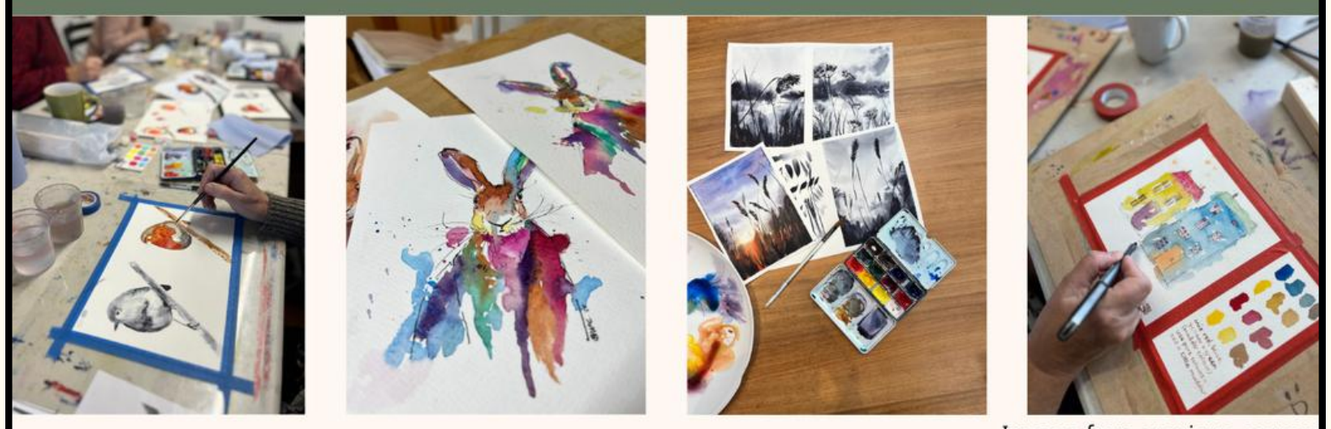
SANDWELL CULTURAL FORUM

July 2026 Newsletter

New Sandwell Artists Exhibition Now Open!

Sandwell Council have teamed up with The Art Yard to launch a new art exhibition at the Council House in Oldbury. The exhibition is free to see and is open until 15th September - go and check it out! A big thanks to the Art Yard for a fantastic exhibition! If anyone is interested in doing something similar, email Stacey!

Ready to try watercolour?



Images from previous courses

Join me for our next relaxed and supportive block of watercolour sessions.

Starts: Week beginning 13th April
Duration: 6 weekly sessions
Time: Tue/Thur 10am-1pm
Location: The Art Yard, b64 5HX

Block Booking
Early booking rate: £110
Standard block price: £132
Individual sessions: £22 (subject to availability)
All materials included.

Booking the full block guarantees your place and helps with planning.

Artist | Tutor

www.beckymccartney.com
beckymccartney.art

SUNDAY

All-Day Portrait Art Sessions
at
The Art Yard

DATES	
04/01, 01/02, 01/03, 29/03	21/06, 26/07
26/04, 31/05,	30/08, 27/09, 18/10, 29/11 27/12

With lead artist:
Chris Partridge

For details email to: **infoartyard@gmail.com**

Tickets are available on Eventbrite

WEST BROMWICH
MARKET
STARTS ON
16TH JAN 26
WEST BROMWICH INDOOR MARKET
HENRY'S
BLUESHOUSE
FRIDAYS
7PM-10PM
TOP-TIER ENTERTAINMENT IN WEST BROM.
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BIG BEAR MUSIC!
LIVE BLUES,STREET FOOD & DRINKS*.
*Cocktail and alcoholic/non alcoholic beverages are available. (alcohol served 5pm-9pm).
HENRY'S
BLUESHOUSE
Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council
WEST BROMWICH
INDOOR MARKET

Sandwell Libraries, Museums and Archives presents...

