



SANDWELL CULTURAL FORUM

June 2025 Newsletter



“Art speaks where words are unable to explain.” - Pam Holland.”

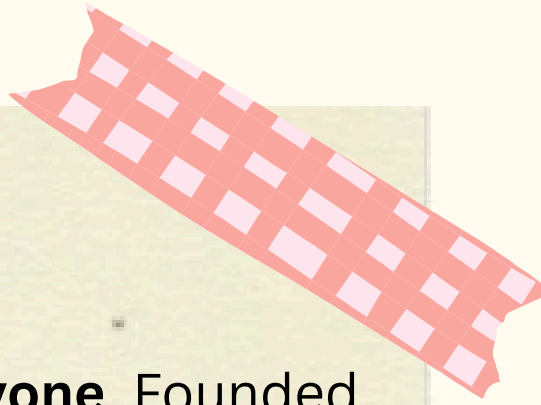


Call for Artists!

Call Out for Artist Educators
YAM FROM HERE are looking for artist educators who would be interested in helping to facilitate workshops as part of the Yam from Here project.

Application: **Please contact**
piotr.kardynal@ewacic.com or
luccadivirgilio@ewacic.com by May 23rd
to register interest and request the
application form.

Artists will receive £350 per 4-hour workshop (VAT and travel compensation included).



THIS MONTH'S FEATURED MEMBER IS... BIRMINGHAM OPERA COMPANY



They believe that opera can speak to everyone. Founded by international opera director the late Graham Vick, Birmingham Opera Company continues to make world-class opera in the UK's youngest and most diverse city.

Sandwell Creates

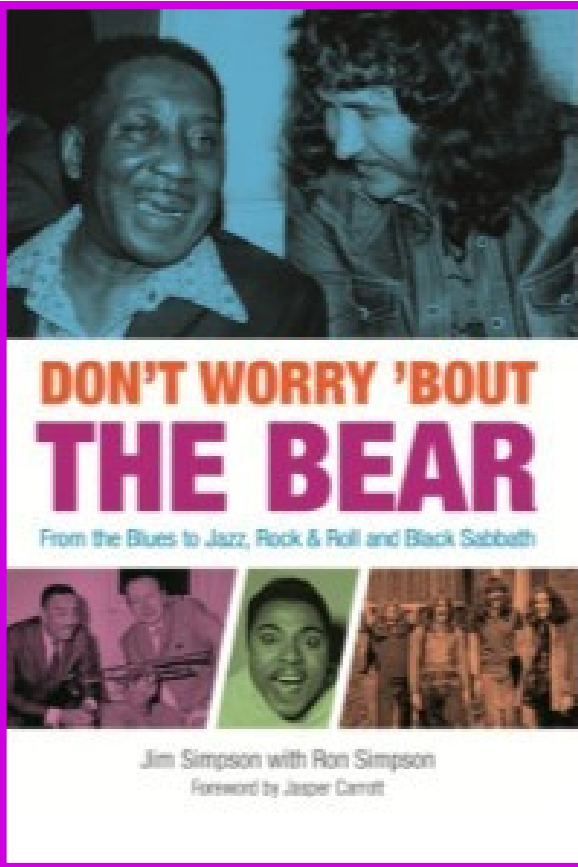
In 2024 they began their work in Sandwell. BOC teamed up with Radio Stall Public Dreaming to create a pop-up radio station in West Bromwich Indoor Markets, bringing artistic interventions, performances, workshops and music to the markets and Kings Square shopping centre.

[Find out more about Birmingham Opera here](#)

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'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*

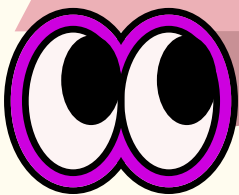
'Teeming with insight and anecdote about so many names known in so many households' – *Just Jazz*

Opportunities and Survey Request from Chance Heritage Trust

At Chance Heritage Trust, we are working to realise our vision of revitalising the Victorian Glassworks located on Spon Lane, Smethwick. The building embodies the legacy of the Chance Brothers, innovative pioneers who supplied glass for notable landmarks such as the Crystal Palace and Big Ben and collaborated with designers to create iconic glassware.

