

artworks



Inside...

Vale Arts, W Factor, Shindig, plus much more!

Spring 2010

 **WYCHAVON
DISTRICT COUNCIL**
good services, good value



Wychavon Arts Review of the year 2009/10

**From April 2009 -
March 2010
we ran a
staggering.....**

- Children worked with 2839
- girls 554
- boys 383
- adults 1404
- combined adults and children 59,824
- no of performances 127
- no of workshops 671
- no of audience 33,798
- no of hours 752
- performed 76 shows
- worked with 46 partners
- ran 20 projects
- employed 23 freelance staff
- 22 village activities

It's been a very full and exciting year for the arts in Wychavon. Some of our older projects have continued to develop such as W Factor, Party in the Park, Showell Gallery, After school arts clubs, Youth Music, Evesham Arts 4 All, Droitwich Arts 4 All, Art in the Park, Vale of Evesham Network of Artists, Droitwich Arts Network, A taste of Art and Shindig.

New projects for this year were Vale Arts Trail, puppet shows at Festivals and Business Link Training for developing arts businesses.

Front cover picture

Jenny Davis and Upton Snodsbury First School

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Jenny Davis & Amandine Rich

Designed by

Vicki Wadley Wychavon District Council

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Wychavon District Council

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Highlights this year....

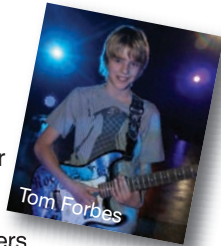


W Factor, Wychavon's arts talent contest, was back again this year with 61 young people aged 11-18 years from Wychavon got involved. There were four auditions in village locations in dance, musical theatre, singing and music and the standard was very high this year. A new category was short film.

For more information see page 4.

Feedback from parents

Just to go to the 'w'factor final in Evesham was a thrill for us all and to see the extremely high standard of all performers was great so you can imagine what a surprise it was to us when Tom's name was called out! He was so pleased to win and couldn't wait to go to school and tell them the good news. Somebody even told Nigel Clarke, formally of 90's band Dodgy, and he invited Tom to his recording studio where Tom spent a few hours playing and singing his 'w'factor winning song 'importance of being idle' which we now have on cd as do every member of our family!



Tom can't wait for the Party and Art in the Park events and has even been doing a few private functions at the local pub after his reputation continues to grow in the village! His desire and hunger to learn and play the guitar have grown because of this competition, his confidence is sky high, his popularity amongst his peers has multiplied ten fold, (especially the girls apparently) and just to think that a few months ago no-one even knew he played the guitar outside of our house." Andy Forbes

Feedback from young people "A Taste of Art"

"the best workshop I've ever been to"

"very exciting hope to come again"

"I have made new friends"



For more information see page 4

After school arts clubs

Together with funding from Extended Services and Wychavon DC it was made possible to run after school arts clubs in 11 schools in drama, dance and art. They showcased their work at Number 8 on 31st March. An assistant teacher shadowed the arts workers so after the funding runs out it is hopeful that the groups will continue beyond this project.

For more information see page 5

Vale Arts Trail

One of the projects the Vale of Evesham Network of Artists wanted to do this year was to have a festival for the visual arts in the Vale. Six months later and after lots of hard graft and sweat the Vale had its first Arts Trail. 15 different partners got involved and over 54,000 either participated in a workshop or viewed some art. 67% of people that fed back thought the project was excellent. Not bad for a budget of £3,500.

If you want to know more about this see page 9

The Big Draw participants *"great fun" "very relaxing", "gave me more confidence"*



Youth Arts....

THE W FACTOR



Photos taken by Paul Dyer

Wychavon's Got Talent!

We welcomed just fewer than 40 acts at this year's auditions, for varying categories. Competition as always was very high, but the judges whittled it down to just 18 acts, both individual and groups.

This year saw a variety of talent, from Irish dancing, to break dancing, from singing, to rapping, from rock music, to an accordion player. This just shows how much, and how varied the young talent we have in Wychavon. The 18 final acts then performed at the final show on **Monday 22nd March at Evesham Arts Centre**, along with the finalists from the short film, and visual arts categories.

The winners of each of the categories at the final show go on to then receive further training and the chance to perform live at this year's summer events.