SANDWELL STANZAS

HEADLINE POET
Harry Fletcher

Tipton Library

FREE ENTRY

Friday 31st July 2026

OPEN MIC NIGHTS 2026

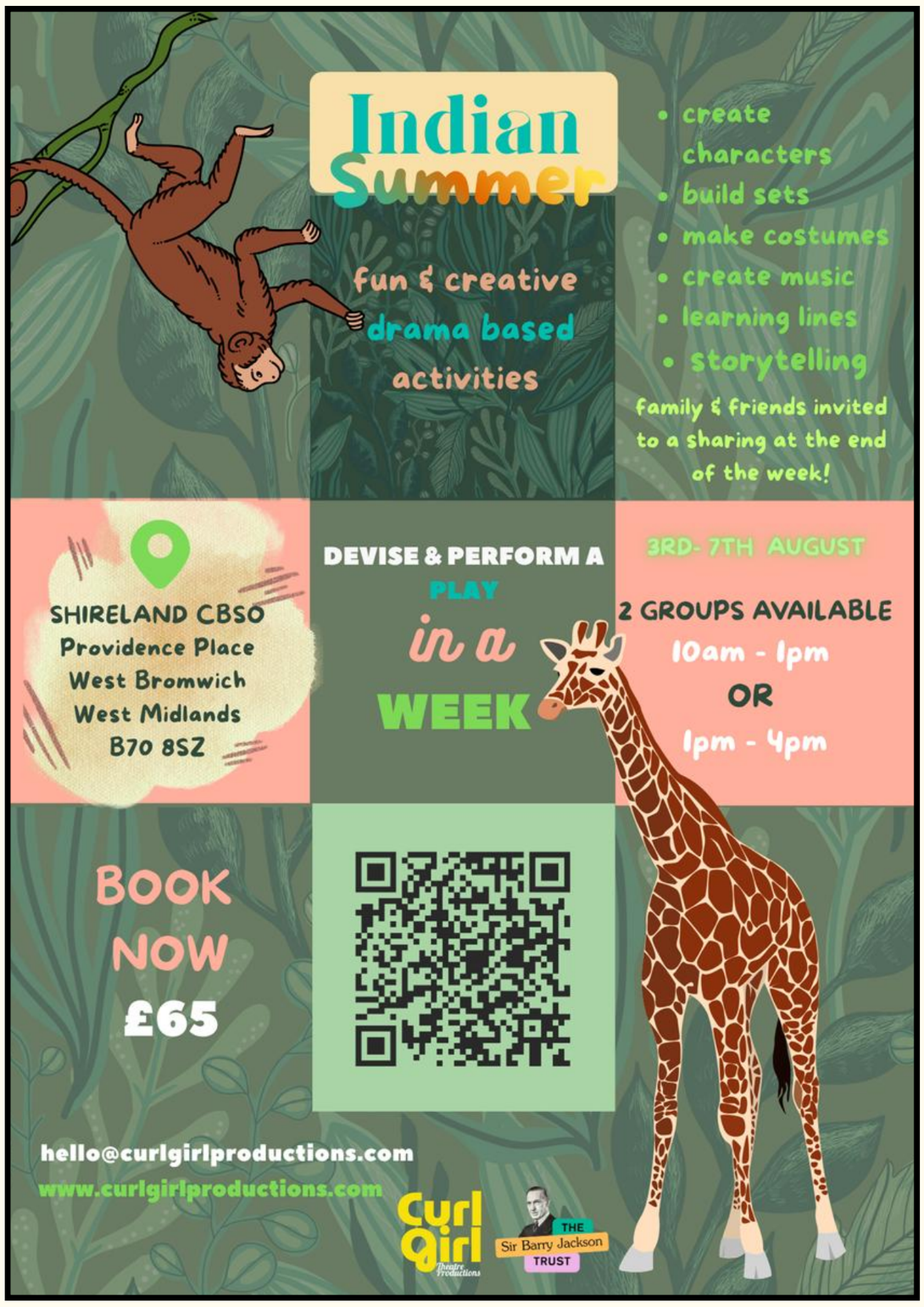
6.30PM – 8.30PM

The sixth headline poet for our Sandwell Stanzas open mic poetry nights is previous Staffordshire Young Poet Laureate 24-25, Harry Fletcher! He was commissioned by Lichfield Cathedral for the retirement of Staffordshire Lord Lieutenant. We have plenty of open mic slots available for you to share the same stage as the incredible Harry, in this inclusive poetry night open to all ages and walks of life.

