



SANDWELL CULTURAL FORUM

December 2025 Newsletter



MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY
NEW YEAR



Paint your own *Festive Baubles*

SAT 13TH DECEMBER @ THE ART YARD, B64 5HX

Family Workshop:

2:00-3:30pm

Parent + 1 child £20

Additional children + £5 each

Paint a ceramic bauble with vibrant acrylics, metallic paint pens and finish off with ribbon.

Includes hot chocolate/juice, tea, coffee and biscuits.



Adult's Workshop:

7:00 - 9:00pm

A relaxed and social afternoon of creativity - perfect for friends, couples, or a bit of festive me-time.

Paint two ceramic baubles in rich acrylic colours. Finish them off with metallic paint pens and luxury ribbon.

Hot drinks and mince pies included or BYOB. £20pp

Extra baubles £4 cash on the day

BOOK

www.beckymccartney.com





JOIN OUR ROCK BAND!
a friendly group for adults that sing
or play an instrument

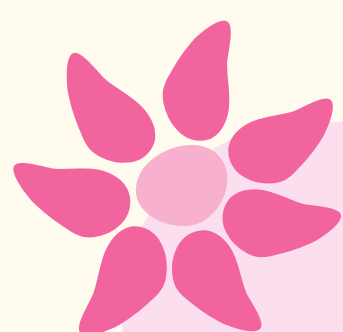
no need to read music notation	guided by professional leaders	rehearsals, gigs and socials
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YOUR FIRST SESSION IS FREE



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 Update!

The Sandwell Poets Laureate Programme has taken its first steps forward with an initial steering group! The first meeting to discuss the project plan was well attended and incredibly fruitful, shaping the next two years of the project with expertise and creative input.

If you would like to get involved with the planning of this incredible initiative for the arts in Sandwell, becoming a partner or stakeholder for the scheme, please let us know: charlottemcdermott@live.co.uk

FESTIVE FAMILY SHOW THE TOYMAKER

Haden Hill House Museum
Sunday 14 December 11.30am



Group ticket for five people £22.50, single ticket £5.50

Book tickets at

ticketsource.co.uk/sandwell-museums-and-arts

sandwell.gov.uk/joininmuseums





WINTER TALES

At Bromwich Hall

November and December

A season of enchanting displays and
magical events inspired by winter
stories and seasonal customs from
around the world



Sandwell Museums

sandwell.gov.uk/joininmuseums



WINTER TALES

At Bromwich Hall

Winter Tales display open days: Saturday 15 November 12pm-3pm, Tuesday 18 November 2pm-4.30pm, Tuesday 2 Dec 2-4.30pm, Tuesday 9 December 11am-2pm. See work by the Wednesbury Creative Network, Sandwell Age UK Creative Memories Art Group and Dawn from The Victory Belles Women's Institute group showing winter stories. The Winter Tales displays are also viewable during our other events. Free entry.

Creative Memories Dementia Art Group Exhibition: Wednesday 10 December 11am-2pm. Come and see what members of the Sandwell Age UK Creative Memories Art Group have been creating this year. Free entry.

Santa's Grotto: Saturday 29 November, Sunday 30 November and Sunday 7 December 11am-3.30pm. Visit Santa in his Grotto, make reindeer food, explore the house and the Winter Tales display. Tearoom open. Tickets are £5 each which includes a small present. Reindeer food costs £1.00. Due to limited space inside the Grotto, we suggest no more than two accompanying adults per booking. All ages welcome. Booking essential via Ticketsource

A Tudor Christmas with Gloriana: Friday 12 December, 6.30pm. Enjoy a festive evening of Christmas Merrymaking at the Tudor Court with Gloriana Historic Dance Group beautifully dressed for a Tudor Christmas. A Lord of Misrule is appointed to oversee our festive entertainment. All ages welcome, no need to book. House and tearoom open. Free entry.

Circusberzercus presents The Magic Elf: Saturday 13 December, 1.30pm. The Christmas countdown has started, everywhere elves are busy preparing and wrapping presents. Will Gerald manage to get his presents ready in time... or will he get distracted by all the circus equipment he's been asked to wrap? This show is packed with visual comedy, dazzling juggling, unique unicycling, mindboggling magic, audience participation, with a hint of danger. Suitable for the whole family ages 2 years and over. Group ticket £22.50 (for groups of 5) Single tickets £5.50. All children must be accompanied by an adult and all attending will need a ticket. Booking essential via Ticketsource

Ian Casey Sings at Christmas: Thursday 18 December, 7pm start. Our annual favourite festive musical event with all your favourite Christmas songs from across the decades. A festive foot tapper! Tickets cost £5.00 per person. Drinks and seasonal snacks will be available to purchase from our tearoom. Suitable for ages 10+. Booking essential via Ticketsource or call 0121 588 2985 and pay by card over the phone.