Our goal is to offer affordable creative studio and makerspace options while integrating with the network of creative hubs in the Black Country. Please click on our survey to let us know what you would like <https://bit.ly/42CTgid>

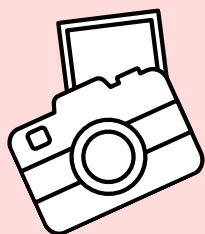
We are keen to collaborate, provide resources and promote the rich diverse heritage within Smethwick and Sandwell today. Please contact jane.deweijer@chanceht.org if you would like to discuss opportunities!



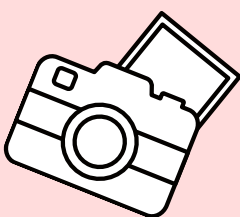
Call for images of cultural events, creative activities and artwork in Sandwell

Sandwell Cultural Compact is creating a website and would like showcase the vibrant cultural activities and work that is created across Sandwell by including as many photos of your work as possible on the website.

Please send high res images/ links to downloadable images to sandwellculturalcompact@gmail.com
Please send details of:



Photographer credit
Name of organisation/ artist/ activity/ event
Location (town/ area of Sandwell)
Alternative text description of the image



Please ensure you have permission to share the photographs from the photographer and anyone who is shown in the images.

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**

Opportunities and Survey Request from Chance Heritage Trust

At Chance Heritage Trust, we are working to realise our vision of revitalising the Victorian Glassworks located on Spon Lane, Smethwick. The building embodies the legacy of the Chance Brothers, innovative pioneers who supplied glass for notable landmarks such as the Crystal Palace and Big Ben and collaborated with designers to create iconic glassware.

Our goal is to offer affordable creative studio and makerspace options while integrating with the network of creative hubs in the Black Country. Please click on our survey to let us know what you would like <https://bit.ly/42CTgid>

We are keen to collaborate, provide resources and promote the rich diverse heritage within Smethwick and Sandwell today. Please contact jane.deweijer@chanceht.org if you would like to discuss opportunities!

Big News from Black Country Touring

Black Country Touring are delighted to announce that Genevieve Say will be joining us as our new Artistic Director in June. Genevieve brings 20 years' experience as an independent performer, choreographer and movement director working across theatre and dance. She will join the organisation on a part-time basis before becoming full time in Autumn 2025.

Read more:

<https://www.bctouring.org.uk/news/bct-new-artistic-director>





Feature Events Listing



Click on the text below to find out more about the events and to book

Sandwell Museums:

Haden Hill House

- **Babies Adventures In Music:** Friday 6 June 11am and 1pm. A music performance that is designed to enchant and entertain babies 0-18 months. Featuring music from across the world performed by Sam Frankie Fox and Ricardo Santos Rocha. Adult and child tickets from £5. [Book at ticketsource](#).
- **The Notes- Ukelele Band:** Thursday 12 June. 11.15am-1pm. Join our resident ukulele band in front of Haden Old Hall (weather permitting) & have a sing song. Haden Old Hall will be open to look around. Tea & Coffee will be available (small charge). Free entry

Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery

- **West Bromwich in Old Photos - Free Talk** - Thursday 5 June 11.30am

Oak House Museum

- **Tea and a Tour.** 12th June. Gates open 1pm. tour 1:30-3:00pm. [Book via Ticketsource](#)
- **Nature Makers:** Suitable for early years and home school children up to 10 years old, 25 June. [Booking HERE](#).

Bromwich Hall

- **Mike Hodder Tour and Talk:** Tuesday 10 June, 10.30am start. Join former borough archaeologist Mike Hodder and uncover the histories of our fascinating building and look around with a guided tour. [Booking here](#).
- **Open day with introductory talk:** Wednesday 11th, 17th, 24th, 25th June. Open 4pm - 7pm, introductory talk in the hall starts at 5pm then explore the house on your own. Tea room open, just drop in.
- **Free guided tour:** Tuesday 17 Jun, 24th June, 6pm start. Join our guide and explore this fascinating medieval building, once the home of the Lords of the Manor of West Bromwich, with parts dating back to the 1270s. Tea room open. [Book your place via ticketsource](#).
- **Free-flow open day:** Wednesday 18 June, open 2pm - 5pm with introductory talk in the Great Hall at 3pm. Tea room open, just drop in.
- **Shakespeare's Dances with Gloriana:** Saturday 21 June, 12pm – 3pm.
- **Open evening with medieval music:** Thursday 26 June, open 4pm – 7pm. Explore the museum and enjoy performances of medieval music from Nick Gravestock. Meet the costumed steward's wife and ask her questions about medieval life. Tea room open, just drop in.

