

# \*artsinfo

The quarterly newsletter for Slough's arts community

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## A new place to express yourself

The West Wing is a unique arts, media, conference and exhibition venue in Slough.

Under one roof The West Wing will have the equipment and space to provide Slough with a place for a wide range of arts activities. Future entertainment at the West Wing will cover all tastes: jazz, bhangra, classical, choral, blues, pop and world music, films, exhibitions, dance, new media, theatre, fashion shows and much, much more.

This exciting new development at the Arbour Vale School site, is funded by Space for Sports and Arts and it:

- >> Provides a performance space for professional, education and community arts
- >> Encourages new audiences for the arts
- >> Features an intimate new theatre space accommodating up to 240 seats

- >> Includes digital projection facilities for film, video and data presentations
- >> Contains an extensive theatre lighting and audio rig
- >> Offers a display space for visual arts
- >> Can provide a refreshment area and catering upon request

The West Wing will help to develop audiences and build capacity for the proposed performance space as part of the Heart of Slough, a major regeneration project that will transform a 29 acre site in the centre of Slough.

### West Wing Contacts:

Information and Hire enquiries:  
01753 875508  
Box office: 01753 787555

Address:  
West Wing Arts Facility  
Stoke Road  
Slough SL2 5AY



West Wing Arts Facility

## Local Arts

### \*artsinfo

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### \*artsinfo

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### Tell us your news!

What's happening in your area?  
Send articles, news stories and  
pictures to [artsinfo@slough.gov.uk](mailto:artsinfo@slough.gov.uk)

*Title photo: The West Wing photographs  
before and after refurbishment  
Photographer: Austin Nicholas  
The West Wing logo*

### \*artsinfo May - July 2004

\*artsinfo is published four times a year and is free of charge. The publication aims to raise the profile of the arts, artists and creative industries in Slough.

To receive a regular copy, please  
call: 01753 875667  
minicom: 01753 875030  
email: [artsinfo@slough.gov.uk](mailto:artsinfo@slough.gov.uk)

Articles and pictures for inclusion in the next \*artsinfo must be submitted by 2 July 2004.

While every care is taken with submitted material, the editor regrets that no responsibility can be taken for material that is lost or damaged. The views expressed in \*artsinfo do not necessarily reflect official council policy. The editor would like to thank everyone who has submitted articles for inclusion in \*artsinfo.

[www.slough.gov.uk](http://www.slough.gov.uk)  
**Slough**  
Borough Council

## Slough Schools' Annual Art Exhibition 2004 *FortyEight*

Internationally recognised Ugandan Artist David Odwar opened the third Annual Slough Schools' Art Exhibition on Thursday 11 March at Slough Museum. The Mayor and deputy Mayor, along with head teachers, teachers, parents and pupils, attended the event.

David is one of several artists who are having a major impact on the visual arts in Slough. Last year he worked with Marish Junior and St Ethelbert's schools, delivering assemblies and artistic workshops about his village life in Uganda and contrasting the lives of children in Slough and Uganda.

Organised and run by a group of art teachers, with support from the Education Action Zone and Creative Partnerships, *FortyEight* exhibits over 800 pupils' works from more than 30 Slough schools. The work reflects the full range of the exciting and dynamic

visual arts projects currently being offered in Slough schools.

Images from last year's exhibition can be seen online on [www.slougheaz.org](http://www.slougheaz.org). Artwork from last year is now on permanent display at Wexham Park Hospital, who helped fund this year's exhibition.

This year we are looking for a local business that would like to display some work on a permanent basis to help fund further exhibitions.