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

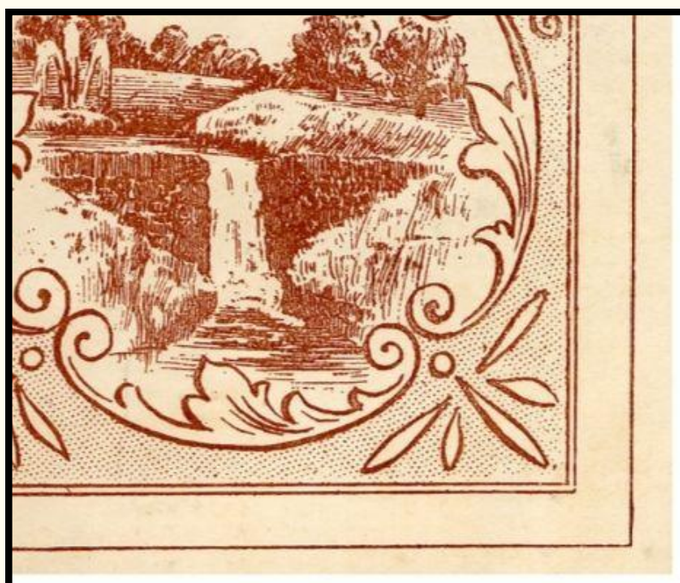
Sandwell Libraries & Archives

National Play Day
&
SANDWELL
Summer Festival
SANDWELL VALLEY - 1 AUGUST
Celebrate National Play Day at Sandwell Summer Festival on 1 August at Sandwell Valley, 11am–5pm — a free, fun-filled day for the whole family!
Enjoy carnival games, circus skills, giant bubbles, and don't miss Brimstone the Dragon bringing the magic to life.
To book your place scan the QR Code
Go play Sandwell
Oldbury
Rowley Regis
Smethwick
Tipton
Wednesbury
West Bromwich
SCAN HERE
Go play
ALBION FOUNDATION
SHAPE



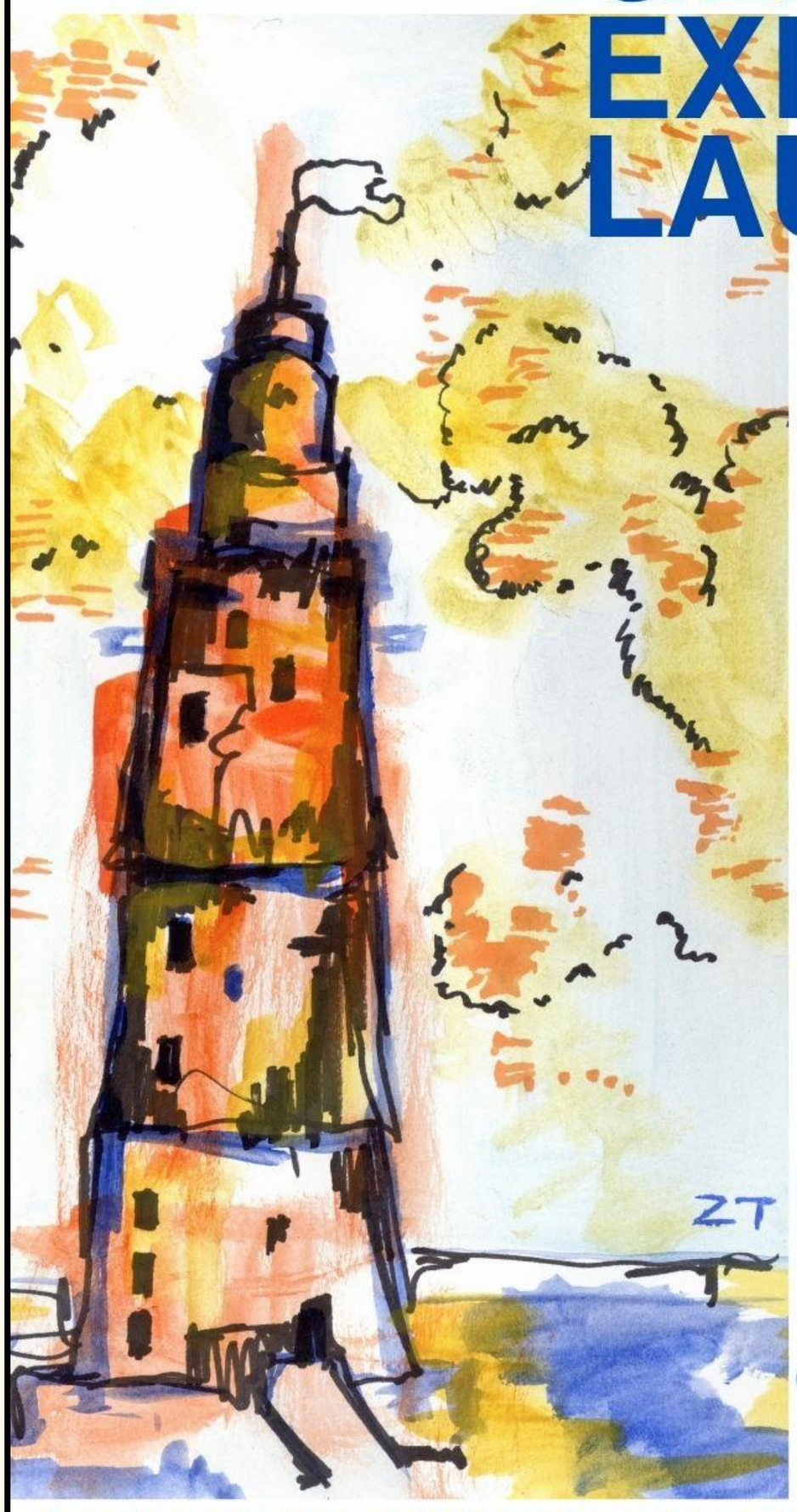
Jazz Festival in Sandwell Is Nearly Here!

