



## Local Arts

### ★artsinfo

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### ★artsinfo

Arts Development  
Slough Borough Council  
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Slough, SL1 3UQ  
01753 477176  
www.artsinslough.org.uk

### Tell us your news!

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

*Top photo: Capricious Shifts, middle  
Asian Women in Art, bottom Enterprising  
Britain Awards.*

### ★artsinfo Jan - Apr 2008

★artsinfo is published triannually 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 477176  
minicom: 01753 875030  
email: artsinfo@slough.gov.uk

Articles and pictures for inclusion in the next ★artsinfo must be submitted by Friday 7th March 2008.

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.

## Editors note

Welcome to this first 2008 edition of artsinfo. The last year has seen some great successes for the arts in Slough, the Creative Academy was awarded the 2007 Enterprising Britain Award Regional Winner South East; the West Wing received funding to begin development work for its second phase and work began on the Art at the Centre scheme to re-develop the High Street.

There are also many things to look forward to in the forthcoming year. The government's spending review in October announced a positive settlement for the arts, with an extra £50 million over the next three years, so we can feel more optimistic about the future of arts funding (pg 9). Here in Slough there is lots going on; We will be reviewing our arts development strategy to create a five year vision for

the arts in Slough and will be providing opportunities for people in Slough to play a part in shaping our work, so watch this space for how you can contribute your ideas. We'll also be re-launching the artist network in March with a special event at the West Wing; and as the venue moves into its second phase of development, the West Wing is organising opportunities for people to view the new available spaces.

We're looking forward to a great year, building on all of the success that have come so far and working with the creative, passionate and dedicated people we have here in Slough to make the arts bigger and brighter than ever. We hope this year will bring new opportunities for everyone involved in the arts in Slough and look forward to working with you all.

## Creative Careers 2007

Year nine students from Slough secondary schools were introduced to a range of careers from the creative and cultural industries at the annual Creative Careers event, now in its sixth year.

The young people attended seminars and saw active demonstrations and exhibitions from over 40 creative professionals. Local cultural organisations and education providers profiled the opportunities available to those with creative ambitions and there were opportunities to interact with practitioners including animators, music producers, fashion designers, architects and many more.

The event, organised by Creative Partnerships and supported and hosted by East Berkshire College, aimed to raise the aspirations of young

people and the understanding of teachers about employment and opportunities in the arts, cultural and creative industries.

Jessica Jhundoo of Creative Partnerships commented: 'This event is a great way to inspire and inform the young people of the options available to them.'



>> Young people working with Resource Productions to produce a film at Creative Careers.

# The Same Difference Film Festival is back for a fourth year!!

The fourth Same Difference Film Festival runs from April 1st to April 15th 2008. This year the festival will run over two weeks giving people a greater chance to catch up with more of the latest cutting edge films. The festival will showcase a range of thought provoking films on the theme of community, conflict and peace.

In the current climate of fear amongst communities and where difference seems to be more important than ever, a festival like this can help to bring communities together. All the films cover themes that are important to the diverse community of Slough.

Rob Deeks principle organiser of the festival explains: "In keeping with previous years, conflicts of the past and present feature heavily in our programme. However, this year the potential within all of us to change the

lives of others, shines through in every film."

The festival's main aim is to raise awareness and bring the community of Slough closer together to share interests and increase understanding. The festival is organised by Aik Saath and Slough Co-operative Film Society.



## Achievements of Slough-based project celebrated at National Lottery Awards ceremony

The Afterhours Arts Academy at the Slough Young People's Centre (SYPC), was recognised as one of the UK's best Lottery-funded arts projects at the 2007 National Lottery Awards.

Lottery ambassador, Elaine Paige, presented the Best Art Project Runners-Up trophy to representatives from the project at a star-studded ceremony. The event was filmed live for a special BBC 1 programme 'The National Lottery: Big 7'.

The National Lottery Awards aim to recognise the difference that Lottery-funded projects of all sizes make to local communities. SYPC received an incredible show of public support at all stages of the competition and made it to the final three in the Best Arts category.

