

SANDWELL CULTURAL FORUM

August 2025 Newsletter



**IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT**

DO YOU RUN COMMUNITY GROUPS IN SANDWELL?

We are offering 6 x free 1.5hr workshops including all materials - for all community groups across Sandwell.

Contact:
richardmole@artstherapiesuk.org.uk



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... RAGE ARTS

Rage Arts delivers drama workshops for children aged 4 to 11. They create exciting shows which resonates with our young audience because they have been part of creating it. They tour each year to 3,000 children and their families throughout the West Midlands and surrounding counties.

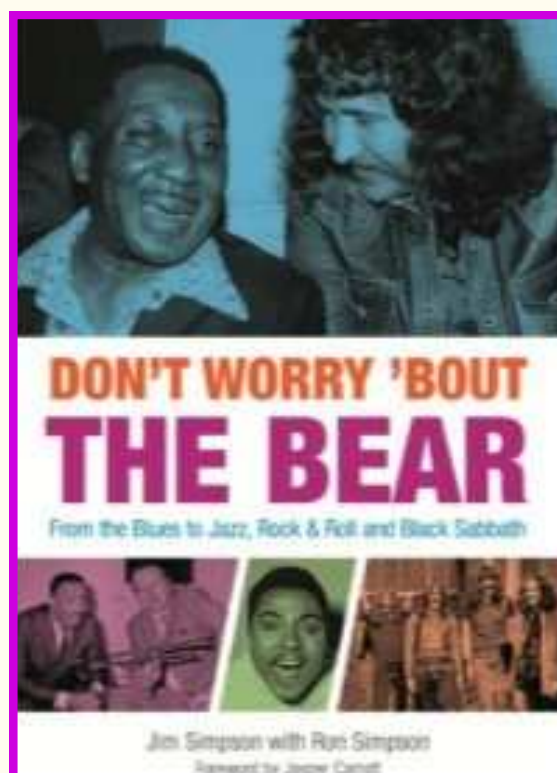
They take the theatre and workshops to schools and community venues so as to remove the transport cost and give children the chance to see theatre in a setting they are familiar with. They subsidise the cost of our services in order to make them affordable to as many people as possible. We provide work for professional artists and assist people to create their own productions by providing resources, advice and expertise.



New book: Don't Worry 'Bout The Bear.

The story of Jim Simpson's 60 years in jazz, rock and blues, written in collaboration with Ron Simpson

Available from
<http://www.bigbearmusic.com/product/dont-worry-bout-the-bear/>



'In sum, a beautiful book, warm, funny, touching, utterly transparent... This has to be one of the best autobiographical reads out there right now.' – Simon Spillet, *The Jazz Rag*

'This is the best book on British music I've read for a very long time.' – Andrew Liddle, *Yorkshire Times*

'...must surely be on every jazzers's Christmas list – if you can wait that long, that is' – Lance Liddle, *Bebop Spoken Here*

'...a tale of fortunes found and lost, impossible optimism and moments of musical magic...' – Stuart Constable, *Living Blues*

'Teeming with insight and anecdote about so many names known in so many households' – *Just Jazz*

**VACA MARIPOSA / BUTTERFLY COW
FINALLY FOUND, LAST SPOTTED AT
THIMBLEMILL LIBRARY!**

Mischief portals have been sighted, proceed with caution!



La Vaca Mariposa / The Butterfly Cow an art exhibition
by Bearwood-based artist Abigail Villarroel on view from
22 August to 13 September

@ Thimblemill Library, Bearwood, B67 5RJ



**Sandwell Valley
Visitor Centre**

**CIRCUS
SKILLS
WORKSHOPS**

**Tuesday 26 August 2025
Wednesday 27 August 2025**

Join the fun and discover your inner performer with Circus Bezercus! Our exciting circus skills sessions are perfect for ages 3+ and all abilities, offering a hands-on experience

Whether you're trying something new or brushing up on your skills, Circus Bezercus will make learning fun, safe, and unforgettable. Come along and be amazed at what you can do!

