance and vitality! Audiences at Humberstone Gate will marvel at this talented young performance group that is comprised of brass and woodwind players, drummers and steel pan percussionists as well as a set of dynamic dancers showcasing a routine drawn from the Caribbean, Brazilian and African communities. Bursting with colour and sound, this processional and stage performance will leave a lasting imprint!

2.30-3.45pm Kolektif Istanbul
Drawing from an eclectic mix of musical influences, Kolektif Istanbul perfectly synergize the traditional music of Anatolia and the Balkans, producing a unique set of smooth sounds and funky melodies. Comprised of musicians playing the Bulgarian Bagpipes, Clarinet, Saxophone, accordion, tuba, percussions and drums - Kolektif’s musical performance is without equal. Pulsating, racy and vibrant this seven piece band will set Leicester rocking on Saturday afternoon.

4.15-5pm Muha
East Midlands based fusion group, Muha, is comprised of members from Ukraine, Latvia and the UK, and this exciting mix of cultural influences are reflected in the diversity of the band’s music. Muha plays an eclectic mix of Eastern European folk, North Indian Kathak rhythms, Cuban beats and Western European influences. The music features original lyrics ranging from Hindi to Old Russian and modern Ukrainian. A stimulating way to complete your Night of Festivals Saturday experience!

11.30am-12:00pm & 2.30-3pm Sambando
Sambando is an experienced and talented Leicester based Samba Band and testament to the growing popularity of Brazilian style street music in the city! With its high-energy acoustic dance music, Sambando is set to bring a local but authentic Brazilian carnival atmosphere to Night of Festivals SPECIAL EDITION. The group has recently joined Paraiso as part of its prestigious Notting Hill Carnival parade.

12.15-12.30pm & 2-2.15pm Green Candle Dance
Green Candle is a specialist dance company whose work with older people is widely acclaimed, bringing freedom of movement expression to older generations. For Night of Festivals the Green Candle Senior Dancers will be performing 3 Dances to Gottschalk (1. Ballade 2. Polka 3. Jota) choreographed by Fergus Early to music from Louis Moreau Gottschalk. Come and enjoy the freedom of dance as experienced and shared by older members of the community.
SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER

12.45-1.45pm Keys and Strings
Keys and Strings is a recently amalgamated Bulgarian contemporary/classical group comprising violinists Ivaylo Angelov and Daniela Danis, and accordion player Martin Ivanov all from the Gabrovo Chamber Orchestra near Sofia. The group perform a wide mix including numbers that reflect the days of the Soviet regime in Bulgaria and the struggle for freedom and independence.

3.15-4pm Haymanot Tesfa Trio
An extraordinary mix of musical ensemble, Haymanot Tesfa, Arian Sadir and Mina Salama bring Ethiopian, Egyptian and Iranian rhythms and sounds together in a unique and compelling combination. The amazing vocals from Haymanot (a rising star of the UK World Music scene) are not to be missed. As Refugee Artists the ensemble bring a particularly immediate perspective on issues of freedom and democracy.

4.15-5.15pm Beats of Polynesia
The Tongan Rugby team take on Argentina at 2.30pm at the King Power Stadium - and Night of Festivals will mark this first Leicester fixture of the Rugby World Cup by showcasing traditional Polynesian music and dance! Five dancers and three musicians comprise this exciting group that will present a mix of the rhythms and beats of Polynesia from Tonga to Tahiti!

CITY CENTRE – CLOCK TOWER, HIGH STREET TO JUBILEE SQUARE
CARNIVAL INTERVENTIONS

Timings: regular carnival interventions every 45 minutes from 11am - 5pm
Taking place all day on Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 October, carnival interventions are designed by international artists Mandinga Arts, with many local participants taking part inside extraordinary costumes inspired by George Orwell’s Animal Farm and by Latin American festival celebrations.

Carnival processions are accompanied by the energetic and talented live musicians from Sabar Sounds.

