



**SANDWELL
CULTURAL FORUM**

**February 2026
Newsletter**

THE Smethwick PUPPETRY FESTIVAL

The Smethwick Puppetry Festival 2026 programme is officially LIVE - and booking is now open! 🎉

Join us this February half-term for a magical celebration of community, creativity and puppet theatre. Expect breath-taking puppetry shows, hands-on workshops, a unique exhibition and more, all taking place across your favourite community venues in Smethwick. 🍷

Whether you're a seasoned puppetry lover or brand new to it all, the festival is an invitation to explore, play and be swept away by the magic of puppetry.

Check out the full line-up and grab your “pay what you can” tickets by clicking on the button below. Tickets are limited, so book now to avoid disappointment!

[Book 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

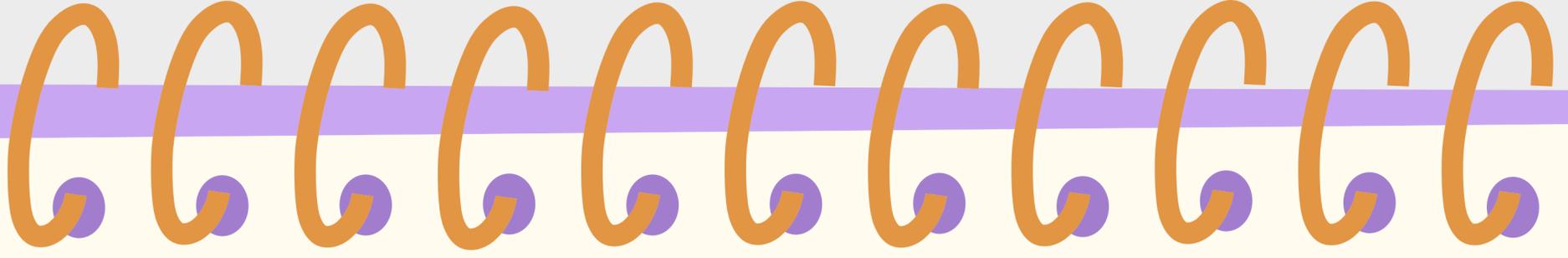


Sandwell Poetry Laureate Scheme Update!



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



Half Term Fun with ME DANCE JUNIORS

(Age 7-11)



Contact medanceco@gmail.com for more details

DANCE FUN WITH ME DANCE



Half term Fun With ME DANCE JUNIORS

Monday 16th February

Session 1: 11am-12pm

Session 2: 12pm-1pm

Saturday 21st February

Session 3: 10.30-11.30am

• Central Library West Bromwich
B70 8DZ



Contact medanceco@gmail.com for more details



Misfits Music Institute to host an evening with the award-winning author

To Be Young, Gifted and Black - A talk with Kadiatu & Mariatu Kanneh-Mason

- Misfits Music Institute are hosting 'To Be Young Gifted and Black – a talk with Dr Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason' on **Wednesday 18 February 2026**.
- Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason will be in conversation with celebrated orchestral clarinettist Anton Clarke-Butler.
- The evening will include a special live performance from cellist Mariatu Kanneh-Mason and will culminate in a book-signing.
- Taking place at The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, tickets are available via <https://www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/events-calendar/kadiatu-and-mariatu-kanneh-mason>

Join Misfits Music Institute for an inspiring evening at The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire on **Wednesday 18 February**, with the award-winning Dr Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason in conversation with Anton Clarke-Butler (Freelance Clarinettist). Together they will reflect on the challenges and celebrations of creating art as Black musicians. This fascinating discussion will be provoked by Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason's highly reviewed book *To Be Young, Gifted and Black*.

The evening will include a special performance by cellist Mariatu Kanneh-Mason, showcasing her extraordinary talent. The backdrop to this fascinating discussion will be provided by Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason's latest book *To Be Young, Gifted and Black*. Afterwards there is an opportunity to stay for a book signing, with The Heath Bookshop (Independent Bookshop of The Year 2025). You can purchase your copy of the book at the event too.

Congratulations to Curl Girl Productions for their funding success!



