

Salisbury International Arts Festival

Party in the Close

Zara Gillick

With the great atmosphere, diverse music and show-stopping fireworks, it is easy to see why so many people attended Party in the Close. It really was an event for everyone, as could be seen from the range of ages there. As well as music, there were some street artists and stalls with children's activities, which definitely added to the night.

The first band to play were Caught in the Crossfire, a post-rock band from Salisbury. Their sound was unique and appealed to the teenagers at the event, who were at the front, supporting them during their set. I got the impression that this band weren't used to the amount of people they were playing to, but they coped with it well. I really enjoyed this band and I thought they were very talented.

The Kanda Bongo Man and his supporting musicians were next. They are from Congo and play Soukous music, the popular music in Africa. Within a few minutes they had many of the audience up and dancing to their infectious tunes, creating a carnival-like atmosphere. You couldn't help but be uplifted by their enthusiasm!

The last band was The Soothsayers and The Red Earth Collective whose music was reggae inspired, with jazz and afro beat influences. The music was different to the other two bands, but people were still up dancing and enjoying themselves. I liked that they had lots of differing instruments, as it made the sound deeper and more interesting.

The night was ended with magnificent fireworks, lighting up the sky with beautiful colours which were made even better against the backdrop of the Cathedral and cloudy sky. A very fun and varied night which appealed to everyone!