Wychavon District Council, would not only like to congratulate all of the finalists, and of course the winners, but to those who did audition this year but unfortunately did not get through, we hope you have another opportunity to perform coming soon.

If you would like to view the W Factor Final Performance coming soon, please visit www.youtube.com and search for **Wychavon1**. If you fancy seeing photos from the show or to keep in the loop, then search for **The Wychavon Factor** on facebook and request as a friend.

Party in the Park

After six triumphant years of Party in the Park, Droitwich this year kicked off the start of yet another year of 32 exciting performances and events on 25th August, and received a large crowd who were enthusiastic to join in the fun. But the most impressive outcome of this year's Party in the Park was Evesham's Abbey Park venue where 1000 plus visitors swarmed over to participate in the activities on one of the hottest days of the year. The event was suitable for the whole family and there was something for everyone's interest.

So there's no surprise that Party in the Park is once again taking place and as expected has a busy line up of performances, workshops, Multi-Sports stations and many many more! The dates for this year are **Tuesday 24th August at Droitwich**, **Wednesday 25th August at Pershore**, and **Thursday 26th August at Evesham**.

For more information, please contact Tracy Grubb on 01386 565168 or email tracy.grubb@wychavon.gov.uk.



A Taste of Art

A Taste of Art took place at the end of July – beginning of August involving an array of workshops, 30 in total, ranging from an introduction to street and contemporary dance to exploring art through recycled waste. The workshops were held in the local villages with children & young people in Bredon, Crowle, Eckington, Drakes Broughton and Peopleton. In partnership with Number 8 Arts Centre



Youth Art Exhibition – School Showcase 2010

Number 8 in Pershore worked in conjunction with Wychavon District Council to showcase art work produced by inspired artists of the future.



2009 saw the first ever Youth Art Exhibition held at Number 8, where a selection of artwork in the theme of 'the environment' produced by school children was exhibited over the Easter holidays.

Due to its success, the second Youth Art Exhibition is taking place from **31st March - 21st April 2010 at Number 8**, where the theme this year is 'healthy eating, healthy living'.

Local artists have been going into Pershore based schools and working with the children and inspiring them to be creative.

Art in your area

To find out what's on offer in the arts in Wychavon, please visit www.wychavon.gov.uk and follow the links to the Art pages.

For information on **Youth Arts Groups** in Wychavon, look up **Art Classes and Exhibitions** under the Arts and click on the link.



After School Club 'SHARING' Event

Wychavon District Council organised a 'sharing' event whereby children from the local primary and middle schools get the chance to showcase what they have achieved after weeks of attending after school art, dance and drama classes. There was lots of slide show exhibitions displaying the children's work as well as performances from the drama and dance classes.

This 'sharing' event took taking place on **Wednesday 31st March 2010 at Number 8 in Pershore from 4pm.**

This has been made possible through funding from Extended Services. More

workshops will be taking place during next year.

If you would like more information, please contact Jenny Davis on 01386 565396 or email jenny.davis@wychavon.gov.uk.

Art in the Park

Art in the Park consisted of a six day event between 28th-30th July and 4th-6th August 2009, where Evesham, Pershore and Droitwich



welcomed hundreds of eager and exciting residents, tourists, even passers-by to join in with the activities and enjoy the beautiful weather within a social environment all for FREE! There was an array of workshops, shows, performances, and entertainment, 42 in total for the whole family including the W Factor finalists who performed live.

This was the second year in which Art in the Park has taken place and proved as much of a success as the previous.

Following its success, Art in the Park, after popular demand, is kicking off yet again this

year in Evesham, Pershore, and Droitwich. Dates are TBC.

For further details of this event, please contact Jenny Davis on 01386 565396 or email jenny.davis@wychavon.gov.uk.



Youth Music 2009-2010

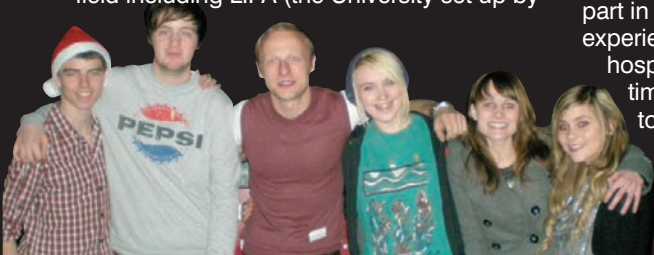
Having turned the corner into 2010 the beginning of this 12 month period seems like the best place to start as we welcome news that the 2009 graduates of the Wychavon Youth Music Project are all successfully continuing with their respective studies at Universities and specialist music colleges around the country. It's great to see that the work done by Wychavon District Council to engage young people with skills in music and performance is continuing to grow outside of their respective comfort zones.

