

artworks



Inside... Interview with IF theatre company, arts review of the year, plus much more!

Spring 09

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



Hi, welcome to the Spring 09 edition of Artworks. As I am writing this the snow is still on the ground, so hopefully when you receive it we will be in glorious sunshine! This newsletter contains a summary of all the arts activity that Wychavon Arts Development has achieved this year and it's quite impressive. Thanks to all of the people that have helped me along the way both professionally and voluntarily, I couldn't do it without you!

Jenny Davis

01386 565396

jenny.davis@wychavon.gov.uk

aims for wychavon arts 09-10

To continue to develop the arts networks in Droitwich Spa and the Vale of Evesham and encourage sustainability

More arts activity for children and young people

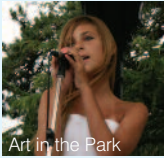
More arts activity in the rural areas

More visual arts activity

More information available about the arts



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Wychavon Arts Review of the year

As we are drawing near to the year end, it's a good chance to look back and reflect on what we have achieved in Arts Development.



From April - Dec 08 So far we have run...

- 578 arts workshops
- 1195 hours of activity
- worked with 2507 young people
- worked with 2826 number of adults and children and young people combined
- worked with 1933 adults
- performed to 35,257 people
- performed 136 shows
- worked with 40 partners
- Ran 18 projects
- Employed 51 freelance staff



Feedback from participants

"It was great and I've made lots of new friends" pupil at Droitwich High, After School arts clubs project

" You have built my confidence in my own abilities and the abilities of our band" **'Same Old Story' band member, Wychavon Youth Music Project**

"...the opportunities we have been given through the workshops (Party in the Park etc) have been unforgettable" **Tom Parry 'Backlight' member, Wychavon Youth Music Project**

Feedback from teachers

"Perfect Circle Theatre Company have developed excellent relationships with the group and really developed the skills and ability of our pupils. There are a number of pupils really flourishing in the group who struggle socially elsewhere in school" **Jenny Edlington, Drama Teacher Droitwich High, After School arts clubs Project**

Feedback from audience

"Amazing! Such energy and fun for the children" **'Storybag' by Vamos Theatre Company, Art in the Park 08**

"How do you get top quality musicians like this to play in village halls" "Long may it continue" **audience members at a 'Martin Simpson' Shindig show**



Focus on... theatre & drama

Youth theatre

Youth Theatre is a fantastic way for children and young people to be introduced to acting and being on stage. It's also brilliant for developing social and personal skills such as confidence, problem solving and raising self-esteem.

Some of the youth theatres in the area

Vital Statistics Theatre Company

(Evesham) Tel 07512 602428
www.vstc.co.uk

Vivre Youth Theatre (Droitwich Spa)

Tel 07946 585978 www.vivredrama.co.uk

Number 8 Youth Theatre (Pershore)

Tel 01386 561906 www.number8.org

Norbury Youth Theatre (Droitwich Spa)

Tel 01905 799575
www.norburyyouththeatre.com

Phoenix Theatre Company (Evesham)

Tel 07966 206654 e-mail
membership@phoenixtheatregroup.co.uk

Amateur dramatics

Amateur dramatics is a great way to explore acting as an adult and work backstage also. Some have youth sections as well. It is also a great way to meet new people and socialise.

Some of the amateur dramatics in the area

Evesham Operatic and Dramatic

Society rob.hopkins@ukgateway.net
Tel 01386 859100

Bishampton Barnstormers

Tel Sue 01386 462306

Norbury Theatre (Droitwich Spa)

Tel Margaret 01905 796205
www.norburytheatre.co.uk

Pershore Operatic and Dramatic

Society Tel Maxine Cook 01386 552504

Professional Theatre

We don't have many professional theatre companies in Wychavon but the ones we do have are brilliant!

Imaginary Friend (Evesham) mainly

develop children and young people's work contact Tel Dean Bayliss
07817 070604 www.ifttheatre.co.uk

Mouthpiece Theatre Company work

on theatre for adults and like to tour to rural areas. Tel Keith 01386 792546
www.mouthpiecetheatre.co.uk



An interview with...



