

Editors note

Welcome to the 2nd issue of the e-artsinfo news bulletin.

We had a great response to our first issue and we've had lots of people in the arts sending us information to include, so this issue is packed full of news and opportunities. There's information on new projects, courses and lots of opportunities for artists to exhibit and sell their work, but we're greedy and we want

more, so if you have any news or upcoming events that you want to share with the arts community, please email us at: artsinfo.slough@talktalk.net.

The e-artsinfo team



Bhajun Hunjan shows her work

News

A creative journey from Hackney to Slough

Young people from Slough Young People's Centre (SYPC) took a day out to see a glass artwork being made, in the heart of Hackney.

The Lightbox by Bhajan Hunjan is inspired by the game Hopscotch with intricate designs incorporated into a 3x2metre oval, and will shortly be installed in Slough High Street as part of Art at the Centre.

Bhajan was delighted to show the fabrication of the artwork to the group, some of whom were involved in workshops to design the piece itself. She said: 'I'm really looking forward to seeing how people relate to the piece, whether it evokes memories of how we played as children and it was great to meet SYPC, who are so proud that it'll be installed in the High Street.'

The artwork is being fabricated by Eluna, a company pioneered by Free Form Arts Trust, who also originally established SYPC with Slough Borough Council.

Shante Hudson, Acting Arts Development Officer for SYPC added; 'The young people were inspired to see their ideas turned into reality. They can't wait to see the piece installed in the High Street, and are already talking about how they can incorporate it into a piece of street performance.'

Hazel Goldman, Associate Director of Programmes at Free Form continues to mentor the SYPC Team who are all young people from Slough.

She said: 'It is wonderful to see the artwork being made ready for installation. It is the latest celebration of our Hackney & Slough partnership. We're delighted too that the design of the artwork has involved the input of Slough's school-children and SYPC through a creative arts workshops programme.'

www.sypc.co.uk

*e-artsinfo

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*e-artsinfo

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Tell us your news!

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

*e-artsinfo

*e-artsinfo is a monthly e-
bulletin that aims to raise the
profile of the arts, artists and
creative industries in Slough.

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

Articles and pictures for
inclusion in the next *e-artsinfo
must be submitted by
Friday, 14th August 2009.

The views expressed in
*e-artsinfo do not necessarily
reflect official Slough Borough
Council policy. Any material
submitted for publication may
be edited for reasons of style,
content or available space. The
editors would like to thank
everyone who has submitted
articles for inclusion in
*e-artsinfo.

News from the community

The Community Arts Project Launch

On the 19th July the Community Arts Project was launched at The Grovefield House Hotel in Burnham. The event included Live music, dancers and art stalls and the organisation ran different workshops throughout the day.

The Community Arts Project was created to allow artists to go into places such as schools, colleges, hospitals, day centres and residential homes to help people within the community. The project aims to provide workshops and classes that are therapeutic, educational and fun for members of the community.

The project will be based from their Eton studio, and will be offering pottery painting, parties and workshops, singing lessons, music classes, cookery classes, drama classes and dance lessons for adults and children to do either in school time, after school clubs or at weekends.

In addition to this members of the project will be going out to work in the community

For more information contact
Jo Fredrickson on 01753 84277
jo_fredrickson@hotmail.com

An Indoor Classroom Outside Experience

The children of Baylis Court Nursery School have created a site specific installation with their resident artist Valerie Oliver. The children were given the opportunity to turn existing functional objects into artworks, using a material called 'Mud Rock'.

The objects were then placed outside to create a classroom to engage parents and visitors. Visitors to the site can play with the classroom and use their own creativity by using materials to change the appearance of the objects.



Islamic Art courses come to the West Wing

Islamic artist Ayesha Gamiet will soon be coming to Slough to run a series of courses on Islamic art.

An eight week course will run at the West Wing beginning on the 23rd September at 6.30pm, focussing on the art of Islamic manuscript illumination and giving an introduction to Islamic art and design. The course aims to give students a practical introduction to the fundamental principals of geometry and arabesque design.

Students will be given practical instruction on creating their own works of Islamic art, demonstrations of paper preparation, gold work, and illumination styles and techniques, and informal one-to-one sessions. They will also be given short illustrated talks outlining the history of the art and design and other practical topics.

Ayesha is a freelance artist working across the UK on private commissions, design work and teaching. She has an MA in Visual

Islamic and Traditional Arts and has spent many years researching her craft, studying in Granada, Damascus, Cairo and particularly Istanbul, where she trained under a Master Illuminator. She regularly returns to Istanbul to continue her studies.

Ayesha's previous teaching projects have included Mosaic International Summer School 2009 at Cambridge University, She has also undertaken design work for Rolls Royce and earlier this year exhibited at the Malaysia Museum of Islamic Arts in Kuala Lumpur. Ayesha was also a participant on the 2009 Community Arts Training Scheme run by the Community Arts team at Slough Borough Council.

Ayesha said "The profound beauty of sacred and traditional arts has enriched my life so greatly. It has inspired me. I feel very privileged to be able to share what I have learnt with my community. Islamic art has fascinated me from a young age, but while growing up there were



no opportunities for me to be able to learn more about these traditional crafts. I hope that these classes will inspire others to pursue their creative ambitions, and add to Slough's rich cultural and artistic heritage."

For more information please visit www.ayeshagamiet.com

ayesha_gamiet@hotmail.com

Calling Berkshire Artists

Slough Borough Council's Community Arts team is calling artists based in Berkshire to join a new online directory.

The aim of the directory is to profile local artists and link people who want to run arts projects with professional artists from across all art forms. The directory is free to join and to search.

To sign up, visit the site www.artsinslough.org.uk

For more information contact Louise O'Dwyer Barnard on 01753 875667 louise.o'dwyerbarnard@slo-ugh.gov.uk



Dance courses in Slough

Creative Academy, in partnership with St Josephs School, is running an A Level Dance course at the West Wing Arts Centre, starting in September 2009. The course will be taught by Samantha Moore on Monday and Tuesday evenings between 5:30 and 8:30pm, and in the 09/10 academic year will be free to students attending Slough Schools.

For the last three years Creative Academy have been delivering a Foundation Dance Degree, and from September 2009 will be offering a full BA Dance degree.

For more information please contact George Kirkham at: george.kirkham@slough.gov.uk

Opportunities

Car Art Boot Sunday 13th September 10am- 3pm West Wing Arts Centre

Open to all creative artists, the principle is the same as a car boot, except that artists bring their art along (paintings, jewellery, sculptures etc) and sell from the boot of your car, if you don't have a car then tables can be provided.

A great opportunity to show off and sell your art and network with other creative artists.

Cost £15 for a stall, admission £1.00.

To book your stall contact Graham Steel on 07985 359654, graham.steel3@btinternet.com

Age concern cafe

Age Concern has recently opened a 50-seater café in the Village, just off the High Street, that is open to the general public. They currently have a large amount of wall space and are looking for local artists who want to display their paintings. The paintings would be seen by all visitors to the café and can also be offered up for sale if possible.

For more information contact Mark Stevens on 01753 497 884, Mark@ageconcernsabe.org.uk

Slough Family/Community Choir

Sing Up East Berkshire would like to set up a family/community choir at the West Wing in Slough. They would like to hear from any locally based

singing leaders who might be interested in leading this type of programme or anyone who might be interested in joining or has any thoughts on the idea.

For more information contact mail@phillipaberryarts.com

Arts Network Meeting

The next Arts Network Meeting is to be held on the 2nd September from 7pm at the West Wing.

The Arts Network is a place where artists, community groups and anyone interested in the arts in Slough can come together and share their ideas as well as making contacts and gathering information.

The last meeting was an open forum allowing all who attended to express what they would like to see in Slough to help develop the arts. Discussion ranged from the place of Slough's Arts Festival in the local community to the facilities that artists would like to see available in the Learning Curve centre to be built as part of the Heart of Slough project, with the general consensus being that as many artists as possible should put their views forward at the planning stage. The next meeting will look at how we can work together to better promote the arts in Slough.

For more information please contact the Community Arts team on 01753 875667, artsinfo@slough.gov.uk

Community Arts fundraising support service

If you have a great idea for an arts project and want to make it a reality then the Community Arts team can help. We offer a fundraising support service to individuals and groups in who want to run activities that benefit people living in Slough. We can help identify potential funders and then help you shape your ideas into a bid.

If you'd like to find out more contact the team on 01753 875667 for more information.

Berkshire Summer Programme

Thames Valley University is holding more than 30 courses, activities and workshops in various locations around Slough between the 3rd and 21st August.

If you are 11 – 19 years old and living, studying or working in Berkshire you can take part in these free interactive workshops across various venues. Workshops include animation, break dancing, theatre photography, DJ, guitar, song writing, photography, radio broadcasting and many more.

The programme is funded by Aimhigher Berkshire, a national initiative dedicated to increasing participation in Higher Education.

For more information please call 01753 69 7795 or visit www.tvu.ac.uk/bsp

Popstars Academy launch

Popstars Academy is launching a brand new academy in Iver at the St Peter's Centre. People from the local community are invited to the official Popstars Academy Launch Party on Tuesday 22nd September, to come and see what Popstars Academy is all about.

There will be a free dance session, popstar games and a free microphone for every child aged 5-12 that attends between 4pm and 5:30pm

Popstars Academy offers fun dance classes for ages 4-11 featuring choreographed routines & dance techniques to current chart music and Popstar favourites – disco, hip-hop & free style with dance props. Classes are available in Burnham and Iver. To Book a FREE Trial Call 01753 538 525

www.PopstarsAcademy.com

Community arts blog

It's not all doom and gloom

In the last month we've had an influx of people wanting to work with us on funding bids. The process involves one-to-one sessions where we talk through ideas and help people to shape their projects and write their bid. It's something we love doing because of the amazing ideas that local people have. We usually work on around 20 bids a year, but we have seen almost this many in the last month alone. We're currently working with people on projects to improve health, celebrate heritage and bring local people from different cultures closer together.

It seems that the current economic instability has encouraged people to take an active role in their community and work to address local issues using the arts. In fact recent studies have shown that the participatory arts actually thrive in times of recession with more people getting involved in local activities than spending their hard earned cash on luxuries like holidays.

Whilst the arts can't be an antidote to all of the problems people face in Slough, we can take this opportunity to build on the most valuable resources that we have – the time and energy of local people. We believe that art is the heart and soul of a community and that the best projects are always those that are designed and directed by local people. We'll continue to support local people in whatever ways we can and in doing so aim to ensure that the arts emerge from this time of economic turmoil stronger than ever.

If you'd like to find out more about some of the projects that have already happened in Slough, you can read case studies in the resources section of our website www.artsinslough.org.uk.

If you have an idea for a project and would like advice or support contact the team on 01753 875667.