On Saturday 3 October, carnival will include interventions from Stelzen Arts and Oakleaf Creativity, special visitors from Hamburg and Bremen in Germany. Look out too for the amazing musicians and dancers of Paraiso Samba who bring a truly authentic Brazilian carnival atmosphere. Paraiso is the only samba group in Europe that is based on the model of traditional Rio samba schools!
NEW WALK AND VICTORIA PARK (FAN ZONE)

NIGHT-TIME LIT CARNIVAL EVENT

Saturday 3 October
6-7.20pm
The Night-Time Carnival Finale is a special collaborative performance by the international artists of Stelzen Arts, Oakleaf Creativity and Mandinga Arts, with 20 brave young people from Leicester on stilts! The carnival parade will consist of magnificently ‘lit’ carnival costumes that will illuminate incandescently in the darkness!

The procession is planned to leave New Walk Museum at 6pm and will then parade to the Fan Zone at Victoria Park where a special 20 minute finale performance will take place at 7pm, prior to the England v Australia game which will be screened live on the Big Screen.

VICTORIA PARK (FAN ZONE)

THE FREEDOM WALL INSTALLATION
Night of Festivals SPECIAL EDITION is part of a European partnership project called FREEDOM, working with Haus Drei in Hamburg and Fabric from Gabrovo in Bulgaria. To celebrate this programme a series of giant 3D letters spelling ‘Freedom Wall’ will be installed at the Fan Zone in Victoria Park. Artists from Soft Touch Arts will be leading a series of creative workshops on 3, 4, 10 and 11 October, where participants can design and graffito their personal ideas about freedom and democracy.

Workshops
Saturday 3, Sunday 4, Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 October
Workshops 11am - 1pm and 2 - 4pm (except Saturday 3, 12 - 2pm and 2.30 - 4.30pm)
In addition to the Fan Zone workshops, an on-line digital freedom wall will exhibit a curated selection of digital urban-art. Graffiti artists can submit ideas for delivering “Freedom Wall” art in Germany and Bulgaria - see www.digitalfreedomwall.eu for details on how you can submit your design, drawing or image.

LEICESTER CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL
The Leicester Caribbean Carnival troupes AAA4Success and Inspirational Masquerade, with Carnival Queens will be making a special appearance at the Fan Zone between 4,15 and 4.45pm on Sunday 4 October.
Carnival activity takes place for one hour before each fixture on the Concourse outside the King Power Stadium... look out for Mandinga’s specially designed Tongan carnival section on 4 October, along with the sexy cows and bull representing Argentina!

The Native American troupes will be on the Concourse on Tuesday 6 October along with the Transylvanian skeletons supporting Romania.

Don’t miss as well the themed costumes on 11 October when Namibia take on the Argentinians.

Sun 4 October: carnival activity
1.30pm-2.25pm
(Argentina v Tonga K.O. 2.30pm)

Tuesday 6 October: carnival activity
3.45pm-4.40pm
(Canada v Romania K.O. 4.45pm)

Sunday 11 October: carnival activity
11am-11.55am
(Argentina v Namibia K.O. 12 noon)

Mandinga Arts
A key ingredient of Night of Festivals events, Mandinga Arts provides spectacular carnival entertainment for spectators around the world. The company has designed and created award-winning giant puppets, costumes, masks and floats for carnivals, festivals, community projects and theatre across the globe.

Oakleaf Creativity and Stelzen Arts
Oakleaf Creativity produce an array of dazzling figures for carnivals and Festivals including mythical creatures and costumes with projected images. Stelzen Arts has produced extraordinary figures for theatres, including dragon riders and flower princesses! For Night of Festivals SPECIAL EDITION, Oakleaf Creativity and Stelzen Arts (from Bremen and Hamburg respectively) will be providing extraordinary carnival interventions in the city centre and then leading a troupe of stilt walkers comprising talented young people from Leicester. The special procession commencing New Walk Museum at 6pm on 3 October will be showcasing incredible illuminated costumes!