Spokesperson for the project, Kristina Paul, said:

"We were absolutely thrilled to have reached the finals of the awards. We are really grateful to everyone who voted for us. Being part of the competition has had the biggest positive impact on everyone at the project."

SYPC was set up ten years ago and aims to create opportunities for 16-25 year olds, many of whom are not in education, employment or training. The project offers information and guidance on a range of subjects, as well as a comprehensive arts programme. A theatre company, two design companies and two dance companies have also been formed as a result of this exciting project.

## Changing faces

Slough Young People's Centre has recently recruited several new members of staff to its team. **Sasha White** joins as the centre's Manager. Sasha previously worked in play and youth work and for the Creative Academy.

**Shobhna Parekh** joins the team as Assistant Manager. She is on secondment from Slough Services for Young People, where she helped look after Chalvey Youth and Community Centre.

**Jordon Maynard-Daley** is the new Afterhours Arts Academy Co-ordinator. Jordon comes fresh from working on projects for Music 4 Slough and Creative Academy.

Creative Partnerships welcomes **Johanna Searles** who took on the role as Programmer last September.

Rifco Arts said goodbye to **Charlotte Greenaway** in December. Charlotte is going on to pursue her passion for writing.

Slough Council for Voluntary Service bids a fond farewell to **Jonathan Blackburn**, Chief Officer for the past three and a half years. He leaves to take on the role as Chief Officer at Regional Acton and Involvement South East (RAISE). RAISE enables voluntary and community organisations in the South East to influence regional policy.

**Kevin Condliffe** and **Kathryn Hewitt** are moving on from the Creative Academy team. Kevin will be focussing on his work with Muddy Icon - a social enterprise dance initiative.

### Slough Writer Wins Short Story Competition

William Campbell won a national short-story writing competition organised by The British Computer Society (BCS), the leading organisation for IT professionals. William, who swapped life as a computer analyst for that of a writer seven years ago, was chosen as the over-16 winner of the BCS WriteIT competition by cult fantasy fiction novelist Jasper Fforde.

William, who also writes poetry, plays, and theatre reviews, says: "It is very rewarding to know one's story-telling entertains and engages other people. It is a reason for writing."

William's story will be published on BCS website [www.bcs.org/fiction](http://www.bcs.org/fiction)



### Muddy Icon

Muddy Icon is an innovative not for profit social enterprise offering local young people the opportunity to engage in dance activity. Muddy Icon uses dance to engage those who would otherwise be involved in negative or anti-social behaviour. They aim to break down the negative stereotypes which surround men in the dance industry giving them an opportunity to develop careers.

Over the past year Muddy Icon has run programmes with the support of the Youth Opportunities Fund, Safer Slough

Partnership and Awards for All including Four 1 a short film exploring the dangers of binge drinking.

Muddy Icon is led by Slough resident Kevin Condliffe with partners and clients including Thames Valley University, Slough Young People's Centre, Slough Museum, West Wing, Adroit Economics, LoopED and Community Safety.

Kevin was also selected for the Equal Invest programme and has received £25,000 from Heritage Lottery for a separate project.

For more information go to [www.muddyicon.com](http://www.muddyicon.com) or contact Kevin at [info@muddyicon.com](mailto:info@muddyicon.com) or on 07961 242 058.

### West Wing Theatre and Dance

The West Wing Youth Theatre and Youth Dance continues into 2008 open to new participants.

Are you a budding actor, singer or dancer? Would you like to become a stage manager, theatre director or a choreographer?

Then come and be a part of our Youth Theatre, open to everyone aged 4 to 19. Run by a team of professional theatre practitioners, you'll learn a varied set of dynamic and exciting activities to nurture young talent, increase your confidence and get the best out of you.