Check out more information here



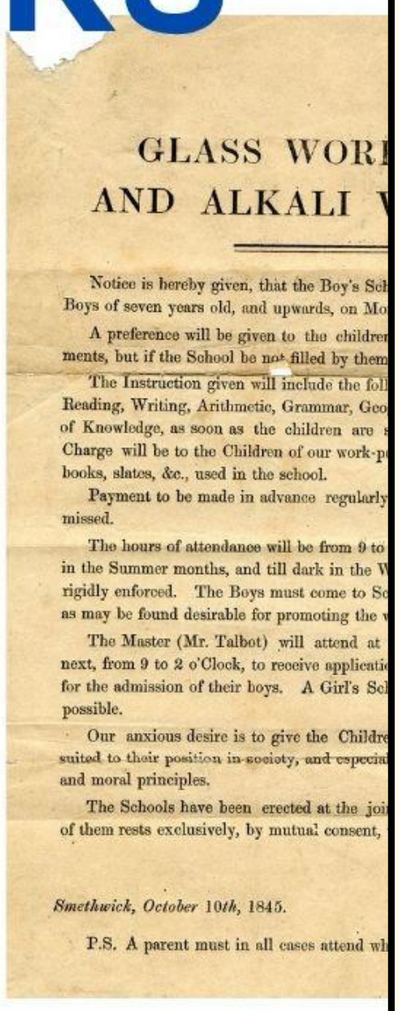
11am, Saturday 27 June

‘ILLUMINATING THE CHANCE GLASSWORKS’ EXHIBITION LAUNCH



ARTWORK BY ZERUIAH THOMPSON

CURATED BY SANDWELL ARCHIVES


GLASS WORI
AND ALKALI W

Notice is hereby given, that the Boy's Sch
Boys of seven years old, and upwards, on Mo

A preference will be given to the children
ments, but if the School be not filled by them

The Instruction given will include the foll
Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Grammar, Geo
of Knowledge, as soon as the children are s
Charge will be to the Children of our work-p
books, slates, &c., used in the school.

Payment to be made in advance regularly
missed.

The hours of attendance will be from 9 to
in the Summer months, and till dark in the W
rigidly enforced. The Boys must come to Sc
as may be found desirable for promoting the w

The Master (Mr. Talbot) will attend at
next, from 9 to 2 o'Clock, to receive applicati
for the admission of their boys. A Girl's Sc
possible.