We are really excited to announce our new project titled The Magical Adventures of Super Singh in collaboration with Sandwell Libraries, our exciting offer to the world of children's theatre made possible by ACE funding. We will be sharing further information next month! Learn more about our work at www.curlgirlproductions.com



Funded by
UK Government



West Midlands
Combined Authority

THE PEOPLES SHOW CHOIR

COME & SING

DUDLEY

FEEL THE MUSIC, SING ALONG, AND EXPERIENCE THE
MAGIC A CHOIR BRINGS TO EVERY PERFORMANCE!

14 FEBRUARY 2026

HALESOWEN TOWN HALL, 10 HAGLEY ST, B63 3AF | 10AM TO 4PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION

HELLO@THEPEOPLESSHOWCHOIR.COM

CALL TO ARTISTS!
OPEN ART EXHIBITION
at **THE ART YARD GALLERY**

MONDAY 9TH FEBRUARY
to
SATURDAY 7TH MARCH

DEADLINE
SATURDAY 7TH FEBRUARY

THE
ART YARD

CRAFT FAYRE
and
OPEN ART STUDIOS

Saturday
7th March
10 - 4pm

An Evening of Poetry and Spoken Word

PoArtry

Tues, 10th Feb 2026
7:00pm - 9:00pm
 (doors open 6:30pm)

To put your name into the performance hat
email: infoartyard@gmail.com

Tel: 01384 910968

Events cost **£3 on the door**
 With free - Tea/coffee and biscuits



The Art Yard, 19 - 20 Upper High St, Cradley Heath, B64 5HX

SUNDAY

All-Day Portrait Art Sessions
 at
The Art Yard

DATES

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



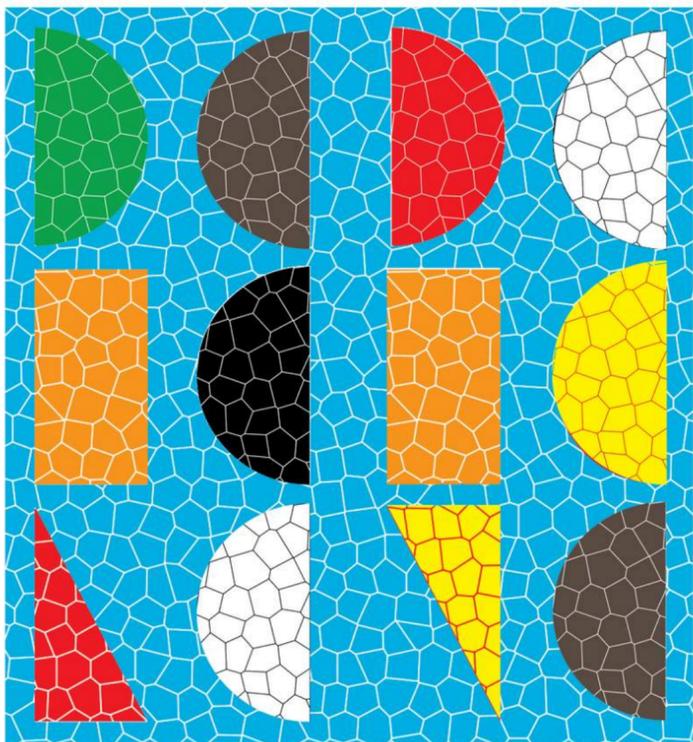
With lead artist:
Chris Partridge

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

For details email to: infoartyard@gmail.com



FREE GUIDED TOUR AND
RESIN CASTING WORKSHOP



WITH VICKY RODEN

JANUARY 31 CHANCE BROS. GLASS WORKS
FEBRUARY 22 OAK HOUSE



Free art workshop at Oak House Museum!

SUNDAY 22ND FEBRUARY
RESIN CASTING WORKSHOP WITH
VICKY RODEN
12PM TO 3PM
EXPLORE OAK HOUSE FROM 10:30AM
OAK RD, WEST BROMWICH, B70 8HJ



SIGN
UP
HERE!