Youth Theatre Spring 2008 term will commence week beginning Monday 14th January:

- 4-7 year olds - Sunday 10am-midday
- 8-11 year olds - Sundays 1pm-3pm
- 12-15 year olds - Sundays 1pm-3pm
- 16-19 year olds - Tuesdays 5pm-7pm

Can you boogie with the best of them? Do you want to learn new moves and

make friends? Then come join our weekly classes on Mondays run in partnership with Muddy Icon. Aimed at everyone aged 8 to 18, you'll learn dance styles including Ballet, Break, Hip Hop, Street, Jazz and Contemporary.

Youth Dance Spring 2008 term will commence week beginning Monday 14th January.

You could be tomorrow's next big star and it all starts with the West Wing Youth Theatre or Youth Dance!

A ten week term costs £50 or £7 per session, for more information and to request an application form contact us on 01753 476651 or email [westwing@slough.gov.uk](mailto:westwing@slough.gov.uk)

### CATS Toolkit

Arts Development Slough has written a toolkit to encourage art officers across the country to run the Community Arts Training Scheme in their area. CATS, a practical four day course which has run successfully in Slough since 1994, gives participants the skills and knowledge necessary to develop arts projects in the community. The toolkit looks at the impact CATS has had in shaping the creative direction of Slough and offers a step-by-step guide to developing a course.

Arts Development Officer Louise O'Dwyer Barnard said: "CATS has completely changed the way that we as an Arts Development Service work. It means that more of our community can get involved in shaping the arts and taking control of what the arts in Slough looks like by running their own projects and sharing their passions."

For more information on the CATS Impact and Toolkit contact the Arts Development team on 01753 477176.

## Training at Slough Council for Voluntary Service

**Sustainable Funding  
Slough CVS  
23/01/08  
10.00am - 4.00pm  
free**

Higher level course aimed at established organisations that have had past successes in fundraising. Looks at long term planning, extending life of donors, charitable trusts and monitoring and evaluation.

**Fundraising for Beginners  
Slough CVS  
tbc**

Looks at key aspects involved in fundraising, including language and jargon used in applications, how to identify funders criteria and match it to your organisation. Please register your interest by completing a booking form. Once there are six participants a date and time can be arranged.

**Organisational Health Check  
Slough CVS  
tbc**

An excellent course for groups to help develop an understanding about the basics that should be in place to run a robust organisation. Please register your interest by completing a booking form. Once there are six participants a date and time can be arranged.

**Funding Workshop - Gift Aid  
SCVS  
10.30am**

A talk from Simon Hart (HMRC) giving details about how your charity can benefit from Gift Aid.

*For further information please contact Slough CVS on 01754 524176 or e-mail [training@sloughcvs.org.uk](mailto:training@sloughcvs.org.uk) or look at [www.sloughcvs.org.uk](http://www.sloughcvs.org.uk)*

## Salsa Classes

**Every other Friday, starting 25th  
January at 8pm**

Whether you're a complete beginner or an advanced Salseros come along and discover a whole new world of music and zest for life with our classes at the West Wing Arts Centre. The teacher will lead a one hour class covering the varying steps, body movements and turns that will enable you to become a confident dancer. Then it's everybody Salsa until late with sangria at the bar.

£5 available via the Box Office:  
01753 823710



## CATS 2008

The hugely popular Community Arts Training Scheme (CATS) is back again this March for its 14th successful year. CATS is a four-day practical training course that aims to equip its participants with the skills and knowledge needed to set up and run community based arts projects. The course is open to anyone living or working in Slough and no previous arts experience is necessary.

*For further information or a booking form contact Arts Development on 01753 477176 or visit [www.artsinslough.org.uk](http://www.artsinslough.org.uk)*

## Tiger Monkey Toolkit

Tiger Monkey UK Ltd was commissioned by the Gulbenkian Foundation in 2006 to devise and tour a National Toolkit in drama and film for professionals who work with young people excluded from mainstream education and/or at risk of offending. The X-cuded Toolkit is a practical day's training package working with Tiger Monkey's Director Emma Ghafur. The toolkit is aimed at anyone working with young people aged 11+ including teachers, youth workers, youth offending teams, artists, film makers, sports coaches, mentors, behaviour management teams, any professionals working with challenging behaviour who want to build on group work with young people using drama, improvisation and film.

