

*artsinfo

The newsletter for Slough's growing arts community

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New home for old musical instruments

Slough West Indian People's Enterprise (SWIPE) runs an instrument amnesty taking donations of unused and broken instruments, refurbishing them and giving them to young people who will use them.

Last year, a 1962 Hofner Colorama guitar in need of repair was donated to SWIPE. Frank from Jazz band **Parkers Move** saw the guitar and asked if he could take on the challenge of repairing it. It took 79 hours of cleaning, filling and polishing the guitar to restore it to its original condition. Frank signed an agreement stating that he would never sell the guitar and it would be brought back to SWIPE if he no longer used it.

Aisha is a SWIPE regular who studies vocal coaching, violin and the guitar. She wanted to join her school's keyboard club but was told that she would need a keyboard to practice on at home. SWIPE had received a donation of an old keyboard that

needed a really good clean so they offered this to Aisha if she was willing to put in the hours to restore it before it left the charity. Aisha came in early for her lessons and to clean the keyboard and even enlisted her friends and family to help her. With all this help it didn't take too long and Aisha now has her own keyboard to practice on at home.

Jamie Green said, "Young people learning an instrument need to practice at home otherwise they spend half their lessons trying to remember what they learned last week. We provide many of them with loan equipment for just that reason and the instrument amnesty donations are really helping us to give these young people what they need to develop further"

If you would like to donate an old instrument to SWIPE contact them on 01753512156 or email jamie@swipemusic.com

Local Arts

★artsinfo

Editor: Lorna Allen and Gurjeet Kaur
Sub Editors: Rebecca Cairns and
Louise O'Dwyer Barnard

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★artsinfo

Arts Development
Slough Borough Council
Town Hall, Bath Road
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.

*Front cover images: top: Aisha cleaning
the keyboard, middle: 1962 Hofner
Colorama guitar, bottom: Frank restoring
the guitar. Credit: SWIPE*

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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 30th June 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 Slough
Borough Council policy. The editor
would like to thank everyone who has
submitted articles for inclusion in
★artsinfo.

Editors note

The Arts Development team has been
working in Slough for a long time now,
but the breadth of arts activity and
talent here still surprises us and never
more so than at the 'This is my work,
show me yours' networking event
where we were blown over by the skill
and variety of Slough's artists. The
event offered artists the chance to
show their work whether it was
painting, jewellery, sculpture or music
to other artists; to share ideas and get
contacts. There were over 30
exhibitors, in fact the event was such a
success that we're going to make it a
regular part of our arts network
programme.

Now, Slough has always been big on
innovation and SWIPE (Slough West
Indian People's Enterprise) have been
at the forefront of creative solutions to

difficult issues, first with Europe's first
environmentally friendly steel pan
factory and now with their musical
instrument amnesty (see cover). The
group's projects continue to go from
strength to strength, so if you have a
musical instrument lurking
somewhere at the back of a cupboard,
now is the time to let some keen young
fingers get to grips with it.

So if sharing is the theme of the
moment, then it's also the theme for
this issue. Whether it's sharing your
work, your time by volunteering at the
West Wing, your good news, your
views on the Arts Development
Strategy, or that old guitar that you've
been meaning to pick up for ages but
have never gotten round to. It's time to
share what's great about the arts in
Slough.

Five hours a week of quality art and culture for every child

In February 2008 the Government
announced that all children should be
offered at least five hours of high
quality culture per week, both in and
out of school, regardless of where they
live or their backgrounds, with a
particular focus on those who would
otherwise miss out. This is to help
them learn, develop creative and
personal skills and start a lifelong
interest in culture. The five hours of
culture will be delivered through
schools and in a range of different
settings, bringing together partners
from across the fields of culture.

Children will be given the chance to
attend top quality dance and theatre
performances, as well as experience
art galleries and museums. Alongside
this there will be practical

opportunities to learn a musical
instrument, to produce and take part
in dance and theatre performances
and get involved with arts and crafts.
The programme will ensure that young
people who develop a particular
interest will have the opportunity to
develop and to progress cultural and
creative careers.

