



Sarah Trist
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Beacon of Hope

A light installation with maypole performance
for year round programming



With a unique choreographic palate of traditional folk and contemporary street styles, **Folk Dance Remixed** is famed for their high energy fusion of dance and musical forms which audiences love to watch and join in.

In 2025 international artist Craig Morrison invited Natasha and Kerry from **Folk Dance Remixed** to apply their dynamic talents for community participation to his public artwork **Beacon of Hope**, an awe-inspiring 12 metre high light installation which Morrison created in 2023 in collaboration with innovative light designer Ant Dickenson and which has been presented all over Europe.

The result of their collaboration was presented in Bolton last November when the rich local cultural tapestry of folk and Hip Hop dance and music were linked with modern light art as part of *Put Big Light On*. As Morrison's UK Performance Partner, **Folk Dance Remixed** created a fifteen minute maypole dance around the Beacon featuring local performers which became the centre-piece of a mini-festival with local dance groups and bands performing and concluded with a FDR-style ceilidh jam.

As a template for future iterations in the UK, the aim of **Beacon of Hope** is to draw on the local interests and characters of the community in which it is set to create a unique event which celebrates connection, a sense of place, participation and shared hope.



'It's been wonderful to watch the Beacon project evolve in Bolton. Local performers of all ages have had the chance to create something special, bringing communities together and combine traditional and contemporary artforms.'

Joanne Lewis, Principle Project Officer, Culture and Creativity at Bolton Council

To realise the **Beacon** in Bolton, **Folk Dance Remixed** worked with Jo Lewis of Bolton Council to bring together 60 people from Bolton communities as performers and creatives in the event. Dance styles included street dance, maypole, morris and clog dance, with flavours of Bollywood and Palestinian folk dance. The music track was created in collaboration with local music producer Shamschi, incorporating local folk sounds from the different communities, including dohl drums, Iranian, Pakistani and Lancashire folk dance tunes, woven with hip hop beats and soundscapes. The event featured up-and-coming Muslim rapper, B-Shaf, Stone the Crows morris dancers, students from Taylor's Theatre Academy, champion clog dancer Robynne Wood, Bolton Music's Greater Northern Folk Ensemble who played for the Ceilidh Jam social dance finale alternating with DJ Aggz. Hats and other headgear worn in the performance were crocheted and knitted by the Little Lever Library Knit and Natter Group.



The project model works with 4 days of creation/rehearsal with the performers prior to the event, with a further day of rehearsal on the Beacon before the first show. Rehearsals can take place over a period of a month or two, or be more intense, depending on the participants and their needs. The Beacon can be situated on hard standing or grass provided it is flat and level and can remain in situ throughout the festival