Imaginary Friend Theatre Company

What is your name and role?

Dean Bayliss – Co-founder of Imaginary Friend Theatre Co.

What is your background?

After GCSE's and A Levels I completed the Higher National Diploma in Performing Arts at Worcester College of Technology. I moved to Cyprus for a while as a holiday entertainer. When I returned I continued to perform in amateur and semi-professional productions as both an actor and singer. I also spent some time organising and promoting local live music events.

What do you love?

Music, theatre and performing.

What are your dislikes?

Any form of social injustice! (private joke) Narrow-mindedness and refusal to accept new ideas bothers me as does apathy. I also have an uncontrollable loathing for Westlife.

What are your hobbies?

As well as Imaginary Friend Theatre Co, I am also a member of Evesham Operatic and Dramatic Society and a vocal trio called Him, Her & She. I watch loads of movies and read quite a lot.

What is your favourite food?

Any Mexican food and liquorice.

What is your favourite book?

To Kill A Mocking Bird by Harper Lee – or Soul Music by Terry Pratchett.

What is your favourite Music?

I love pretty much all styles of music so I can't really pick a favourite – it changes day by day. Today it's Rufus Wainwright.

Who is your idol?

I admire all sorts of people – my wife and my parents. Celebrity-wise – I think David Bowie and Stephen Fry have had really interesting lives and Baz Lurhman is a great director.

How can you make a difference?

With a smile and a song!

Contact

Dean Bayliss
07817 070604
www.iftheatre.co.uk



Youth arts...

The W Factor auditions and final show

This year saw more young people auditioning and sending in their images. The standard again was very high and it was hard to choose the final 20 acts for the show and exhibition. We had a variety of interesting entries this year from Irish dancing, to juggling, to a flute ensemble! More people entered in the dance and instrumental category than last year which is great.

The final show is Friday 13th March at the Public Hall in Evesham and is an invited guests only event. This year's winners will get a chance to perform at 'Party in the Park' in August and the finalists at 'Art in the Park' in July if you fancy seeing them. Abby Davies, a finalist last year said "doing The W Factor has really boosted my confidence as a singer" and she is back this year for another go.



Arts leaflet

A new youth arts leaflet has been designed, listing many of the arts activities available for children and young people in the Wychavon area with contact details. It is available on the website www.wychavon.gov.uk under arts classes. If you run an arts activity for children and young people and you want to be added to the leaflet, then please let me know. Jenny.davis@wychavon.gov.uk tel 01386 565396

Youth art exhibition



Number 8 and Wychavon Arts Development are also working together to create the first youth art exhibition at Number 8, which will be exhibited over the Easter holidays. Artists have been going in to Pershore area schools and working with children to inspire them to work on some artwork on the theme of the environment. Some of the work from each school will then be selected photographed and framed and then displayed in the gallery.

Summer arts

'Party in the Park' and 'Art in the Park' are back again this summer. The dates for 'Party in the Park' are Tuesday 25th-Thursday 27th August and dates for Art in the Park are in July (tbc). The theme this year is sustainability, so there will be lots of ways to learn about sustaining our environment as well as having fun and being creative.



After school Arts Clubs

At the end of March we will have finished our first year of arts clubs in extended schools. 10 Middle and High schools were involved in regularly hosting dance, drama and visual art clubs. Approximately 480 number of children and young people got involved, 720 workshops happened, 720 number of hours of arts activity, 26 performances happened in assemblies and out of school hours. Some of the participants said the sessions were "Super! Wow! Great! Brill!" We are currently looking to roll the programme out to more schools from after the Easter holidays.



Shindig Spring Tour

There's a record 27 shows in Wychavon for you to see this season with some brilliant dance and music from International Siyaya Arts and Baghdaddies all in concert at our wonderful village halls. We welcome some new promoters on board this season, Inkberrow and Littleton village halls and Bredon's Norton Severn Sailing Club. I hope Shindig is successful for you. For more information go to www.shindig.org.uk

or to go on the mailing list e-mail artsenquiries@worcestershire.gov.uk or tel 01905 766337



Droitwich Spa Arts Network-New!

