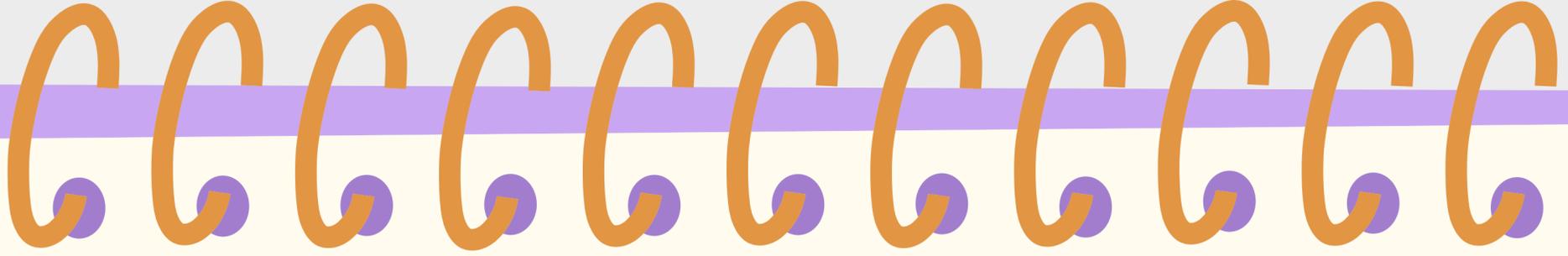


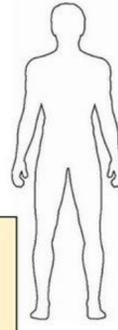


**March 2026
Newsletter**





SUNDAY
All-Day Portrait Art Sessions
 at
The Art Yard



DATES
 04/01,
 01/02,
 01/03,
 29/03
 26/04,
 31/05,



With lead artist:
 Chris Partridge

21/06,
 26/07
 30/08,
 27/09,
 18/10,
 29/11
 27/12

For details email to: infoartyard@gmail.com



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



**£500
CASH PRIZE**

SHAPE

**YOUR TALENT 2026
AUDITIONS**

A talent competition for young people of Sandwell aged
8-19 (up to 25 with SEND)

**WEDNESBURY
TOWN HALL
TUE 3 MARCH 26
5.30PM-8PM**

**LANGLEY LODGE
COMMUNITY CENTRE
THU 5 MARCH 26
5.30PM-8PM**

**CONEYGRE YOUTH
ARTS CENTRE
SAT 7 MARCH 26
3.30PM-6PM**

**WEST BROMWICH
TOWN HALL
TUE 10 MARCH 26
5.30PM-8PM**

**BLACKHEATH
LIBRARY
THU 12 MARCH 26
5.30PM-8PM**

**DOROTHY PARKES
CENTRE
SAT 14 MARCH 26
3.30PM-6PM**

Apply to audition online at www.justyouth.org.uk or submit a paper application at your local library

APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2025

Proudly sponsored by



Sandwell Libraries, Museums and Archives presents...

SANDWELL STANZAS

HEADLINE POET

Brendan Hawthorne

Wednesbury Library

FREE ENTRY

Friday 27th March 2026



**OPEN
MIC
NIGHTS
2026**

**6.30PM
-
8.30PM**

The second headline poet for our Sandwell Stanzas open mic poetry nights is Wednesbury Poet Laureate, Brendan Hawthorne! Poet, playwright, singer-songwriter, author and comic, Brendan is a born and bred Black Countryman. We have plenty of open mic slots available for you to share the same stage as the talented Brendan, in this inclusive poetry night open to all walks of life.



Sandwell Libraries, Museums and Archives presents...

SANDWELL STANZAS

Open mic poetry nights to bring the people of Sandwell together are happening this year around our six special towns. If you love poetry, these nights are for you!