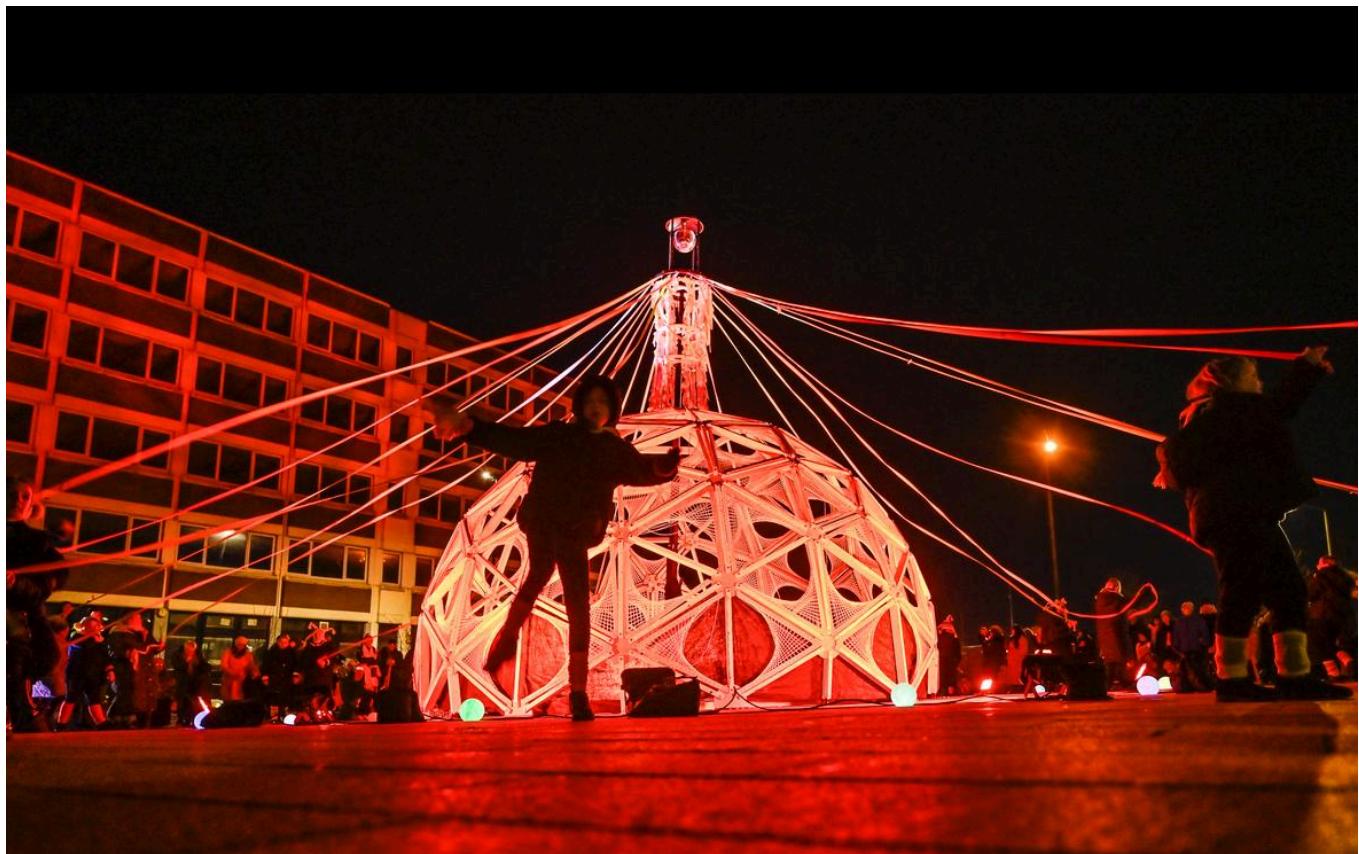
The Beacon itself is a large 6.5m diameter wooden dome structure, with panels of laced UV reflective threads, set beneath a 6m spire with an array of 11m UV reflective ribbons, ready to be woven in a maypole plait, and a glitterball to top it all off! The Beacon is lit by a ring of colour-changing lights, changing moods and states, making it a mesmerising spectacle in its own right.



About **Craig Morrison** and the **Beacon of Hope**

Craig Morrison is a designer, artist and curator with work held in permanent collections at The Science Museum and The Victoria & Albert Museum. He soared to critical acclaim in the late 1980s through his spiky rubberwear designs for clothing and bags. His public artwork, **Beacon of Hope**, made in collaboration with lighting artist **Ant Dickenson**, came together through the collaboration of three groups from different countries: the

people of Jyväskylä in Finland, the residents of Eindhoven, and the community of Lyon in France. The **Beacon** was first shown in 2022 and has also been presented in Leipzig and Brussels.



BOOKING DETAILS

Availability:	upon request
Number of participant/performers:	Performers: 20-30. Plus local dance groups and bands for final ceilidh jam. This element is scaleable.
Number on the road from FDR:	5 (2 x Artistic Directors, lighting engineer, sound engineer and technical manager)
Performance duration:	10-15 mins plus' ceilidh jam including short performances by local groups up to 60 mins.
Number of shows a day:	2 Best at dusk or night time, though can also be performed in the daytime, depending on the project
Performance space:	A circular area of 20m diameter is required for the performance The Beacon requires a 6.5m diameter space on grass or hard standing Site for Beacon must be flat and level
Presenter Provides:	Recruitment of participants and local dance groups supported by company
Get in:	Changing facilities and toilets:
UK Touring Fee:	PA system Stewarding and security including overnight. Day before get in required in the region of £25,000 for up to three days of performances plus accommodation, travel and per diem. This fee includes the Beacon structure.
Video trailer:	Link
Full length performance video:	Link
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