

*artsinfo

The quarterly newsletter for Slough's growing arts community

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Grand Designs for Town Centre

Residents, visitors, retailers and local businesses will have the chance to see new visions for the future of Slough High Street when the Art at the Centre project exhibits three concept designs.

The proposed designs will be on display in the town centre and on Slough Trading Estate so everyone will have a chance to have their say.

The new designs follow the consultation - held last year - of what people liked and disliked about Slough High Street and how they would like to see it improved.

As well as the three overall concept designs, the Art at the Centre creative team will be displaying 11 ideas about ways of transforming the High Street - these ideas will be taken into consideration by the chosen concept design company.

The consultation will start on March 15, and run until May 6. All comments and views on the designs will be taken into account before a single overall concept design is chosen.

Roger Kirkham, the Art at the Centre project co-ordinator said "This is a very exciting time for Slough, and we hope that residents will be interested to see the design options and give their comments at this critical stage of the process. We want to give the residents of Slough a high street they will be proud of and enjoy using."

Information will be published on the council's website - www.slough.gov.uk.

For more information contact Roger Kirkham on 01753 875840 or e-mail artatthecentre@slough.gov.uk.



Local Arts

★artsinfo

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Arts Development

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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

Title photos: Bird Tree, in Town Centre.

Brian Tollington

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★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 copy regularly, please

call: 01753 875667

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Articles and pictures for inclusion in the next ★artsinfo must be submitted by 1st April 2005.

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 the official SBC policy. The editor would like to thank everyone who has submitted articles for inclusion in ★artsinfo.

www.slough.gov.uk
Slough
Borough Council



Paperknife use cutting-edge kit to produce Stain!

'Stain' is a ten minute film produced by Dominique Oliver and written and directed by Asham Kamboj. Asham is a former participant of Community Arts Training in Slough run in partnership with Arts Development and Christine Wilkinson.

A young couple become embroiled in a terrifying mystery when bloodstains begin appearing on their pillow at night.

The supernatural short film was funded by the British Film Council and B3 Media.

Two private screenings for the cast and crew were held at Slough UGC Cinema and at a screening room on D'Arblay Street, Soho in December. 'Stain' is now being considered by the British Film Council for a range of regional, national and international film festivals.

Strictly Come Acting

Interactive theatre returns to Windsor Arts Centre in March, when the audience will vote for the best of five new short plays performed on the evening.

Members of Slough Writers Group have written twelve short plays. The five to reach the final in the bi-annual competition will be performed by Total Theatre Workshop Company.

Each night is packed with a variety of theatrical styles and subjects, where everyone will find plenty to enjoy and think about. Local playwrights Terry Adlam, Sheila Knight, Michael Percy, Paul Stimpson and Paul Unsworth have crafted a fascinating set to complement the action.

Then comes the fun for the audience deciding should 'Regency Speed

Slough Writers Group



Dating' waltz to first place or 'Karaoke Nights' rock home. Maybe 'Corpus Callosum', '11-52' or 'Money Matters' should quickstep to the winner's post. It's the audience vote that decides.

Play 5 - You Decide is at the Windsor Art Centre, Thurs-Sat 17-19 March at 8.00pm. Tickets cost £8.00 (£7.00 concessions) from the box office on 01753 859336.

For information about Slough Writers Group email sloughwriters@lycos.co.uk or ask at your local library. Total Theatre can be contacted through Windsor Arts Centre.

Fennerfest brings together Slough's community

Slough was treated to a kaleidoscope of events in November, thanks to Fennerfest - a two week festival inspired by the legacy of Fenner Brockway, legendary campaigner for peace and social justice and MP for Slough from 1950 - 1964.

Brainchild of activist group Slough4Peace, the festival was a genuine grass roots community activity. It was organised by volunteers excited by the idea of bringing different communities in Slough together to have fun and think about what they can do to change the world around them.