We wish this current crop of performer's equal success as they have already received acceptances from some of the best universities in the country specialising in this field including LIPA (the University set up by

Sir Paul McCartney to enhance the abilities and opportunities of today's young performers). Also the Leeds College of Music will be home to others who have taken part over the period of the projects time in schools and various performance and drama schools throughout the UK will be the areas adopted by others.

One member of the Youth Music team has also been busy auditioning for several voice orientated jobs to add to her CV with one of the best producers in the UK commenting that she had a fabulous voice that will translate well to a number of genres in both singing and spoken word.

As for performances, a very special time was shared by 4 acts who decided to take part in the heart warming and moving experience of going to various children's hospices around the area at Christmas time to spread some Christmas cheers to those less fortunate by performing a number of songs and posing for pictures with some incredibly brave



youngsters and amazing staff. Thank you to all of the staff who made the special mini tour possible as it is something that will stay with us all for a long time and remain one of the highlights of the performer's period in the Youth Music Programme.

The Wychavon Party in the Park and Art in the Park festivals provided other opportunities for some of the best performances ever last year as the sun was with us and 7 days of music, sport, dance, drama, activities and fun was enjoyed by all and we look forward to the 2010 festivals which will be a sad goodbye to some of those currently involved in the project.

It has also been a great year for the participants themselves getting gigs of their

own as they perform in pubs, bars, clubs and also in competitions as their confidence grows in all areas of music, stage and performance. Some have made it to the finals of regional competitions such as Worcester's Got Talent and Battle of the Bands and others have taken the tentative first steps in trying to perform without the comfort of a pre arranged event by Wychavon District Council or its associated team of professionals.

All in all an incredible time has been had by the young people themselves and the team behind the Wychavon Youth Music Project as we continue to wish them well into 2010 and beyond.

Written by Ade Holbrook



Other Arts...

Vale of Evesham Network of Artists (VENA)



VENA would firstly like to welcome a new member to the committee, **Val Jackman** who will now be dealing with the administration of the network.

VENA is also currently developing next year's programme of work. They are hoping to be co-ordinating an Art in Empty shops project in Evesham. Art workshops will be available to local youth and community groups and their work will then be exhibited in the shops.

VENA is also looking at training opportunities as well as Evesham Arts 4 All 2010.

For more information, please contact Val Jackman via email at valerie.jackman@wychavon.gov.uk or contact Jenny Davis on 01386 565396 or email her at jenny.davis@wychavon.gov.uk

Droitwich Arts Network (DAN)



Droitwich Arts Network has just got a page on the For Droitwich Spa website. It is hoped that members can use this page to upload their contact details and promote themselves as well as events that are taking place. They are also helping with an Art in Empty Shops project in St Andrews shopping centre this year and have just completed Droitwich Arts 4 All.

Some of the aims of DAN are:

- To develop new audiences and participants
- To work as a network both for the amateur and professional, providing guidance, support, and training to the arts sectors.
- To act as a sounding board for thoughts, ideas and projects
- And many more!

For more information, to find out when their next meeting is or to join, contact Jenny Davis on 01386 565396 or email jenny.davis@wychavon.gov.uk

Art e-News

Artworks, is an electronic newsletter which we, at Wychavon District Council send out every 2 months to schools, youth clubs, music/art/drama/dance/media contacts, volunteer centres, basically anyone who has an interest in the arts. It contains local news and information, up and coming events, funding opportunities, training courses and job vacancies within Wychavon.

If you belong to a club, are setting up your own classes, or organising a local event, and want to advertise your information for

FREE! then please contact Jenny Davis via email jenny.davis@wychavon.gov.uk.

If you would like to receive the Art e-News to find out more on what's going on within the area relating to the Arts, then contact Jenny at the above email or call **01386 565396**. You can also view the full electronic newsletter every 2 months, by visiting our website www.wychavon.gov.uk and follow the link to Arts Development.