On the back of the successful Droitwich Arts 4 All Day, local artists and organisations said they wanted to continue to network and work together to develop the arts in Droitwich Spa. The network had its first meeting at The Norbury Theatre on Thursday 12th February, where they discussed what local people wanted from the network and how they might go about doing this. Amongst other ideas, artists said they wanted to have more places to display artwork, competitive arts, help with the media, an arts venue recognised by everyone and to raise the profile of the arts. If you want to join the arts network the next meeting is Thursday 16th April at 7.15pm. Venue (tbc)

Droitwich Spa
ARTS
4 all

Community Mind Map Launch

On Saturday 31st January, the Droitwich Spa Canals partnership launched the Community Mind Map and the CD rom amidst wonderful tea and cakes! The map and cd rom represents a years worth of interviews based on the past, present and future of the Droitwich Spa canals. There was also the fantastic 'Play in a Day' which was run by professional Director Kerry Boorman. Ten children, young people and adults used the interviews and objects, appropriate to the canals, to create a short play, which was performed at the end of the day.

Vale of Evesham Network of Artists



This network has now become a constituted group and Chris Bloomfield has taken over as Chair with Sue Barnes as the Vice Chair and Jenny Davis as the secretary and treasurer. Vena is making great progress and is working on the next Evesham Arts 4 All day on

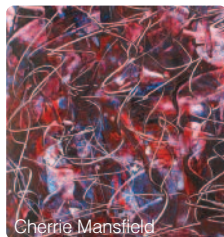
Saturday 31st May at Evesham Arts Centre. This is a day for local artists and arts organisations to promote what they do through having tables, displays, performances and workshops open to the public for FREE for all to try! Vena are also proposing to hold a visual arts festival in October in and around Pershore and Evesham with exhibitions, workshops and talks for all ages. If you want to get involved in any of these events then please contact Chris Bloomfield 07876 297898 chrisbloomfield611@btinternet.com or Jenny Davis 01386 565396 jenny.davis@wychavon.gov.uk

Showell Gallery new exhibitors

After the successful first year of the Showell Gallery, in February, we started the next round of exhibitions. We have six very different local artists exhibiting, Elizabeth Barath, Cherrie Mansfield and Lisa Gardener, Jenny Hemming, Rachel Hatfield and Jess Tomlinson. The exhibitions range from watercolours and acrylics inspired by nature to bold, expressive, experimental work to images of paper cut silhouettes.



Jess Tomlinson



Cherrie Mansfield



Lisa Gardner

Please see www.wychavon.gov.uk for more details or just pop in to the gallery open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm or Sat 9-12pm



Youth Music & documentary



Over the last 3 years the Youth Music Programme has;

- involved 100 young people
- performed to 100,000 people at 300 gigs
- won 5 'best band' awards and 7 different battle of the bands titles
- enabled 6 participants to gain places at the esteemed Conservatoire in Birmingham, Drumtech in London and Stratford Performing Arts College
- created My Space and Bebo social sites with a tally of over 7000 friends, associated bands and fans

With Christmas seeming like a distant memory and the snow causing traffic chaos as I write this we can rest assured that neither has dampened the spirits of the Youth Music Programme performers as they embark on an exiting year ahead.

In addition to the usual mix of songwriting, performance techniques, instrumental guidance and production advice there is now a simultaneous film making and editing project taking place which aims to develop groups of all ages helping with the often baffling and complex world of video production and film making. This comes as a welcome addition to a packed schedule from Wychavon District



Ade
Holbrook

Council as their commitment continues in the area and beyond providing the highest quality of training and mentoring for the community's new breed of musicians, singers, performers and now budding directors, editors and film makers.

University places for some of the attending performers have been confirmed and we wish them well in this last 6 months at their respective schools as they get ready to head out into the world of full time musicianship, study...and the student mandatory dinners of beans on toast! The prestigious Conservatoire in Birmingham will be home for some as others head to Leeds College of Music and Stratford College of Performing Arts.