>> Clay masks by St Ethelberts RC & Marish Junior schools working with David Odwar

## Award-winning play published

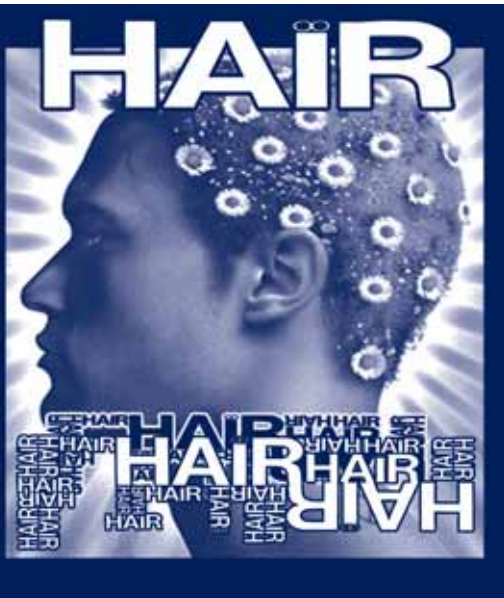
Cippenham writer William Olson Campbell has seen his play *Guernica Goodbye* published earlier this year. The Progress Theatre production racked up three awards at the Henley Festival: Best Actress, Actor and Production, while the script won two national writing competitions. It is set in the aftermath of war, a time of lionising liberators and denouncing collaborators, where tensions build, breaking into a violent realignment of passions.

William was the founding editor of the short story magazine *Story Cellar* and has just completed a novel around the opening of the Kennet Navigation. He belongs to Slough Writers Group (SWG), which meets Mondays at The Greyhound, Eton Wick. William says: "Joining SWG brought my first success as a playwright in a collaboration with Windsor Theatre Guild."

*Guernica Goodbye* is available (£2.75) from the Drama Association of Wales, The Old Library, Singleton Road, Cardiff, CF24 2ET. Slough Writers can be contacted on [sloughwriters@lycos.co.uk](mailto:sloughwriters@lycos.co.uk)



## Hair brought to life by S.M.T.C



>> Poster advertising Hair

Slough Musical Theatre Company's next production is the 1968 American tribal love-rock musical 'HAIR', which will be performed at Norden Farm Centre for the Arts, Altwood Road, Maidenhead.

HAIR exploded onto the London stage in 1968 after a sweeping success on Broadway. As the first and one of the most successful of the rock musicals, it represented a new element in musical theatre entertainment. Hit songs include 'Let the Sun Shine In', 'Good Morning Starshine', 'I Got Life' and 'Aquarius'.

We are still seeking male cast members from all backgrounds who would like to take part on stage. If interested please contact Simon Woodbridge on 07811 870209.

*Performances take place Tues 22 - Sat 26 June 2004, from 7.45pm every evening. Tickets cost £10.00 each with £9.00 concessions on Tues, Wed and Thursday evenings. Tickets may be purchased from Norden Farm (01628 788997) or from Bob Simpson (01628 629226). Please note this show is unsuitable for children under 15.*

## Local focus

### Via Dolorosa

Friday 16th April saw the launch of Arts at St. Mary's Via Dolorosa Multi-media project at St. Mary's Church. This presented the pilot stage of the project with two stations of the cross, "Jesus meets his mother" and "Veronica". "Our original idea was to take something that is a Christian tradition and give it away to artists, not only Christian artists, but artists of other faiths" said David Sparrow, project co-ordinator. We had a grant from the Churches Media Trust to undertake the pilot. Bishop Alan, Bishop of Buckingham, said of the work, "This is hard-edged religious art, not the usual pastel art we are used to". We have had interest from Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist and Muslim artists. The evening saw people of all faiths discussing the project, and meeting our first contributor, Ilona Langdorf - Jaffe, a Jewish artist and Holocaust survivor.

## Motivation hit the streets of Brighton

Motivation is a local dance group who have been up and running for five years. We practice every Thursday at the Rotunda Youth and Community Centre. We aim to motivate and inspire young people to do positive things using the arts. We received information about participating in Brighton National Street Festival and thought it would be a good opportunity for us to perform. The class all agreed that they would be really interested in performing especially when they heard the audience capacity was 100,000.

The group would never have been able to afford this trip without raising additional funding. Motivation, with the help of Lara Eldridge from Arts Development, wrote an application for funding from the Local Network Fund. We were delighted to hear that the application was successful.

