
Friends of EDITH

Friends of Edith are delighted to announce the launch of the **EDITH FESTIVAL 2022** (*#EdithFest - 1066Untold*) the first festival of its kind to celebrate the life, times and cultural milieu of **Edith Swanneck**, the wife of King Harold II of England who fell at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. It will be an all-day event held on **TUESDAY 11th OCTOBER 2022 in the Seafront Room in the White Rock Hotel, St Leonards**, although there will be a visit and tour of Edith's (and Harold's) statue in West Marina Gardens, St Leonards included. The main programme consists of presentations and talks given by a range of speakers on various subjects but also includes film and performance. The full programme can be found on their website (www.friendsofedith.org.uk/events).

All-day tickets are £10 per person and includes refreshment. They are available online through Eventbrite (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/edith-festival-2022-tickets-401658791257>).



Of the Festival, Ian Jarman, Founder and Secretary of Friends of Edith, remarked: “We hope this will be the start of a regular annual Festival held here in St Leonards which celebrates our Anglo-Saxon heritage in diverse ways, such as through history, literature, music and the arts. We are keen to use Edith's statue as a meaningful legacy to focus, trigger and inspire awareness, education and appreciation of our heritage today, with particular emphasis on the perspectives of women, like Edith, who have been written out of, or largely ignored by, conventional history.”

Friends of Edith are a not-for-profit, charitable group who currently have a licence from Hastings Borough Council to look after and maintain the Edith and Harold statue, and part of the park which immediately surrounds it, in West Marina Gardens. They have recently cleaned the statue with a view to sealing it to protect it from the ravages of erosion and have planted a wildflower meadow, herb and rose garden (collectively known as 'Edith's Garden'). They are also engaged in researching and promoting all aspects of Edith, her times and culture, as a valuable part of the rich and proud heritage of Hastings.

If you would like to find out more about their work, or to become a member (annual fee £10 per person – all of which goes towards funding their projects) please see their website or send them an email at info@friendsofedith.org.uk.