

press release



For immediate release

Mark Steel to open 5th Crystal Palace Overground Festival at Westow Park

www.crystalpalacefestival.org

Comedian and Crystal Palace resident Mark Steel will open the 5th Crystal Palace Overground Festival on Saturday, August 13 at Westow Park, Crystal Palace.

The well-known comedian, author and broadcaster will officially open the main day of the festival, 13 August, at 11:45am from the Antenna stage in Westow Park (the festival begins at 11am).

Mark's support comes from a deep love for all things Crystal Palace – "Put simply, the Crystal Palace Overground Festival is certain to be a greater event than the Edinburgh Festival, any carnival in Brazil or the moon landing. And definitely better than anything they do in north London!" said the comedian and political activist.

"We are thrilled to have Mark open the festival for us – he's a well-known and loved figure around the area and has always shown great support for his community – and he will definitely make you laugh!" said Noreen Meehan, lead festival organiser.

The free 4-day festival (10-13 August) will feature the best local live music, poetry, theatre, comedy, film, food and fashion with the main festival hub and opening at Westow Park on Saturday, 13 August featuring arts and crafts activities including Westow Park's very own recycled dinosaur, sports and kids' activities, food and drink stalls, the best local bands and DJs on the Antenna music stage, and even a good old fashioned tug of war!

Around the Crystal Palace Triangle, local bars will host gigs and DJs, and there will be a ceramic workshop for children, a silent auction, painting and tailoring demonstrations, a steel band, an open air cinema and a Haynes Layne courtyard vintage market with DJs and acoustic sets.

"The buzz is definitely building and everyone is looking forward to a great day out on 13 August – we have lots of feedback already from people who are coming out with their

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friends and family to enjoy the fruits of this amazingly creative area” said Noreen.

For the full programme of events, visit the festival website www.crystalpalacefestival.org

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Notes for editors

For media enquiries, interviews and hi-res pic requests please call 07725 057 453, 07780 703 600 at anytime or on email press@crystalpalacefestival.org

About the Crystal Palace Overground Festival

The Crystal Palace Overground Festival, now in its 5th year, is a free family-friendly festival run by a team of dedicated volunteers. The 4-day festival aims to create a platform for the many creative and diverse people, traders and artists of Crystal Palace, and will showcase all that is great about Crystal Palace to visitors from across London, and beyond!

www.crystalpalacefestival.org

About Mark Steel

Commentator and stand-up comedian Mark Steel has presented several radio and television programmes, and appeared on *Have I Got News for You* and *Never Mind the Buzzcocks*. In 2006 he published *Vive La Revolution: A Stand-up History of the French Revolution*, and in 2000 stood as a candidate in the London Assembly elections.

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