

Autumn / Winter 2007

artworks



Summer Events
round-up

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



Hi, I hope you had a good summer and that the weather hasn't put you off too much. It's been a busy summer with lots of arts activity happening. Welcome to the Autumn/Winter edition of Artworks and so far Autumn doesn't look too bad at all, I am sitting here writing this in baking sunshine! Highlights include the introduction of the new monthly e-news with all sorts of arts information in it such as events, funding, advice and training. If you want to be added to the distribution list then please let me know. Also we have a new community development blog on our website so you can let us know what you think about the arts in Wychavon.

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Goals for Wychavon Arts

More people seeing and participating in visual and the performing arts, especially in rural areas

More people creating exciting new work which is of a high quality

More people aware of arts activity happening in your area and it's benefits

More arts activity happening, through working together

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How can an Arts Development Officer benefit you?

History

Wychavon District Council has had an Arts Development Officer for approximately 10 years. I am very new to working in Worcestershire, but I have been developing my knowledge of the local arts scene, by having network meetings with groups and individuals.

Current role

- 1) Advice and information for local artists and arts groups e.g. funding advice, setting up a group, developing a group, raising a groups profile
- 2) Raising the profile of the arts in Wychavon and Worcestershire
- 3) Working in partnership with organisations and individuals to achieve shared aims and objectives
- 4) Working with others to develop more sustainable, high quality opportunities and access to creative activity, both as a participant and as an audience member, in particular young people and in rural areas
- 5) To act as a voice for the arts at a local level, County level and the West Midlands and advocate for the arts where possible

Present

Some of the projects that Wychavon District Council are currently involved in are; Worcestershire Subregional Arts Partnership - Shindig touring live acts to villages and Worcestershire Arts Marketing, Youth Music, Party in the Parks, Summer Events, Worcestershire Dance. Promoters schools project, Evesham Eastern Arts and Food Festival, After-school clubs. Evesham 'Arts for all' showcase.

Future priorities

The main priorities identified by our community planning process are meeting the needs of children and young people and rural areas, therefore the main body of the work will focus on these areas. This will be with all of the art forms, from theatre to dance to silk painting and music. However, this is not exclusive to other areas of work, so I will be working with older people, adults, the creative industries etc. to make the arts in Wychavon vibrant, high quality and accessible.

The main points to stress are;

My role is an enabling role, therefore in this position, I am unable to get involved with projects on a hands on way, but more in an advisory capacity. There will be occasions where this differs of course.

I am also responsible for the whole of Wychavon which includes Evesham, Pershore, Droitwich and all 96 villages and I am the only Arts Development Officer. This means I cannot be everything to all people, so even though I will try and get to see everybody's work and get involved as much as my capacity allows, I cannot do it all!

My role is here to advise and help where help is needed. If your arts organisation is thriving and is doing well then, all I ask is you keep me informed of what you are doing so I can keep up to date on the latest activity.





Wychavon Youth Music

An update from the Wychavon Youth Music Leader Ade Holbrook.

It's been a really productive year for the bands involved in the Wychavon Youth Music Project as three of them achieved prize winning performances and went on to perform around the country in various gigs set up by themselves with their new found confidence. All of the groups taking part this year have improved enormously in all aspects of songwriting, performance skills and instrumental ability with both organised and impromptu performances at various locations previously unexploited by them.

Congratulations in particular go to Backlight of Evesham who took the inter schools title in the Battle of the Bands competition leading to a successful recording session in a professional studio and access to promoters eager to get them out gigging away from their 'comfort zone' area of Evesham. Press coverage followed and a promising lift for an already tight and well structured band looks set to continue.

A few band member changes have happened over the last year for a couple of the groups which is never an easy thing to contend with, yet all have managed to move forward with new found enthusiasm, as is often the case, making the future bright for all concerned.

New bands are signing up for involvement in this year's programme of rehearsals, seminars and gigs which is testament to the sessions interaction at all levels of a band's development and a sign that the future of live music is on the up.

The 'myspace' phenomenon continues to grow as the bands take heed of the advice for up to date promotional material and easy access to their music for venues and promoters with the minimum amount of inconvenience and indeed no cost to the bands themselves. Pictures, videos and of course the music itself all play a part in the necessary image built up by industry insiders for bands to show a well rounded and developed outfit to sign. I wish all of the bands currently involved in the programme and those about to start coming through all the best for the remainder of 2007 and into 2008, may it be a successful and more importantly a fun time of development for you all because if your not enjoying it and having fun then why would anyone want to listen."

Missed this years Party in the Parks?

**Then you can hear some of the bands on my space -
The Juice, Backlight, Silhouette, and Blackout!**



FOCUS ON... creative writing



What is your name and role?