Tickets Children £5, Accompanying Adults Free
Session times 10:15, 11:30, 13:30 and 14:30

For more information and to book please visit
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/sandwell/e-xoxoav>



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





Sandwell SUMMER WORKSHOPS

JOIN OUR JOURNEY

pbcanofficial



FOR MORE INFO info@poweredbycan.org

www.poweredbycan.org

Sandwell SUMMER WORKSHOPS



1st
AUG

11PM - 3PM

MUSIC
PRODUCTION
WITH A CLASS

HADEN HILL MUSEUM
HALESOWEN RD CRADLEY HEATH
B64 7JU



8th
AUG

3PM - 6PM

STREET ART
WITH CAL

WOOD LANE
COMMUNITY CENTRE
157 WOOD LANE WEST BROMWICH
B70 9PT



15th
AUG

10AM - 2PM

SENSORY ART
FOR EARLY YEARS
WITH IN2COLOUR

WEDNESBURY
LIBRARY
WALSALL ST, WEDNESBURY
WS10 9EH



19th
AUG

11AM - 3PM

STREET ART
WITH CAL
OAK HOUSE
MUSEUM

WEST BROMWICH
B70 8HJ



ALL WORKSHOPS ARE **FREE** DROP IN NO BOOKING REQUIRED
FOR MORE INFO: info@poweredbycan.org



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Funded by
UK Government



**Esmée
Fairbairn**
FOUNDATION





Feature 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, 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](#)

TWO free theatre shows delivered by Sandwell Holiday Activities and Black Country Touring - click on images below to book tickets today!

Cardboard Carnival 'The Carnival of the Animals' - Free Family Show

📍 Oakham Library, Tividale, B69 1RD
📅 Thursday 21st August 2025

This is "Carnival of the Animals" but not as we know it. Dissected for body part potential to create the "ultimate animal", we take inspiration from the music by Camille Saint-Saens, a little help from Charles Darwin and a whole lot of cardboard to mash up a show full of puppet possibility.

HAF are excited to be collaborating with Black Country Touring and Sandwell Libraries to bring the theatre to Sandwell this summer. These sessions are FREE to families, living in Sandwell.



The Amazing Thing - Free Family Event

📍 Wednesbury Library, Wednesbury, WS10 9EH
📅 Tuesday 26th August 2025

Storyteller, Peter Grimm opens a box to find a 'Thing' that takes him on an unusual journey, weaving it's way through a medley of well known Brother's Grimm tales, to finally unlock him imagination and free his stories.

With puppets, acting and live music. Fun, inspiration and delight for all the family.

HAF are excited to be collaborating with Black Country Touring and Sandwell Libraries to bring the theatre to Sandwell this summer. These sessions are FREE to families, living in Sandwell.





Feature Events Listing



Welcome to The Commons



All are welcome any time in the hospital's community garden, a place for rest, reflection and connection



How to find us at Midland Met



wearespectra.co.uk/the-commons

Spectra artist in residence on site

Every 1st and 3rd Thursday

9.30am - 11.30

Gardening including seed sowing and looking after the plants

12.30pm - 2.30

Nature based craft and art activities

To find out more, or discuss how we can support access to these sessions, please email ruby@wearespectra.co.uk



Funded by UK Government



New Exhibitions at Sandwell Valley Country Park

Don't miss the first in our series of exhibitions in the Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre Tea Room!!

Born in Rowley Regis, Ian Parsons discovered his passion for painting and drawing as a teenager, inspired and encouraged by his father. Over the years, Ian has brought his unique artistic vision to life through graphite pencil portraits and vibrant watercolour pieces.

From art galleries to craft fairs across England, Ian has connected with audiences face-to-face —sharing stories, signing artwork, and showcasing his evolving style.

Don't miss Ian's exhibition of Watercolours from 31 July - 21 August in the Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre Tea Room, open 10am - 5pm daily.

ME DANCE YOUTH

Teaching the dancers of the future to be **STRONG and DIVERSE**

Join ME Youth:

Saturdays: 10:30-1:30pm @Central Library West Bromwich, B70 8DZ

For dancers aged **11-16**

Contact: medanceco@gmail.com



Art in the Valley - Exhibitions 2025



Ian



Parsons

Born in Rowley Regis, Ian Parsons discovered his passion for painting and drawing as a teenager, inspired and encouraged by his father. Over the years, Ian has brought his unique artistic vision to life through graphite pencil portraits and vibrant watercolour pieces.

31.07.25 - 21.08.25

Sandwell Valley Tea Room, Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre, B71 4BG
Open Daily from 10am - 5pm
For more information or to exhibit please contact Visitor_services@sandwell.gov.uk

GREEN ROOTS ON THE MEADOW

FREE
EVENT

Seed sowing with
**BIRMINGHAM & BLACKCOUNTRY
WILDLIFE TRUST**

SAT 16 AUG 2025

12 PM - 2 PM

**FUN AND
CREATIVE
ACTIVITIES**

FOR ALL AGES!