This funding enabled us to invite professional choreographers to teach us different dance styles such as rock 'n' roll. The class was also involved in costume design workshops and prepared the music for the performance.

This is something we would not have been able to achieve without the help of the Local Network Fund. We would like to thank the Local Network Fund for helping to provide us with this opportunity.

### Join the Slough Arts Development marketing list

*Under the Data Protection Act 1998 we are required to gain your 'informed consent' to add your name and details on to our marketing list.*

*We would like you to join this list so that we can send you **★artsinfo** and information about funding programmes/events/performances/workshops and training organised by Slough Arts Development, other Slough Borough Council departments, other local or regional community/arts/education organisations we think are relevant.*

*We will also use the information we will hold to assist towards statistics used to promote the Arts.*

# Art at the Centre

## Revitalising your High Street

Peter Taylor and David Kay are project co-ordinators who are working closely with Slough Borough Council on this exciting initiative.

## What is Art at the Centre?

The council officially launched the Art at the Centre project on April 21; it is a £4 million scheme to revamp Slough high street. The aim of Art at the Centre is to improve the town centre to bring it to life by making it a vibrant and an appealing place in which to visit, work and live.

## How will you do this? Will the buildings change?

Art at the Centre will primarily look at improvements to the high street, buildings won't change but the

infrastructure around them will. Engineers and designers will work with artists to develop high quality creative design concepts for art, lighting, street furniture and paving to the high street. This is a really exciting initiative that will transform the town centre and promote Slough's diverse community through art.

We are also looking at ways of bringing more arts and cultural activity and public art into the town centre.

## How can I get involved?

We want to get local people involved in the project to make the high street a place to really be proud of. National and local artists will be working with community groups and local people across the town to develop ideas for the new look and have input into the designs. There will be a programme of public consultation, exhibitions and free workshops.

## When is the work due to start?

We will be working, over the next two years, with artists, engineers, planners and architects to explore the concept

designs through public consultation. Physical work is due to start on the high street in 2006.

## How does this fit in with the Heart of Slough project?

The project will be linked to the Heart of Slough initiative - a major 21st century regeneration project that will transform a 29 acre site in the centre of Slough. We hope to explore successful ways of working, which can then be applied to the Heart of Slough scheme.

## Is this funded through the Council?

Art at the Centre is funded by Slough Borough Council with start up funding from Arts Council England. Slough is just one of three town in the Thames Valley region selected by the Arts Council England for the Art at the Centre initiative.

## How do I find out more?

Those who wish to become involved or would like further information should e-mail the Art at the Centre team on [artatthecentre@slough.gov.uk](mailto:artatthecentre@slough.gov.uk) or call 01753 875505.

## Marketing List - entry form

Please complete in CAPITAL letters

First Name	<input type="text"/>
Surname	<input type="text"/>
Position (if applicable)	<input type="text"/>
Organisation (if applicable)	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
Tel No	<input type="text"/>
Fax No	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>
Website	<input type="text"/>

<input type="checkbox"/> Professional Artist	<input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Artist
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional Arts Org	<input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Arts Org

How would you like to receive information from us:

<input type="checkbox"/> Post	<input type="checkbox"/> email
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Please tick the box if you would like us to share your details with other relevant organisations as detailed overleaf.

Please return the marketing card to: **Arts Development, Slough Borough Council, FREEPOST (SCE 8944), SLOUGH, SL1 3BR**



>> The High Street during Slough Arts Alive Street Theatre festival

## A weekend of performance in Slough's streets and parks

This year Arts Alive will be the opening to a weekend of performance in Slough's parks and streets (July 10 and 11), which will close with a new event called Dance in the Park, a development of last years' Dance in the Square event.

### Slough Arts Alive! 2004

The council is already building on its successful Arts Alive street festival, Slough's one-day street arts festival, a partnership between Slough Borough Council and Zap Art.