Our anxious desire is to give the Childre
suited to their position in society, and especia
and moral principles.

The Schools have been erected at the joi
of them rests exclusively, by mutual consent,

Smethwick, October 10th, 1845.

P.S. A parent must in all cases attend wh

Join us for an exhibition celebrating archival research and art created by our local community.

Exhibition runs between **Saturday 27 June- Thursday 23 July.**

Central Library, West Bromwich, B70 8DZ

ARCHIVES REVEALED | Made possible with Heritage Fund | Pilgrim Trust | The Wolfson Foundation | THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES | Sandwell Libraries & Archives

SHAPING BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR TIPTON
COMMUNITY SUMMER EVENT
AT GOSPEL OAK SCHOOL
FREE ENTRY
SATURDAY, JULY 18
10:00am till 14:00pm
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS
Winner of Black Country Talent contest
Sporting experiences
Dance and Theatre presentations
Small business stalls
Shaping Brighter Futures for Tipton
FOR MORE INFORMATION
Email:
SBFT@gospeloak.crst.org.uk

CAPE CUSTARD (by Black Country Touring):
Get ready for a voyage like no other! Step inside our magical inflatable theatre and transport your family to the faraway shores of Cape Custard.

'Cape Custard - A Lighthouse Adventure' is a thrilling, fun-filled quest where our heroes discover that the toughest repairs aren't always mechanical. It's a bright, bold, and heartwarming story about bridging the gap with those who feel different, and discovering what truly matters.

A broken light on Cape Custard's majestic lighthouse sets the scene for mystical mayhem and a madcap adventure. A lens fitter sent all the way from Smethwick's famous Chance Glassworks meets Cape Custard's unconventional keeper. Together, they're on a mission to fix a life-saving marvel of modern technology.

Stay on for crafting activities after the performance, inspired by the lighthouses built in the Chance Brothers Glassworks.

Suitable for ages 3+
BSL interpreted

Access information for each of the venues can be found at
bctouring.org.uk/cape-custard

Friday 24th July 2026 - 20th August at Black Country Venues
Tickets here

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Letters You'll Never Send (by Corrie McGuire Management):

'Letters You'll Never Send' is a live theatre event.
An evening of juicy storytelling of revelations, secrets and healthy catharsis, from collected anonymous letters, performed by a bunch of incredible actors.

Formed by Katie McGarry when she spent a summer writing 40 handwritten letters to people she knew, sealed them lovingly and then decided to NEVER EVER send them. Over her dead body! These were the things she could not say. The things that would shake the core of her relationships, hidden secrets she had kept for decades, things she never got to say to people she would never get to see again... Some heartbreaking, some hilarious and some downright cringeworthy. So she decided to create a show out of them - naturally. But she didn't just want her letters... she wanted YOURS as well. So she reached out to the internet and lo and behold, the letters started flooding in. Letters to dead relatives, to mothers, fathers, wives, first loves, ex-friends and more... and a show was born!

The event includes drinks and nibbles upon arrival, please inform us if you have any allergies when you book your ticket.
DOORS OPEN 7pm.

Tickets: https://bctouring.ssboxoffice.com/events/letters-youll-never-send/

‘River Tours: The Avon’ Theatre Tour from Stans Cafe

What makes a river special is what happens along it, on it and in it. Gather round Studio MEAD’s extraordinary three metre long textile map for a 55 minute tour of the world famous and much loved River Avon.

Tour dates are between Saturday 1st August - Sunday 16th August. Going to venues along the River Avon, such as the RSC.

Tour dates can be found via this link: https://stans.cafe/project/project-river-tours/river-tours-the-avon/

INFAMOUS ARTS PRESENT

THE TOYMAKER

A FAMILY FESTIVE SHOW OF
TRADITIONAL STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD
SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES

CURRENTLY TAKING BOOKINGS FOR OUR WINTER 2026 MIDLANDS TOUR

SUITABLE FOR ALL SIZE VENUES, LIBRARIES & SCHOOLS

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT US;
INFO@INFAMOUSARTS.CO.UK
0121 439 5410

BLACK COUNTRY TOURING

Exhibition Artist Callout

Smethwick Puppetry Festival

Smethwick Puppetry Festival 2027

Exhibition Commission

About Smethwick Puppetry Festival

Smethwick Puppetry Festival has been running since 2024, bringing professional puppetry performances for children, families and adults to community venues during February half-term. The 2027 festival will run from 13th-21st February 2027 in venues across Smethwick (Black Country, West Midlands).