*For further information visit [www.tigermonkey-uk.com](http://www.tigermonkey-uk.com)*



## 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 and other local or regional community/arts/education organisations we feel are relevant.*

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

## Arts and young people

### Slough's first Oxjam Music Festival

An audience of around 200 people enjoyed Slough's first Oxjam Music Festival organised and supported by Slough West Indian People's Enterprise (SWIPE).

The inside of St Mary's Church was the stunning backdrop for the event and was matched by the performances during the night. Drew Black opened the show and comedian Stuart Laws held the evening together seamlessly and had the audience laughing their way through the night between acts which included Jessie Silence, local busker Mark Handley, Amy Green of the band the Amy Green Project and Lizzie Massey.

Legendary ex X-factor performer Onkar "Don't Judge The Judge" Judge recreated the dance routine to Billie

Jean and Earth Song in his own style. Slough Community Steel Band Panachea played as the audience danced in the aisles.

All the organisers, sound men and acts gave their time for free and the event raised around £1000 for Oxfam. Hilton Callaghan of SWIPE said: "We

are very happy to have helped with organising and supplying equipment for this event - to have two charities and the church all working together is a very good thing"

*Further details about SWIPE can be found at [www.swipemusic.com](http://www.swipemusic.com)*



>> Onkar Judge



>> Amy Green Project

### 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 tick the box if you would like us join the West Wing's mailing list.

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

### Resource Productions

Resource Productions, a video production company in Slough has been working with young people aged between 10 and 19 to help them develop their own short films and animations. The young people have been working with industry professionals to write, direct and edit their films. The projects were very successful and were shown at the West Wing in September.

Resource Productions also ran a project with unemployed 16-17 year

olds to give them the opportunity to learn a new skill and get paid to produce a documentary about unemployment. Dominique Oliver of Resource Productions said: "We hope the course will encourage young people to learn new skills, meet new people and perhaps encourage them to go back into education."

*For further information call 01753 553374 or look at [www.resource-productions.co.uk](http://www.resource-productions.co.uk)*



>> Young Director Alex Straker

## Rifco Arts launch new website championing reminiscence

Rifco Arts are pleased to announce the final stage in their Living History project, the launch of a new website [www.rifcoelders.com](http://www.rifcoelders.com) which aims to encourage younger generations to get involved with South Asian Heritage.

Living History: Celebrating South Asian Migration was developed from the research behind Rifco Arts' last studio show - Meri Christmas, which toured last year. The project brought together artists, young people and older participants in five project hubs around the country. Together they explored the experiences of the older generation, their background and contribution to Asian and British heritage. Artists were involved throughout the project to help participants develop new skills and creatively respond to the reminiscences they had heard. They led creative work in varied disciplines including poetry, dance, drama, photography, textile, sculpture and painting.

Drawing together all of the work developed during Rifco Arts' largest participation project, the Rifco elders site will celebrate, and document the Living History project. It will act as an online resource centre for stories of South Asian migration, helping to promote the use of reminiscence as a tool for learning about the recent past.

Through downloadable guides, ideas



## Hidden Gems launched



>> Winning photo by Toby Evans

## Diversity

and technical support the site will encourage community groups, schools and families alike to lead their own reminiscence activity in order to record and value the histories of the individuals around them.

For more information call Lucy Bradley on 01753 570700 or email: [Lucy@rifcoarts.com](mailto:Lucy@rifcoarts.com)

## Health

**Hidden Gems**, a book celebrating Slough's allotments and allotment holders through a series of beautiful photographs taken by Malcolm Glover, was launched at a private view in September.

Following a two month competition for Slough residents to send in their photos of green spaces, Toby Evans won first prize. He was awarded a copy of **Hidden Gems** and his photograph will be made into a postcard to promote Slough.