Book tickets at
ticketsource.co.uk/sandwell-museums-and-arts

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



Call to action!

Yam from Here: Migration and the Making of the Black Country is a multi-year arts and heritage project funded by Heritage Lottery exploring the identity of the region.

We are looking for communities and partners to engage in our **free arts workshops**.

Our workshops are led by local artists who utilise the mediums of **painting, textiles, photography, and performance** to explore questions of home, journey, and community in the Black Country.

We would like to work with you!

Our audiences include:

Community groups and organisations interested in local arts, heritage, and history.

CIC's working with first-generation migrants and community groups and organisations interested in stories of migration.

We can organise venues in your borough through partners or come directly to you! We will organise the workshop for free.

You don't need to bring anything, just yourselves and your community.

Email: Piotr.kardynal@ewacic.com or Luccadivirgilio@ewacic.com to register interest!



New Young People's Artwork Unveiled at Sandwell Valley Crematorium Courtyard

The unveiling event, and as part of Youth Work Week, brought together members of the Council's Cabinet, youth workers, artists, and the young people themselves to celebrate the transformation of the once-plain courtyard into a vibrant and welcoming space.

The artwork was created by young people from Coneygre Arts Centre, supported by Sandwell Youth Service and local artist Roots 0121, with funding from the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme.

Over two days, the group worked collaboratively to design and produce a piece that reflects the sensitivity of the crematorium setting while adding warmth and creativity to the visitor experience.



SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE!

Last month, Spectra's Lantern Celebration lit up the pathways at Midland Metropolitan University Hospital with a parade of cheerful faces, glowing lanterns and the rippling sound of a gong. Tyrone, who has been on our shadow programme, took the lead in designing the event, 'Light Garden', which involved members of the hospital community, Spectra's Community Company and SAFS.

Thank you to everyone who took part as we celebrated the autumn night, and to Andy Angell from Aum Tree Yoga for the relaxing sonic bath.

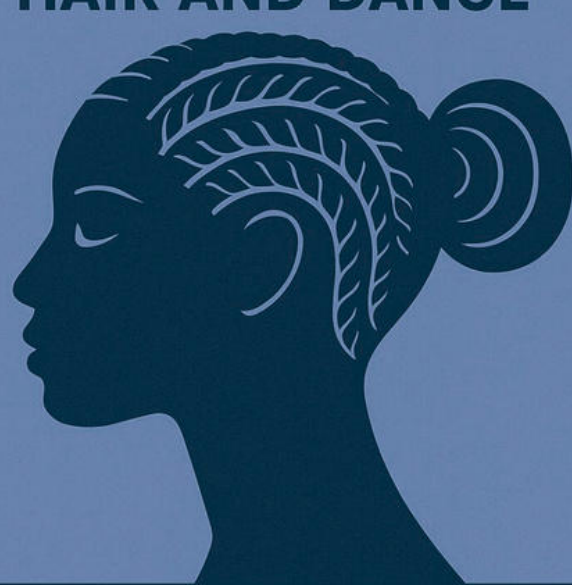


EXHIBITION
October – December 2025


FANTASY CHRONICLE

**BRAIDS,
MAPS &
MOTION**

THE HIDDEN KINGDOM
OF HAIR AND DANCE



**WEDNESBURY MUSEUM
AND ART GALLERY**
HOLLYHED ROAD, WEDNESBURY, WS10 7DF
Free entry



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



Congratulations to Black Country Touring

Black Country Touring's crowdfunder for Smethwick Puppetry Festival 2026 has successfully raised £1456! All the money raised will go towards making the festival bigger and better than ever before, and help keep it 'pay what you can' so that everyone can experience it.

Keep your eyes peeled for the festival programme coming in January! You can expect singing snails, dancing dragons and magic eyeballs... 🐌🐉👁️

Save the date for the festival opening celebration on
Saturday 14th February 2026 from 3-6pm - all are welcome to join us as we officially open the festival.