Our aim is to raise the level and profile of Slough's commitment to street arts, locally, regionally and nationally and to develop as a centre for commissioning and creating new and especially culturally diverse work. Slough Arts Alive! 2004 plans to be well on it's way to achieving this. With performances from local community groups and a wide ranging programme of street arts from some of the best national and

professional street arts companies Arts Alive will appeal to everyone.

In addition an exciting programme of work funded by Slough Creative Partnerships will link street arts practitioners with six Slough schools: Montem, Wexham Court, Baylis Court, Langley Grammar, Slough Grammar and Westgate.

Artists will work in partnership with pupils and classroom teachers in each school for up to eight days, developing creative skills and building towards school groups performing at Arts Alive on Saturday 10 July 2004.

It takes place at various points along the high street, including the town square, from 12noon - 4pm on Saturday 10 July.

*If you are a local artist and are interested in running an outdoor workshop on the day or you are a member of a local community group interested in performing on the day, please contact Rob Eagles at Zap Art on 01273 821588. Please state full details of the type of work you do and full contact details.*

### Dance in the Park

Building on last year's hugely successful 'Dance in the Square', The Heart of Slough Creative Academy with Creative Partnerships, Slough Young People's Centre and Slough Borough Council are hosting a larger Dance event in Upton Court Park.

Dance in the Park 2004 will take place in Upton Court Park on Sunday 11th July 2004 from 2.00pm to 8.00pm,

The event promises to be exciting, innovative and allow the community to showcase their work alongside regional and national dance companies including Rambert Dance Company, Fusion Dance Company and The Hip Hop Collective.

The event will showcase local, regional and national talent while allowing

visitors and the audience the chance to have a go in workshops from everything from caporeia to bhangra, contemporary to urban dance. The different taster workshops will allow people to see what's available to do in the town, have a go and maybe join.

Local groups showcasing their talent include East Berkshire College, After Hours Arts Academy, Manor Park Young People's Centre and schools working with Creative Partnerships. The event will premiere dance pieces created by local young people and professional dancers and they promise to be electrifying, dynamic and inspiring.

*For more information contact George Kirkham on 01753 875949 or email [george.kirkham@slough.gov.uk](mailto:george.kirkham@slough.gov.uk)*



Brian Tollington

>> Dance in the Square 2003

## Local News

### Leaving Slough

Andy and Rebecca are very sad to say farewell to Lara who is leaving the Arts Development team to join a new team at Southwark Council. Lara has played a really important role in the Arts Development team and has worked closely with lots of artists, arts organisations and voluntary groups here in Slough. She has worked tirelessly to support groups raise funds for arts projects in Slough, edit **\*artsinfo**, produce publications for the team and much more besides. Lara has also been working hard behind the scenes to develop artsinfo

online, the new website for the arts in Slough which is soon to be launched. This new position at Southwark offers a very exciting opportunity for Lara and we wish her every success. Slough's loss is Southwark's gain.

The post of Assistant Arts Development Officer is currently being advertised and we hope to have someone in post by August.

### Slough Museum comings and goings

Slough Museum welcomes Claire Toogood as the Creative Co-ordinator working on family events with schools

and Creative Partnership projects.

After four years as Curator of Slough Museum, Joanna Follett is now on to pastures new. Joanna will be starting a new position as Museum Development Officer for Kent and Medway based in Maidstone. She will be working with small community museums to help them to reach their potential through offering funding support, training opportunities and guidance. Joanna has made a great contribution to Slough Museum and leaves the museum with a strong team of staff and trustees who will continue to develop the museum.

## Training

### Partnership Programme - training for May - July 2004

The partnership, now in its third year, continues to offer a varied programme of training to help build and develop the skills of voluntary and community groups in Slough. A selection of the courses is outlined below.