Droitwich Spa ARTS 4 all



Droitwich Spa Arts 4 All Day

The second Droitwich Spa Arts 4 All Day took place on Saturday 6th March 2010 at the Norbury Theatre.

This was an open day where visitors were able to find out what is happening in the arts in their area, and as expected was a successful day. Approximately 350 people came.

There was 15 exhibitors in total including Vivre Youth Theatre, the W Factor performers, Droitwich Flower Club and local

musicians attend the event to advertise and promote what they do

The event was suitable for all ages and there was something for the whole family to enjoy. Entrance was free and refreshments were on offer throughout the day. The Droitwich Arts 4 All Day was organised and funded by For Droitwich Spa, Wychavon District Council, the Norbury Theatre, and Droitwich Spa Area Partnership



Shindig

live arts on your doorstep



Rat a Tat Theatre
Company

Spring Tour 2010

There are 12 shows taking place this season in a number of villages across Wychavon, such as Ashton Under Hill, Peopleton, Eckington, Inkberrow, plus many more. Some include, soulful jazz music from Louise Parker and Craig Milverton Trio, theatre productions of 'Back to the Land Girls' by Kate Bramley performed by Badapple Theatre Company, and 'Tales of the Country' performed by Pentabus Theatre, as well as a concert of International classical musicians, London Mozart Players String Trio.

Tickets usually range between £6-£8 each.

The Shindig scheme is subsidised by Worcestershire County Council, District, Borough, and City Council, including Wychavon District Council, and Arts Council England West Midlands.



If you would like more information as well as details of each of the shows, visit the website www.shindig.org.uk. If you fancy being on the mailing list, email artsenquiries@worcestershire.gov.uk or call 01905 766337.

vale ARTS trail



There were exhibitions and workshops in galleries, open studios, libraries, gardens, parks, shops, cafes, churches and community centres around the vale, as well as a fantastic community programme which catered for children, young people, adults as well as older people. Some 58,000 took part or viewed the arts

October 2009

Vale of Evesham Network of Artists (VENA) along with the support of Wychavon District Council organised a Vale Arts Trail, which was a month long visual arts festival in and around Pershore, Evesham and Broadway from **3rd - 31st October 2009**.

It was the first of its kind in the area, to purely focus on the visual arts and crafts of local artists and arts groups, both amateur and professional in painting, photography, crafts and sculpture.

Two free 'Big Draw' events also took place which is the National Initiative to get people drawing. The first one was held at the **Launch Event on Saturday 3rd October at Pershore High School** and was a huge success as expected. The second and final 'Big Draw' saw the close of the Vale Arts Trail which ran at **Evesham Town Hall**. Visitors were involved in the biggest ever map and took part in drawing and building their experiences using 5ft long pencils.

To view some pictures of the event, please visit our website www.wychavon.gov.uk.

A Window on the Arts.



Art in Empty Shops

Following on from the Vale Arts Trail, Wychavon will hopefully be seeing some artwork being displayed in its empty shops this year. Wychavon DC and For Droitwich Spa have already secured funding to run some arts workshops with young people and older people with professional artists. The outcome of this will be displayed in the empty shops in the town centre along with more established arts groups and artists.

In Pershore the local group WANA have already taken over an empty shop and will be exhibiting work and as well as using it as a studio space. It is the old 'Love Italy' shop so pop along and see them work. Wychavon DC as well as VENA (Vale of Evesham Network of Artists) will hopefully (subject to funding) also be running some arts workshops with young people and older people and using empty shops in Evesham to exhibit their work.

Showell Gallery

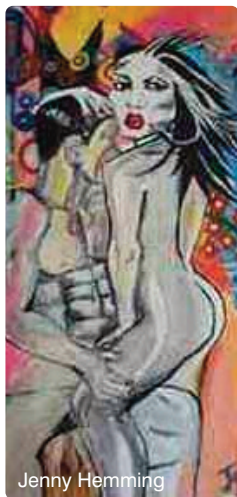
This year saw four very different art exhibitions at The Civic Centre. Collage and paper from Jess Tomlinson, abstract oil and acrylics from Cherrie Mansfield, modern expressive art from Jenny Hemming and impressionism from Elizabeth Barath. They certainly sparked comment and debate amongst the council staff and public as well as educating and inspiring people. Comments included