LIVE
AT THE LIBRARY

**An Afternoon of
Christmas Classics**

Festive favourites
sung by singers such as
Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin,
Elvis Presley & Andy Williams

**Hamstead
Library**
Tanhouse Centre,
Hamstead Rd,
Hamstead,
B43 5EL

**Monday
15th December**
Starts 2:30pm

For more information:
• 0121 569 2548
• hamstead_library@sandwell.gov.uk





**Do you love to sing?
We all do!**



Handsworth Community Choir

This welcoming choir is open to everyone aged 16+—from beginners to seasoned singers — celebrating community through the joy of music.

🎤❤️
Come along, sing along, and share the festive magic!

Date : Monday 15 December

Time: Doors open at 2:00pm

Venue: Great Barr Library

FREE event—with coffee and mince pies! 🥧

Bookings : FREE ENTRY

Telephone: 0121 569 4945

Email: greatbarr_library@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!](#)
- Haden Hill House - Family Festive Day: Sunday 7th, Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 December, 11am-3pm. Drop in and enjoy our festive crafts and trail and enjoy the children's entertainment with Ron Popple (also musical fun on 7th December). Just drop in to see the house beautifully decorated.
- Festive Open Days. Friday 12, Wednesday 17 and Thursday 18 December, 11am-3pm. Come and see the house beautifully decorated for the festive season. No need to book, just drop in.

Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery

- [Lots of history talks and family summer fun at Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery](#)
- Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery - Festive Open Day: Wednesday 10 December 10.30am-2pm. Pop in and enjoy our museum feeling festive including our 1970s living room! Also enjoy festive pies and a cuppa for a small charge. Entry free no need to book.

Oak House Museum

- [There's a ton of activities happening at Oak House this summer - click here!](#)
- Oak House - Festive Fun. 7 December 11am-2pm. Visit the house beautifully decorated for the season and enjoy children's entertainment with Mad Dom, crafts, and trail. No need to book to visit - free entry. Festive Open evening - 10 December 4:30pm-7:30pm. Travel back in time and see the house beautifully decorated, enjoy Tudor music and characters, textile demonstrations and make pomanders. Free entry £1 to make pomanders. Ideal for adults children welcome.

Bromwich Hall

- [Check out the amazing events happening at Bromwich Hall](#)

Sandwell Libraries:

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

Sandwell Valley:

- [Santa's Village at Sandwell Valley](#)- Saturday 6, Sunday 7 and Saturday 13 December 2025. Santa Paws - Sunday 14 December 2025
- [Christmas Pantomime - Sleeping Beauty](#) - Friday 19 - Tuesday 23 December 2025

Tis the Season to be Jolly

At Wednesbury Library

Saturday 6th December

10:30am - 1:00pm

1:30pm - 3:30pm

Take part in a free STEM activity with
a festive twist!

Delivered by RAF Museum Midlands



Saturday 20th December

11am - 1pm

Santa is here
at

Wednesbury Library

Book Now: 0121 569 4945

Free Event



Monday 22nd December

11am

Film Time! We are Showing:
'The Muppet Christmas Carol'



Every Saturday

10am - 3pm



Crafts Available for
Children

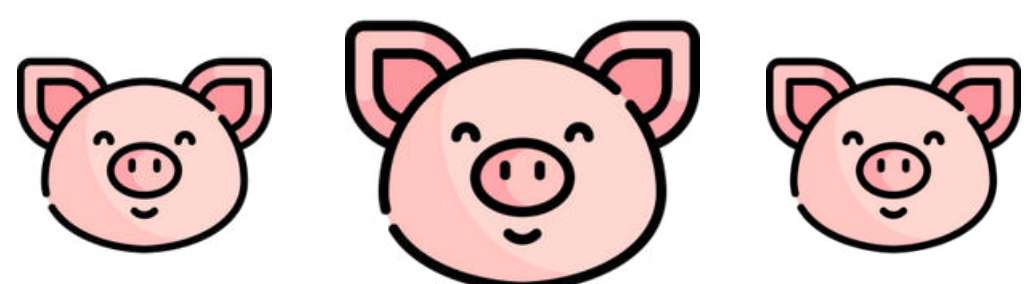


Looking ahead:

Saturday 31st January 2026

11am

Theatre Production of
The 3 Little Pigs





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

Come and Join Us for an Early Christmas Treat!



We are Showing:
‘The Muppet Christmas Carol’
On Monday 22nd December
At 11 am

Wednesbury Library, Walsall Street, Wednesbury, WS10 9EH

Tel: 0121 569 4945

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:
TBC