Sign up is now open for part-two of Vicky Roden's (@vicky.roden) workshop series in collaboration with @chance_heritage_trust and @sandwellcouncil.

In this FREE workshop, Vicky will lead the group from through the art of resin casting against the backdrop of Oak House, a 17th century yeoman's house in the heart of Sandwell.

📍 Where?

Oak House, Oak Rd, West Bromwich B70 8HJ.

📅 When?

Resin Casting | 22 Feb | 12-3pm

And that's not all! @sandwellmuseums invites all participants to enjoy Oak House Museum from 10:30am!

Step into the industrial stories that shaped our local landscape and transform them into contemporary creative practice.

Find out more by clicking this link - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/guided-heritage-tour-and-resin-casting-workshop-tickets-1979858288437?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>

Yam From Here is a two-year project funded by the @heritagefunduk and delivered by the @ewa.cic.

**£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



ARTIST OPPORTUNITY



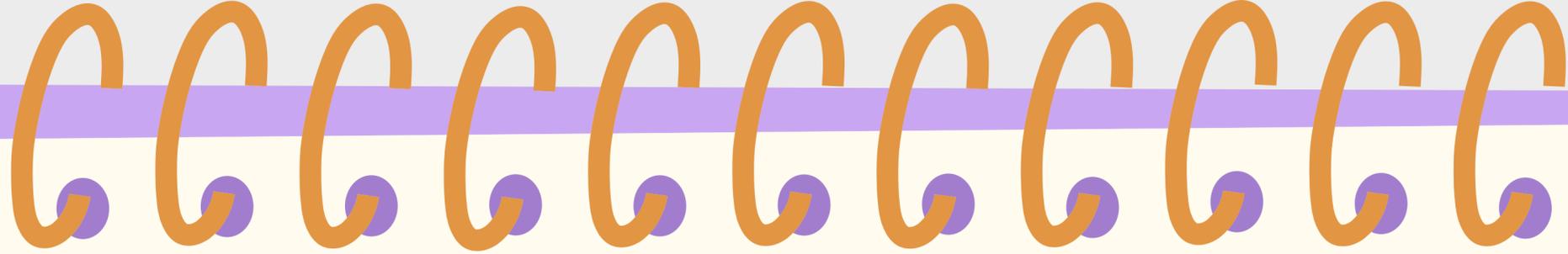
Spectra is expanding its shadowing artist programme for learning **disabled and autistic creatives** who would like to develop their leadership skills and gain more experience in running creative workshops.

This is a paid opportunity that offers:

- Working with Spectra artists to run community workshops
- Learning about the ideas behind our work and why these are important
- Training in planning and running workshops
- One-to-one mentoring
- Support with travel and access costs

For further information about this programme, email kerry@wearespectra.co.uk. More information via www.wearespectra.co.uk and [@spectraartscompany](https://www.instagram.com/spectraartscompany).

Deadline for applications: 9 am, Monday 23rd February 2026



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



GUIDED BY CHANCE: DREAMING LIGHTHOUSES

A FREE ART WORKSHOP DISCOVERING THE CHANCE

BROTHERS' LEGACY OF LIGHTHOUSE LENSES GLOBALLY!

The Chance Brothers' lighthouse lenses, made in Smethwick, helped light up coastlines around the world.

In this FREE creative workshop, we'll dive

into Sandwell Archives' collection, drawing and painting re-imagined lighthouses- then dreaming up the ships, people, and creatures they helped guide to land around the world!

Facilitated by Sandwell-based artist Abigail Villarroel (IG @abigailvillarroel.art) Open to all, no experience needed with plenty of materials provided. Book on the QR code or show up on the day.