Sue Johnson - self-employed writer
I'm published as a poet and short story writer, have completed four novels and run my own classes at Number 8, Pershore as well as doing workshops at festivals all round the country. I am a Home Study Tutor for Writers' News magazine.

What is your background

I'm originally from Kent. All my life I've been working at something – ballet from age 3, training for athletics (representing Surrey and as a junior – 800 metres). I ran a small business making patchwork quilts while my children were growing up (making a quilt is very similar to writing a novel!) Writing is what I've loved since the age of four – and I'm so lucky it's such a big part of my life.

What do you love? writing! + playing guitar, anything made of velvet, red wine and being somewhere quiet

What are your dislikes? snakes

What are your hobbies? yoga, walking, reading

What is your favourite food? anything Indian or Italian

What is your favourite book? 'Gone With The Wind'

What is your favourite Music? Folk – particularly Show of Hands, Kate Rusby and Seth Lakeman

Who is your Idol? don't have one

How can you make a difference?

By encouraging new writers and helping them on the road to publication

Contact Sue Johnson - 01386 556177 or e-mail susan@johnson4064.freeserve.co.uk
Bob Woodroffe - Poet and publisher - 01386 556177

The glory of Worcestershire

In the beginning
was the landscape
the majesty of the Malvern Hills
the mystery of Bredon
punctuated by green veins of hedges
nourished by the arteries of rivers
and streams
the Severn, Avon, Isbourne
flowing to the sea.

This is a land of plenty
if we allow it to be
nurture the images special to this place
the three black pears
Pershore plums
hop gardens
blossom trails
orchards
Worcester sauce
Elgar who heard music in all living things.

Remember the words that inspired so many
to act while there was still time

this blessed plot
this other Eden
demi paradise
this England

Your countryside
your voice
the campaign to protect
rural England

by Sue Johnson



Rural & Community Touring Scheme

Shindig is Worcestershire's rural and community arts scheme, touring professional live arts to village halls and community centres. They are hosted by voluntary promoting groups who sell tickets locally, supported by the Shindig Co-ordinator and their local authority arts officers. High quality Touring Companies and performers with regional, national and international profiles, who specialise in work for small spaces, provide a wide range of arts from theatre to opera and culturally diverse work.

The scheme is subsidised by Worcestershire Arts Partnership Initiative and Arts Council. If you would like to know more about becoming a Shindig promoter or about the scheme then please contact the Shindig Co-ordinator: Sue Roberts Telephone: 01544 327877 Email: sueatrserv@kc3.co.uk



Autumn & Spring Season



We have another exciting autumn and spring season of top quality performances in your local villages with 23 shows for you. Highlights include Pentabus Theatre Company and Trading Faces masked theatre 'Alice' For details of this seasons performances please contact Tracy Grubb on 01386 565168 or email tracy.grubb@wychavon.gov.uk or visit the Shindig website www.shindig.org.uk or www.wychavon.org.uk

Mikron Theatre Company

We had another very successful Mikron Theatre tour to the villages in the Summer, here are some examples of the feedback.

'The Lacemakers' - 'excellent' 'wonderful' 'such talented people

'Married to the Job' - 'Mikron never fail to deliver a polished and highly professional performance'



FUNDING

The next round of Wychavon Community Grants application forms will be available from March 2008. Wychavon Community Grants are on offer to local voluntary groups and charitable organisations -

- support initiatives that improve community services and facilities;
- encourage local action to improve quality of life;
- contribute towards the Council's priorities

We want to fund innovative, new projects that will make a difference to the community and improve quality of life in Wychavon. So if you've got a good idea or are looking for some funding to help get a project off the ground a Community Grant could be just what you need. For an application form please call Felicia Leo on (01386) 565183 or visit www.wychavon.gov.uk

governmentfunding

GOVERNMENT FUNDING WEBSITE

The Government Funding web site, managed by Directory of Social Change to provide information on central sources of money for the voluntary sector, has made a number of updates. These include reflecting the new Department for Children, Schools and Families taking over from Department of Education and Skills, plus the addition of funding programmes from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for Environment Food and

Rural Affairs. For more information & free registration to receive funding bulletins visit: www.governmentfunding.org.uk



CLORE DUFFIELD FOUNDATION

The Clore Duffield Foundation is offering grants to charitable organisations, schools, and voluntary youth organisations for new and creative education programmes that cover the performing arts. The funding is intended to provide children and young people with opportunities to experience performing arts education at its best. The performing arts include opera, dance, music, musical theatre, the spoken word and theatre.