Alongside the live performances, the festival hosts an exhibition every year relating to the world of puppetry and puppet theatre. This year, we are looking to commission an artist to curate the exhibition through an open call.

Previous exhibitions

In 2025, we hosted ‘A Grandly Strange Exhibition’ by Marc Parrett of The Object Project. This featured a collection of automata created by Marc which were connected together into one giant moving piece. Alongside the exhibition, visitors were asked to draw their own creatures and automata and add them to the wall of inventions.

In 2026, Bronia Evers and Peter Stevenson collaborated to create ‘The Crankie Forest’, an exhibition of crankies and crankie art. The space was filled with crankies, scrolls and drawings, with the hanging scrolls creating a ‘forest’ effect. Visitors contributed to a community scroll which was cranked for an audience at the end of the week.

<u>What we are looking for</u>

We are seeking an artist to curate the 2027 exhibition for the festival. The exhibition must connect to puppetry in some way but other than that we are open to ideas! The artist will be responsible for designing and curating the exhibition, installation and take down of the work and being available throughout the festival to steward the exhibition space.

Artist brief:

- The exhibition will take place in Thimblemill Library, Smethwick, within their community room. The room is 6m at its widest, 4m at its narrowest, with a total length of 9m
- The exhibition should be suitable for all ages, both children and adults
- The artist must be available 13th-21st February 2027 and Friday 12th February 2027 to install the exhibition
- As well as the exhibition, we would like an interactive or participatory element to go alongside the displays as in previous years

Fee

The fee for the commission is £4000.00, excluding travel and accommodation. We will consider contributions towards travel and accommodation on an individual basis with the chosen artist. Artists can make joint applications but the fee would remain the same for the commission.

Who can apply?

The commission is open to professional artists aged 18+ who are available for the whole festival. Artists can make joint applications.

How to apply

- Email your name, CV, links to previous work/portfolio and your idea for the commission to laura@bctouring.co.uk
- Feel free to include a sketch or drawing of your idea with your application
- Deadline for submissions is **Friday 31st July 2026**
- Informal interviews will take place at the end of August with Genevieve Say (Artistic Director of BCT) and Laura Leech (Festival Programmer). These can be in person or online
- A decision will be made at the beginning September

Ifyou would prefer to submit an application in an alternative format, please get in touch with Laura at laura@bctouring.co.uk or call 0121 533 7129.

Ifyou have any questions or would like more information, please contact Laura at laura@bctouring.co.uk or call 0121 533 7129.