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:

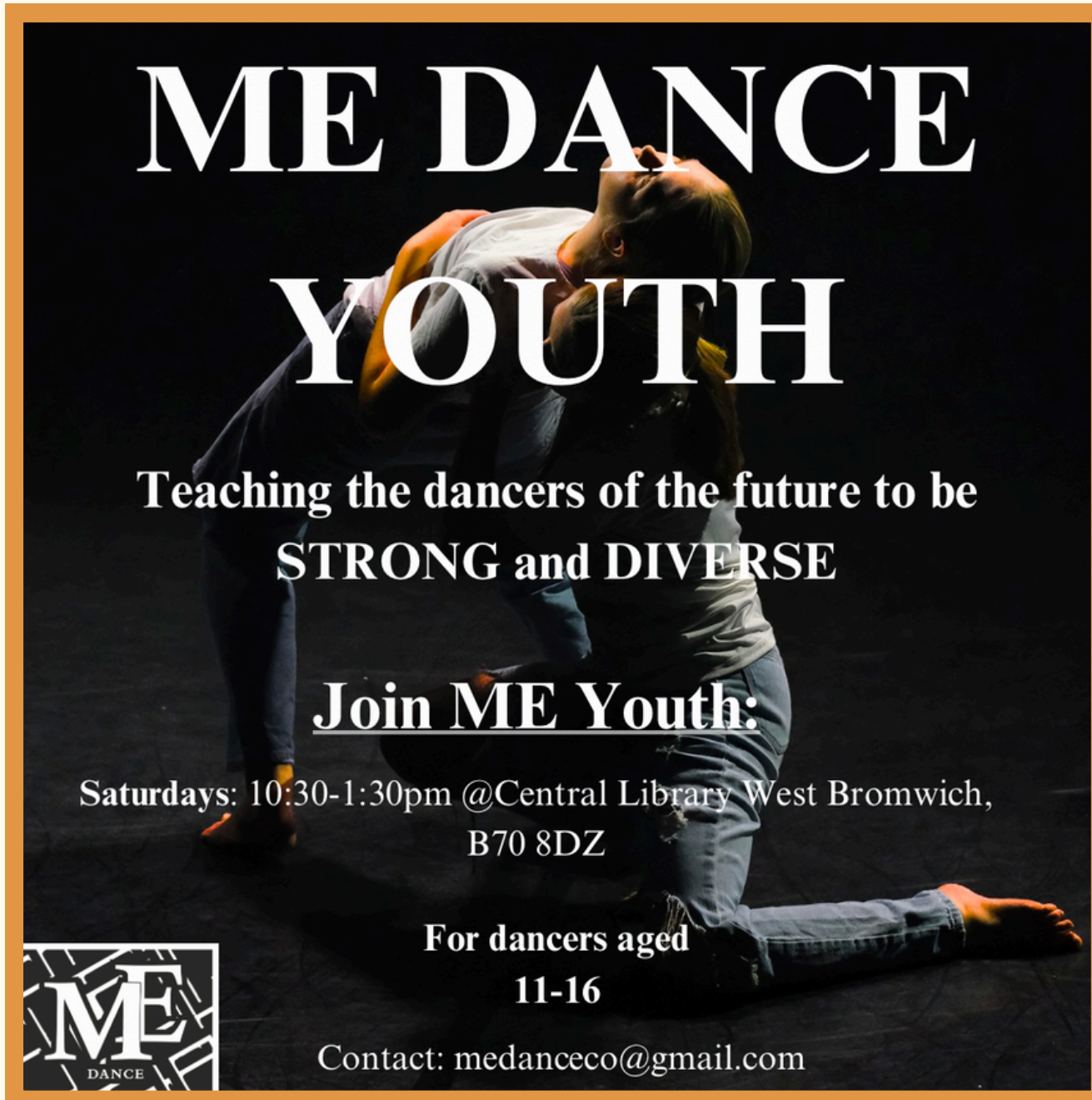
- [Lots coming up, book via Ticketsource](#) <-click here

Community Events:

- [Portrait Group Session on Tuesday 10th June at the Art Yard \(19-20 Upper St. Cradley Heath B64 5HX\)](#)



Feature Events Listing



**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

ME DANCE

Opportunities with Birmingham Opera Company

Age 16 to 26?