Live music by
BOSTIN' BRASS

FREE SNACKS

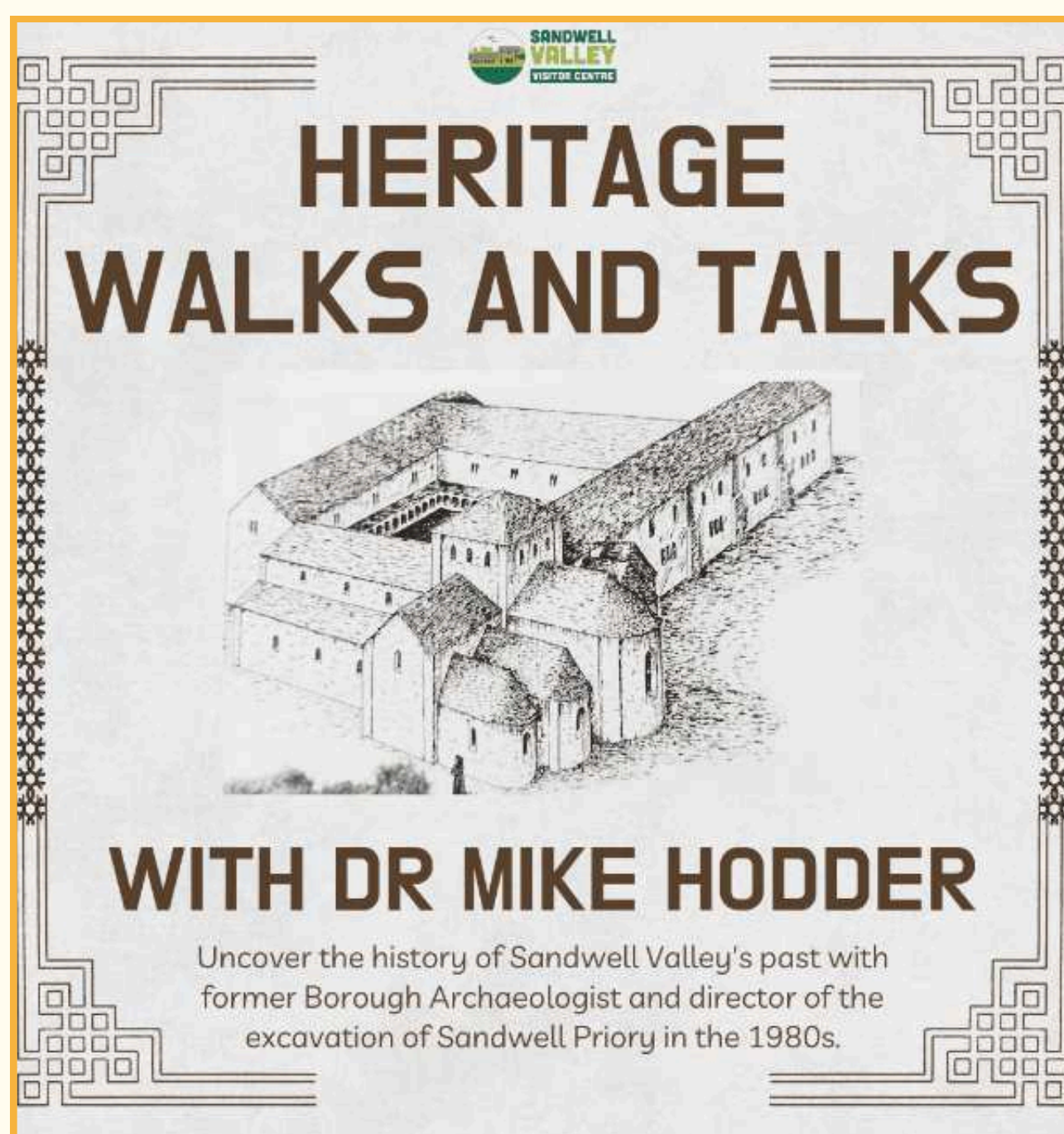
Wildlife Ceramic Exhibition by
**JUNEAU PROJECTS &
YMCA WEST BROMWICH**

Pop up performance Meadow Fest by
BIRMINGHAM OPERA COMPANY
AT 1.30PM

**FAMILY
FRIENDLY
TRAIL**

**For more information visit the
Multistory website: multistory.org.uk**

Meadow behind Primark in the New Square Shopping Centre, West Bromwich
(accessed on the corner of Walsall Street, opposite Tiny Tots Academy)



Join us for Dr Mike Hodder's illustrated walks and talks about the archaeology and history of Sandwell Priory and its relationship to other parts of medieval West Bromwich, including Bromwich Hall and All Saints' church. Coffee and Tea will be provided by our Tea Rooms.

