

SANDWELL CULTURAL FORUM

July 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... ARTS THERAPIES UK

Arts Therapies UK (formerly Birmingham Centre for Arts Therapies) is a mental health charity that provides three main services: HCPC Arts Therapies, Workplace Wellbeing and Community Arts in Health.

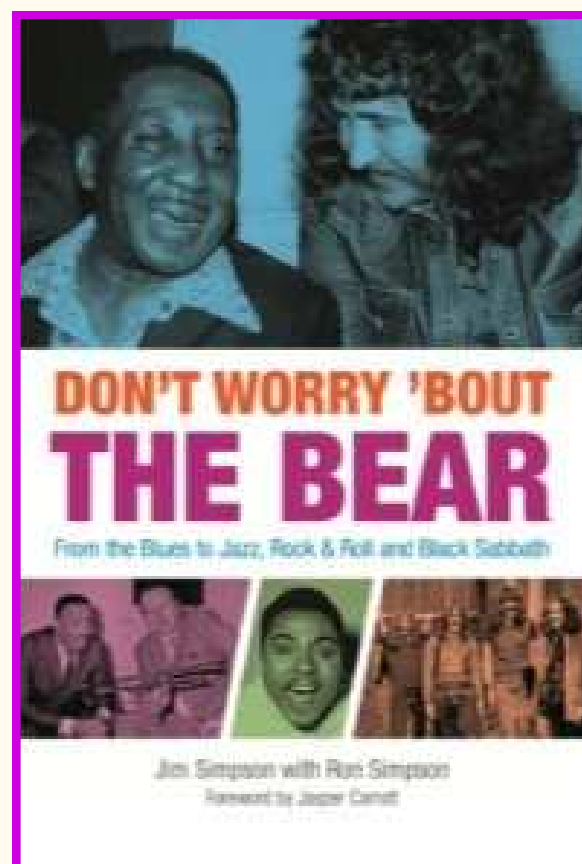
Our mission is to provide accessible creative support across the UK both online and in person to anyone that needs us. We utilise art, music, drama, dance movement and play as a catalyst to our support.



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 Spillett, *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' 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*

The Birmingham Jazz and Blues Festival has begun!



Click on the image above to see the full programme of exciting (mostly free!) events across Sandwell!

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

Creative Black Country Fundraising Fellowship Scheme 2025 is OPEN for applications

[More details here](#)

Deadline: 5pm on 4th August 2025



Fundraising Fellowship Scheme
2025 Applications Open

Find out more
creativeblackcountry.co.uk/fundraising



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](#)



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



SANDWELL VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

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

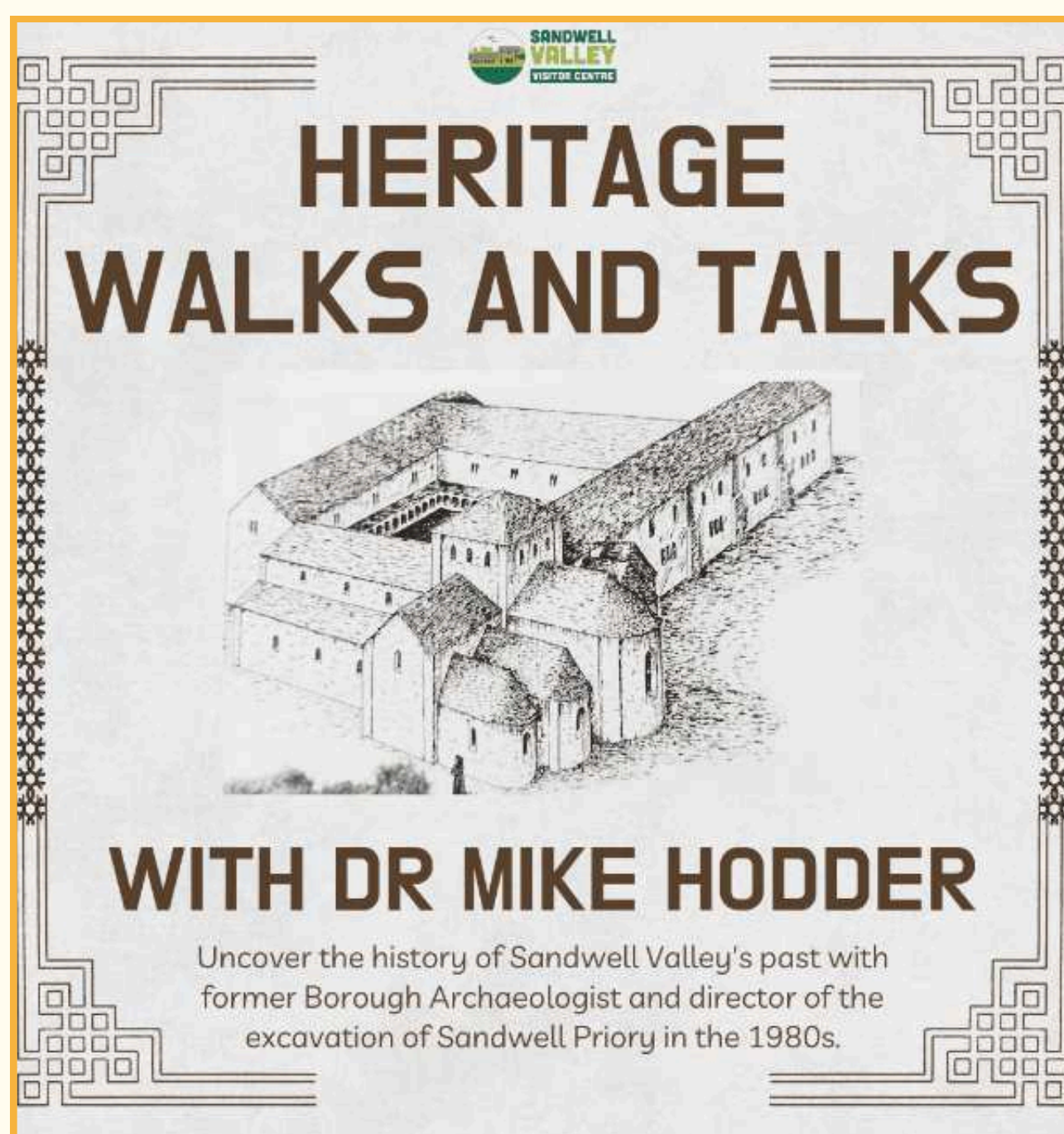
Wildlife Ceramic Exhibition by
**JUNEAU PROJECTS &
YMCA WEST BROMWICH**

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 Talks:
Sunday 3rd August 2025

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









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!](#)



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

& Sandwell Council Officers



Next meeting date:

July - Stay Tuned!

**Instead of a meeting, there may be a
summer outing planned!**

