

Editor's note

Happy New Year! With the new year starting we thought that this month we would have a look back at 2009 and pick out some of the highlights from last year's arts calendar. 2009 was a difficult year for some, with the recession hitting its peak and money often falling short. In contrast thousands of pounds were

awarded to arts organisations in Slough, and the town saw a huge number of arts activities throughout the year. Hopefully 2010 will provide even more events, courses and opportunities in the arts in Slough, and if you have any you want to see in next month's issue, please send them to: artsinfo.slough@talktalk.net.



News

Review of the year 2009

2009 saw a great many changes for the arts community in Slough. A number of groups and organisations began to flourish, thanks in part to successful funding bids; and artists in Slough and the Community Arts Team worked together to create more and better events, exhibitions and opportunities. Here are some of the highlights from the last year.

The beginning of the year saw the re-launch of www.artsinslough.org.uk, the Community Arts Team's website providing a focal point for the arts community in Slough. The site now includes up to date funding information, a directory of artists working in the area and the now familiar pin board and What's on calendar, making it easier to find opportunities and events.

In February contemporary art reached out to the people of Slough, when artist Valerie Oliver projected a video of herself singing in her bedroom onto the wall by Barclays Bank in the Queensmere.

The installation was shown for two days and received an extremely good response from the public.

The West Wing underwent a major change in March last year when its running was taken over by Creative Academy. This allowed the venue to concentrate on offering more community led projects and events and has seen the arts centre completely turnaround its fortunes.

In the middle of 2009 two major events happened. The first was the completion of the Art at the Centre Project which saw a refurbished High Street and newly installed public art.

The second of these was the opening of the extension to Cippenham Library. The library was extensively refurbished thanks to a grant from the Big Lottery Community Libraries Fund. The library worked closely with the Community Arts Team to complete the bid, which resulted in a grant of £789,189.

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*e-artsinfo

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Tell us your news!

What's happening in your area?
Send in your articles, news stories
and pictures to
artsinfo@slough.gov.uk.

Front page photos:
RIFCO Arts, Art at the Centre,
Floorscape - Anne Smyth,
Creative Academy Foundation
Dance Degree

*e-artsinfo January 2010

*e-artsinfo is a monthly e-
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profile of the arts, artists and
creative industries in Slough.

To receive a copy regularly,
please visit www.artsinslough.org.uk or email artsinfo.slough@talktalk.net

Articles and pictures for
inclusion in the next *e-artsinfo
must be submitted by
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News

This was used to build an extension to the Play and Learn Library and provide new equipment and a project officer to work with the community to develop the Library. The new Library space is already home to messy craft sessions for kids and many other community activities.

The Community Arts Team continued to develop the services they offer with the launch of e-artsinfo, taking the traditional paper based version of the magazine and turning it into a monthly email bulletin. At the same time, Creative Academy were able to showcase the work done in the Foundation Dance Degree with When Darkness Falls, a final performance by all the dance graduates. Later in the year Creative Academy expanded their dance programme to offer a full BA and A- Level dance courses to students.

Slough Museum throughout the year provided a number of excellent exhibitions, including Archifest, which allowed visitors to not only see how the architecture of Slough has changed through the years but also to share their ideas of how Slough will develop into the future.

In the latter part of 2009 many arts groups in Slough were awarded funding from various organisations to expand their programmes and events. SWIPE

were granted £165,581 from the Big Lottery Fund to run their Music Allowed project, which gives disadvantaged young people the opportunity to get into music, teaching them instruments and vocal coaching, as well as transferrable skills which could help them in gaining employment in the music industry.

Rifco Arts were awarded £160,000 from Arts Council England for Britain's got Bhangra! A musical production charting the rise of Bhangra music in the UK, and Bhumika received £10,000 from Awards for All to help with their work promoting healthier lifestyles and preventing isolation.

Creativity Rocks, a series of seminars for people working in the creative industries was launched by the Creative Academy in October, and continues into this year. The free seminars have given people in the community the chance to increase their business skills and to network with like-minded people.

Finally, December came and with it the West Wing's pantomime, Robin Hood, which was well received by the community and also helped to raise money for Thames Hospice Care.

2010 promises to be as exciting and successful as 2009, with a host of news and opportunities already flooding in. For more information, read on.



Apna Virsa

News from the community

College students art exhibit

Slough Museum is hosting an exhibition of work by students of East Berkshire College. This is the first time their work has been exhibited on the High Street, and will feature work from Langley campus' art and design students and Windsor campus' retail display students. The artwork is

based around the theme of movements, and includes prints, abstract paintings and an installation of wire sculptures in the windows. The exhibition will run throughout January.

For more information please visit www.sloughmuseum.co.uk.

New Year, New Films

Slough Cooperative Film Society have started their new season of films, showing the best of cinema from around the world. This season's highlights include the critically acclaimed Fish Tank, and the animated documentary Waltz with Bashir, the story of a former soldier piecing together his repressed memories of the first Lebanon War.

For more information or to join Slough Cooperative Film Society please contact Dudley Smithers at: dudley.smithers@ntlworld.com.



News from the Creative Industries

Join the Worldwide Community

World Community Arts Day is an event designed to use art as a catalyst for caring and sharing, and gives artists around the world an opportunity to promote important issues that they believe in. All they ask is that you take part in an arts project on the 17th February, no matter how big or small.

The aim is to create a world festival society for a day, to illustrate how festival and

celebration through art can provide answers. The festival is in its third year and this year is the biggest yet, with thousands of people taking part from around the world. Please visit their website to post details of the arts events taking part on the 17th February and to find out more about promoting the event at:

www.communiversity.org.uk/worldcommunityartsday.htm

Funding

Grants for the Arts goes dark

All Grants for the Arts applications have now been suspended until the 26th February while Arts Council England change the way they fund the arts.