Join us for upcoming music
composition, song writing, and
singing workshops.

Birmingham Opera Company have
teamed up with YMCA West
Bromwich to deliver a series of free
creative workshops as part of
Sandwell Creates.

Lunch is provided & travel expenses
can be reimbursed up to £4.80 for
each session attended.

To register/ find out more Whatsapp
07739 952330

Email

create@birminghamopera.org.uk



**LET'S GET
CREATIVE!**

**FREE
16-26**

YMCA 38 CARTER'S GREEN, B70 9LG

**TUES
20 & 27
MAY**

MUSIC COMPOSITION
With BETHANY KAY HOPKINS, 11.30am-2.00pm
Work with singer & musician over 2 sessions
to collectively create a new song.

PERSONAL POETRY
With SIPHO, 12.15-2.45pm
Work with poet and performance artist to
take inspiration from real life to write poems.

**TUES 3
JUNE**

**TUES 10
JUNE**

SONG WRITING
With CZAFARI, 12.15-2.45pm
Hone your craft or try writing a song for the first time.

SINGING WORKSHOP
With CZAFARI & SAMANTHA OXBOROUGH, 12.15-2.45pm
Work with singers to explore different styles of singing.

**TUES 17
JUNE**

Lunch is provided & we reimburse travel
expenses of up to £4.80 for each session you
attend. To register/ find out more
Whatsapp 07739 952330 Email
create@birminghamopera.org.uk

