



Arts News



Issue 11

January 2010

Inside this issue:

Firstly, a very Happy New Year, I hope you had a great Christmas break, we sympathise with you if you have been affected by the amazing snow fall and hope you've managed to have some fun in it despite the inconvenience.

We hope you will continue to find Arts News useful, we appreciate you feedback and suggestions on how we can improve it. Our contact details are at the end of this newsletter.



Become a Friend

Thoughts have turned to the summer and the events we are planning this year for KAF. We are trying to establishing a 'Friends of KAF' group and are now seeking artists and/or enthusiastic volunteers to join.

The group will be established independently of the District Council and will enable local artists and other interested parties to directly be involved in and influence elements of the festival.

Creating a separate group will allow us to access funding and establish independent projects that will enhance the festival program and create opportunities for artists to promote their work and collaborate during the process.

I do not anticipate that there will be a huge amount of meetings and level of involvement is entirely up to each individual, as little or as much as you like.

The aim of the group would be to empower and build a close network for local artists, encouraging collaboration and support through the platform of KAF.

The first meeting is planned for the 27th of January at 17.30 at the Boars Head Tap House on Worcester Street, to explore ideas and possibilities.

Please call or email us and check that date hasn't changed given the current weather conditions, hopefully things will have settled down by then.

If you think you may be interested and want to know more before you come along, please call Loz Samuels a call 01562 732928 and I'll be happy to have a chat with you.

A Postcard From Kidderminster; James Howorth has produced a high quality card of his amazing painting, it's for sale at a number of outlets in Kidderminster including Vintage Vanity on Mill Street. I'm sure James will be happy to let you know where you can copies or sell them to you direct. Visit his website <http://www.jameshoworth.co.uk>



The Severn Project Update

The bad news is that the Severn Project will not continue for the foreseeable future, Shropshire and Gloucestershire County Councils have had to pull out of the partnership due to restructures and budget restraints. We all tried very hard to bring in funding to bring another spectacular show to our area but couldn't raise enough match funding to satisfy the Arts Council.

The good news is that the project recently won an award for the work it has done in Gloucestershire. Helen Owen, Gloucestershire County Council's Arts Officer, won the BBC West Cultural Olympiad Champion award, for the Severn Mudlarks Project in summer 2009. "I really was astonished but delighted to win," said Helen. "The Severn Project was delivered by a team who worked tremendously hard to make it a success, our artistic directors, Desperate Men; the Roses Theatre in Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire Dance, and all the people in the creative groups who took part."



Opportunities for Artists

Want to get ahead of the competition?

Be one of the first businesses to benefit from our new expert IT advice service. Technology in the workplace has the potential to transform any business. Better IT can help cut costs, improve efficiency, build up existing custom and win new work.

So if you want free expert help on setting up or managing your website, optimising your existing IT, understanding your customers better or managing more complex problems like process control or Enterprise Resource Planning, you need expert advice to be sure that the IT solution you get will really help to boost your business.

Technology at Work is a new free expert advice service from Business Link West Midlands designed to make sure that you make the right IT decisions for your business every time.

Grow your business, boost your profits with Technology at Work.

Call: 0845 113 1234 Lines are open weekdays 8am- 6pm and calls are charged at local rate. or email info@businesslinkwm.co.uk today

Technology at Work is an impartial expert service from Business Link West Midlands eligible to SME businesses in the West Midlands Region, employing up to 250 people with a 50m euro turnover and or up to 43m euro balance sheet that need strategic advice. This service is supported by ERDF and by Advantage West Midlands.

Casting - Perfect Circle Youth Theatre's next project is Shakespeare's MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING.

We'll be performing in March 2009 - dates & venue TBC.

We'd be grateful if you could spread the word about our AUDITIONS.

We're looking for a cast & crew of 12-18 year-olds. If you know anyone who might be interested, our auditions are:

WEDNESDAY 13th Jan 5.30pm - 7.30pm at Malvern Youth Centre.

Please see our website or visit our Facebook Page for more details.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Lee Farley & Claire Revitt, Perfect Circle Theatre Company

www.perfectcircletheatre.com 07800 892840 or 07878 789313.

Support for artists

Three fantastic opportunities for West Midlands makers interested in developing their practices:

DMWM Portfolio Sessions - spaces booked on first come first served basis

An opportunity to ask questions and get feedback from arts professionals

DMWM portfolio sessions are an exciting new initiative aimed at makers who want a sounding board to discuss their work, marketing and practice on a one to one basis with experienced arts professionals in an informal and friendly setting.