"Thank you for helping me escape"
"Amazing, they really draw you in"

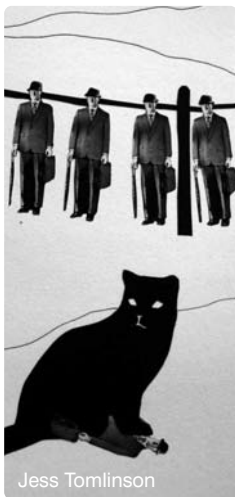
The year coming sees the large scale modern work in acrylics of Susy Casillas for the first three months and the Number 8 youth exhibition is on tour based on the theme of healthy living and eating. Others are to be confirmed soon.



Elizabeth Barath



Jenny Hemming



Jess Tomlinson



Susy Casillas

Local news...

What's on...

...at The Norbury Theatre:

Film:

- **Angels and Demons** – certificate 12A Wed 5th May 2010 at 7.30pm. Tickets: £4

Children's Theatre:

- On Saturdays. Tickets: £1.50

Musicals:

- The Norbury Players present the Musical, 'Annie'
Wed 19th-Sat 22nd May 2010 at 7.30pm, plus 2.30pm on Sat.
Wed 26th-Sat 29th May 2010 at 7.30pm, plus 2.30pm on Sat.
Tickets: £9.50 (concessions £8.50)

Contact: 01905 770154 www.norburytheatre.co.uk



...at Number 8:

- **Pride and Prejudice Ball** – a chance to experience the elegant age of Regency England. The dances will be walked through by Barbara Dunn and music will be played by Dampier's Round. So put on your elegant dress or dazzling waistcoat and go back in time to the era of Jane Austin's most famous novel.

Sat 1st May 2010 at 8pm. Tickets: £7.50.

Contact: Number 8 Box Office on 01386 555488
www.number8.org



...at Evesham Arts Centre:

- **Stand Up Comedy(EAA)**
Fri 11th June 2010 at 8pm. Tickets: £8
- **Sing-a-longa Rocky Horror (EAA)**
Sat 19th June at 7.30pm. Tickets £14
- **All England Theatre Festival** – watch 5 plays in two sessions.
Saturday 8th May 2010 at 1pm.
Tickets: £8 per session (£12 for both sessions)
Contact J. Cunnington for tickets on 0121 707 6684.

Contact: Evesham Arts Centre Box Office on 01386 442348
www.eveshamartscentre.co.uk



Funding...

Wychavon Community Grants 2010

Application packs for this year's Wychavon Community Grants are now available, and the theme is 'Children and Young People'.

The briefings are scheduled for:

- 29th April at 6.30pm
- 13th May at 6.30pm

Deadline: Noon Friday 28th May

If you would like an application pack, please contact Tracy Grubb on 01386 565168 or email her at tracy.grubb@wychavon.gov.uk.

The Elmley Foundation Small Arts Grants Scheme



The Elmley Foundation's Small Arts Grants Scheme is available for community groups in Herefordshire and Worcestershire who are planning arts events or purchases.

There are 2 funds available, both offering grants of up to £1,000:

- Events and Activities
- Arts Equipment

For more information please visit www.elmley.org.uk or contact Sophie Mead on 01684 312730 or email sophiem@comfirst.org.uk.

Mini Mediabox (England)



Mini Mediabox (England)

Mediabox is a fund that offers disadvantaged children aged between 13-19 years of age the opportunity to create their own media projects. 'Mini Mediabox' is the smallest grant scheme available through Mediabox providing grants of up to £5,000. It aims to give organisations with limited experience in delivering media projects the chance to increase their experience.

This scheme is running until 2011 and has a rolling application deadline.

For more information, please visit www.media-box.co.uk/funding/mini-mediabox

If you would like pre-application advice, contact Lou Llewellyn on 0121 265 7120 or email lou.llewellyn@screenwm.co.uk



Get in touch...

If you have something to say about the arts in Wychavon or anything in this newsletter or you need some advice, then please do get in touch. Also, if you are a new arts group or you work within the arts then we want to know about you.

Tel 01386 565396 or e-mail jenny.davis@wychavon.gov.uk