**Birmingham
OPERA
company**

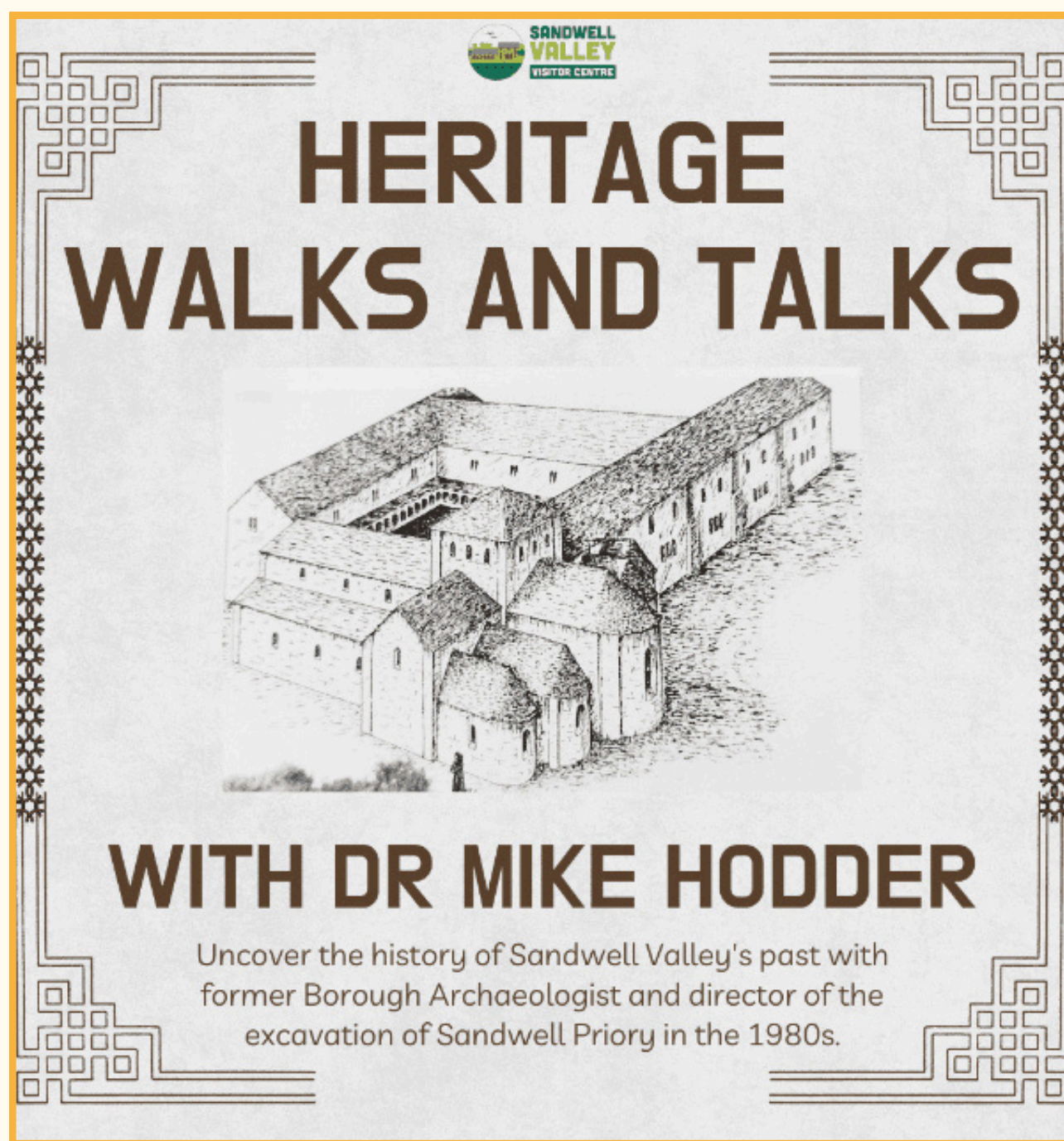
**YMCA
YMCA BLACK COUNTRY GROUP**



This June the creative industries department at Sandwell College are proud to present their 6th annual Festival of Arts 2025. There will be live entertainment, exhibitions and screenings across campuses and other local venues.

[For more information and to book visit Ticket Source here](#)

VIP tickets available for Sandwell Cultural Forum members - email
stacey_bagdi@sandwell.gov.uk



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 Walks:
Saturday 12th July 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](#)

TAI CHI EVERY TUESDAY - 11.30AM - 12.30PM



Join us for a rejuvenating Tai Chi class that blends movement, meditation, and mindfulness. Tai Chi aims to help you relax, reduce tension, and improve your overall well-being with gentle movement, physical postures and controlled breathing.

No experience is necessary - we advise you wear comfortable clothing and be ready to move at your own pace.

Follow our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) page for latest class updates.

Event Details

From 11:30AM to 12:30PM

Location

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

[Book here](#)



VIP Invitation

The King's Awards for Enterprise - How to Be a Winner

The West Midlands Lieutenancy and The Sandwell Colleges are delighted to invite you to a special Masterclass on the King's Awards for Enterprise, the most prestigious recognition a UK business can receive.

This practical and insightful session is designed to help ambitious organisations understand what it takes to achieve a King's Award, and how to unlock the benefits that come with it.

You'll gain insight into:

- What the King's Awards are and why they matter
- The four categories: Innovation, International Trade, Sustainable Development and Promoting Opportunity through Social Mobility
- What makes a winning entry
- First-hand experiences from previous winners
- The application process and key tips for success

This event is proudly supported by Sandwell Council, City of Wolverhampton Council and the Black Country Chamber of Commerce.

Whether you're exploring new ways to grow, looking to raise your profile, or simply want to learn more about what's possible, this session will offer the knowledge and inspiration to take your business further.

Reserve your place today and join a community of forward-thinking organisations.

Event Details:

Tuesday 10 June 2025 | 10.30am - 1.00pm
Location: Sandwell College, 1 Spon Lane, West Bromwich B70 6AW
Refreshments provided | Free to attend

We look forward to welcoming you.

To book your place, visit the following link:
<http://bit.ly/3Rymg4t>



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

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

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



Funded by UK Government



Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming performance from Spectra's Community Company.

Please put the 25th June in your diaries for the exciting upcoming performance from Spectra's Community Company! Performances will be at 12.45pm and 4.30pm at The Commons outside Midland Metropolitan University Hospital.

With lots more information to come, stay up to date with Spectra's socials @spectraartscompany - we'd love to see you there.



BEARWOOD

SHUFFLE

**Free Afternoon of Music
With Street Food, Arts Market,
Kids Activities, Community Vibes & More**

Live Music From...

**Sam Redmore and the
Tropical Soundclash Allstars
Layla Tutt - El Sam - Metz Jnr band
sofunk - the ceilidh band**

**Saturday 14th June 12-6pm
Lightwoods Park, Bearwood**



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

& Sandwell Council Officers



Next meeting date:

July - Stay Tuned!

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