Heritage Open Day Walk - FREE
Thursday 18th September 2025
Event Details
From 11:00AM to 12:30PM

Location
Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre (formerly Sandwell Park Farm), West Bromwich, B71 4BG

[More information and to book click here](#)

Summer Dance Workshops with ME Dance For Children Age 7-14 Free Event

LIVE

AT THE LIBRARY

Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Join ME Dance in these fun, creative dance workshops where children can learn different dance styles and create their own dance to music that will allow them to express themselves in a safe environment.

Whether they are into Contemporary, Commercial, Jazz, Ballet or even African dance, we have it covered. This workshop will build confidence and explore different ways in which children can learn to dance so, if your child loves to move, this free event is definitely for you so book your place now!!

Location, Dates and Times:

Central Library, West Bromwich Saturday 26th July 11.30am-12.30pm

Wednesbury Library Tuesday 5th August 11.30am-12.30pm

Blackheath Library Monday 11th August 11.30am-12.30pm

Tipton Library Friday 15th August 10.00am-11.00am

To book a place please scan the QR Code

Big Theatre Weekend in Sandwell



16th - 17th August 2025

Haden Hill House and Park

Come and join us for a jam-packed summer's weekend of outdoor theatre shows, puppetry, street performers, interactive games, circus workshops and more for all the family!

Dates: Saturday 16th - Sunday 17th August 2025

Times: 12pm - 4pm

Location: Haden Hill House and Park, Cradley Heath, B64 7JU

It's free to attend, and booking is not required. More details [here!](#)



Big Family Theatre Weekend



HADEN HILL HOUSE MUSEUM AND PARK

Saturday 16 August 12pm-4pm

The Dustbusters By Feasible Ferret Theatre

Times: 12pm / 1:30pm / 3pm (30 minutes)

Wonderland of Games By Rhubarb Theatre

Time: 12pm - 4pm (drop in)

Special Delivery By A Bird in the Hand Theatre

Times: 12:30pm / 2pm / 3:30pm (20 minutes)

Puppet Making Workshop by Lollihop Puppet Theatre

Time: 1pm (30 minutes)

Laika the Space Dog By LolliHop Puppet Theatre

Time: 2:30pm (20 minutes)

Sunday 17 August 12pm-4pm

The Wrong Brothers By Feasible Ferret Theatre

Times: 12pm / 1:30pm / 3pm (30 minutes)

Circus Workshops By Circus Berzercus

Times: 12pm / 1pm / 2:15pm / 3:15pm (45 minutes)

Thingamabob By Matt Pang

Times: 12:30pm / 2:30pm (45 mins)