This next term proves to be challenging as there is now an emphasis on live performance and putting the new found talents into practice including the organisation of gigs and the associated headaches are taken on by the determined groups and solo performers that make up the wealth of talent that is the Wychavon Youth Music Programme.

Check out some of their myspace sites
www.myspace.com/silhouette2005
www.myspace.com/drowningindeuce

Local news...

The Norbury Theatre

Some of this seasons events

- 'The Road to Perdition'
Wed 18th March at 7.30pm
- Stars in Their Eyes - Gordon Hendricks
does Elvis Sat 9th May 7.30pm
- Childrens Theatre on Saturdays
- Shindig's Theatre Company performs
'Wasteland' on Sat 30th May 7.30pm

Contact Tel 01905 770154
www.norburytheatre.co.uk



Cinemamas is new for Number 8!

Cinemamas screenings take place on the first Thursday of the month at 1pm, providing a safe environment for new parents or grandparents!. You can see a film and bring your baby along without having to worry about any noise it might make. Ages: Children - newborn to not yet walking

Tickets & Films

- £5.50 (£4.50) babies going for free
- Confessions of a Shopaholic - 7th May
 - The Boat that Rocked - 4th June



Carnival Arts Project

Number 8, in partnership with Wychavon Arts development, will be running a series of workshops for children and young people leading to the creation of one large banner for display at Number 8 at the WANA exhibition.

Workshops

Eckington Memorial Village Hall - Mon 6th April
Throckmorton Village Hall - Tues 7th April
Crophorne & Charlton 1st School - Thur 16th April
St Barnabas First & Middle School - Fri 17th April

Each venue will run two workshops to the following timetable:

11.30am - 12.30pm (5-7year olds)

2.00pm - 4.00pm (8-12 year olds)

Number 8 Box Office 01386 555488.

Evesham Arts Centre

Some of this seasons events



'A little bit of Irish' Irish Dancing from Mary Felton's Group on Saturday 28th March from 7.30pm. Tickets 01789 778047. Also the brilliant Orchestra of the Swan on Friday 24th April, tickets are from The Arts Centre Box Offices contact www.eveshamartscentre.co.uk 01386 442348

WANA's Art Exhibition on the theme of 'Carnival'

Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Open to the public 14th May - 3rd June
Private view Friday May 15th 7.45 - 9.15pm. May Bank Holiday Monday 25th
Courtyard room at Number 8 will be transformed into a WANA Artspace. Members will fill the space with Art activities for children and adults.

For more details see www.wana.org.uk or
Tel 01386 550016



Funding...

Wychavon Community Grants 09

From March you can get an application pack for this years round of grants. This years theme is sustainability.

The briefings will be held in the Chamber, Civic Centre, Pershore



- 25th March - 6.30pm
- 22nd April - 6.30pm
- 13th May - 6.30pm

If you want a pack please call Tracy Grubb on 01386 565 168 or email tracy.grubb@wychavon.gov.uk

Music Grants for Older People

The registered charity, Concertina makes grants to charitable bodies which provide musical entertainment and related activities for the elderly. The charity is keen to support smaller organisations which might otherwise find it difficult to gain funding, it has made grants to a wide range of charitable organisations. These include funds to many care homes for the elderly to provide musical entertainment for their residents.



The next application deadline is the 30th April 2009.

www.concertinamusic.org.uk

Worcestershire Community Arts Grants 09

The launch is 30th March and the deadline is 15th May contact Stephen Wilson, County Arts Officer for an application pack 01905 765754 swilson@worcestershire.gov.uk www.worcestershire.gov.uk



The Directory of Social Change (DSC)

runs governmentfunding.org.uk, a website that provides government funding information for the voluntary sector. Following the conclusion of its funding relationship with the Office of the Third Sector (OTS), DSC plans to expand the content and functionality of governmentfunding.org.uk so that it continues to provide the best service for the voluntary sector.

www.governmentfunding.org.uk

governmentfunding.org.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