The first runner up was Valerie Brewer; second runner up, Eugene Johnson and Barbara Cotterell received a special commendation.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the competition.

# Regeneration

## New High Street takes shape

Work has started on the multi-million pound Art at the Centre project to revitalise the town centre. When completed, the High Street will include brand new paving, new lighting and seating and innovative and unique artwork.

The revitalisation of the High Street is not just about the paving and design but the creation and installation of a number of permanent pieces of artwork. This artwork has all been designed and created to reflect the history, culture and communities of Slough.

Artists have been working with the main designers throughout the process - weaving their ideas and concepts into the final design.

Here's a glimpse at some of the artists' work.

### The Radar, Simon Watkinson – Western end



Monumental in scale, the Radar artwork, set at the west entrance to the High Street, consists of an acrylic lens embedded with silver foil set on a granite base. It will glow blue at night, like a beacon.

### Telescope lighting, Simon Watkinson - MacKenzie Square



The lighting columns for MacKenzie Square create flexible lighting structures that can vary their height and throw of light, adding dramatic lighting in the evenings.

### Floor carvings, Alec Peever - throughout the High Street



Poetry from around the world will be hand carved by artist Alec Peever on sections of granite.

### Floorpiece, Anne Smyth - High Street



This floorpiece will include two droplet shaped islands, richly textured in granite, terrazzo and slate and under-lit with fibre optics, providing an area to sit and relax.

### Floorpiece, Bhajan Hunjan - Town Square



The floor design, carved out of coloured granite will create a central focus for the Town Square. It incorporates designs developed through workshops with Fusion, a local dance company for young people.

### Lightbox, Bhajan Hunjan - High Street



Inspired by children's games, this colourful under-lit paving in frosted glass will be surrounded by seating.

### Lamplights, Simon Watkinson - High Street



New lights will be cubes of acrylic with images of old style lanterns laser cut inside, set upon granite columns.

### Seating, Fred Baier - MacKenzie Square and Town Square



The bespoke design of the seating brings curved or straight seats in stainless steel with moon shaped slats made from wood, supported on granite blocks that rise out of the paving.

## News

### The Government's investment into the arts is to be boosted over the next 3 years

In the last edition of artsinfo, we were all anxiously awaiting the outcome of Gordon Brown's first spending review as prime minister. On 9th October 07, the government announced a generous funding settlement for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), which will allow continued investment in the arts and cultural sectors.

The arts cash settlement was met with relief after it was confirmed that Arts Council England would receive an inflationary increase in funding over the next three years. Between 2007/08 and 2010/11 Arts Council England's funding from the Government will rise from £417million to £467million, an increase of 3.3% over a three year period, which is above the headline inflation figure of 2.7%.

Many had feared that the Arts Council would be hit with standstill funding or worse. However, it was confirmed that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport would receive an increase from £1.68 billion to £2.21 billion in 2010/11. The Government has guaranteed that a 2.7% inflation level increase in DCMS funding will be passed onto the arts.

We are delighted that this settlement indicates that the Government listened to the case for the arts made by us all, and has recognised the need to continue to invest in world-class arts for more people.

## Funding query

**Q: I have recently started to write a funding bid for an arts project and am struggling to get the message across clearly in the application. What should I do?**

When you are writing the application, remember that whoever reads the application needs to quickly and easily understand what it is you are proposing to do. Your application will be one of several possibly hundreds that the funder has to read so make their job easy. It is useful to assume that the funder knows nothing about you, your track record or what you plan to do with your project. Spell it out for them. Read your application as though you were new to it - do you still understand what you are asking for? Ask a friend or colleague to read through and find out if it makes sense to them.

You could also sit down with a friend and explain to them exactly what it is that you want to do, ask them to jot down some notes as you talk. This will help to keep your ideas clear and concise. It is also a good way to ensure that you do not lose the message of what your project is about and how passionate you are about running it. This can often happen when you start to try and use the language you think the funders want. Remember if the funder doesn't understand what it is you are trying to do, then they can not decide whether or not to give you the money.