The awards will fund project costs ranging from £1,000 to £10,000 for a total project budget of under £30,000. Match funding is not required. The grants will be available until 2010. Registered charities, limited companies, schools (early year settings, primary, middle, secondary, sixth-form colleges, SEN schools), voluntary youth organisations, and professional and amateur arts organisations in the UK are all eligible to apply. Applicants must be able to demonstrate both artistic excellence and fully participatory experience for young people. For more information, visit: www.cloreduffield.org.uk



SUMMER EVENTS

EVENTS UPDATE

Unfortunately we had to cancel the first two Party in the Parks due to the flooding, but we had good weather for Augusts events in Droitwich, Pershore and Evesham, and a great time was had by all. **Fun in the Sun** this year perhaps should have been called **Fun in the Rain!** but this did not put us off. Some of the circus skills workshops had to be inside this year, but still people had a good time with **Steve Kaos** and **Jason Maverick**



Eastern Arts & Foods Festival

The Evesham Eastern Festival took place by the riverbank (16 - 17 of June 07) and was bigger and better than ever. This annual festival rejoiced in the Culture, Food and Arts from the East creating a delightful and diverse cultural celebration - the only one of its kind in this area.

Over 12,000 visitors were entertained by dazzling costumes and rhythmical music - with Chinese Lion Dancing, Gurcharan Mall and his Dol Blasters, Thai Chi Demonstrations, Azizah Egyptian Belly Dancing and Tetry Polish Song and Dance. The Festival also saw the return of the rhythmical and energetic Mugenkyo Japanese Taiko Drummers and undertook workshops for young people from 8-18.



The 'Bazaar' played a special role at the Festival too, with many additional workshops providing creative entertainment and hands on experiences in Sittar playing workshops, Mendhi hand painting, Rhangoli silk painting, Origami and Sari.

The Festival was completed with a DJ fusion mix session followed by a film screening (with subtitles) in the evening of Andrej Wajdn's Classic Polish Film 'Pan Tadzysz' (*equipment and technical support courtesy of Number 8 Community Arts Centre*).

This annual event is only possible as a result of the excellent organisation by, and support of, Wychavon District Council, Evesham Tourist Information centre, VECTA, Worcestershire County Council Advantage West Midlands, Evesham Market Towns Partnership and Evesham Town Council.

YOUTH ARTS



The W Factor auditions - Wychavon has talent!

Wychavon District Council are hosting auditions for a youth performing arts talent contest to find out the best in song, dance, drama, music, comedy, circus etc. If you are aged between 11 and 18 years and you are an arts group or individual then we want to hear from you. Prizes include the chance to perform at next year's Wychavon events 08 and some money towards some individual tuition. Please contact Katherine Williams for an application form and details of where and when the auditions are being held on 01386 565497 or e-mail katherine.williams@wychavon.gov.uk

Arts Awards

Are you interested in the young people you work with aged 11-25 being accredited for their development as artists and arts leaders? The Arts Awards is a national qualification which supports young people and run by the Arts Council and Trinity Guildhall and supported by Canon (UK) Ltd. It is useful for getting further education opportunities or jobs, in the arts and in other fields. The young person needs to be connected to an Arts Award Centre, which could be a school, youth club or youth arts projects. If you would like further information or interested in becoming an Arts Award Centre please contact Jenny Davis on 01386 565396



Young People's Participatory Theatre Project

(YPPT) Arts Council England and Methuen Drama are working together to develop an anthology of scripts of high quality written specifically for young people to perform. The Young People's Participatory Theatre programme is a three-year DCMS funded initiative to develop youth and participatory theatre in England. The definition of theatre within the scope of this project includes circus, street arts and experimental theatre and the age range we are working with is young people aged 11 to 25 years.

For further information visit
www.artscouncil.org.uk/aboutus



Take it away

is a new Arts Council England initiative created to help you get involved in learning and playing music. The scheme will allow you to apply for up to £2,000 of interest free credit for the purchase of any kind of musical instrument. You'll need to pay a deposit and then pay the rest back in 9 monthly instalments- completely interest free. To find out more go to takeitaway.org.uk or call on 0845 3006200.



The Norbury Theatre

Highlights include The Norbury Youth Theatre Section presents *Bugsy Malone* from Wed 14th to Sat 17th Nov. 'Fat Sam's Grandslam Speakeasy' also Dick Whittington 10th to 27th Jan. Childrens Theatre and Films. For more information contact 01905 770154 or www.norburytheatre.co.uk



'Art for all day' in Evesham!

Wychavon District Council are looking for arts groups and individuals in the Evesham district to get involved with our first Art for All day- a day for local arts clubs, companies and artists to show case and promote their work through performance, displays and networking. It is also an opportunity for the public to see what they can get involved with. Come down and join the fun! If you are a local arts club or artists and want to promote your work, then please do get in touch 01386 565396 or e-mail jenny.davis@wychavon.gov.uk. If this is successful then we would look at doing this in the other areas of Wychavon at a later stage.