Sabar Sounds
‘Sabar’ is a West African word meaning ‘Drum’ - Sabar Sounds is quite literally a sound system made of drums. Sabar will provide vibrant accompanying music for Night of Festivals carnival interventions, with influences from Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa.
Saturday 3 October

11–11.15am King John puppet
As part of the 800th Anniversary of Magna Carta, Night of Festivals SPECIAL EDITION will include a timely appearance from King John! The giant puppet, designed and created by Kinetika, will appear outside the Performance Tent (Jubilee Square) at 11am.

11.15 – 11.45am, 12 – 12.30pm, 3.30–4pm and 4.05–4.30pm
Storytelling with Mike Payton
Mike Payton has been a professional storyteller for eight years, providing shows and workshops for schools, clubs and festivals throughout the UK. He has performed at international festivals in France and Switzerland, and is currently working with The British Museum on its project for The Day of the Dead.

Mike was Lancastrian born, but is now based in Nottingham, drawing his tales from Britain’s rich heritage and also from the four corners of the earth. His delivery is warm and engaging, and he has a penchant for the strange and unexplainable. Children of all ages (and adults too) will love Mike’s brand of storytelling.

1-1.45pm and 2.30-3.15pm
Springboard East Theatre Company
Destination Democracy is a time travel adventure specially developed as a family theatre show and celebrating the origins of freedom and democracy through entertainment and interaction. Everett’s boring night in front of the TV turns into an unexpected adventure when time travelling professor Dr. Hugo Hourglass interrupts the election night coverage. This is a madcap story of power struggles, conspiracy, protest and sacrifice, charting key events in the history of Parliament and British democracy. Suitable for ages 7 upwards.

2-2.15pm Anjali Dance Company
By exploring and celebrating the creative potential of people with learning disabilities, Anjali Dance Company has astounded audiences with its innovative dance choreography, energetic vigour and professional performances. This is a contemporary dance performance comprising two pieces, Reflection and Second Skin, that will not only challenge perceptions, but delight, engage and entertain audience members at Night of Festivals SPECIAL EDITION.

5.10-5.40pm Paraiso Samba
Paraiso is the only samba troupe in the UK whose artistic direction comes from artists who grew up in the Rio de Janeiro samba community. Paraiso is always a key component of Night of Festivals and at each event is guaranteed to attract huge enthusiastic crowds who respond to the beats, the songs and the exuberant and exotic dance that Paraiso brings to the streets.

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SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER

11-11.45am and 3.30-4.15pm  ACD Arts
Originating from the mining communities of South Africa, the infectious gumboot dance and drumming performances from ACD Arts bring alive the dances and movements that miners developed to keep themselves motivated, entertained and able to communicate with each other in testing underground conditions. Wellingtons are available, so join in if you like!

12-12.30pm, 12.30-1pm, 1.30-2pm, 
2.15-3.15pm, 4.30-5pm  
Storytelling - Wendy Shearer
Wendy Shearer is an experienced and charismatic professional storyteller who has previously worked as an interactive producer for children’s television. Performing in schools, children’s centres and public venues, Wendy uses props and music to complement her gripping oral storytelling for both children and adults. A great family storytelling experience.

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SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER

JUBILEE SQUARE
PERFORMANCE TENT

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER

5.45-6pm  King John Puppet
As part of the 800th Anniversary of Magna Carta, Night of Festivals SPECIAL EDITION will include a special appearance from King John! The giant puppet, designed and created by Kinetika, will appear outside the Performance Tent (Jubilee Square) at 5.45 pm.

6.30-7.30pm  KGB
Kick start your Saturday evening in the Performance Tent by enjoying the smooth sounds of Leicester's own Jazz Band, KGB. With a great line up of vocals, guitar, bass, sax and flute, KGB will bring an exciting blend of jazz standards alongside toe-tapping swing and Latin.