### Understanding Equal Opportunities in Community and Voluntary Groups

13 May 2004, 10.00am - 4.00pm  
Trainer: Slough Race Equality Council.

### Steps in Creating and running a successful community group

June 2004, 6.00pm - 8.30pm

### Report Writing for Voluntary and Community Managers

14 June 2004, 5.30pm - 8.00pm  
Trainer: Learn Direct at Thames Valley University

### Fundraising for beginners

6 July and 13 July 2004, 6.00 - 8.30pm

### Recruitment and retention of volunteers

22 July 9.30am - 4.00pm

*For full details of all courses available and booking please contact Slough Council for Voluntary Services on 01753 576027 or 01753 524176*

### Creative Leadership project

#### This project aims to:

>> Enhance the management and leadership skills of those working in small and medium sized enterprises across the South East Region

>> Provide free tailor made learning and development opportunities

#### Who should attend:

Managers in the care, voluntary and community sectors across the South East region from those groups under represented in management positions e.g. women, people from black and minority ethnic communities and people with

disabilities.

#### The project offers:

A free management and leadership development programme, individually compiled for each participant based on an assessment of their needs.

#### What will it cost?

There is no financial cost to Creative Leadership participants.

Managed by the not-for-profit organisation Southampton Care Association, it is funded by the SEEDA and the European Social Fund, to run for the period Mar 2004 - Oct 2006.

*If you would like to learn more about the Creative Leadership Project, or apply for a place, contact Richard, Helen, Sarah or our administrator Natalie, on Tel: 023 8071 1534 or email: natalie.allen@scaccs.org.uk*

## Banners for Slough High Street

This is the first of a series of projects that form part of the Art at the Centre initiative (see page 4) to enhance Slough high street. Artists have been commissioned to work with local groups to design colourful banners to decorate the town square.

Artists Jan Williams, Chris Teasdale and Heather Young have been working with the Milan Centre, Slough Young People's Centre and Northbrook Pupil Referral Unit. Artists Sasha Ward, Ray Ward and Asham Kamboj have been working with volunteers from Slough Museum and young people from Manor Park Young People's Centre. All the groups who participated have contributed to the final banner designs.



>> Banner detail, artists Sasha Ward, Ray Ward and Asham Kamboj

The banners are suspended from six large lampposts in the town centre and will be displayed over the coming months.

For further information contact [artatthecentre@slough.gov.uk](mailto:artatthecentre@slough.gov.uk)

## Ted Jones - A Riviera Roving Writer

Slough Writer's Group member Ted Jones is a freelance writer whose articles have been published worldwide in several languages. His articles, short stories and poetry have won many awards and his journalistic output is wide-ranging. He has published articles on subjects as diverse as modern jazz and horse-racing.

But it is as a travel writer that he has made the greatest impact, his articles appearing in general interest and travel publications on both sides of the Atlantic, including british publications *The Guardian*, *Choice*, *Wanderlust*, *France*, *Yesterday* and *Living France*, and American publications such as *Transitions Abroad* and *Voyageur*.

Ted's recently published book *The French Riviera: A Literary Guide for Travellers* is a reader's tour of the region. A journey from Hyères in the west to Monaco and the Italian border in the east, that recalls the lives and work of over 150 writers who have lived on this fabled coastline and found inspiration there. From Graham Greene and W. Somerset Maugham who spent much of their lives there, those whose work it enriched, such as F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway and Guy de Maupassant, to those who simply lingered there.

Peter Mayle, author of *A Year in Provence* said of the book: "The ultimate travel book for anyone who likes sun and literature. I found it irresistible."

## Creative arts exploring community safety

The Thames Valley Partnership brings people and organisations together to work for safer communities and look for long-term solutions to crime. Its work covers the counties of Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire, including initiatives on early years interventions and school liaison, links with prisons, the police, government agencies, voluntary bodies and local communities.

Creative Arts is an effective way of reaching and communicating with vulnerable groups and contributing towards the development of the individual, building groups and improving communication. It can often help minimise risk factors and strengthen protective factors regarding anti-social behaviour and offending. It also assists in bringing communities together and highlights difficulties that need to be addressed. The Creative Arts post within Thames Valley Partnership supports work of this kind.

### Examples of current projects

'The Way It Really Is' - a video made by young people for young people, focuses on the use and misuse of alcohol and is used in peer led settings in schools.