## Funding

### My Mediabox

If you're aged 13-19 and live in England, Mediabox could offer you grants to make creative media projects for film, television, radio, online and multi media platforms. You can apply individually or in a group for one-off project funding. There is a simple and quick application process - applications can be made at any time. Groups of young people can apply for up to £1,000. Mediabox particularly wants applications from you if you wouldn't normally get the chance to do something like this.

*For further information telephone 0121 753 4866 or look at [www.media-box.co.uk](http://www.media-box.co.uk)*

## Opportunity

### Prince's Trust Community Cash Awards Workshop at Slough CVS

Prince's Trust Community Cash Awards are grants for 14-25 year olds, of up to £5,000 to help young people set up a project that will benefit their community. You just have to come up with an idea for a project that will improve life in your local community.

They will be holding a funding workshop on Wednesday 27th March at Slough CVS.

*Contact Lorna on 01753 219114/524176 or e-mail [lallen@sloughcvs.org.uk](mailto:lallen@sloughcvs.org.uk) for more information.*

## What's happening?

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Contact
<b>January</b>				
5	12 noon	Organ Recital (Malcolm Stowell)	St Mary's Church	01753 535465
7	7:30pm	Slough Writers Group	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
12	tba	Creative writing class	Slough Library	
12	12 noon	Vocal Recital	St Mary's Church	01753 535465
14	7:30pm	Slough Writers Group	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
16	6pm	Arts network meeting	West Wing	01753 477176
19	12 noon	Light Jazz	St Mary's Church	01753 535465
21	7:30pm	Slough Writers Group	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
23	10am	Sustainable Fundraising	Slough CVS	01753 524176
24	tba	Facilitating workshops	West Wing	01753 477176
25	8pm	Salsa class - Every other week	West Wing	01753 823710
26	tba	Creative writing class	Slough Library	
26	12 noon	Vocal Recital	St Mary's Church	01753 535465
28	7:30pm	Slough Writers Group	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
From 29	7.30pm	Adult drama course	West Wing	01753 823710
<b>February</b>				
2	12 noon	Organ Recital	St Mary's Church	01753 535465
2	8pm	Oojami	West Wing	01753 823710
4	7:30pm	Slough Writers Group	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
7	10.30am	Funding workshop	Slough CVS	01753 524176
9	tba	Creative writing class	Slough Library	
9	12 noon	Organ Recital	St Mary's Church	01753 535465
9	1-4pm	Chinese New Year Celebrations	West Wing	01753 823710
11	7:30pm	Slough Writers Group	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
12	tba	An introduction to evaluation	West Wing	01753 477176
16	tba	Creative writing class	Slough Library	
16	12 noon	Piano Recital	St Mary's Church	01753 535465
18	7:30pm	Slough Writers Group	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
23	tba	Creative writing class	Slough Library	
23	12 noon	Euphonium Recital	St Mary's Church	01753 535465
25	7:30pm	Slough Writers Group	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
28	tba	Getting commissioned	West Wing	01753 477176

## What's happening?

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Contact
<b>March</b>				
1	12 noon	Organ Recital	St Mary's Church	01753 535465
3	7:30pm	Slough Writers Group	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
8	12 noon	Organ Recital	St Mary's Church	01753 535465
10	7:30pm	Slough Writers Group	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
15	12 noon	Classical Guitar & Voice	St Mary's Church	01753 535465
17	7:30pm	Slough Writers Group	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
22	12 noon	Holy Saturday - Music & Poetry for Holy Week		
27	tba	Visual arts portfolio day	West Wing	01753 477176
27	10.30am	Funding Workshop	Slough CVS	01753 524176
29	12 noon	Piano Recital	St Mary's Church	01753 535465
<b>April</b>				
1-15	various	Same Difference Film Festival	various	<a href="http://www.same-difference.org.uk">www.same-difference.org.uk</a>
5	12 noon	Guitar & Flute Recital	St Mary's Church	01753 535465
12	12 noon	Organ Recital	St Mary's Church	01753 535465
19	12 noon	Vocal Recital	St Mary's Church	01753 535465
29	12 noon	Priory School Chamber Choir	St Mary's Church	01753 535465

### Arts network meeting

Join the Arts Development team for a get together to welcome in the New Year at 6.00pm on Wednesday 16th January 2008 in the West Wing café. This will be an evening bringing together people working in the arts in Slough; for discussions over coffee and cakes. Whether you are a professional artist or working on a

voluntary basis everyone is welcome.