8-9.30pm  Three The Hard Way
Leicester’s own Three the Hard Way is set to astound, marvel and captivate audiences at Jubilee Square on Saturday evening with its enthralling spoken word performance. The act was born from the ‘call and response’ technique used by Jamaican DJ’s, but has now evolved into a modern creative exploration of culture, politics and diversity. With an unrivalled chemistry and dexterity of language, Shruti Chauhan, Lydia Towsey and Jean Binta Breeze are sure to provide a spell-binding performance.

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A former touring caravan converted into surround sound moving image gallery!

Enjoy a series of short moving image screenings exploring the themes of freedom and democracy. Choose which film you would like to watch, take a seat inside, and one of our assistants will start the show for you!

**ROMANIA**

**Title:** Cacofonie  
**Duration:** 4:37  
**Filmmaker:** Victoria Fiore  
**Year:** 2014  
**Country:** Romania  
**Synopsis:** January 2014. The UK has just opened its doors to Romanian nationals, and Alex Delescu takes the road trip from Bucharest towards a new life in London. Along the way he will discover what it means to be a new European today; a target and scapegoat for press and politicians to attract widespread popular support in a continent mired by crisis.

**ROMANIA**

**Title:** Freedom and the Price - My story  
**Duration:** 20:28  
**Filmmaker:** Miro Kantarsky  
**Year:** 2014  
**Country:** Romania  
**Synopsis:** Freedom is fragile like the wings of a beautiful butterfly on the edge of extinction. It is easy to lose it and hard to get it back. Price of it is sometimes steep. From time to time we should be reminded of it.

**NAMIBIA**

**Title:** Paths to Freedom Trailer  
**Duration:** 4:21  
**Filmmaker:** Richard Pakleppa  
**Year:** 2014  
**Country:** Namibia  
**Synopsis:** Paths to Freedom tells the story of the birth of Namibia’s armed struggle against South Africa.

**SOUTH ASIA**

**Title:** “Little Elephant”  
**Duration:** 4:51  
**Filmmaker:** Kate Jessop  
**Year:** 2015  
**Country:** UK  
**Synopsis:** The estranged relationship between a father and his gay daughter, now a young mother. What can tomorrow bring…?

**ENGLAND**

**Title:** “Paper Plane”  
**Duration:** 11:39  
**Filmmaker:** Joey Lever  
**Year:** 2014  
**Country:** England  
**Synopsis:** A short story about the thoughts of two children during the London Blitz in 1940. Timmy’s brother is leaving to fight in the war while 50 miles away in London, Evan is trapped in the midst of the London blitz. We see them both communicating in their final moments before everything changes.

**GREECE**

**Title:** “Dust”  
**Duration:** 7:45  
**Filmmaker:** Thanasis Tsimpinis  
**Year:** 2013  
**Country:** Greece  
**Synopsis:** An intriguing, surreal piece which explores the theme of freedom. A young girl creates a portal to escape from her mother and tedious life into another world.

**ARGENTINA**

**Title:** “I go to every protest”  
**Duration:** 3:00  
**Filmmaker:** 365docobites  
**Year:** 2015  
**Country:** Argentina  
**Synopsis:** A story from Ursula about freedom. - “I go to every protest, if it’s related to freedom, I’m there.”

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In Humberstone Gate you will see the sculptural work of up-and-coming young Romanian artist Lea Rasovzsky. Lea has responded to the theme of Night of Festivals with a sculptural work inspired by a quote from Mahatma Gandhi. Then head to Jubilee Square to see work by German artist Petra Kilian and Bulgarian Georgi Balabanov. Petra’s works, using fabric and paint, are entitled ILMGP and Knot. They are inspired by the experiences of refugees and the validity (or not) of the Passport. Georgi’s work is called The Society of the Spectacle - come and see!

International artist Ali Pretty has worked with local artists and with school groups to design a series of individualistic silk banners to celebrate the Rugby World Cup 2015 in Leicester.

Ali’s team will be painting the banners in Leicester city centre on 3 and 4 October and on Monday 5 October Ali will spend the day at the Fan Zone to complete the work.