Highlights included top comedy 'Sikhs in the City'; burlesque cabaret featuring ex-Hawkwind star Nik Turner; and radical ex-minister Michael Meacher MP giving the inaugural Fenner Brockway Memorial Lecture on world relations following the Bush re-election. Other events included authors talking about local historical figures, poetry, storytelling, music nights, and theatre from the Friendly Bombs Theatre Company. Campaigners from Oxfam and Greenpeace spoke at events organised by the World Development Movement and SAIN, while speakers who have recently returned from Iraq and Palestine talked about life there. An exhibition of woodcuts by children from Israeli, Palestinian and Beduin communities, specially shipped to the UK courtesy of St Mary's church and the German Embassy, was on view throughout the fortnight at St Mary's. The church also organized a multi-faith service.

Fennerfest will be presenting a Tsunami fundraiser, featuring The Funjabis 'Don't worry, be Funjabi!' and the Fennerfest International Cabaret. It will take place at the West Wing on the 5th February, 7.00pm - 11.00pm. For further details check their website www.fennerfest.co.uk

Local focus



>> Sody Singh Kahlon – star of Sikhs in the City



>> Yap – legendary rap metal singer, now a controversial slam poet, social commentator and philosopher.

SWIPE's new Musical Arts Project

Slough West Indian People's Enterprise (SWIPE) has established a cultural Musical Arts project in the form of a youth steel orchestra. The project aims to broaden the range of musical experience and opportunities in Slough as well as to develop expertise in Caribbean music and to generate a programme of music education workshops. This will culminate in a special performance by the participants of their own work, as well as a new composition written for the project.

Musical activity is seen as being an energising and unifying experience that is accessible and inclusive to the whole Community. The project is estimated to involve approximately 80 young people over a twelve-month period and will be taught by Clinton Jack and Dani Richardson, both with vast experience in this area. The project will be funded by successful bids from Youth Music for £20,000, Youth Offending Team Slough for £4,500 and Awards For All Lottery Fund for £5,000.

The SWIPE Music Project will link directly to work undertaken over the last 4 years and will assist in helping young people to develop a cultural awareness of the arts and realise their potential.

The impact of the activities will be sustained after the life of the project by giving the opportunity to those young people that wish to remain, to further their skills in steel pan playing and to become part of the Slough Youth Steel Orchestra, which will aspire to enter the Panorama Steel Band contest in 2005 in London.



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.



What is a Council for Voluntary Service?

A CVS is a second tier organisation providing a service to other voluntary groups. Our job at Slough Council for Voluntary Services SCVS is to encourage these organisations to flourish by enabling them to do their jobs as effectively as possible. We can help groups with project planning, legal frameworks, governance, training and fundraising. A CVS has five core functions: representation,

liaison, support, development and strategic partnership.

What is your role at SCVS and have you always worked for the voluntary sector?

I was initially interested in travel and international community development. I studied Development Practices at Oxford Brookes University. I travelled extensively in Africa, working for a time in Soweto. On my return I worked at Oxfam and Children's Aid Direct before travelling again to Kosovo where I met my wife. We returned to England and I soon realised that I had transferable skills, which would lend themselves to working as a Development worker for Oxford CVS. Their philosophy of empowerment and participation fitted in completely with my own. I joined Slough CVS last year as Chief Officer. I see my role as mapping out a future for the organisation and leading the organisation to fulfil it.

Development Workers, Community Care Officer, Mary Bryne and Health Groups Worker, Naweeda Naqvi, as well as Office Manager, Carmel O'Brien; Information Officer, Lorna Allen and a Learning and Development Manager to be recruited.

What services do you offer to voluntary groups?

As members of Slough Partnership Training, we offer groups a strong programme of training which covers Management, Governance and Public Speaking. Our Information Officer can provide current information on funding both locally and nationally. SCVS have central offices in Slough, which incorporates a resource room available to voluntary groups for meetings and training. Groups also have access to our library of books and journals which we loan out. SCVS produces a quarterly newsletter, Newsline for which we always welcome articles and news. Or website www.sloughcvcs.org.uk has current training bulletins and issues of Newsline to view and download. We currently work with some arts groups but we are always keen to hear from others.

What are your future plans for SCVS?

I think we need to gain a greater understanding of the needs of the local sector so that SCVS can plan its services around our groups' needs. We need to establish a firm footing in order to supply a consistent, comprehensive service to all groups. I would like to make sure SCVS is a great place to work for my staff. Above all I think we really need to raise our profile as a second tier organisation.