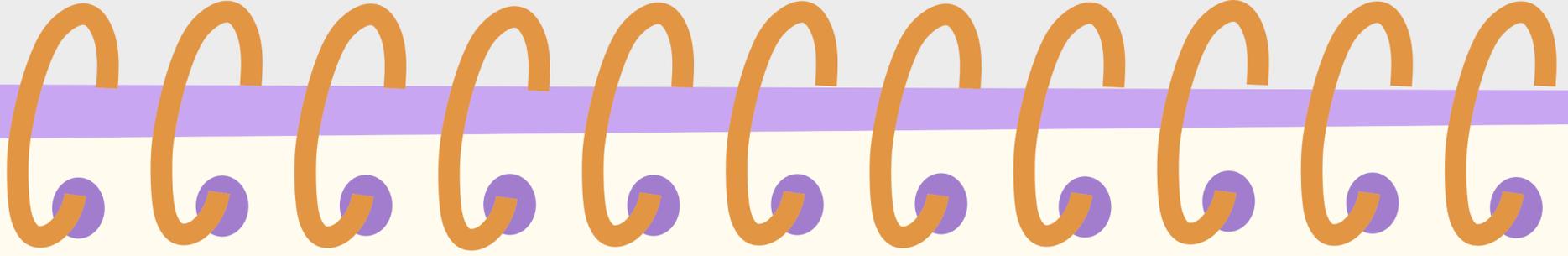


**OPEN
MIC
NIGHTS
2026**

**6.30PM
8.30PM**

- West Bromwich, Central Library - Friday 27th February
- Wednesbury Library - Friday 27th March
- Smethwick, Thimble Mill Library - Friday 24th April
- Rowley Regis, Haden Hill House Museum - Friday 29th May
- Oldbury, Bleakhouse Library - Friday 26th June
- Tipton Library - Friday 31st July





VOLUNTEER WITH US AT

SANDWELL ARCHIVES

Visit Sandwell Archives
Smethwick Library, High Street, Smethwick B66 1AA
Email archives_service@sandwell.gov.uk
Call us 0121 569 4985




Volunteering

Opportunities

Current Opportunities

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays any time between 10am- 4pm.
Volunteer travel expenses are covered.

Archive Champion:

As an Archive Champion, you'll be part of a team that carefully handles, repackages, and records Sandwell's history. Your work will ensure important documents remain safe for future generations to explore.

Family History Buddy:

Whether you're helping someone trace their lineage or discovering long-lost family stories, your support will bring history to life for others.

Develop these skills:

- Historical research skills
- Communication
- Teamwork
- Time management
- Organisation
- Archive-specific skills

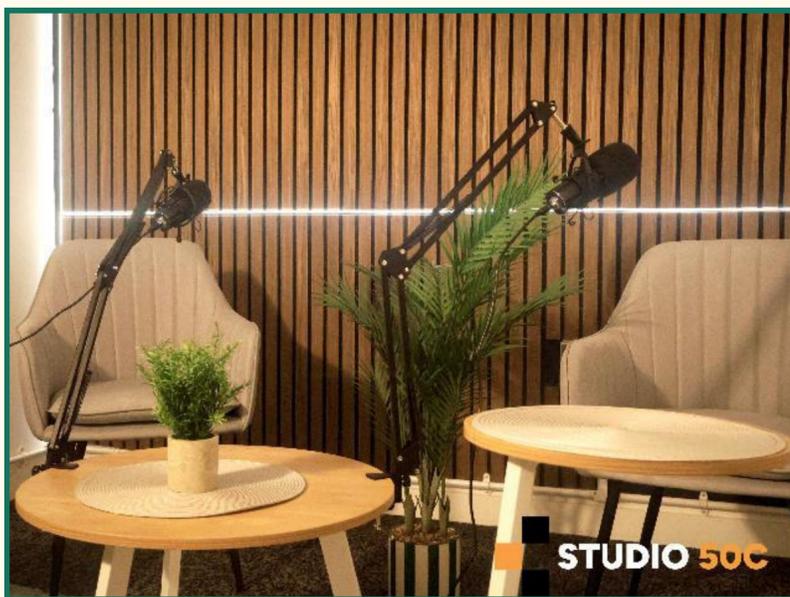
Visit Sandwell Archives
Smethwick Library, High Street, Smethwick B66 1AA
Email archives_service@sandwell.gov.uk
Call us 0121 569 4985



Introducing Creatv Hub

Creatv Hub, based at 50C Best Street and founded by Jason Nettleford, will provide an inspiring and innovative environment, bringing together a of the community's small and medium sized enterprises through co-creation, digital innovation and dynamic networking opportunities.

