

FRIENDS AND COLLABORATORS

Want to do more? Looking for local partners? Here is further information from some friends of Fun Palaces – and potential collaborators to contact for your Fun Palace:

AGE OF CREATIVITY FESTIVAL

The Age of Creativity provides leadership, profile, advocacy and infrastructure development for everyone who believes in the value of creativity for older people. Established in 2012 with funding from the Baring Foundation, the project aims to support professionals working in arts, health, culture, social care, academia, voluntary and community sectors to enable more older people to take part creative activities and enjoy improved health, wellbeing and quality of life. The Age of Creativity will be running its second festival, from 1 – 14th October 2018. If you are an older person, or if you are making a Fun Palace with older people, why not sign your Fun Palace up to the AoC Festival too? [Find out more here.](#)

THE BIG LUNCH

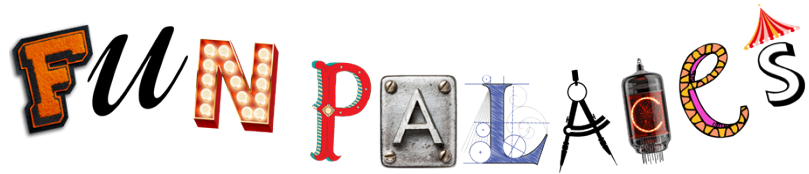
[The Big Lunch](#) has very similar community and locally-led aims to Fun Palaces. An Eden Project initiative, The Big Lunch calls on communities to take part in the UK's annual get-together for neighbours by hosting their own Big Lunch events on the same day. Organising a Big Lunch with your neighbours is a great way to start some conversations about your Fun Palace – who knows what you can come up with over lunch? This year The Big Lunch takes place on 3rd June 2018.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month takes place throughout each October and is an opportunity to remember the past and look to the future, joining together to renew our commitment to racial equality. As it happens annually (in the UK) during October, it's a great opportunity to make a fuss about local history and learning, and to ensure your Fun Palace is as inclusive as possible. [Black History Month.](#)

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

Fun Palaces' community science partner, the British Science Association, runs [British Science Week](#) every March, and welcomes involvement from anyone interested in science and local events. As a Fun Palace Maker, you might want to link with a local BSA branch, join in with their events, and perhaps invite them to contribute to yours. The more we all work together, the more we underline the value of culture *for all*.



COMMUNITY BUSINESS WEEKEND

Community Business Weekend celebrates the 7000 community businesses in local hands across England. In 2017, 200 community businesses opened their doors and used the long weekend to demonstrate the positive impact they have on society and tell their stories of success. It also coincided with Fun Palaces weekend so there is lots of potential for collaboration. [Contact the team](#) for more information about this year.

CONTACT THE ELDERLY

Supported by a network of volunteers, Contact the Elderly organises monthly Sunday afternoon tea parties for small groups of older people aged 75 and over, who live alone, offering a regular and vital friendship link every month. Since their first tea party held in 1965, Contact the Elderly has supported more than 100,000 lonely older people. Have a look at their website to [see if there is a group near you](#) – perhaps they can be part of your Fun Palace this year.

GET CREATIVE

Get Creative is a campaign run by a group of cultural organisations to celebrate and support the everyday creativity happening in homes and public spaces across the UK. It aims to inspire people to try something new at home or during the annual Get Creative Festival (17 – 25 March 2018) and to encourage people to share their own examples of everyday creativity. To find out more and join in [click here](#).

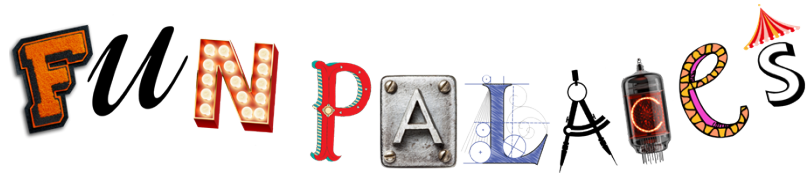
THE GREAT GET TOGETHER

[The Great Get Together](#) is inspired by Jo Cox, who was killed on 16 June 2016. Like us, they believe there is a groundswell of people who reject divisive politics and simply want to bring our communities together and celebrate all that unites us. A get together is any gathering of neighbours, friends and those in our communities to celebrate what we have in common. This year The Great Get Together will take place from 22 – 24th June 2018.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Heritage Open Days is England's largest festival of history and culture, bringing together over 2,500 organisations, 5,000 events and 40,000 volunteers. Every year for four days in September, places across the country throw open their doors to celebrate their heritage, community and history. See hidden places and try out new experiences – and it's all free. Heritage Open Days 2018 will be 6-9 & 13-16 September.

[Check out their website](#) to find out what's on near your and how you can get involved.



SILVER SUNDAY

It started with a tea dance and within a few short years it has turned into a national campaign to tackle the blight of loneliness that affects so many older people. Silver Sunday is a day in the national calendar, the first Sunday in October, when we ask the nation to pause and think about older people and celebrate their contribution to society. Silver Sunday also provides an opportunity for local authorities, charities, community groups and private, voluntary and public organisations to promote what they already do to relieve social isolation and loneliness among older people.

This year Silver Sunday takes place on 7th October 2018 – the same as Fun Palaces weekend, so if you are an older person or making a Fun Palace with older people, sign your Fun Palace up to Silver Sunday too. [Find out more here.](#)

WHAT NEXT?

What Next? is a national movement bringing people together to articulate, champion and strengthen the role of culture in our society. There are local chapters across the country, bringing together those working in or passionate about culture, to address issues of relevance to them. WN? Chapters are a great way to meet people that may be keen to get involved with your Fun Palace, to spread the word, and importantly, to place your Fun Palace in the context of political discussions about arts and culture in your area. You can find out more about how to join your local WN? Chapter – or how to start your own – [here.](#)