Slough Council for Voluntary Service can be contacted on 01753 524176, e-mail enquiries@sloughcvcs.org.uk or via the website www.sloughcvcs.org.uk

Have you worked with any arts groups?

As a Development worker for Oxford CVS I helped a group organise funding for a community opera group's production of 'Noah's Flood' which allowed everyone to participate in the fun with simple instruments playing alongside the more traditional orchestra. Oxfordshire Drama Wardrobe needed help to establish themselves. The group buys costumes and loans them out to local groups. They required initial funding to purchase their stock and eventually new premises to house them all in.

Who works at SCVS?

We are currently in the process of restructuring the organisation and have six staff positions. There are two



Marketing List - Entry form

Please complete in CAPITAL letters

First Name

Surname

Position (If applicable)

Organisation (If applicable)

Address

Postcode

Tel No

Fax No

Email

Website

Professional Artist Voluntary Artist

Professional Arts Org Voluntary Arts Org

How would you like to receive information from us:

Post email

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

Mayor's Arts Awards

The Annual Mayor's Arts Awards will take place on 28th April at the West Wing Arts Space in Slough. The event promises to bring the artistic community of Slough together under one newly refurbished roof and acknowledge their hard work. The awards celebrate a year of artistic achievements in Slough and are divided into six categories. *The closing date has now been extended to 14th February. Nomination forms can be obtained from Arts Development on 01753 477176 or www.slough.gov.uk/arts*

Arts Development

Celebrating Ten Years of Community Arts Training in Slough (CATS)

CATS is a practical training course for setting up and running arts projects in the community. The course was developed in partnership between Slough Borough Council Arts Development and visual artist Christine Wilkinson. It has subsequently been rolled out across the southern region. The success of the course over the past ten years was celebrated after a busy year, which included the annual CATS training in March.

CATS for Teachers 2004

Creative Partnerships funded a CATS course for teachers, built on the work of a previous course run two years ago. The course was organised and delivered by Arts Development and Christine Wilkinson, with training sessions by the Arts Council, Hilary Durman (BAFTA winner for children's programming), Pravesh Kumar (RIFCO), Rowan Jade (ex-chair of NDAF) to name but a few. Fourteen teachers from Slough took part in the free three-day course in October.

Slough Inspired

To celebrate, capture and reflect the success of artists, groups and community projects in Slough, Arts Development has commissioned a publication, entitled 'Slough Inspired', to highlight just some of the projects and individuals who have participated in CATS over the past ten years. The



>> Photos by Mal Glover Design by Designation

publication profiles eighteen individuals and features interviews alongside photographs by Mal Glover, on the impact CATS has had on them personally and in their career.

The Networking and Launch Event

The publication was launched on 7th December at the West Wing Arts

>> Christine Wilkinson



Space, the first professional live performance venue in Slough for the past fifteen years. CATS participants from across the region were invited. The event kicked off with a performance from Motivation, a local dance group led by young people. The programme included the launch of the publication by Cheryl Coppell, Chief Executive of Slough Borough Council, with a keynote speech from Arts Council England, South East on the regional perspective; a short presentation by CATS co-ordinator Christine Wilkinson and Principal Arts Officer, Andy Lee; as well as brief speeches by two of the profiled participants. The Launch was followed by a celebration where guests were encouraged to make old and new connections to strengthen the CATS network.

Local News

Changing Faces

Chris Spencer, Director of Learning and Cultural services, leaves Slough Borough Council to take up a new position as Director of Education, Youth and Leisure at Hillingdon Borough Council. Chris's achievements over the past seven years, along with those of his staff, has been recognised by the DfES. Slough has an effective LEA with a reputation for innovation and creativity.

Following **Liz Stannard's** move to the Volunteer Bureau, where she takes over as the new Manager and **Rochana Sheward's** emigration to New Zealand, Slough Council for Voluntary Service has re-organised its staff structure. **Mary Bryne** joins as Community Care Development Worker and **Lorna Allen** has been promoted to Information Officer.

Garrick Davis joined SYPC as Arts Development Officer in November from Imagebank Ltd, where he was Associate Creative Director responsible for brand development for men and women's fashion.

Awards for Young Creative Entrepreneurs

The hard work and dedication of a group of young entrepreneurs was rewarded at the 'Young Entrepreneur of the Year' award ceremony held in November at Slough Enterprise Hub, Thames Valley University.