The Fisher and his Wife By Lempen Puppet Theatre Company

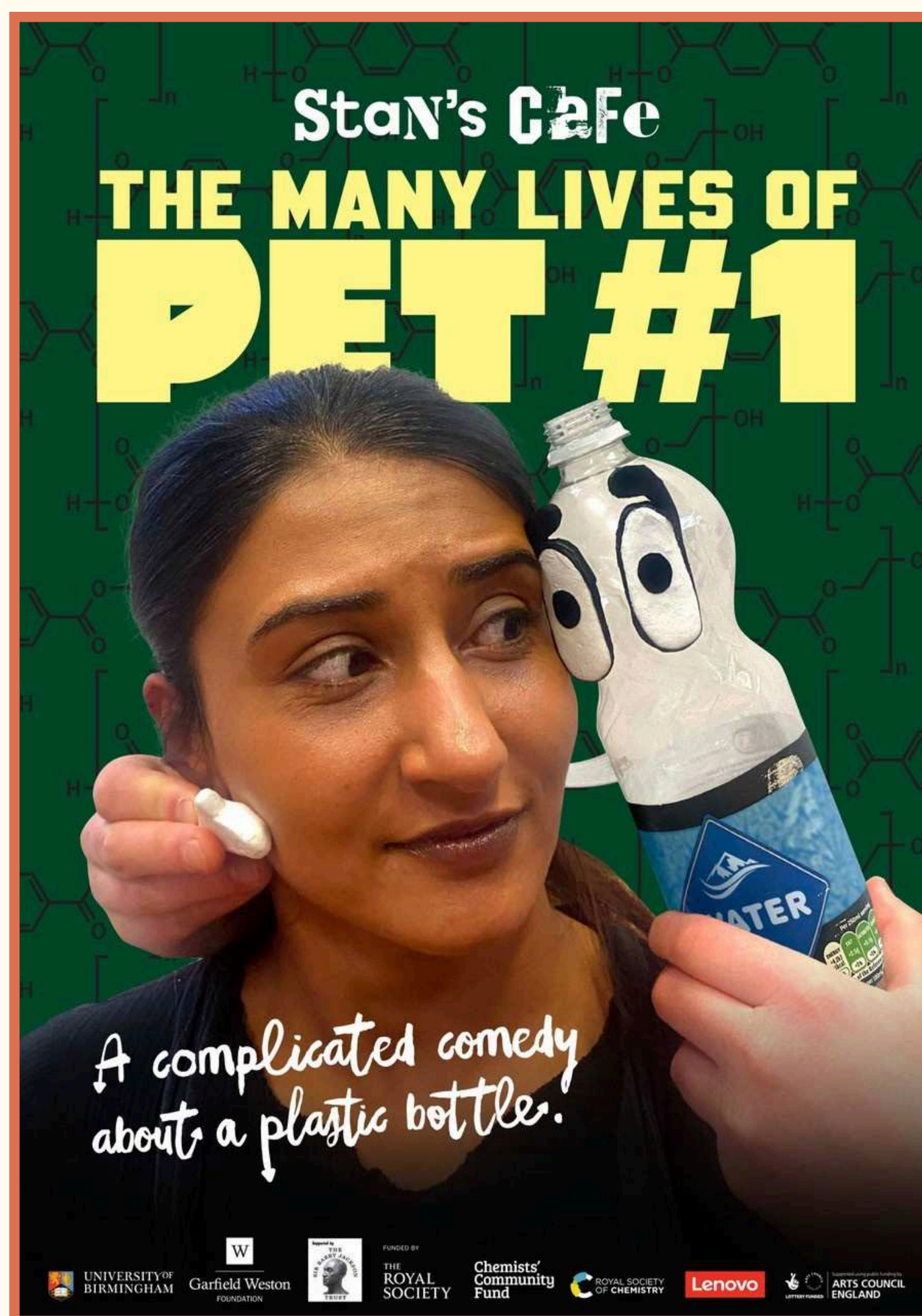
Times: 1pm / 2pm / 3:30pm (20 minutes)



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Find out more
tinyurl.com/3srj2wdp



Tour Dates:

21st August - Our Facility, B29 7RZ, 7:30PM
 23rd August - Greenbelt Festival, NN14 3AG, 11:00AM & 1:30PM
 30th August - Katie's Secret Garden, DY8 3TB, 8:00PM

This August, PET #1 is back...

Poor old PET #1. Distantly related to pre historical plankton, used and cast aside every day, desperate not to be buried or cremated, now they're at the heart of an almighty row between Big Business, Government and Joe Public who all love them and hate them at the same time. And that's before the cousins #2 – #7 come on the scene!

Stan's Cafe's tabletop drama dives deep into the world of plastic.
 Age guidance 8+

Links to all tickets & more info here: <https://stans.cafe/project/the-many-lives-of-pet-1/>



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. 1000 Trades
2. Anthony McFarlane (Artist)
3. Black Country Touring
4. Bear Bookshop
5. Bearwood Community Hub
6. Bearwood Promoters
7. Big Bear Music
8. Birmingham Opera
9. Blue Sheep Books
10. Birmingham Music Archive
11. Canal & River Trust
12. City of Birmingham Orchestra
13. Chance Heritage Trust
14. Curl Girl Productions
15. Creative Black Country
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. Learn with Lolonyo
23. Luke Perry (Artist)
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. SCVO
33. SIPS
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



Next meeting date:



Tuesday 16th September
1-3pm
Venue TBC