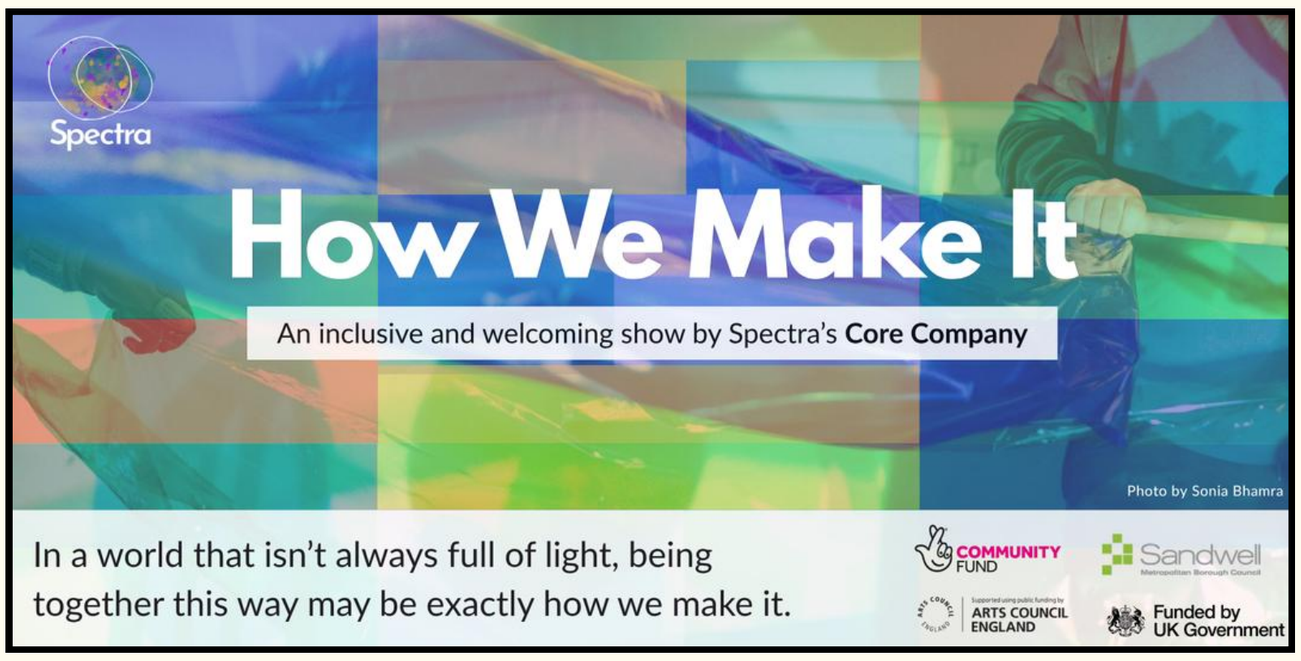
LAUNCH OF A BRAND NEW SHOW IN SANDWELL

Spectra's fantastic Community Company are performing at Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery on Wednesday 8th July, with a brand-new show inspired by stained glass. There will be an afternoon and evening performance.

Following the success of last year's A Twist of Fete, this is not a performance to miss.

Tickets are on sale now:
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/how-we-make-it-tickets-1991354424690

Photo by David Rowan



Job Opening at Spectra!

Spectra is seeking a freelance Job Coach to work alongside two BOSS. trainees to support them to develop their skills, knowledge and experience over the course of a year.
BOSS. is a training programme for learning disabled people who are passionate about the arts making a positive difference in the world. In September, two trainees will join Spectra staff to learn about being leaders in an arts organisation over the course of one year.
Find the full callout, including in Easy Read here: Your paragraph text
Closing date: 5pm, Tuesday 7th July 2026
Terms: Freelance contract, September 2026 - September 2027
Fee: £14,332.50
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 contact eman@wearespectra.co.uk
This role is made possible by funding from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Arts Council England and The National Lottery Community Fund - Reaching Communities

Bearwood Community Hub

presents

NEW

Curiosity Café

Starts 19th May 2026!

Skills Share

What knowledge or skills can you share?
What do you want to learn from someone else?

Task & Finish Group

What local issues do you want to help solve?