Over the preceding 4 months, the young entrepreneurs attended a planning workshop enabling them to write a business plan which developed their ideas for a creative business. The plans were judged by a panel of business experts, who met and talked with each entrant, enabling personal feedback. Prizes were awarded to:

Louise Efde & Emma Carvalho for Fusion Dance Company, Daren Keegan & Minaz Ali for Slough Youth Festival, Jay Husbands for Hyperreels, Matthew Carvalho for Sound Films, Sotoodeh Yarmahmoudi for Yari Film, Michelle Vella for her tattoo design/photography business and Leigh Alner for Hangman Productions.

Radio Underdog 87.7FM

Radio Underdog is broadcasting to the urban, net savvy 14-25 year old generation in Slough. Created by and for that generation, their programmes reflect the energy and diversity of the local culture. Radio Underdog is a unique community enterprise supported by SYPC. Hear top notch DJ'ing, hip hop, garage, cheeky chat and innovative jingles.

Radio Underdog 87.7 FM is on air 24:7, from 24 January until 6 February 2005.

Radio Underdog is a fantastic way of learning practical and creative skills in the positive and friendly environment of SYPC. There is also the possibility for schools programmes to be aired live or pre-recorded.

If you are interested in any aspect of Radio Underdog, contact Peter McKenzie on 01753 537877. Alternatively, contact the Art Development Team at SYPC on 01753 539300.

Training

Slough Community Partnership has produced a training course bulletin covering January - April 2005. The bulletin gives an overview of the wide range of training available in Slough, the majority of which are free to voluntary and community groups.

If you would like to receive a copy or to book a course, please contact training at Slough Council for Voluntary Service on 01753 524176.

You may be interested in the following courses:

Desktop Publishing

8 February 2005

10.00-1.00pm

Trainer: Slough CVS

Learn how to create more professional publications using Microsoft Publisher.

Promoting Your Group

21 April 2005

10.00-2.30pm

Trainer: Slough CVS

Run by a BBC media consultant this session will help you to identify the effectiveness of different types of publicity and how to improve your approach to marketing your group and the services you provide.

Beat the Butterflies

12 March 2005

10.00-4.00pm

Trainer: East Berkshire College

Tips and techniques to help you speak with confidence in public. The cost for this course is £15.

Whats happening at The West Wing

Opportunities

>> RIFCO
>>

>> Scene from 'Deranged Marriage'

Audiences celebrate 'The Deranged Marriage'

The 'guests' at RIFCO's production of 'The Deranged Marriage', performed at the West Wing in October, were treated to a lively and colourful evening of comedy, song and dance. The audience were invited to participate as wedding guests throughout the performance.

Glimpsing behind the scenes at a British Asian wedding, the show has proved so popular that it will be touring again soon, this time commencing in Slough.

For further details please see their website, www.rifcoonline.com

>> Dancer

Indus Dance Society

>>

Dance at the West Wing

Indus Arts Society with artistic direction from Sudarshan Dheer brings Nauch to the West Wing on 26th March. The show documents the changes in Kathak dance from the 16th to the 20th century and is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. To book a ticket please contact 01753 671964.

'Brave New Schools' conference

Creative Partnerships and Slough Local Education Authority are holding a joint conference on 15th March 2005, to explore creative learning and cultural entitlement in practice in our schools. Keynote speakers are Arts Minister Estelle Morris MP and Fiona McTaggart MP Slough. The organisations are working in partnership to encourage a whole-authority approach to creative learning and cultural entitlement and explore how this impacts on schools. For more information contact Creative Partnerships on 01753 470 324 or email Rob.Gilmour@creative-partnerships.com

Motivation hosts a show

Motivation, winner of the Mayors Arts Award 2004 for Arts Group of the Year, is hosting its biggest show yet with the help of funding by the Local Network Fund. The group of young people aged between 8 and 21 aim to inspire and motivate others through using positive creative activities to counteract all the negativity that goes on in their world. This is your chance to get an insight into the group and what goes on behind scenes to make these dancers who and what they are. The show takes place on 5th and 6th March at the West Wing. For further information please contact Claudine on 07745 557127.