Creative Residency at The Art House - Deadline extended to 15 January 2010

- Time to research and develop your practice

This opportunity offers practitioners time for reflection and research, support and discussion with a mentor, opportunities for networking and a bursary of £750 for materials, maintenance and travel expenses.

Future Forward 2 mentoring scheme - Deadline extended to 15 January 2010

One to one support from an experienced mentor over a period of 9 months

You will benefit from the mentors experience, research, knowledge and professional networks. Additional support will come from the mentors' ability to be a sounding board and critic for new ideas. Makers will be awarded a bursary of £2100 for materials, promotion, marketing and travel expenses.

For more information about any of these opportunities visit our website:

www.designermakerwm.co.uk



If you are an artist and always on the lookout for interesting materials you should visit the Worcestershire Resource Exchange. It's a positive treasure trove and all at bargain prices. WRE is a 'scrapstore' which collects clean and safe waste from a range of local industries and

businesses, diverting it from landfill. This 'Aladdin's Cave' of low cost reclaimed material is then made available to members as a creative resource for projects.

'Materials change constantly but we often have paper, felt, cardboard, shiny film, sticky backed plastic, foam, plastic cups, fabrics, tubing and much much more!

You never know what new things we might have from week to week and this makes the scrapstore worth visiting regularly'

Alongside these resources we also sell other reclaimed materials. There is a selection of household paints and hard and soft wood for DIY.

- An art & craft shop and library with colour photocopying facilities
- A database of artists specialising in reuse
- A [gallery](#) space
- An attractive well equipped workshop space for hire
- An outlet for Motov8 who offer a range of recycled, reconditioned bicycles for sale.

...and, of course, lots of suggestions and ideas about how our resources can be used.

You need to be a member in order to buy resources from our main scrapstore but you don't need membership to buy the household paint, wood, materials from our art & craft shop, bikes or if you just want to have a look around. It's simple and very cheap to join, they offer different rates for organisations and individuals so give them a call or pop in, you'll be amazed at what you'll find.



WRE opening hours are 12pm-7pm on Thursdays, 10am-5pm on Fridays, and 10am-1pm on Saturdays - other times by appointment only Tel: 01905 726796 Email: info@wre.uk.com

What's On – Events – workshops - performance



Severn Side Samba Band Workshops with Glamba: Areley Kings Village Hall, Areley Kings Village Hall
Glamba are a fun theatrical percussion group who perform a unique blend of Brazilian, African and Western beats, they have been leading the workshops and have a friendly and fun group of regulars. They will be performing their first gigs this Autumn so look out for them. Come along to these fun and informal Workshops and by using a wide range of instruments learn how to make an unforgettable sound. The workshops are open to people of all ages (over 8yrs) and no musical knowledge is required – just plenty of enthusiasm! An ongoing fortnightly workshop, with occasional practice sessions in between at Bishops Wood. £3.00 per person 10am until 12.00, refreshments included. Sunday 10th January, Sunday 24th January, Sunday 14th February, Sunday 28th February. For more information call 01905 821447 or 01562 732977
www.areleykingsvillagehall.org.uk



Painting: We currently run arts workshops for more mature artists interested in Water Colour techniques at Church House in Stourport-on-Severn. Sessions are run by Malcolm Brookes a successful artist in his own right, on Wednesdays between 4 and 6pm. £4.00 per week or £3.00 concessions. If you are interested just turn up at the venue and talk to Malcolm or call the Arts Team at Wyre Forest District Council on 01562 732978. Please note classes are becoming full so we recommend paying on a termly basis to guarantee your place.



Dance: If you are 55 years plus and would like the opportunity to increase flexibility, build strength and learn dance sequences to music from past and present, incorporating moves inspired by rock 'n' roll and salsa dance. You don't need a partner and you can drop into the course whenever you like, men and women welcome. Both sessions are £2.00 per person.
Dancefest lead 'A Chance to Dance' at the following venues:-
Rock Village Hall:
Mondays - 4th January until 15th March (excluding half term 15th Feb) 10am to 11am
£2.00 per session
Followed by an optional additional class – Creative Chance to Dance - Make new dances in a structured class. 11.15am – 12.15pm. £2.00 per session
Areley Kings Village Hall:
7th January 2010 until the 18th March (excluding half term 18 Feb) 10am to 11am with an hour to socialize afterwards. £2.00 per session

Under 5's

Parents and Wobblers - Under 5's

Toe tapping fun for toddlers and their parents with play and imaginative movement, involving rolling, wriggling, wobbling and lots more inventive ways of movement.