As of March this year, applications for grants can be made online, and a central team will assess and monitor all applications. This will help save on administration costs and improve the service.

For more information please visit www.artscouncil.org.uk.

Creative writing to rebuild lives

Company Paradiso has received a grant of £2,500 from Groundwork Thames Valley to help fund their creative writing course. The course is run by Jon Potter, director of Company Paradiso and local visual artist Christine Wilkinson, and aims to help people facing emotional or mental health problems by giving them the chance to write about their experiences and in doing so find the best way out of their situation.

Groundwork is a charity that works with BAA to fund small projects helping local communities. Money is donated by passengers at Heathrow Airport, with the airport matching the amount donated.

For more information on Company Paradiso please visit www.companyparadiso.com, and to find out more about the Groundwork fund please visit www.groundwork.org.uk.

Slough Young Musicians' Festival March 2010

Co-ordinated by Slough Music Service, this is a month of celebrating youth music in Slough culminating in a wide mix of performances and events in the week of the 22 March.

If you are planning or know of any music events or activities for, or involving young people under 25, taking place in Slough during March, please complete the online form at www.sloughmusic.service.co.uk/festival or email festival@sloughmusicservice.co.uk.

Experts on the Ground

Experts on the Ground, a professional learning programme for artists and those working with fragile young people is looking for artists to take part.

The programme is designed to help young people and will require a team of five artists and five youth offending team workers to work in three different settings using varied art forms.

Thames Valley Partnership and Creative Junction are working together to deliver this programme during spring 2010. The intention is for artists working in partnership with youth sector workers and with young people, to share expertise, develop new ideas and practice, and to create a pool of new knowledge and approaches to training for both sectors.

Applications must be sent to judy@thamesvalleypartnership.org.uk by the 5 February.



Making music

Making Music South East has organised a new event to focus on attracting audiences from local communities.

Tasmin Little, whose 'Naked Violin' project has brought classical music to hundreds of people who would never otherwise have come to her concerts will be running a Building Community Audiences workshop on the 4 February at Norden Farm Arts Centre.

In this workshop she will help attendees to plan a presentation or workshop to take to schools, places of work and community centres, and to attract new audiences to events. Content will be appropriate for singers, instrumentalists and promoting groups alike.

**Date: Thursday 4 February
Time: 7-9pm, please aim to arrive at 6.45**

Place: The Long Barn, Norden Farm Arts Centre, Maidenhead, SL6 4PF

Cost: £7 for Making Music members, £22 otherwise. Refreshments will be provided.

Please feel free to bring an instrument as there may be an opportunity to try out new ideas for your own presentations.

For more information and to book your place please email Alice Little at alice@makingmusic.org.uk or phone 07838 251368.

Community arts blog

Sing Up Spring Up!

Tuesday 16 March 2010
7-9pm, West Wing Arts Centre,
Main Auditorium

Free entrance; please book your place in advance.

Sing up Spring up is a informal sharing event for community singing groups and choirs in Windsor and Slough, especially those where young people (12-25 years old) have a leading role. Adult singing groups with

members over 25 years old are welcome too.

This is a chance for local singing ensembles to sing for each other, network, learn new warm up exercises and sing a song as a big choir with internationally award winning a cappella ensemble Voices 8. Lighting and sound will be provided and the event will be recorded for participants.

If your choir/singing group is interested in taking part in Sing Up Spring Up! please download the booking form at www.creativejunction.org.uk - what we are doing - Sing Up - Sing up Spring Up!, and return it to gloria.garcia@creativejunction.org.uk, fax to 01753 470325 or post to Gloria Garcia, Creative Junction, West Wing Arts Centre, Stoke Road, Slough SL2 5AY by Wednesday 3 February 2010.

Community arts blog

It's a new year and a new start for the arts and once the snow has finally melted the hard work of delivering Slough's arts service can begin.

We've got big plans for 2010. This year we want to look at how we get the message about the arts out to those people in Slough who aren't already taking part in the arts. We also want to look at the ways that people in Slough take part in the arts without ever knowing it.

Arts participation is measured nationally through a phone survey that asks a selection of local people if they have taken part in an arts activity at least three times over the last year. It can't be something they were paid to do and it can't be something they were volunteering at.

Despite the huge amount of arts activity that we know takes place in Slough, we do badly in these surveys.

It's not something we get too concerned by. It's not that people in Slough don't experience the arts, but many people don't recognise what they do as an arts activity; going to the cinema, listening to music performed at the Gurdwara, attending music time at the library with their children.

Having an arts experience is not just about going to a play or visiting an exhibition, it's about having a creative cultural experience and our aim is to ensure that every person in Slough is creatively fulfilled, whether they know it or not!

Training

CATS Community Arts Training Scheme

A Survival Guide to Community Art Projects

5, 6, 19 and 20 February,
9.30-4pm, Slough Library,
85 High Street, SL1 1EA

There are still places available on the Community Arts Training Scheme 2010. If you wish to join the free four day course to learn more about running arts projects then book your place now by emailing artsinfo@slough.gov.uk or phone 01753 477176.

Creativity Rocks

The Community Arts team will be presenting at Creativity Rocks, a course of free seminars for people working in the arts to help increase their business skills. The team will be running the seminar on fundraising on Monday 22 February.

To find out more or book your place please email creativityrocks@live.co.uk.



Community Arts Training Scheme