We have asked Andy Lee, Creative Arts Manager, and Yasmin Gurreeboo, West Wing Venue Manager to join us to talk about plans for the next phase of the West Wing. The West Wing has acquired additional spaces that have the

potential to become office, studio or creative spaces. Yasmin and Andy are keen to hear your ideas and show you around the new spaces.

*Please RSVP by 9th January 2007 to [Gurjeet.kaur@slough.gov.uk](mailto:Gurjeet.kaur@slough.gov.uk) or 01753 477176*

### Chinese New Year Celebrations @ West Wing Arts Centre

Saturday 9th February at 1pm - 4pm

A great fun filled family day celebrating the start of the Chinese year of the rat.

With creative family friendly workshops, demonstrations and performances this is an event not to be missed!

£5, £3, £15 Family available via the Box Office: 01753 823710



## artsinfo interview: Zoe Hatch, Curator, Gallery 435



>> Beside the Sea exhibition

### What is Gallery 435?

Gallery 435 is a contemporary arts space - a place to bring new art to Slough and a forum for artists to showcase their work. We regenerate disused spaces and create free temporary shows making art accessible to everyone.

### Where did the idea of a floating galley come from?

Early in 2006, my partner Rob, a photographer and I moved from London with a young family. We realised straightaway that there wasn't anywhere to exhibit his work in the area and that we needed to be proactive. We couldn't fund a permanent arts space but we could make use of all the unused space in the town. We contacted Slough Trading Estate who were very interested in our ideas to re-use empty industrial units. Gallery 435 grew from there.

### Have you had support from any other organisations in Slough?

We also approached the Queensmere Centre with different exhibition ideas and offered them sponsorship in-kind so it has been a very beneficial reciprocal relationship. We have had a great deal of community and media interest in the gallery.

On the whole we have tried to fund exhibitions through help in-kind but we have also received financial help from local businesses as well as a Community Champions grant that has allowed us to put on a programme of creative family workshops around the themes of the current project.

### Who has exhibited at the gallery?

There have been five major exhibitions to date. Everything is Rubbish and Nothing Ever Happens, Beside the Sea, the Giant Spin Art Experiment - Can Under 5's Make Modern Art?, Random! In Witness of Yourself and Is Abstract Art Dead? They have featured local and emerging artists, some exhibiting in the UK for the first time. We also have an on-line gallery where artists can showcase their work. There has been a lot of interest from overseas artists because we have a lot more exhibition space than London galleries.

### Who visits the gallery?

We have a very diverse audience from people from the London art scene, school children and local people many from disadvantaged groups across Slough. We had some features in a couple of art journals and on-line, so news of the gallery has been spreading.

### What is your role at the gallery?

I joke I am the PR guru - always trying to make new contacts. I don't have a formal title but I am responsible for curation and all development work. It is quite an organic process, some of the bigger shows take 18 months to organise while the local ones take about 6 months. We have support from regular volunteers who help with each show but we always need more people who are interested in all aspects of running a gallery.

### What are you planning next?

We have a number of shows in mind including a film showcase at the Queensmere Shopping Centre and an exhibition of conceptual art inspired by the Stuckist movement, which will feature some London based artists. We like to rotate the type of art we exhibit at the gallery. We are working towards the gallery becoming a permanent fixture on the art scene in Slough and for people to have high expectations and look forward to visiting the gallery.

For further information on Gallery 435 look at [www.gallery435.com](http://www.gallery435.com)



>> Beside the Sea image