



Hexham Lantern Parade 2026: Artist Call Out

Queen's Hall Arts are looking for an artist to create a new large-scale lantern to lead Hexham Lantern Parade on Friday 13 November 2026.

The artist will work with a group of up to 20 children aged 5 – 13 to create a new lantern on the theme of woodland creatures.

About Queen's Hall Arts:

The charity Queen's Hall Arts (QHA) manages Queen's Hall Arts Centre in Hexham, Northumberland. One of only three multi-disciplinary arts centres in the county, QHA prides itself on devising and delivering a quality multi-artform programme for its community, co-creating opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to engage with culture via performances and participation. QHA is an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation and supports professional and aspiring artists through commissions, productions, co-productions, residencies, mentoring and other long-term support, as well as training and skills development opportunities.

Hexham Lantern Parade:

Hexham Lantern Parade started in 2021 and from the outset, it exceeded expectations. The parade grew over the next few years, becoming a flagship project in the High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) cultural programme and a much-loved fixture of the town's winter calendar.

Each year the parade has been led by a new large lantern, made by school or community groups in Hexham, followed closely by the lanterns made in the previous years. For participants, the moment of walking together and seeing their creations illuminated alongside many other smaller lanterns is one to remember for many years.

The event has become a highlight of Hexham's cultural calendar, drawing people from across the region and bringing the town together in a celebration of creativity, community and shared pride – a sense of connection that lasts long after the music ends.

This year the parade is sponsored by EGGER, a world-leading manufacturer of chipboard which has a site in Hexham. As one of the region's biggest employers, we are delighted with their involvement. They run a holiday club for the children of their employees over October half term and would like to create a lantern during this holiday club to be used at the parade.

The Project:

1. The budget is £1000. This breaks down as follows;

3 workshops of 3 ½ hours each	£154 per workshop	£462 in total
9 hours for preparation	£44 per hour	£396 in total
Materials		£142

2. The artist will need to create a large-scale processional lantern, partly in workshops with children aged 5 – 13 and partly on their own. The theme of the lantern should be woodland creatures.

- Workshops with the children will take place on Wednesday 28, Thursday 29 and Friday 30 October 2026. The workshops will run from 8.30am – 12pm in Hexham.
- The artist will need to design and prepare the structure of the lantern to enable children to help to build and cover it during the workshops. They may also need to spend time in the afternoons preparing the lantern for the workshop the next day.
- At the end of the week the lantern will need to be completed and ready for the procession, including remote-controlled lights.

3. Queen's Hall Arts can provide some materials in addition to the materials budget.

4. A Queen's Hall member of staff will support the artist during the workshops with the children.

Requirements:

- Experience of making large lanterns or processional sculptures.
- Experience of delivering workshops with children to create a lantern or sculpture.
- A current DBS certificate and Public Liability Insurance up to £5 million.
- Access to transport to deliver workshops in Hexham.

To Apply:

Please send an e-mail to workforus@queenshall.co.uk with the following information by 5pm on Wednesday 30 September;

- a. Information about you and your arts practice
- b. Examples of previous experience of making lanterns / processional sculptures.
- c. Examples of leading workshops with children aged 5 - 13
- d. Any access adaptations that you will need.