

# artworks



Autumn 08/Winter 09

**Inside...** Interview with Micaela Schmitz - Shindig,  
review of this summers events, plus much more!

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



Hi welcome to the Autumn 08/Winter 09 edition of Artworks. It's been a mad summer with loads going on in the arts, but as the nights draw in and the temperature drops the amount of great arts activity happening doesn't cease. We have had the Droitwich Spa Arts 4 All Day, showcasing local arts in the Droitwich Spa area and The W Factor Tour. We are also gearing up again to the 2009 The W Factor competition, and we are welcoming the visual arts this year. More details are featured in this issue. Arts workshops continue to happen in schools, youth clubs and community venues making our arts offer in Wychavon very strong.

## Jenny Davis

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## aims 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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# Youth music

As soon as one school year ends another begins and with it comes a change to some of last years performers involved in the Wychavon Youth Music Programme



The summer events including 'Party in the Park' and 'Art in the Park' have played a key role in the development of the artists and acted as a farewell to some as they head off to College or University. The performances were met with the deserved appreciation and served as a showcase for the talent that has been emerging while participating in the programme.

This term sees a welcome return to some female solo singer songwriters and brings with it another solo act that has been better known as the founding member and songwriter for 'Backlight'. They have decided to part company to concentrate on new material of their own and although this is a blow for the music scene in the area as they were regional winners of various competitions and regular visitors to the Carling Academy venues around the country it brings with it new material that with the Youth Music Programme's support can once again be back where it should be being showcased around the Midlands and beyond.

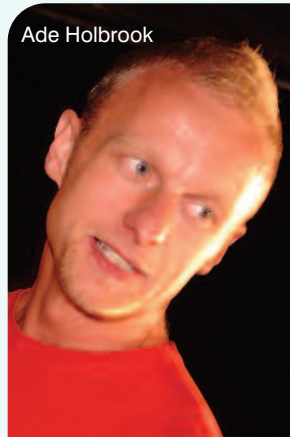
With a promising new band introduced to the sessions in Droitwich, there is no fear of the volume slipping anything

below a 10 as they will be guided through what is now a series of crafted sessions that are carefully tailored to each individual groups requirements of instrument techniques, band interaction, performance, song writing, promotion, business development among many others and with new faces always welcome this will be an exciting year of improvement.

The autumn term also sees the introduction of playback to the sessions as the groups and solo performers are monitored and recorded on a regular basis providing several opportunities for them to see ideas come to life allowing them to make an informed decision about which arrangement will work the best.

The fresh faces, new line ups and continually improving techniques to help the performers develop will soon be turned into electrifying performances across the region and beyond and I for one can't wait.

Ade Holbrook



# Focus on... music

## Making Music

Making Music represents and supports amateur and semi-professional music groups of all genres across the UK. They provide a complete range of artistic and administrative services including development and training opportunities. Micaela Schmitz, the West Midlands Regional Development officer is responsible for these projects within the local area. Having been involved with the company since 2002 where she served as a volunteer on the committee Micaela has been instrumental in helping to develop, support and encourage artists within Wychavon.



Making Music Office 01386 859648  
micaela@makingmusic.org.uk

## Wychavon Festival of Brass

Historically Wychavon is famous for its brass bands. The annual brass band festival enables talented bands within the area to showcase their talent and inspire other music enthusiasts. Pershore hosted the 2008 brass band festival on Sunday 21st September which included in total a massive 49 bands. This was a wonderful day of sunshine and music as local audiences were treated to a vast array of first class music.



**The 2009 Brass Festival will take place in Droitwich Spa on Sunday 20th September 2009 from 10am to 10pm.**

If you can't wait until then Tredegar Town Band, the winners of the 2008 championship will be performing at St Peter's Church, Bengeworth, Evesham on 21st March. Tickets will cost £7.50 with the concert starting at 7.30pm.

Contact Clive Allen for more information  
01386 870003 allenview@lineone.net  
[www.festivalofbrass.co.uk](http://www.festivalofbrass.co.uk).