The government is spending £110m
over three years on "creative
partnerships" between schools and
outside organisations. There are to be
£25m pilot schemes in 10 areas - with
local authorities invited to bid to take
part. Ministers will select a range of
areas to go forward for development
from May 2008 and the pilot
programmes will launch in September
2008.

Volunteering at the West Wing

The West Wing is always looking for volunteers to help with the running of the arts centre. People with an interest in the theatre can find out about the practicalities of the box office, managing the bar/café and stewarding at events.

Richard Cooper, talked about his experience of volunteering, "It seemed the ideal way to get out of the house and meet people, do something for the community, and have some entertainment; all things I needed to do. Often there is a chance to chat with the performers either before or after the show too. The best part is probably talking with members of the audience after a show and hearing how much they have enjoyed it. I've also learned something about the effort and work that goes in to making the magic happen on stage."

Keith Hughes, another volunteer agreed, "For me the best part of volunteering is having fun. Whether it's with the other West Wing staff and volunteers, or with the public; just trying to make them smile. Also, experiencing the events that are held there has been interesting and often very enjoyable. I have gained experience of dealing with the public and my inter-personal skills have improved.

I hope to continue my occasional stints volunteering as it is a very enjoyable way of spending my free time and I see the West Wing as a valuable asset to the local area."

Contact Ronin Traynor at the West Wing Arts Centre if you are interested in becoming a volunteer. Call 01753 476651.

Changing faces

Ramesh Kukar will be joining Slough Council for Voluntary Service in June as its Chief Officer.

Following a successful lottery funding bid, **Davina Prescott** is the new part-time Governance Worker and will be increasing awareness of good governance within the sector. She will continue as Community Development Worker to support local groups and community organisations for the remainder of the time.

Carmel O'Brien specialises in assisting voluntary and community groups with all aspects of their finance.

Jesal Dhokia takes on the newly created position of Children's and Young Peoples' Development Worker.



Funding query

Q: There are so many possible funding opportunities out there, I am starting to get confused about what sort of project I really want to do?

A: It is often tempting to start developing ideas for projects that fit different funding streams but this can lead you away from doing projects that genuinely fit with the aims and objectives of your organisation or group. Instead, start by thinking about ideas for projects that you really want to do; projects that fit with the mission of your organisation, and then find the funder to match your project. This should help prevent you from becoming funding led and losing clarity of what you want to do. You are unlikely to need to redesign your project to fit a funder but you may need to highlight the bits of your project that most closely fit their aims and objectives.

Contact Arts Development for funding support.

A successful funding bid!

Slough Council for Voluntary Service (SCVS) has been successful in securing funding from The Big Lottery's BASIS programme. The aim of the programme is to improve the infrastructure support available to all voluntary and community sector organisations (VCOs) in England. This project will strengthen VCOs in Slough by improving financial management procedures, strengthening their governance and funding to further develop SCVS's training for VCOs. The training element will provide basic and specialist training covering Strategic Planning, Financial Planning, Business Planning, Marketing, Governance, Management and Leadership Skills.

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.

Art and People - a winning combination

Since it was first published in 1996, Art & People, the practical guide to running an arts project written by Arts Development and Christine Wilkinson, has been an invaluable tool for anyone working in community arts. This year sees the launch of the third edition of the publication.

Now fully updated and extended, the guide is essential reading for artists, community groups, arts organisations and teachers, in fact anyone who has a spark of an idea for a project and needs some easy to follow support to make that idea a reality. Available to buy from June 2008 priced at £12.

For more information call 01753 477176.

"This is my work, show me yours"

The Slough Arts Network was re-launched with a special event held at the West Wing on 26th March. The evening gave artists from across Berkshire the opportunity to share their work with others. Over 60 artists and groups came to share their work, including: painters, dancers, jewellers, sculptors, musicians and a colour therapist.