Launched in December, the Creatv Hub's hybrid and adaptable space can be used for workshops, meetings or networking events, podcast recordings and product launches.



Artist Opportunity



Spectra is seeking an artist to tell the story of The Commons - a new community garden space at Midland Metropolitan University Hospital.
[Find the full callout here:](#)

The artist will work with the community to collect stories about growing and the garden space, working to develop, design and deliver a creative output based on these stories. We are really open to ideas and inspiration from applicants regarding the creative output of the stories they gather.

Closing date: 9 am, Tuesday 17th March 2026

Terms: Freelance contract, April 2026 - March 2027 (open to discussion)

Fee: £4200 for a minimum of 14 days

Location: Hybrid - Sandwell, West Midlands, and working remotely

We seek to support access costs where possible. Please don't hesitate to contact us to discuss further. If you need or would prefer the job description or the application form in another format, please don't hesitate to contact maisy@wearespectra.co.uk

FREE PLAY

Free play sessions for 5-16yr olds from The Parakeet.
Supported by CREATNG A PLAYABLE SANDWELL



Saturday 21st March 2026

Session 1: 11.15am-12.45pm

Session 2: 1pm-2.30pm

Saturday 28th March 2026

Session 1: 11.15am-12.45pm

Session 2: 1pm-2.30pm

Free | Booking essential

www.bookwhen.com/parakeet

St. Hilda's Community Room + Garden

269 Abbey Road, Smethwick B67 5NQ

www.theparakeetstudio.com





COME & JOIN US!

WHEN:

SATURDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 10AM - 2PM
SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 10 AM - 2PM



FREE FAMILY FRIENDLY
CREATIVE ACTIVITIES
WITH BOSTIN' ARTS



ARTISAN BROWNIES,
HOMEMADE CAKES AND BAKES,
AND CRAFTS FOR SALE



LIVE MUSIC BY HEAD
RUSH BRASS BAND

WHERE: MARKET
PLACE
WEDNESBURY
(MARKET STALLS
BY THE CLOCK
TOWER)

ALL WELCOME!



FREE Family Fun!

Find us:
Next to Civic
Square, B69 3AD

OLDBURY market

14th & 21st MARCH | FROM 10AM
UNTIL 2PM

Free family events,
circus workshop,
performance,
interactive theatre
performances
and market stalls.

If you are a crafter/maker/artist
and you would like a free stall
at these events please call
0121 553 3074 or email
contact_markets@sandwell.gov.uk



SCAN QR CODE
FOR MORE INFO



West Midlands
Combined Authority



Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council



Scan to register!



BLACK COUNTRY YOU'VE GOT TALENT 2026



£2 ENTRY FEE

£250 CASH PRIZE!
+PERFORMANCES
AT BCMD 2026

FULL DAY
AT PIRATE STUDIOS

DUDLEY AUDITIONS
1ST - 8TH MAY
DY1 COMMUNITY CENTRE
STAFFORD ST DY1 1RT

HALESOWEN AUDITIONS
15TH - 22ND MAY
HASBURY CLUB 91 BLACKBERRY LANE
HALESOWEN B63 4NZ

TIPTON AUDITIONS
MAY 29TH - 5TH JUNE
GOSPEL OAK SPORTS CENTRE
BILSTON ROAD DY4 0BZ

DUDLEY AUDITIONS
12TH - 19TH JUNE
DUDLEY EX SERVICEMANS CLUB
51 HALL STREET, DY2 7BT





Upcoming Events



MAR
4
7PM - 8PM
"The Beggar's Masque"
Play
Sandwell Theatre



MAR
5
7PM - 8PM
"The Beggar's Masque"
Play
Sandwell Theatre

MAR
12
5.30PM 7PM
"When I Grow Up"
Showcase - Lauren Crace
Theatre, Cadbury

MAR
19
6PM - 7.30PM
"Roles We'll Never Play"
Showcase - Lauren Crace
Theatre, Cadbury