## Pershore Jazz Festival

The Festival started with a small group of local people getting together determined to bring Pershore onto the Jazz circuit. Their idea then was - and still is - to bring quality rather than quantity to the scene and so far they seem to have done just that. **2009's festival will be Sat/Sun 15th/16th August at Pershore College Campus** Tel Maggie Smith: 01527 66692 Peter Farrall: 01386 554235

## Droitwich Spa Music and Arts Festival

This festival has been running for six years and started as a music event in pubs. It has grown every year to now include showcases, classical, jazz and blues music as well as drama and dance. **Next year's festival will be 4th - 11th July 2009.**

If you want to volunteer or get involved in the event or are a local artist or group of artists and want to perform, then please contact Richard Brighton Tel 01905 775395 [r\\_brighton@hotmail.com](mailto:r_brighton@hotmail.com)

# An interview with...



## Micaela Schmitz

### **What is your name and role?**

Lady Georgianna (Abi Seabrook, Micaela Schmitz, and Hetti Price)

### **What is your background?**

We are the reincarnations of three 18th century legendary ladies who have come together across the mists of time to play the songs we loved from our youth.

### **What do you love?**

Distributing alms in the form of chocolate coins to our adoring audiences

### **What are your dislikes?**

Being confused with the medieval babes. We come from a later, sexier time!

### **What are your hobbies?**

Roaming the pleasure gardens, looking behind the bushes for rogues and rakes.

### **What is your favourite food?**

Roast beef and plum cakes

### **What is your favourite book?**

Fanny Burney's *Evelina* and Casanova's *Story of My Life*

### **What is your favourite Music?**

Well- ours, obviously!

### **Who is your idol?**

Sir Francis Dashwood... now there's a dude who knows how to party!

### **How can you make a difference?**

We plan to bring low necklines and enormous skirts into every home; to re-establish the language of the fan; and have the nation singing sings of Damon and Phyllis cavorting in groves.

**Contact** Lady Georgiana  
earlymusic@permutation.com  
01386 859648

# Youth arts...

## review of the summer



### Party in the Park

This summer saw the brilliant return of Party in the Park to Wychavon.

Evesham, Droitwich and Pershore hosted

the fun filled event which took place all week starting 20th August. Although the weather was pretty dismal for the majority of the week this did not stop the event becoming a roaring success. Recording the biggest crowds to date, local residents loved the entertainment and wide range of activities available to them right on their door step.

The integration of arts and sport meant activities ranged from drumming and dance workshops and performances to multi skills and futsal competitions, all of which were free of charge.

The new Samba and African drumming workshops gave participants the opportunity to try something new and exciting. The recycled arts workshops and dance also created a 'party like atmosphere' throughout the week.

Party in the Park 09 will be back again next summer.



### Art in the Park...

was a great success this summer for its first time. We had Vamos Theatre in association with The Roses Theatre doing 'Storybag' with a one woman show for children. Some of the comments included 'brilliant' 'amazing' 'the fact that my 4 year old daughter sat through it was amazing!' We also had some street dance and making art workshops and the W Factor finalists performed for the first time to a public audience and they were great!!! really professional.



### A Taste of Art...

Children in 5 of Wychavon's villages had a chance to do some dancing, drama and recycling visual art workshops this summer.

Ashton Under Hill, Crowle, Ombersley, Cutnall Green and Abbots Morton hosted the workshops and the children had a great time. 'Cool' 'fun, fun, fun!' 'the best in the world' were just some of the responses.



Henna  
Tattooing



Drowning in Duece

# THE **W**/FACTOR

## Auditions for The W Factor 09

The W Factor is a performing arts talent contest for young people aged 11-18yrs. We welcome acts from any discipline for example music, song, dance, drama, poetry, circus etc. The winners will get a chance to perform at next years Party in the Park 09 and other events.

This round of auditions will take place in January 09 on Wed 14th at Number 8 Arts Centre, Thurs 15th at Elmbridge village hall, Wed 21st at The Norbury Theatre, Thurs 22nd at Evesham Arts centre and Fri 23rd at Bredon village hall. This year we are also welcoming those 2d visual artists out there. If you have a painting or photograph that you think deserves to be seen then get involved! If you are aged 11-18yrs and live in Wychavon and would like to audition or send in an image, then please contact Ross Blackman for an application form.

Guy Border



E-mail [ross.blackman@wychavon.gov.uk](mailto:ross.blackman@wychavon.gov.uk)  
tel 01386 565497 or Tracy Grubb 01386 565168 [tracy.grubb@wychavon.gov.uk](mailto:tracy.grubb@wychavon.gov.uk)

## After school clubs

Eight more Wychavon schools this autumn used the arts as part of their Extended Schools agenda and worked with Community Development to carry them out. Drama, dance and visual art sessions have been popular. At the end of the autumn term the groups will perform to each other about issues such as health and the environment.