The Thames Valley Partnership is supporting the Baylis Park restoration project, led by Slough Borough Council's Parks and Allotments Section.

The Schools in Action project supports all primary, secondary and special schools in running community safety projects across the Thames Valley. It is a grant-giving project, with applications being sought during October. Projects should address real issues within the school e.g. bullying, citizenship and reducing crime.

For further information contact Judy Munday, on 01844 202001 or email [judy@thamesvalleypartnership.org.uk](mailto:judy@thamesvalleypartnership.org.uk) or visit [www.thamesvalleypartnership.org.uk](http://www.thamesvalleypartnership.org.uk)

# What's happening?

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Contact
<b>May</b>				
5	7.30pm	Slough Art Society - Demonstration by Paul Weaver	Red Cross HQ, Upton Hospital	01753 532678
10	7.30 - 9.30pm	Slough Writers' Group - Manuscript evening	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
11	8.30pm	Slough Co-operative Film Society - Dark Water	UGC Cinema, Slough	01784 434868
12-22	Library opening hrs	Slough Arts Festival - Photography Exhibition	Slough Library	01753 520685
17	7.30 - 9.30pm	Slough Writers' Group - Craft: Launch Pads with Nazalee Raja	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
18	8.30pm	Slough Co-operative Film Society - Crimson Gold	UGC Cinema, Slough	01784 434868
19	7.30pm	Slough Art Society - Subject 'Old Buildings'	Red Cross HQ, Upton Hospital	01753 532678
24	7.30 - 9.30pm	Slough Writers' Group - Discussion: Poetic Form with Kathleen Adkins, Stephanie Cage & Roy Cecil	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
25	8.30pm	Slough Co-operative Film Society - 8 Women	UGC Cinema, Slough	01784 434868
<b>June</b>				
2	7.30pm	Slough Art Society - Subject 'Marine Theme'	Red Cross HQ, Upton Hospital	01753 532678
7	7.30 - 9.30pm	Slough Writers' Group - Guest speaker: Leslie Thorogood on The Origins of English	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
14	7.30 - 9.30pm	Slough Writers' Group - Manuscript evening	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
16	7.30pm	Slough Art Society - Criticism by Tom Wedge	Red Cross HQ, Upton Hospital	01753 532678
21	7.30 - 9.30pm	Slough Writers' Group - Craft: What Next? with Tony Matthews and video	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
<b>July</b>				
5	7.30 - 9.30pm	Slough Writers' Group - Discussion: My Year	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
10	12.00-4.00pm	Arts Alive - Slough's One Day Street Arts Festival	Slough Town Square and High Street	01273 821588
11	2.00-8.00pm	Dance in the Park	Upton Court Park	01753 875949
12	7.30 - 9.30pm	Slough Writers' Group - Manuscript evening	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
19	7.30 - 9.30pm	Slough Writers' Group - AGM and Poetry competition and reading of results	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725

## Arts Development - supporting the arts in Slough

Arts Development provides information, advice, training and continuing support around:

- >> **Advocacy for the arts**
- >> **Fundraising for the arts**
- >> **Arts in public spaces**
- >> **Best practice**

Arts Development carries out these services by providing:

- >> **Advice and support** to local groups, artists and individuals to develop arts projects in Slough

- >> **\*artsinfo newsletter** - the free quarterly newsletter for Slough's arts community

- >> **Directory of professional artists** - provides information about professional artists and arts organisations that have experience of arts in community and education settings. Soon to go on line

- >> **Arts Training** - specialist arts training to support the arts community in Slough. This includes Community Arts Training in Slough (CATS), a practical

course for running arts projects in the community

- >> **Publications** - including 'Art & People', a practical guide to running arts projects in the community. Available from Slough Library 01753 522 869. Cost £10 + pp

- >> **Arts in public places** - as part of their commitment to making the arts accessible in public spaces, Arts Development manage, support and offer advice on public art projects

Let us know your arts news on: [artsinfo@slough.gov.uk](mailto:artsinfo@slough.gov.uk)