>> 'Motivation Dancers'

World Book Day

What: World Book Day
When: 5th March 2005
Where: Slough Libraries
Phone: 01753 535166

"Please Sir, I want some more"

What: 'Oliver!' musical, Slough Musical Theatre Company will be performing this famous musical. Tickets cost £10 for adults and £5 for children.
When: Thurs 17 - Sat 26 February, 7.45pm and 3.00pm Saturdays
Where: West Wing Arts Facility
Phone: 01628 624798

Fun at the Museum

What: Very Valentine! Come and learn more about the history of this romantic day and join in some 'love-ly' arts and craft activities!
When: Wed 16th February & Thursday 17th February 1.30-3.30pm
What: Easter Egg-citement! - join in the Easter time fun. Plenty of egg-related activities for the whole family!
When: Wed 30th March & Thursday 31st March 1.30-3.30pm
Where: Slough Museum, 278-286 High Street, Slough
Phone: 01753 526422
Website: www.sloughmuseum.co.uk

Gill Smith leads Writer's Workshops

What: Creative Writers Workshop. Whether you're a complete beginner, or have experience already, if you're looking for inspiration, and to develop your critical skills, these fortnightly workshops could help. The course costs £28.
When: Term started on Saturday 15th January, from 10.00am to 12noon
Where: Slough Library
Phone: Simon Hill on 01753 571706

What's happening?

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Contact
February				
5	7.00pm	Fennerfest: Funjabis' Tsunami Fundraiser	West Wing Arts Space	07910 332684
Every Tuesday	8.30pm	Slough Co-operative Film Society screening	UGC Cinema, Slough	01784 434868
1-6	24 hrs	Radio Underdog 87.7 FM		
7	7.30-9.30pm	Slough Writers Group: Craft: Write for Your Market	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
14-18	Check times	Bug theme activities for children	Slough Library	01753 535166
16, 17	1.30-3.30pm	Very Valentine! Arts and crafts activities	Slough Museum	01753 526422
17-26	7.45pm	Slough Musical Theatre Company: Oliver!	West Wings Arts Space	01628 624798
19,26	3.00pm	Slough Musical Theatre Company: Oliver!	West Wings Arts Space	01628 624798
21	7.30-9.30pm	Slough Writers Group: Guest Speaker, Catherine Jones, Romantic Novelist	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
28	7.30-9.30pm	Slough Writers Group: Craft: Prose Poetry	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
March				
Every Tuesday	8.30pm	Slough Co-operative Film Society screening	UGC Cinema, Slough	01784 434868
5	times change	World Book Day	Slough Libraries	01753 535166
5	6.00pm	Motivation: Award Ceremony	West Wing Arts Space	07745557127
6	4.00pm	Motivation: Award Ceremony	West Wing Arts Space	07745557127
7	7.30-9.30pm	Slough Writers Group: Manuscript Evening	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
17-19	8.00pm	Play 5 - You Decide	Windsor Art Centre	01753 859336
14	7.30-9.30pm	Slough Writers Group: Write Night: Devil's Dictionary	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
21	7.30-9.30pm	Slough Writers Group: Story Comp: Results, Read	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
26	check times	Indus Arts Society: Nauch, Kathak Dance	West Wings Arts Space	01753 671964
30-31	1.30-3.30pm	Easter Egg-citement!: Fun activities for the family	Slough Museum	01753 526422
April				
6	6.00-8.00pm	Artist Network Meeting	Slough Enterprise Hub, TVU	01753 697815
Every Tuesday	8.30pm	Slough Co-operative Film Society screening	UGC Cinema, Slough	01784 434868

>> Useful Websites

www.slough.gov.uk/arts	The new Arts Development website for the arts in Slough
www.fennerfest.co.uk	Website giving details of a 2-week celebration of the life of Fenner Brockway
www.sloughlibrary.org.uk	Lots of events at Slough libraries
www.sloughcvs.org.uk	Advice and training for voluntary organisations
www.sloughmuseum.co.uk	Find out what's happening at your local museum

This newsletter can be made available on audio tape or in large print. If you would like a copy of this document translated please ask an English speaking person to contact Arts Development on 01753 875667.

Let us know your arts news on artsinfo@slough.gov.uk