Network meetings are open to artists and arts groups whether voluntary or professional. They are a chance to meet new people and get to know the arts in Slough and tell us what you need from us. The next meeting is 28th May between 6-8pm at the West Wing. Caren Georgy from Arts Council England, South East will be speaking about the support they can offer.

For more information call 01753 477176.

version will be available later this year for comment.

For more information on how you can take part contact the Arts Development team on 01753 477176 or email artsinfo@slough.org.uk

Breaking news: Arts Development publication receives national recognition

The British Urban Regeneration Association (BURA) and South East Excellence have recognised the Community Arts Training Scheme (CATS) Impact and Toolkit publication as an example of best practice through the national Tools of the Trade award. Launched in November 2006, the awards aim to identify the best toolkits available for people working to create sustainable communities.

CATS is a practical course to help people in the community plan and run their own arts projects. The CATS Impact and Toolkit has been designed to help local authority arts officers to see the impact that CATS has had in Slough and shows how they can adapt the course to run it in their own area.

The judging panel said of the publication: 'The toolkit contains much valuable tried and tested information and sound approaches to setting up and running training programmes. It is well designed in an accessible, lively and readable format.'

CATS Impact and Toolkit is available to buy from Arts Development, Slough Borough Council priced £25. For more information or to purchase a copy call 01753 477176.

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 to join the West Wing's mailing list.

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

Arts Development needs you

We are currently working on a new strategy for the Arts Development team and are looking for your views and ideas on the arts in Slough. It's vital that people in Slough can contribute to developing this strategy so we are carrying out public consultation, which will run for six months from February 2008.

Alongside this we are also holding a series of meetings and workshops involving a wide range of artists, arts organisations, voluntary arts groups and stakeholders.

This consultation will inform our new arts development strategy and a draft

Training for artists

These courses are specifically for artists living or working in Slough, who wish to develop themselves and their work effectively. The training is organised by Arts Development, Slough Borough Council.

Preparing to succeed

Tuesday 1st July 2008,

9.30am-4.30pm

Are you an artist looking for effective ways to sell, pitch, and present your work in every situation? Martyn Duffy from Bridge Builders can help. This workshop will give you an understanding of how to communicate effectively; enable you to become confident at interview techniques and teach you how to ask open questions. You will have opportunities to review and consolidate your learning whilst putting the theory into practice and giving you the confidence and ability to think on your feet. You will be given the

opportunity to pitch in a safe environment and get feedback from the group.

Facilitating practical workshops

Thursday 3rd July 2008,

9.30am-4.30pm

Are you an artist looking to make an extra income from your work? Have you thought about running practical workshops but don't know where to start? Running workshops can be a great way to support your practice. Expert trainer and workshop facilitator Christine Wilkinson will give you the tips, techniques and guidance to help you set up and run practical workshops for any age range.

Visual arts portfolio day

Thursday 10th July 2008,

9.30am - 4.30pm

Are you looking for inspiration on how to present your work? Trying to submit

your portfolio to galleries but not sure which direction to take or how to present your work? Then, look no further; Rebecca Cairns, Arts Development Manager and former gallery curator, will work with Suzanne Stallard, Director of the jelly leg'd chicken gallery in Reading, to look at what to and what not to include in your portfolio. You will need to bring along your current work and portfolio. Each participant will be given a slot for a one-to-one session with the trainers and the group to look at selecting work for their portfolio.

N.B. This course is specifically aimed at visual artists. Places are limited so please submit a copy of your CV with the booking form.

For further information or a booking form please contact Arts Development on 01753 477176.

Regeneration

The High Street is taking shape

Work has begun in earnest on the High Street and will be continuing at a fast pace this year. The new road layout is starting to take shape where the High Street meets Windsor Road and the foundations for the first piece of artwork for this area, Radar by Simon Watkinson, have been laid.