African Drumming



Ashton Under Hill

# Rural touring *Shindig*

live arts on your doorstep



Once again the Autumn/winter season brings a feast of high quality professional theatre, music and dance to village halls and community venues in Wychavon.

Highlights include the opera 'Turning Heads' by Opera on the Run at Bishampton village hall on Sunday 22nd Feb and 'Hansel and Gretel' by Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company at Elmbridge village hall on Saturday 31st Jan. **Contact** [artsenquiries@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:artsenquiries@worcestershire.gov.uk) if you want to join the mailing list or [www.shindig.org.uk](http://www.shindig.org.uk) for more information about what else is on offer.



# ★ THE W FACTOR **Tour 2008**

If you loved seeing the finalists and winners of the 2008 The W Factor in our parks over the summer, then this is your last chance to see them performing again as a group. The W Factor 2008 is going on tour to three village halls in Wychavon. These will be Peopleton Thurs 4th Dec, Bredon Friday 5th Dec and Inkberrow Sat 6th Dec from 8pm. The show will also feature some extra acts including the amazing Donna's Crew performing a dance and a very talented youngster called Gwydian Wheeler, who really do the have the 'W' factor. We will also be running arts workshops prior to the show, so you can 'have a go'. These will be Slam poetry/rap, African drumming and Graffiti arts.

These will be from 6.15pm and will be on a first come first served basis. If you want to get a ticket then the cost is £3 and are available from High House, Peopleton 01905 841332 Bredon 01386 555488 Inkberrow post office 01386 792201

Hayden Godbold



# Droitwich Spa **ARTS** 4 all

On Saturday 8th November at The Norbury Theatre, sixteen local artists and

organisations showcased their work through performance, workshops and displays.

Highlights included a salsa dance workshop, painting demonstrations and some songs from The Norbury Youth Theatre. Hundreds of people attended and a great day was had by all.

If you want to get involved in other arts events in Droitwich Spa then contact Jenny Davis 01386 565396 [jenny.davis@wychavon.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.davis@wychavon.gov.uk)



## Vale of Evesham Network of Artists



The network has been set up to help and support local artists and art organisations, both voluntary and professional, to meet, share information, learn new skills, network and to work together to help make the arts in the Vale stronger and develop. It is open to any art form.

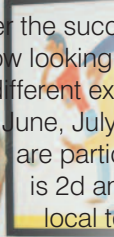
An on-line forum has been set up for the group to promote and advertise events, share information and network. The group are also working on ideas of how they will work together in the next year. The next meeting will be at The Civic Centre in Pershore on Thursday 11th December from 7.15pm. If you want to attend the network or join the on-line forum then please contact Jenny Davis for more information 01386 565396.

## Showell Gallery looking for new work

After the success of the pilot art gallery here at the Civic Centre we are now looking for the next round of artwork for 2009. There will be 4 different exhibition times, gallery 1 (Feb, March, April) gallery 2 (May, June, July) gallery 3 (Aug, Sept, Oct) gallery 4 (Nov, Dec, Jan). We are particularly looking for modern artwork that is 2d and represents the area and from artists local to Wychavon. For more details tel

Jenny Davis 01386 565396 or e-mail [jenny.davis@wychavon.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.davis@wychavon.gov.uk)


The deadline for sending your images and application in is Monday 5th January at 5pm.



Doug Eyre

# Local news...

## The Norbury Theatre

Highlights this season include the pantomime 'Mother Goose' 'A Christmas Musical Evening' and films 'Keeping Mum' and 'An Unfinished Life'. For more information [www.norburytheatre.co.uk](http://www.norburytheatre.co.uk) or for tickets 01905 770154 

## Evesham Arts Centre

There are a number of exciting performances at Evesham Arts Centre over the winter period. These include a performance from Bretforton Silver band and Offenham Floral Arts Society. Tickets from The Almonry Heritage Centre [www.eveshamartscentre.com](http://www.eveshamartscentre.com) For more information Tel 01386 442348



## Number 8

Number 8 are delighted to offer a Public Preview at their gallery on Wednesday 3rd December – 8.00pm featuring two stunning exhibitions. Pittville Connections are a group of artists from around the country who have re-connected to exhibit a stunning exhibition of new art work at Number 8. They also have two exceptional designer craftsmen Shivani Patel and Louise Chesshire exhibiting their exquisite jewellery and silverware.