Community Guide

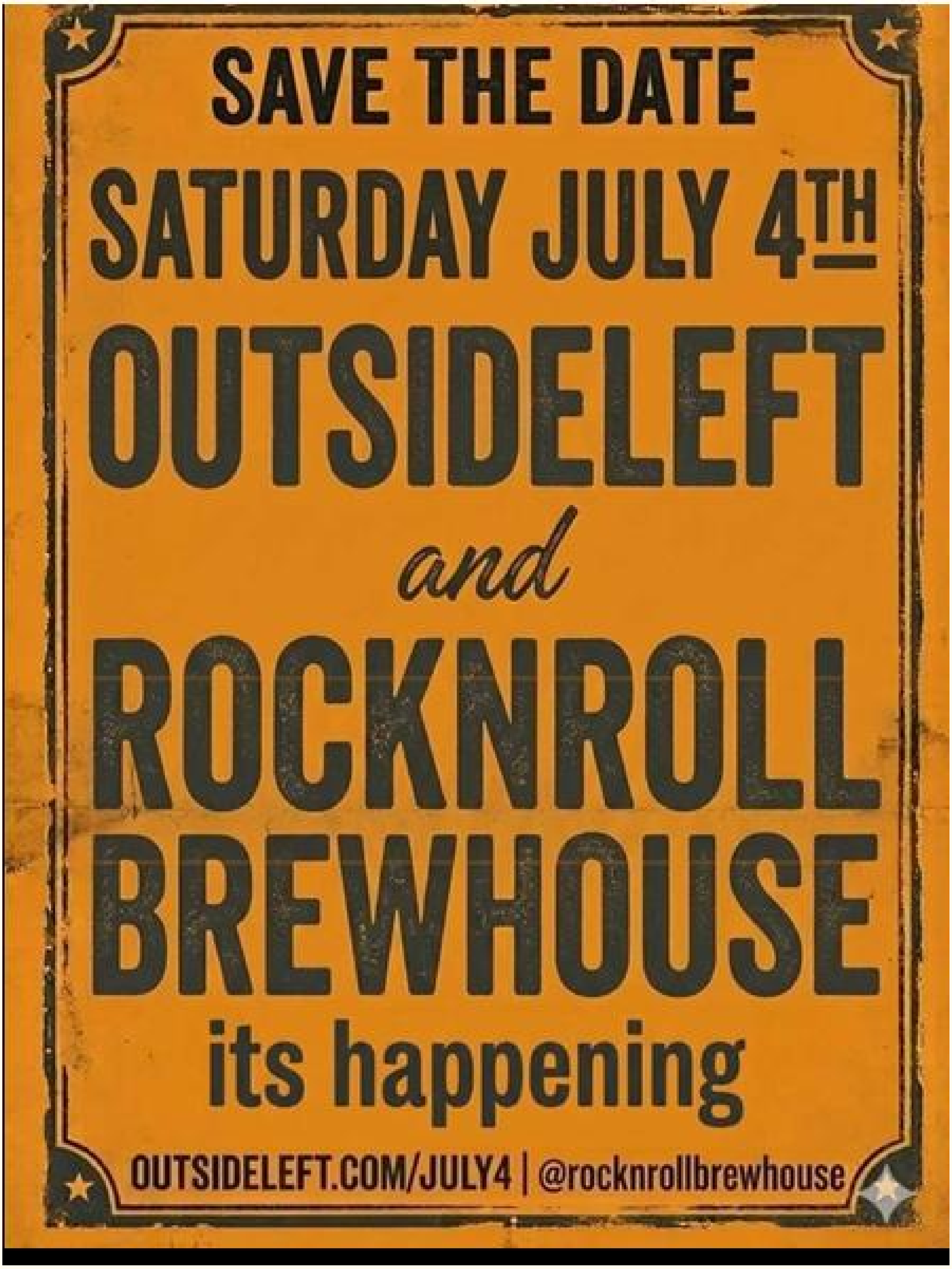
Bring your memories, recommendations and favourite spots
to add to our Community Guide map!

Library of Things

Sign up to help develop a library of tools and equipment for residents to share

Thimblemill Library

3rd Tuesday Every Month, drop in 2-5pm & 6-8pm


SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY JULY 4TH
OUTSIDELEFT
and
ROCKNROLL
BREWHOUSE
its happening
OUTSIDELEFT.COM/JULY4 | @rocknrollbrewhouse

WELCOME

Dottie's

COMMUNITY FRIDGE

Enabling businesses and individuals to waste less through the sharing of good quality food that's within it's use-by date

Open to all

Tuesday 12pm - 2pm

Wednesday 9.30am - 12pm

& 5pm - 7pm

Thursday 12pm - 3pm

Friday 9.30am - 12pm

How to support the fridge:

We aim to provide a minimum of 3 items per visit, however we are reliant on surplus donations so cannot always guarantee this.

Spread the word!

Drop off surplus food

Volunteer to help maintain the service

Thank you

We can accept donations, but they must be transported in a cooler bag, straight from your fridge. We cannot accept any home-cooked items.

DOROTHYPARKES
Community Centre

SCAN HERE

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

THE DOROTHY PARKES CENTRE
CHURCH ROAD, SMETHWICK, B67 6EH
0121 558 2998
CHARITY NO. 1093189

FACEBOOK: @DOROTHYPARKESCENTRE
INSTAGRAM: DOROTHYPARKES
EMAIL: ADMIN@DOROTHYPARKES.ORG
WEBSITE: WWW.DOROTHYPARKES.ORG

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

Book Tickets Here

22nd July!

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

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