Throughout 2008 work will begin in the pedestrian zone, with one team

working their way down the High Street towards Debenhams and Marks and Spencer from the East and another from the West.

The council has been successful in an application to Arts Council England-South-East for a grant of £80,000 funding towards the scheme for a piece of artwork by artist Bhajan Hunjan called Light Box.

A focus on artist Alec Peever

Eleven poems that have been specially commissioned by celebrated British poet Fiona Sampson and chosen from eleven different poets writing in their own language will be scattered throughout the scheme. They will be carved in stone by artist Alec Peever in their native alphabets, with the English translation, and placed in different and surprising locations in the High Street.

You can monitor the scheme's progress by visiting www.slough.gov.uk/artatthecentre or for further information contact the project assistant on 01753 875844.



>> New paving being laid in Slough High Street

Arts and young people

Gallery 435 helps inspire Young Curators Project

Gallery 435, Slough's Contemporary Art Gallery, has been invited to act as consultant for a group of local students who are curating their own local art show.

The Young Curators project, being run by Slough Visual Arts Advanced Skills Teacher Anne Brown, in conjunction with Slough Museum, gives students freedom to select and display their own work. The team of young curators come from Baylis Court School, East Berkshire College, Langley Grammar School, St Bernard's Convent and Slough Grammar School.

Zoe Hatch of Gallery 435 said, "People often think that curating an art show is just about hanging pictures on walls but there's so much more to it than that. It requires marketing, planning, design and fiscal management in

order to succeed. The skills the young people are learning through this project will stay with them throughout their working life."

The show will run from **9th July to 30th August** at Slough Museum and

will be open to the public during normal museum opening times.

Contact Anne Brown, Advanced Skills Teacher for Visual Arts on 07796 957943 and Zoe Hatch, Gallery 435 on 07974 457925.



>> Young Curators Project

Creative Partnerships

16+ Unemployed

16+ Unemployed is a short film made by young people for young people funded by the Government Office for the South East (G.O.S.E.), Connexions, Creative Partnerships and

Mediabox. The project took young people aged 16+ who were not engaged in education, employment or training and gave them the opportunity to get their message

across to their peers and future employers. It enabled them to learn all the skills required to produce this film through work placements at Resource Productions, a Slough based film company.



>> Launch night for 16+

Steve Hart

The launch party was held in February at Slough Empire Cinema. Attendees were given a DVD of the film along with a resource pack, which includes information on CV tips, interview techniques, and opportunities for young people in the UK.

The aim is to encourage young people to seek opportunities and schemes available to them, to look for employment or further their education.

Contact Sandra at Resource Productions on 01753 553374 or email Sandra@resource-productions.co.uk

What's happening?

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Contact
May				
7	10.00am	Training: Project Planning	Slough CVS	01753 524176
12	7.30pm	Slough Writers' Group Meeting Craft Night: Reviewing	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
19	7.30pm	Slough Writers' Group Meeting: Guest Speaker	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
22	8.00pm	Sun Wukong Monkey King	West Wing Arts Centre	01753 823710
28	6-8pm	Arts network meeting	West Wing Arts Centre	01753 477176
June				
2	7.30pm	Slough Writers' Group Meeting: Manuscript Evening	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
9	7.30pm	Slough Writers' Group Meeting: Inspirational Evening	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
16	7.30pm	Slough Writers' Group Meeting: Craft Night: Characters of consequence	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
23	7.30pm	Slough Writers' Group Meeting: Manuscript Evening	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
30	7.30pm	Slough Writers' Group Meeting: Stand up and be Laughed at	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
July				
7	7.30pm	Slough Writers' Group Meeting: AGM: Poetry Competition Results	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
18-19	tba	Latin Festival	West Wing Arts Centre	01753 823710
August				
8-10	various	Musical: Buggy Malone	West Wing Arts Centre	01753 823710

Opportunities

Project Planning

Wednesday 7th May, 10.00 - 16.00

(lunch is not provided) Slough CVS,
1st Floor, 27 Church Street, Slough,
Berks, SL1 1PL

This free course, run by the Directory of Social Change, is aimed at community groups and charities that have some experience of project planning and would like to be more effective. You will learn practical methods to timetable activities, deal with costings and negotiate a clear brief, along with lots

of other tips and tools to plan your projects.