MAR
19
7PM - 10PM
"Homage"
Live Music - The Flapper
& Firkin, Birmingham

MAR
24
7PM - 9.30PM
"Hadestown"
Musical
Sandwell Theatre

MAR
25
7PM - 9.30PM
"Hadestown"
Musical
Sandwell Theatre

MAR
26
7PM - 9.30PM
"Hadestown"
Musical
Sandwell Theatre



www.ticketsource.co.uk/sandwellcollege

@reallygreatsite







MARCH

04

11AM - 4PM

**SMETHWICK LIBRARY
HIGH STREET
SMETHWICK B66 1AB**



Sandwell Libraries & Archives

SUPPORTING BLACK COUNTRY WOMENS AID

PROUD TO SUPPORT
Black Country Women's Aid
we listen, we support, we care



International Women's Day

PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE WOMEN WHO WORKED AT CHANCE BROTHERS GLASSWORKS



VIEW ORIGINAL EXHIBITS IN THE ARCHIVES



DISCOVER INSPIRING STORIES AND PLEASE SHARE YOURS



AI RECONSTRUCTIONS OF FAVOURITE PHOTOS



HAVE YOUR COMPLIMENTARY PROFESSIONAL PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN



CHANCE HERITAGE TRUST



FREE DANCE PERFORMANCES IN SANDWELL



Join ME Dance as they present The Chrysalis 'Moments Between Movements', an exciting performance of new work in collaboration with De Montfort Dance Students and ME Dance Company Artistic Director Marcia Edwards.

Also see ME Dance Youth perform their new piece choreographed by Emily Cox as well as their own creative work.

ME Dance prides itself on making dance accessible to all and we hope that you will be inspired to keep smiling and moving.

[Book your free ticket here](#) for events in February and March!

ADD YOUR EVENTS TO VISIT SANDWELL TODAY

If you have an event in Sandwell, PLEASE add it to Visit Sandwell by clicking [here!](#)

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

NOW

Do you know someone who wants to join the Sandwell Forum?

Email Stacey via:
stacey_bagdi@sandwell.gov.uk



Collecting Oral Histories: Chance Migration Stories

CALLING EX-EMPLOYEES OF CHANCE
BROTHERS GLASS WORKS, SMETHWICK.



Did you migrate to England to work for Chance in the 1960s-1980s, or know of someone who did?

Would you like to share your story? Then we would like to talk to you!

For more information, please contact Karen Davies, Project Archivist,
at Karen_TracyDavies@sandwell.gov.uk



Featured Events Listing

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](#)

Sandwell Libraries:

- [Lots coming up, book via Ticketsource <-click here](#)

Sandwell Valley:



[Book here](#)

Cultural Forum Members List

1000 Trades

Abigail Villarroel (Artist)

Anthony McFarlane (Artist)

Black Country Multicultural Day Team

Black Country Touring

Black Heritage Walks Network

Bearwood Community Hub

Bearwood Promoters

Big Bear Music

Birmingham Opera

Birmingham Music Archive

Black Country Living Museum

Blue Sheep Books

Brendan Hawthorne - Poet

Bright Young Minds

Canal & River Trust

City of Birmingham Orchestra

Charlottte McDermott - Poet

Chance Heritage Trust

Curl Girl Productions

Creative Black Country

Creatv Hub

Dalbir Singth Ratta - Music

Drama AND SOME cic

European's Welfare Association

Faith-Brynel Insights

Fantastic Journeys

Filmgage

Infamous Arts

Jessica - Artist

Keith Bracey - Poet

Kickstarts Dance

Learn with Lolonyo

Little Earthquake

Luke Perry (Artist)

Melonie Barnaby - Poet

ME Dance

Method in Motion

Misfits Music

Multistory

Noir Hub CIC

O'Driscoll Collective

Outside Left

Outside The Box Creative Thinking Space

Powered by Can

Quennie Lim (Artist)

Rage Arts

Ruth Conover (Artist)

Sarah Cole (Artist)

Sarah Waldron (Artist)

Sandwell Archives

Sandwell Asian Family Support Service (SAFS)

Sandwell College

Sandwell Mela

Sandwell Valley

SCVO

SIPS

Simmi - Artist

Smethwick Heritage Centre

Spectra

Stan's Cafe

SWEDA

The Art Yard

The Parakeet

The People's Orchestra

We are Spectra

West Midlands Heritage Building Trust

Wild Lives Forest School

Women & Theatre

Your City & Metropolitan Hospitals Charity

& Sandwell Council Officers and Local Councillors

