

## **ALL STEAMED UP FOR STEAMPUNK**

Three days of wall-to-wall entertainment will get the summer season underway with a bang as Minehead hosts its first ever steampunk festival over the May bank holiday weekend.

Some of the best-known figures from the UK's steampunk cult will be appearing, together with some spectacular installations illustrating the movement's roots in fantasy Victoriana.

Among them will be Captain Leaky's Steampunk Camper Van which will be tethered at the Jubilee Gardens café throughout a week-end which promises to deliver a riot of colours, sounds, marvellous machines and fantastical costumes.

The festival has been organised by David Smith and is being underwritten by the Minehead BID team who are aiming to reinvigorate the resort not only through improvements to the town centre and other key areas but by launching a season-long entertainment programme.

And, said BID chairman Graham Sizer: "When we saw how popular steampunk gatherings were proving in other towns, we immediately decided it was just what Minehead needed.

"Steampunk offers an eclectic choice of entertainment with a really wide appeal and goes far behind pure music – though music will, naturally, be the main focus of the festival."

The weekend starts on the Friday night with live music from Paul Snook at The Hairy Dog and from then on will feature a full programme of free entertainment based mainly around the old hospital forecourt and the sea front but with performers touring the town as well.

There will be a steampunk market in the Beach Hotel and on Saturday and Sunday evenings live performances in the Regal featuring acts including Doctor Gray's Orchestra of One, Kiss Like Ether, Ichabod Steam's Dark Side Gothic Adventure and Lux DeLioux.

Headline act on the Saturday night is Paris-based Victor Sierra and on Sunday The Wattingers.

Graham Sizer said steampunk festivals were now well-established in towns and cities across the UK – and there were plans for Minehead's to become a regular fixture in the calendar.

"What seems to happen in every case is that the first steampunk event at a new venue goes down a storm and creates an ongoing demand for an annual repeat – and that's very much what we are hoping will happen in Minehead," he said.

**ENDS**

For more information on Minehead Steampunk Festival or an interview, please email David Smith via [davidksmith56@gmail.com](mailto:davidksmith56@gmail.com) or call Andrew Hopkins, Minehead BID Manager on 07703 668928