This is the first time Number 8 are holding a Public Preview and we hope this proves to be an excellent opportunity to enjoy visual arts with like minded people. Some of the artists will be on

hand to discuss their exhibition and working practices. Many of the works of art will be on sale and could be excellent treats for yourself or as festive gifts. This is a FREE ticketed event. Please bring your ticket on the night to gain admittance to the preview and collect your free glass of wine. Box office 01386 555488



## **Droitwich Concert Club**

Droitwich Concert Club's 36th Season of concerts continues on January 10th 2009 featuring Opus Anglicanum whose programme includes folk song settings and poetry. February 14th 2009 brings the piano duo of Simon Crawford-Phillips and Philip Moore with a very varied concert featuring works by Schubert, Ravel, Mendelssohn, Brahms and Stravinsky. Droitwich Concert Club has a tried and tested formula of Saturday evening concerts during the winter season. It prides itself on attracting, on a regular basis, internationally known groups and, equally importantly, it has a record of "spotting" brilliant up-and-coming talent like the Albion String Quartet from Manchester. All concerts take place in the Methodist Church, Worcester Road, Droitwich Spa at 7.30p.m. Tickets are available in advance by phoning 01905 775246 or at the door on the night. Non members are most welcome.

## **S.O.A.P**

(Sedgeberrow, Overbury Amateur Players) presents:

## **Tangiers Ahoy**

(or, whodunnit on the poop deck)  
In Sedgeberrow Village Hall  
30th & 31st January 2009  
at 8pm - Tickets £6  
Contact Chris on 01386 881876  
Please bring your own drink and nibbles. If anyone would like to join SOAP contact Chris

## **Lower Moor exhibition**

The exhibition closed on Saturday 13th October after a most successful and enjoyable day.

98 visitors viewed over 100 exhibits, mostly paintings, but with many Crafts and Hobbies included. The latter included Lace Making, Upholstery, Woodturning, and Violin Making, and Photography was well represented. The Art side were mostly Watercolours with a few Acrylics and some wonderful Calligraphy.

There were six entries in their Children's Painting Competition judged by Peter Hodge.

If you want to know more about the Hill and Moor art club then email Derek Floyd [derek@hillandmoor.co.uk](mailto:derek@hillandmoor.co.uk)  
[www.hillandmoor-artclub.co.uk](http://www.hillandmoor-artclub.co.uk)

## **New sculpture studio**

Marlene Badger and Jane Forman are setting up a sculpture studio in Church Lench. They would both be interested in taking commissions:  
[mbadger@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:mbadger@dsl.pipex.com)



# Funding...

## Grassroots Grants

Grassroots grants are a small grants programme for small voluntary and community sector organisations (with a turnover of less than £20k per year). The programme will run from 2008-2011. For more details of the programme [www.cdf.org.uk](http://www.cdf.org.uk) or tel 01684 312735 e-mail [paulined@comfirst.org.uk](mailto:paulined@comfirst.org.uk)

## Elephant Trust for Fine Arts

Deadline: 6 January 2009  
The Elephant Trust was created in 1975 by Roland Penrose and Lee Miller to develop and improve the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the fine arts in the UK. It is committed to helping artists and institutions that depart from the routine and signal new, distinct and imaginative sets of possibilities. Grants have usually been limited to £2,000 but larger grants may be considered.

Funding priority is given to artists and to small organisations and galleries. For details on how to apply go to [www.elephanttrust.org.uk](http://www.elephanttrust.org.uk) or email [ruth@elephanttrust.org.uk](mailto:ruth@elephanttrust.org.uk).

## Wychavon Community Grants 09

If you are a voluntary group and looking for some funding between August 2009 - 2010 then the Community grants might be what you need. Application packs will be available from March 09  
Contact Tracy Grubb Tel 01386 565168 [tracy.grubb@wychavon.gov.uk](mailto:tracy.grubb@wychavon.gov.uk)

## Awards for All

From 1 April 2009 each of the lottery distributors supporting the scheme will have their own small grants programmes. Applications can still be made under the current arrangements until 31 March 2009. The change will mean that each distributor can better address the needs of their applicants and the themes they support. Arts Council England will be running the arts applications.  
[www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk)

Contact Louise Wylie  
at Arts Council England  
020 7973 5528  
Public Enquiries  
08454 102030



# 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](mailto:jenny.davis@wychavon.gov.uk)