DATE: SAT 28 FEB 2026

TIME: 11AM – 1PM

PLACE: SMETHWICK LIBRARY, B66 1AA



**ARCHIVES
REVEALED**



Pilgrim
Trust

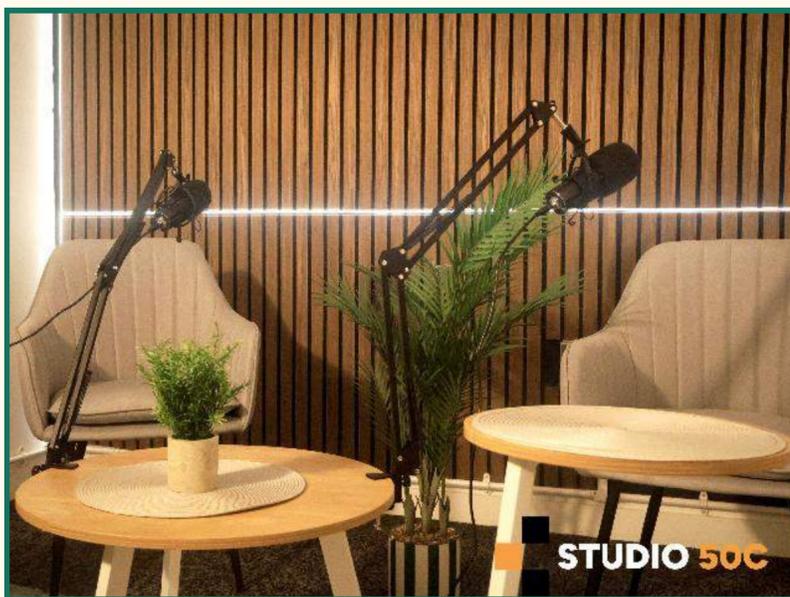
The Wolfson*
Foundation



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.



Introducing Creatv Hub



**CREATV
HUB**

**CREATV
CONNNECT**

CONTENT CREATORS MEET-UP

**A free and relaxed networking evening for content
creators, freelancers and digital creatives.**

Meet Creatives | Connect | Share Ideas | Explore the Hub

**FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY
19:00 - 21:00
The Creatv Hub
50C Best Street
B64 5PA**

Limited tickets available

[Book Tickets here](#)

Sandwell Libraries, Museums and Archives presents...

SANDWELL STANZAS

HEADLINE POET

Casey Bailey

West Bromwich
Central Library

FREE ENTRY

Friday 27th February 2026



OPEN
MIC
NIGHTS
2026

6.30PM
-
8.30PM

The first headline poet for our Sandwell Stanzas open mic poetry nights is none other than Casey Bailey! Former Birmingham Poet Laureate 2020-2022, this talented writer, educator, and performer spans poetry, music, theatre, and community. We have plenty of open mic slots available for you to share the same stage as the incredible Casey, 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



M A C B E T H

 **OldburyREP On Tour**
presents



by **William Shakespeare**
Adapted by Paul Steventon-Marks

14 February 2026 .30PM

Wednesbury Library

Walsall St, Wednesbury, WS10 9EH

0121 569 4945

21 February .30PM

Central Library

316 High St, West Bromwich, B70 8DZ

0121 569 4900

Book your **free** ticket: ticketsource.co.uk/sandwell-libraries-and-archives

MACBETH

by William Shakespeare

Adapted by Paul Steventon-Marks

“Blood will have blood!...”

This specially adapted and immersive version by local playwright, Paul Steventon-Marks, viscerally brings to life Shakespeare's tragic tale of greed, ambition and ultimately bloody downfall.

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.



ARCHIVES REVEALED



Pilgrim Trust

The Wolfson* Foundation



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



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!



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:



VALLEY SCREENINGS PRESENTS

LILO & STITCH

Saturday 21 February

You're invited to our fun-filled screening of Disney's Lilo & Stitch. Every ticket includes a free portion of popcorn, and you can treat yourself to even more snacks and drinks from our Shop and Tea Room.

Book now

SANDWELL VALLEY VISITOR CENTRE
SALTERS LANE, WEST BROMWICH B71 4BG

The poster features a red curtain background. On the left, a framed photo of the character Stitch is shown with his arms crossed. To the right, there is a yellow starburst with the date 'Saturday 21 February'. Below the starburst is a red and white striped popcorn bucket overflowing with popcorn, with a film reel and a yellow ticket stub nearby. At the bottom, there is a yellow banner with the text 'Book now' and a white banner with the venue name and address.

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

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