WR10 OPEN ARTS STUDIO EVENT

An ambitious new Arts project is under way in the Pershore District. A group of Artists have come together to celebrate and promote the visual Arts in and around Pershore and are looking for visual artists who live or work in WR10 to join them in an Open Studios event. We expect the 10 day event to take place in August 2008 and will consist of artists exhibiting and sharing their work in venues which might be as varied as the artist's home, community centres, galleries, gardens, and public houses. This is a community project encompassing everyone who wishes to share their 2 and 3D or craft based Art. Or if you feel that you have other skills that might be of use to get this project started - then please e-mail happysmilejack@yahoo.co.uk or call Jack on 01386 550016 for more information.

Number 8 Community Arts Centre

Number 8 have been undertaking an exciting new phase of its development restoring more of the Georgian building. The original roof line has been re-created giving three more floors in this part of the building. The main purpose of this work is to provide much needed additional Foyer space by the creation of a balcony lounge area on the first floor with open access from the present ground floor Foyer. Number 8 will also be expanding their visual arts programme as a result of this work. The project is now completed and Number 8 is fully operational again, so do pop by for coffee & cake and see the improved facilities. Number 8 Community Arts Centre, High Street, Pershore WR10 2LA - Box Office 01386 555488 - www.number8.org



Pantomime time!

THE MAGIC CASTLE (75 min show)

This Christmas show is an original Chaplins tale set in the Happy Town where the Magic Castle is the most wonderful place in the world. The children follow their hero Betty Banana and her friends on their quest to ensure that Happy Town remains Happy.

Sunday 18th November 2007 4.00pm. Tickets £3 child/concessions & £5 Adult. £12 Family (2 Adults & 2 children/concessions) (The mini panto is aimed at children aged 3-12years)

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK (2 hr show)

This 2 hour show (including interval) will transport you back to the magical setting of Pantoland where you will meet Jack and all his friends. Packed solid with comedy, excitement and adventure, the children will love to cheer their hero Jack.

Sunday 6th January 2008, 3.30pm. Tickets £3 child/concessions & £5 Adult - £12 Family (2 Adults & 2 children/senior) (The panto is aimed at children aged 3-12years)

Please contact Tracy Grubb for more details on 01386 565168 email tracy.grubb@wychavon.gov.uk



VAN Newsletter

Sign up to Voluntary Arts England's FREE weekly e-newsletter for all the latest news, funding, jobs, events and training opportunities direct to your email account every week
www.vaengland.org.uk



Evesham Arts Centre

Films, Music and Comedy...

.....
www.eveshamartscentre.co.uk

.....
Tickets for Evesham Arts Association events available from: Almonry Heritage Centre, 01386-442348
Mon - Sat 10am-5pm,
Sun 2-5pm.

.....
www.eveshamboxoffice.co.uk
.....

TRAINING



Creative and Knowledge Industries Support, Business Link West Midlands provides comprehensive information and advice to help businesses, like yours, make the most of their opportunities, putting people in touch with the expert help they need – whatever the issue. Business Link is available locally and quality assured by regional development agency, Advantage West Midlands to clear national standards. It is primarily funded by the Department of Trade and Industry, supported by a number of other government departments, agencies and local authorities Business Link West Midlands offers dedicated Creative and Knowledge Industries support including; a review with one of our dedicated Creative and

Knowledge Industries business advisers which will inform your business and identify further support available across the region. Specialist consultancy support- graphic and web design, PR, marketing, branding, financial planning, new business development using the West Midlands Supplier Register. Dedicated Creative Industries Enterprise support to pre-start and startup businesses delivered by Tribal Creative Launchpad

Contact information

Call 0845 113 1234

We are open Mon - Fri 8am to 6pm
and Sat 9.30am to 1pm.

www.businesslinkwm.co.uk

info@businesslinkwm.co.uk

FREELANCE WORK

Wychavon District Council Arts Development, is looking for experienced local arts workers in all art forms dance, drama, media, visual art etc with the skills to run sessions with children and young people in schools and youth group settings. You must be CRB checked, have references and have public liability insurance. If you are interested, then please send your CV with an outline of the content of your work and your daily and hourly rate. Please telephone Jenny Davis for further information 01386 565396 or e-mail: jenny.davis@wychavon.gov.uk or send your CV to Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, WR10 1PT

If you have something to say about the arts in Wychavon or need some advice then please do get in touch. We want to hear from you if you are a local arts group or work with arts within Wychavon. Also, if you have any news, events or information that could be included in the next edition of ArtWorks then please contact Jenny Davis, Arts Development Officer on 01386 565396 or Email: jenny.davis@wychavon.gov.uk