Sessions will to develop and affirm important developmental stages of 2 - 4 year olds through play and movement.

Parents and Wobblers is a fun, relaxed movement class, which involves both child and adult. Whether you'll be shaking your sillies out or dangling like a scarecrow, this class will entertain. The class aims to create a friendly atmosphere to encourage confidence and bonding between adult and child through shared activity.

£2.50 per person per session, Maximum of two children per adult, 12.30pm to 1.15pm

14th January - Lickhill Community Centre, Stourport

28th January - Lickhill Community Centre, Stourport

4th February - Corn Exchange, Kidderminster Town Hall

11th February - Lickhill Community Centre, Stourport

25th February - Lickhill Community Centre, Stourport



Under 5's: Music and Movement – Early Ears is a monthly session run by Craig Trafford at: **The Corn Exchange in Kidderminster Town Hall** on The first Wednesday of each month between 10.30am and 11.30am.

Craig brings his unique brand of music, songs and movement for £2.50 per child, grown ups go free.

Sessions also run at **Lickhill Community Centre, Stourport on Severn**. Sessions are on 22nd January, 19th February, 19th March. All details are the same as above.

Forthcoming Shindig Shows

Saturday 27th February – The Buffalo Gals in Concert – a feast of fiddles, banjo and song. Clows Top Victory Hall at 8.00pm. For more information and to book telephone 01299 832637

Saturday 6th March – Tom McConville Trio in Concert – Celtic, Northumbrian, American, Folk and Roots. Trimpley Village Hall DY12 1NZ at 8.00pm. For more information and to book telephone 01299 861446/861376

Look at the Web site for more details www.shindig.org.uk or www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk
The new Autumn/Winter 2009/2010 Shindig brochure is out now. If you would like to be sent a copy please contact karen.james@wyreforestdc.gov.uk or call on 01562 732978

Funding Opportunities

Youth Support launches fifth and final year of FLOSS funding

Youth Support staff are once again joining forces with young people from across the county to award the fifth – and final year – of Funding Lots of Super Stuff (FLOSS) funding.

Grants of up to £2,500 are currently available for 13 to 19-year-olds to apply for until February 12, 2010.

More than £990,000 has so far been awarded to young people throughout the county since the FLOSS grant-giving scheme was launched by the youth support team. Details of the county-wide allocation to date is as follows:

Bromsgrove £40,653, Malvern Hills £32,509, Redditch £33,193, Worcester £37,118, Wychavon £46,700, Wyre Forest £39,053

Youth Voice Development Worker, Kirsty Fraser, said: "This the last chance for young people in Worcestershire to make a difference to the community they live in by applying for a slice of FLOSS funding.

"Many parts of the county have already widely benefited from FLOSS and we're keen for this to be the year that we receive a wider variety of applications than ever before as it's the final year we can use this funding to turn young people's ideas into reality."

FLOSS is aimed at giving 13 to 19-year-olds the chance to provide their local area with activities and projects their peers will benefit from. The final decision as to where the money will be allocated will be made by the FLOSS Management Group, which comprises of 12 young people from around Worcestershire.

People interested in finding out more should email

(<mailto:floss@worcestershire.gov.uk>)

floss@worcestershire.gov.uk

For more info call Pam Hill on 01905 779893 or Kirsty Fraser on 01905 827489.

Recommended websites

Hello Art Website <http://www.helloart.org.uk>

ACE have now launched their Hello Art website, where you can sign up for information and also lodge comments about the best arts project you have experienced. The aim over the next few years is to unlock the joy of participating in the arts for as many people as possible. This is a new kind of website: an arts hub, offering organisations an opportunity to sell themselves and the opportunities they offer. You can sign up by going to <http://www.helloart.org.uk> and registering today.

Talgenie

A new site where you can get noticed. Those trying to make it in the music business will be able to upload videos and get advice from stylists, with a view to getting better at being in the public eye and ear. Any style of art is possible - there's ballet, sculpture, and more.

Visit their site to find out more: <http://makingmusic.msgfocus.com/c/129iStBcnidQsnn>

IF you have an event or project you would like to promote please contact us by March 2nd please keep you information brief. If you would like to discuss this please give us a call.

The Wyre Forest District Council Arts and Play Development team are: Loz Samuels and Karen James. Contact us at: arts@wyreforestdc.gov.uk or call 01562 732829

www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk