

## October 2025 Newsletter



## Funding available for community groups from Arts Therapies UK

Arts Therapies UK currently have funding to provide 6 free 1.5hr therapeutic creative workshops to any charity/ CIC or community group in Sandwell thank you to our National Lottery Community Fund grant.

See here for contact details

## THIS MONTH'S FEATURED MEMBER IS... SANDWELL ARCHIVES

Sandwell Archives, also referred to as
Sandwell Community History and Archives
Service, collects and preserves original
archives and published material relating
to the history of Sandwell. If you are
interested in finding out more about local
history or tracing your family tree,
Sandwell Archives holds a vast wealth of
material to help you!

This year they have been successful in receiving two grants from The National Archives!



To find out more about Sandwell Archives, visit their website here!



#### JOIN OUR ROCK BAND!

a friendly group for adults that sing or play an instrument

no need to read music notation

guided by professional leaders

rehearsals, gigs and socials

#### YOUR FIRST SESSION IS FREE



Mondays from 7:15PM - 8:45PM during term times.
Great Bridge Library
40 Sheepwash Lane, DY4 7JF call: 07305 043160

email: hello@misfitsmusic.org.uk website: misfitsmusic.org.uk/trc





## Sandwell Poetry Laureate Scheme coming soon!

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Charlotte McDermott, and a group of incredible experts will be launching the Sandwell Poet Laureate Programme within the next year! The Laureate scheme will seek to instate a Sandwell Poet Laureate and Sandwell Young Poet Laureate, through the means of a writing competition with a panel of proficient judges, that will be able to "tell the Sandwell Story and inspire the people of Sandwell to maximise their own creative potential."

To do this, a team of experts will be gathered that represent the diverse, multi-faceted poetry community around the West Midlands and within Sandwell. We will launch an open mic pilot in 2026 to bring people together and read, write, and above all perform poetry in safe, accessible spaces, celebrating the beauty and unique twang of Sandwell, the Black Country, and the surrounding areas. This project will unite Sandwell and its towns under a poetical banner, providing opportunities for people of different backgrounds to take part in workshops, open mic events, festivals, charity fundraising, creative promotion, and many other delightful artistic ventures.

## Apple Day





Celebrate our new community orchard. Try different apples, apple bakes, themed games, and help us care for our trees. Have your own apple tree? Bring along some apples to share and compare!







### 21st October 3 - 4PM The Commons, Grove Lane

Free and for all

The community garden can be found outside Midland Metropolitan University Hospital's main entrance, near Costa and the grass circle Email ruby@wearespectra.co.uk to find out more















How to find us



wearespectra.co.uk/the-commons



# JOIN OUR YOUTH ARTS BOARD MEETING

27.10.2025 18:30 - 19:30

6-7, St Michael's Court, West Bromwich B70 8ET

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED



The Youth Arts Board is a network of young creatives shaping the future of arts in the Black Country. We connect artists, share opportunities, and lead youth-driven projects.

At our first online meeting, we talked about more local support, mentorship, and exciting ideas like open mics, exhibitions, workshops, and arts events.

Now we're planning our first in-person meeting and we want you to be part of it. Bring your ideas, meet other creatives, and help us build a thriving arts scene in the Black Country.

For more infomation or if interested contact: darnellr@poweredbycan.org



### ADD YOUR EVENTS TO VISIT SANDWELL TODAY

If you have an event in Sandwell, PLEASE add it to Visit Sandwell by clicking <u>here!</u>

We want more Sandwell events on Visit Sandwell - if you need any help with adding events, please contact Stacey!

A support video to add

events on
Visit Sandwell is here!

Join the Sandwell Cultural Forum



Do you know someone who wants to join the Sandwell Forum?
Email Stacey via:
stacey\_bagdi@sandwell.gov.uk





#### **Lantern Celebration**

Join Spectra on Thursday, 30th October, for their Lantern celebration at The Commons. Between 1-3PM there will be a free, drop-in, lantern-making workshop on Level 5 of Midland Metropolitan University Hospital. The lantern procession will begin just after 4PM at The Commons, with lanterns created on the day and at art workshops with the community. Enjoy warming mulled apple juice and a relaxing sonic experience as the autumnal night draws in.

To find out more about The Commons, including travel, the access guide and audio description, visit <a href="wearespectra.co.uk/the-commons">wearespectra.co.uk/the-commons</a>. Please email <a href="mailto:ruby@wearespectra.co.uk">ruby@wearespectra.co.uk</a> if you have any questions



INFAMOUS ARTS PRESENT

## THE TOYMAKER



FAMILY FESTIVE SHOW OF TRADITIONAL STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD



"ABSOLUTELY GRACKING SHOW. SO GOOD TO HEAR DARKER STORIES ABOUT THE WINTER SEASON. BEAUTIFULLY WRITTEN, PERFORMED, EXEGUTED AND THE DESIGN HAD LOADS OF DELIGHTS AND SURPRISES"

"BEAUTIFUL SHOW, LOOK FORWARD TO WATCHING IT AGAIN. ENGAGING, INVENTIVE, INFORMATIVE AND FUN - EVERYTHING YOU WANT IN A SHOW!"

"VERY LOVELY STORY, MY KIDS LOVED IT. THANK YOU VERY MUGH"



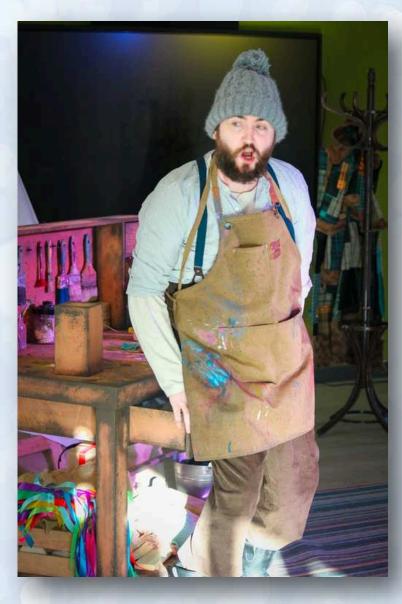
DEVISED & CREATED BY MATT LLOYD JACK TROW Inspired by various traditional festive stories from around the world, visit the Toymaker in his workshop as he prepares to go out on his deliveries. A storytelling performange, performed by one agtor who skilfully animates various puppets and props to weave together all the differing stories to greate a funny, anarghig, moving and beautiful journey through various gultures and makes for visually stunning theatre.

THIS IS A 45 MINUTE PERFORMANGE AND TWO SHOWS AT THE SAME VENUE GAN BE PRESENTED IN ONE DAY AND IS FLEXIBLE REGARDING PERFORMANGE DELIVERY SO WE GAN MEET THE NEEDS OF FESTIVALS, SCHOOLS, GOLLEGES, AND ARTS VENUES. THE PERFORMANGE IS SUITABLE FOR FAMILIES AND FOR ALL AGES OVER 5 YEARS

THE TOYMAKER IS TECHNICALLY SELF-SUFFICIENT AND TOURS WITH IT'S OWN SOUND EQUIPMENT AND LICHTING AND WOULD REQUIRE AGGESS TO AT LEAST 4 X ISAMP SOCKETS. FOR VENUES WITH THEIR OWN FIXED LICHTING RIG A WARM GENERAL GOVER IS REQUESTED AS IS LARGER VENUES WITH IN HOUSE PA SYSTEMS WE MAY REQUIRE TO RUN OUR SOUND THROUGH.

PERFORMANCE SPACE NEEDED IS 4M DEPTH X 5M WIDTH MINIMUM, WITH 8M HEIGHT, AND IS AN END ON PERFORMANCE.



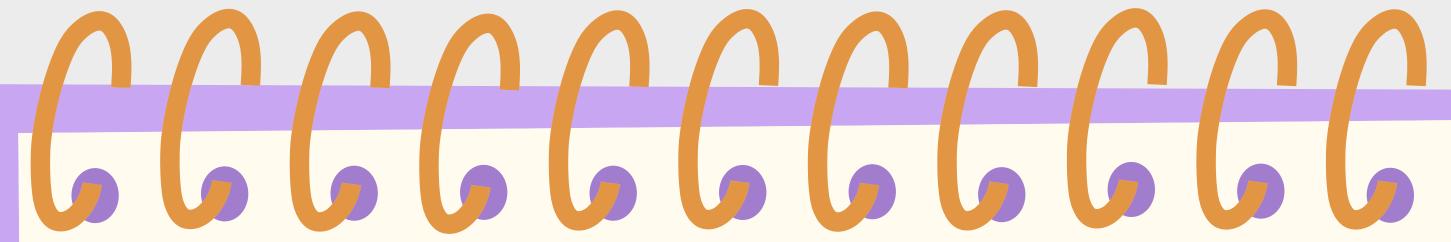








FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TOUR BOOKINGS PLEASE GONTAGT INFO@INFAMOUSARTS.GO.UK
0121 439 5410
WWW.INFAMOUSARTS.GO.UK







Click on the text below to find out more about the events and to book

#### Sandwell Museums:

#### **Haden Hill House**

• Lots of exciting family fun events at Haden click here for the full list!

#### **Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery**

• Lots of history talks and family summer fun at Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery

#### **Oak House Museum**

• There's a ton of activities happening at Oak House this summer - click here!

#### **Bromwich Hall**

• Check out the amazing events happening at Bromwich Hall, including the Medieval Weekend!

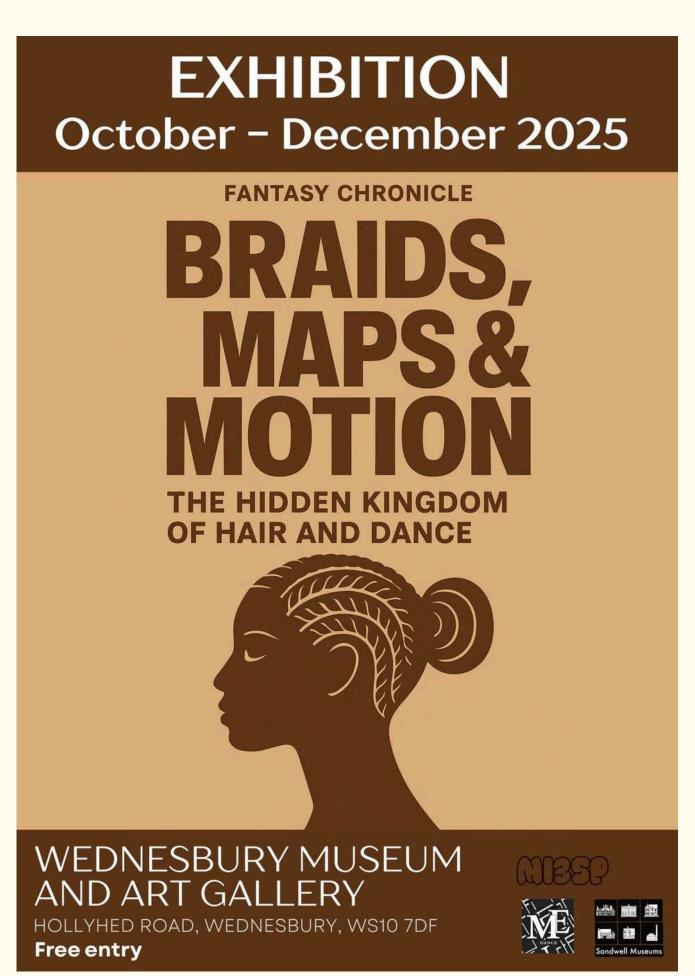
#### **Galton Valley Pumping Station**

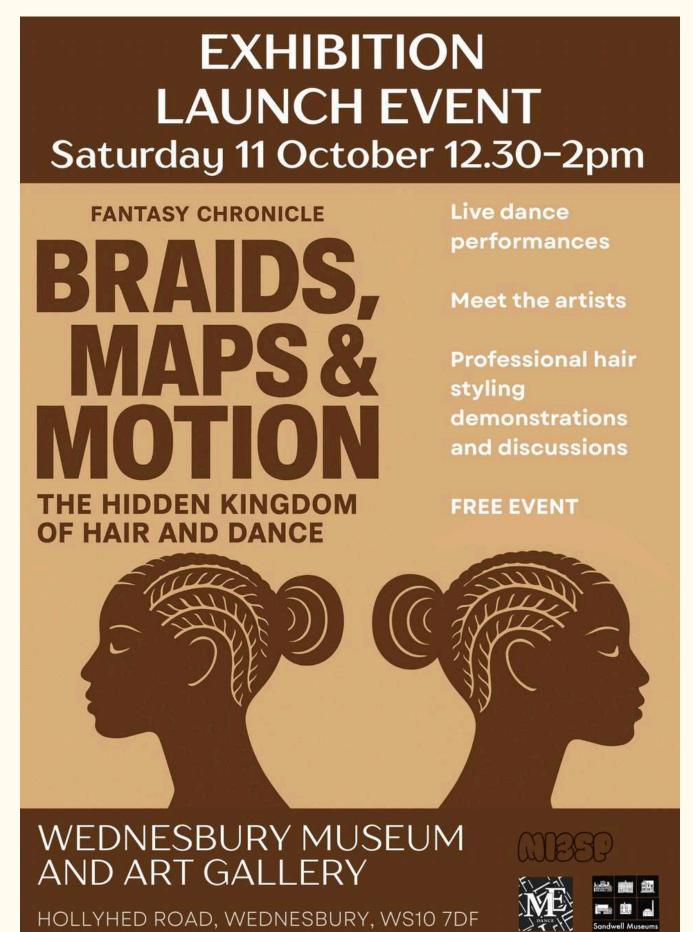
• Galton Valley Pumping station is opened by our volunteers on the **2nd Saturday of the month from April to October 11am-3pm.** 

#### **Sandwell Libraries:**

• Lots coming up, book via Ticketsource <-click here













What's happening in your neighbourhood?





### Every Thursday, 12pm – 2pm

Myra Harris CommunityRoom Brickhouse Lane West Bromwich B70 0DZ

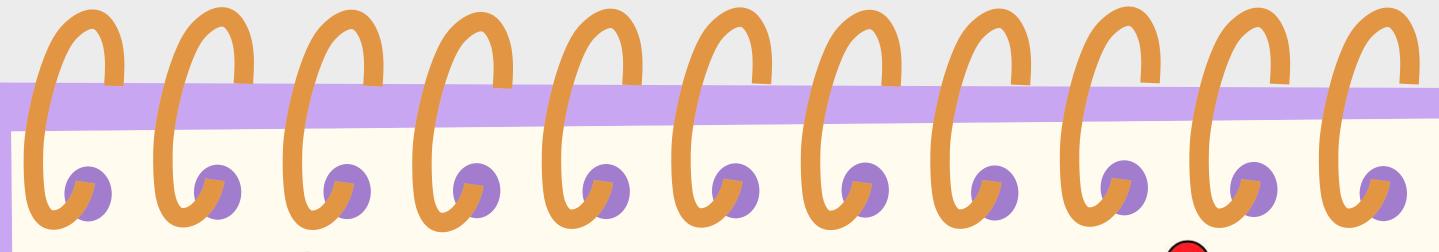
Come and join us for a friendly bingo session every Thursday!

For more information, please ring Pam at **0121 522 3766** 



www.riverside.org.uk

The Riverside Group Limited (Reg No 30938R) is a charitable Registered Society under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014





**Events Listing** 

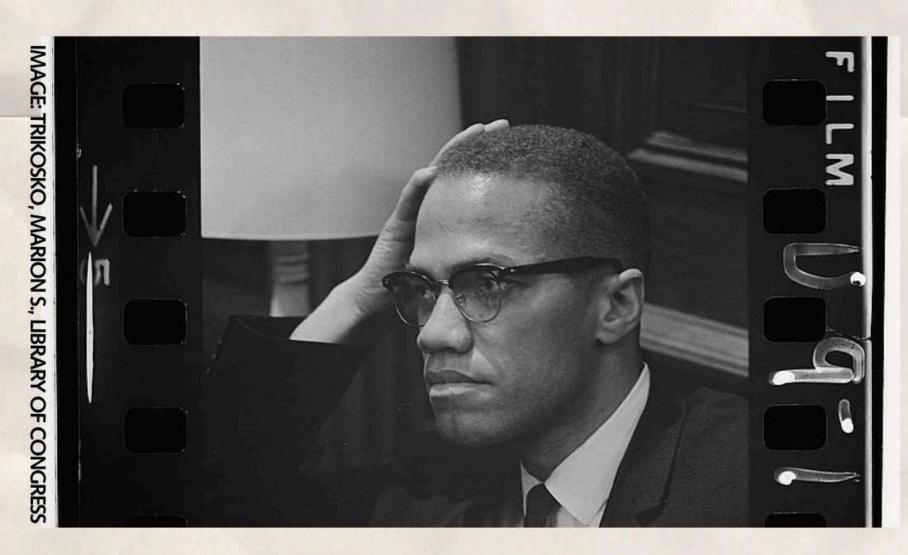






## 60 YEARS ON: MALCOLM X IN SMETHMICK

2025 MARKS 60 YEARS SINCE MALCOLM X VISITED MARSHALL STREET, SMETHWICK.
VISIT SANDWELL ARCHIVES TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE THIS VISIT HOLDS
IN BOTH OUR LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL HISTORY.



EXPLORE AND BROWSE READING MATERIAL, VIDEOS, AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES WITH US ON

WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2025. 11AM-2PM

SANDWELL ARCHIVES, SMETHWICK LIBRARY, B66 1AA



### Press Release from Big Bear Music: world wide media focus on Birmingham as UK's home of blues music

The eyes of the world are on Birmingham, with multiple media outlets reporting on how the city has become the UK's home of blues music.

The constant stream of attention in recent months has been driven by Big Bear Music and Big Bear Records, the Birmingham-based companies still active after more than 55 years.

Big Bear is headed by Jim Simpson, and media interest is often sparked by how this music impresario once managed Black Sabbath, initially a fledgling 1960s blues band called Earth before Simpson changed their name and they transformed into heavy metal.

The July edition of Living Blues, the USA's largest blues magazine, highlights how Henry's Blueshouse nights, launched by Big Bear in 1968 at The Crown pub in Birmingham, where Earth once played, are now held every Tuesday at the city's Snobs nightclub.

It discusses Big Bear's flagship Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival, a ten-day event that ran for a 41st consecutive year in 2025 with 178 performances – 166 free admission – at 101 venues across the West Midlands, to an audience of 64,498.

Big Bear's blues focus continues today, not only with the annual festival and weekly Blueshouse, but also with the free weekly Henry's Bluesletter, emailed to 16,000 fans worldwide, and The Jazz Rag, a bi-monthly magazine that won 'Best Jazz Media' in the UK's 2023 Parliamentary Jazz Awards.

Big Bear Records is currently working on three album releases for 2026, including A Long Time Coming by Shuggie Otis, a famed US musician who once featured in the classic 1971 Clint Eastwood film Play Misty For Me.

If that's not all, Big Bear Music is also an artist management agency, featuring the likes of local band King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys, who have performed almost 7,000 times in 21 countries in nearly 40 years.



Jim Simpson interview (with Birmingham-based author D.G. Torrens): <u>SPOTLIGHT: JIM 'BIG BEAR'</u>
<u>SIMPSON</u>

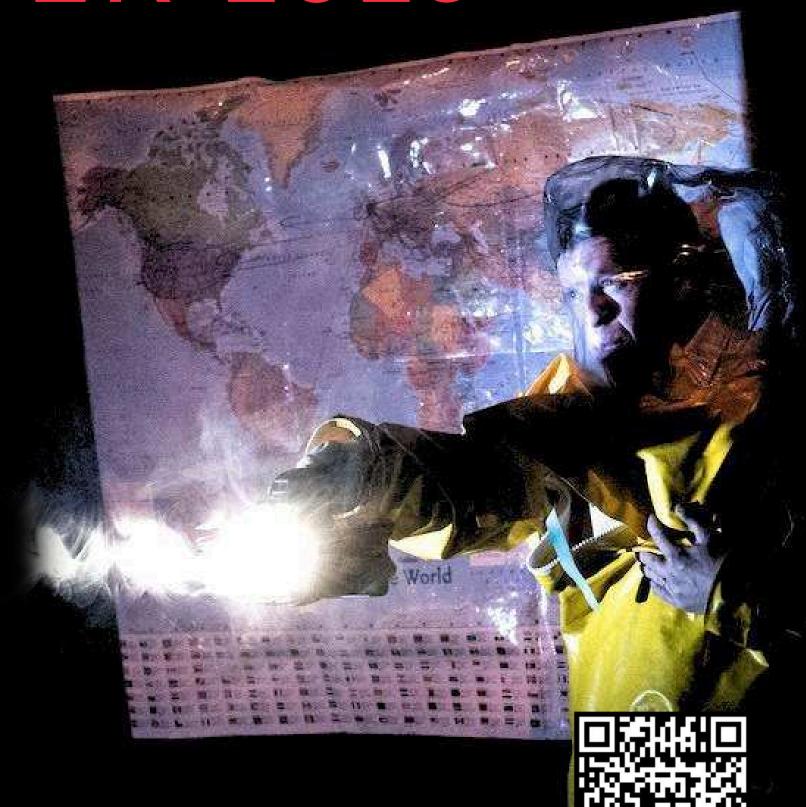
Henry's Bluesletters sent out this month: <u>Henry's Bluesletter #284 (Curtis Jones)</u>, <u>Henry's Bluesletter #283 (Good Rockin' Charles)</u>, <u>CHECK OUT 'HENRY'S BLUESHOUSE JINGLE' - Henry's Bluesletter #282</u>, Birmingham Rocks Newsletters sent out this month: <u>Birmingham Rocks 12/9/2025</u>, <u>Special Announcement - BIG BEAR ROCKS</u>

Two competing actors, tyrannised by a chess clock, struggle to compress 34 years of global vs personal history...



OCTOBER 2025







**ARTS COUNCIL** Garfield Weston **FOUNDATION** 





## New Exhibition at Walsall Art Gallery by Multistory

Multistory are thrilled to present **Nothing Gold Can Stay**, a group exhibition of newly commissioned work made during the second iteration of Assembly, an annual exhibition programme of newly commissioned work by emerging artists based in Sandwell and the Black Country. This year, the exhibition features the work of Mia Banks, Mandeep Dillon, and Tegen Kimbley. The artists' work explores the complex tensions between time, the production of images and the ethics of viewership, exploring how practices of slowness and deep attention ask us to view the world differently.

Come and see Nothing Gold Can Stay for yourself at The New Art Gallery Walsall.

Opening times and dates:

Tuesday to Saturday 10 am to 5 pm; Sunday 12 noon to 4 pm; closed Monday and Bank Holidays.

The exhibition runs until 9 November 2025.

Free entry.

### **Cultural Forum Members List**

- 1. <u>1000 Trades</u>
- 2. Anthony McFarlane (Artist)
- 3. Black Country Touring
- 4. Bear Bookshop
- 5. <u>Bearwood Community Hub</u>
- 6. Bearwood Promoters
- 7. <u>Big Bear Music</u>
- 8. <u>Birmingham Opera</u>
- 9. <u>Blue Sheep Books</u>
- 10. Birmingham Music Archive
- 11. Canal & River Trust
- 12. <u>City of Birmingham Orchestra</u>
- 13. <u>Chance Heritage Trust</u>
- 14. Curl Girl Productions
- 15. <u>Creative Black Country</u>
- 16. Drama AND SOME cic
- 17. The Art Yard
- 18. Powered by Can
- 19. Kickstarts Dance
- 20. Outside Left
- 21. Wild Lives Forest School
- 22. <u>Learn with Lolonyo</u>
- 23. <u>Luke Perry (Artist)</u>
- 24. ME Dance
- 25. Method in Motion
- 26. Midlands Metro Hospital
- 27. Multistory
- 28. Fantastic Journeys
- 29. Quennie Lim (Artist)
- 30. Sandwell College
- 31. Sarah Cole, writer
- 32. <u>SCVO</u>
- 33. <u>SIPS</u>
- 34. Smethwick Heritage Centre
- 35. Stan's Cafe
- 36.SWEDA
- 37. The Parakeet
- 38. The People's Orchestra
- 39. We are Spectra
- 40. West Midlands Heritage Building Trust
- 41. Women & Theatre
- 42. Rage Arts
- 43. European's Welfare Association
- & Sandwell Council Officers