Please download a booking form at www.sloughcvs.org.uk

Courses at SYPC

Slough Young People's Centre (SYPC) has an exciting programme this term for 13-25 year olds. Work on dance routines, learn about music technology and digital new media.

Courses include:

- Street Dance
- Breakdance
- Urban Dance
- Belly Dancing
- NCFE Music Technology Level 1
- Vocal Training
- Keyboards
- Gorilla Market your Mixtape
- Graphic Design

For further information contact Jordan Maynard-Daley on 01753 539300 or email jordan.maynard-daley@slough.gov.uk

The artsinfo interview: Bobbi Johal, Community Business Advisor, Enterprise Link



>> Bobbi Johal

Enterprise Link

What is Enterprise Link?

We provide free business advice and support at the pre start-up business stage. Our main focus is on supporting Black Minority & Ethnic (BME) women. People come to us with an idea of the kind of business they would like to set up and the Enterprise Link acts as a facilitator providing practical support through every stage.

What is your role there?

I am the Community Business Advisor. I meet clients and discuss their ideas for a business on a one-to-one basis. Everything discussed is of course confidential. I also organise the monthly Business Skills & Networking workshops in which on average 30 entrepreneurs attend to network and listen to a presentation to help them develop their business. We have covered a variety of topics including sales techniques and confidence building. Clients suggest ideas of what they would like covered and I structure the workshops with these in mind. We always have a practical exercise too so they can take away something useful that they can put into practice with their businesses.

Who works here?

Enterprise Link is part of the Enterprise Group. We are based at the Thomas Gray Centre and include several

projects, Opening Doors, which delivers help to enterprising Berkshire women with training to develop their skills; the Lone Parent Project which provides practical support, information and skills to lone parents looking to enter the job market; IAG and Nextstep, providing information, guidance and support on learning and career opportunities; Enterprise Centre which provides practical advice and tips on gaining employment; and Aurat Enterprise which aims to promote education among women from BME backgrounds.

What services do you offer?

After the initial consultation clients who have a clear idea in mind need help with the process of setting up as a sole trader. I will often refer them on to a practical business course run by Business Link. They offer a three-module course covering business planning and legal aspects, sales and marketing and managing money. This may not be the right direction for some people and I will refer them on to other agencies in Slough better suited to their requirements.

What is the best bit about your job?

I really love the variety. People come in with really innovative ideas and it's satisfying when you see those ideas turn into a business. I sometimes work with a client for over a year and see them go through their ups and downs - I'm even a shoulder to cry on during

the difficult times - so when they succeed it's fantastic.

What support can you offer arts groups and artists?

We don't have a specific funding stream for this sector this year, but we are happy to help anyone who comes to us for business support. We have a good working relationship with Arts Development and other agencies so will work to find the best agency to help our clients. We recently held a Business Showcase for creatives at the West Wing, as part of Enterprise Week, for our entrepreneurs to exhibit and sell their work. This proved a really useful networking event too as exhibitors made useful contacts with each other. Matt Davies from Matt Davis Multimedia Associates (MDMA) recently collaborated with Riffat Bahar, the henna artist to make a short promotional film.

What are your future plans?

I would like to see Enterprise Link grow in Slough. I've been almost a 'one-woman band' since the start of the project a couple of years ago and since then the demand for my time has really increased. I think we need more Community Business Advisors providing an outreach service to reach more people. My main concern at the moment is supporting and sustaining the businesses we have helped set up and continuing to run business showcases to promote their work.



>> Business Showcase for Creatives

Enterprise Link