

SANDWELL CULTURAL FORUM

May 2026 Newsletter



Reel Feel Cinema - Sandwell Valley

We host a series of outdoor singalong and immersive cinema events within Sandwell valley country park this May with some great titles including

The greatest showman

Grease

Jurassic park

Encanto

Coco

Wicked

The Goonies

The lion king

Mama Mia

[Book here](#)

Ready to try watercolour?



Images from previous courses

Join me for our next relaxed and supportive block of watercolour sessions.

Starts: Week beginning 13th April

Duration: 6 weekly sessions

Time: Tue/Thur 10am-1pm

Location: The Art Yard, b64 5HX

Block Booking

Early booking rate: £110

Standard block price: £132

Individual sessions: £22 (subject to availability)

All materials included.



Booking the full block guarantees your place and helps with planning.

www.beckymccartney.com

@beckymccartney.art

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

PAPER & PLAY

PLAYFUL MIXED-MEDIA DRAWING CLASS FOR CURIOUS BEGINNERS

PERFECT FOR ANYONE WHO FEELS UNSURE WHERE TO BEGIN WITH DRAWING.

EACH WEEK WE EXPERIMENT WITH PLAYFUL MIXED-MEDIA TECHNIQUES USING PENCIL, INK, CHARCOAL, PASTEL OR COLLAGE. THROUGH SIMPLE OBSERVATIONAL PROMPTS AND STILL-LIFE SETUPS, YOU'LL LOOSEN UP, TRY NEW MATERIALS, AND ENJOY THE PROCESS OF MAKING MARKS AND CREATING.

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED – JUST CURIOSITY.

STARTING TUESDAY 14TH APRIL

The Art Yard

B64 5HX
1:30-3:30PM

ALL MATERIALS AND REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

TO BOOK OR FIND OUT MORE

www.beckymccartney.com/courses

WEST BROMWICH INDOOR MARKET

HENRY'S
BLUESHOUSE

FRIDAYS | TOP-TIER ENTERTAINMENT IN WEST BROM.
7PM-10PM | IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BIG BEAR MUSIC!
LIVE BLUES, STREET FOOD & DRINKS*.

*Cocktail and alcoholic/non alcoholic beverages are available. (alcohol served 5pm-9pm).






MAY'S PERFORMANCES

- 1 SLIDE BOY ROY
- 8 RICH DICKINSON'S DRIVING FORCE
- 15 LAZY FIFTY (NZ)
- 22 CHICKENBONE BLUES BAND
- 29 BACK ON THE ROAD

Jazz Festival boss Jim Simpson honoured in national awards!



BIRMINGHAM Jazz Festival boss Jim Simpson has been named this year's **Unsung Hero** at the prestigious UK Blues Awards after beating the odds to ensure the show must go on despite cruel funding cuts.

Congrats Jim!

[Read more here!](#)

Sandwell Libraries, Museums and Archives presents...

SANDWELL STANZAS

HEADLINE POET
DK Poetry

Rowley Regis Haden
Hill House Museum

Friday 29th May 2026



OPEN
MIC
NIGHTS
2026

6.30PM
-
8.30PM

The fourth headline poet for our Sandwell Stanzas open mic poetry nights is AccessAbility Arts' DK Poetry! DK is a slam-winning poet, music producer, and passionate advocate for accessibility and inclusion from the West Midlands. We have plenty of open mic slots available for you to share the same stage as the awe-inspiring DK, 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





Sunday 17 May
11am-4pm
Free Entry
 Oak Road, West Bromwich, B70 8HJ

GREEN MAN CELEBRATION

Celebrate spring with music, dance and entertainment



Enjoy a day celebrating springtime fun for all ages with nature arty fun, Morris Dancers, Tudor dancers and music, dohl drummers and entertainment . Explore our 17th century house. Why not bring a picnic and enjoy our grounds. No need to book.

At Oak House Museum

Sandwell Museums
 visitsandwell.com/
 sandwell-museums
 social media
 @sandwellmuseums

Join us for a celebration of spring at Oak House and grounds on Sunday 17 May 11am-4pm.

Enjoy the costumed music with our Green Man, enjoy Tudor dancing and have a go yourself, have a go our our nature inspired craft activities, see the Morris Dancers and enjoy the Dohl drummers, take part in our parade welocoming in spring around our grounds. You can also explore our beautiful 17th century house

Entrance is FREE

Why not bring a picnic to enjoy in our grounds and enjoy the day. There is no parking on site, parking is further down Oak Rd or on local side streets or at the Pay and Display carpark on Lodge Road.

[Book here](#)

NEW! Curiosity Cafe



The Curiosity Cafe is a free, friendly, and informal monthly get-together for everyone in Smethwick and Bearwood. It's a place to meet neighbours, share what you know, and learn new things. Do you have a skill you want to teach? Or something you're keen to learn? We have a Knowledge & Skills Sharing project for just that.

During our Urban Room project we listened to many residents who said we need more power to work together to develop solutions to local issues. This is a response to that and has been funded as a pilot by SCVO (Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations).

You can also sign up to future Task and Finish Forums to help tackle local issues that bother you—from litter to traffic to poverty to inclusion – you decide, and develop solutions together.

Whether you drop in during the afternoon (2pm-5pm) or after work (6pm-8pm), you will be welcomed with a cuppa to the library's fully accessible Community Room.

The cafe is also a fantastic resource hub. Stop by our Signposting Station to get connected with local services and support, or visit the Library of Things Station to get involved in developing a tools and equipment library, with the aim of sharing items stuck in sheds and attics across the community.

Contribute to our Community Guide Maps - bring old photos or stories to contribute your memories and help celebrate the history of Bearwood and Smethwick, or share the places, services and events you think others should know about!

It's an exciting opportunity to share, help out, and start something new right here in our community. Come as you are, bring a friend if you like, and let's make Smethwick and Bearwood even better together.

WHEN: 3rd Tuesday every month, starting 19 May 2026.

WHERE: Thimblemill Library, Thimblemill Road, B67 5RJ

TIME: 2-5pm and 6-8pm



Scan to register!

BLACK COUNTRY YOU'VE GOT TALENT 2026



£2
ENTRY
FEE

£250
CASH
PRIZE!
+PERFORMANCES
AT BCMD 2026

FULL DAY
AT PIRATE
STUDIOS

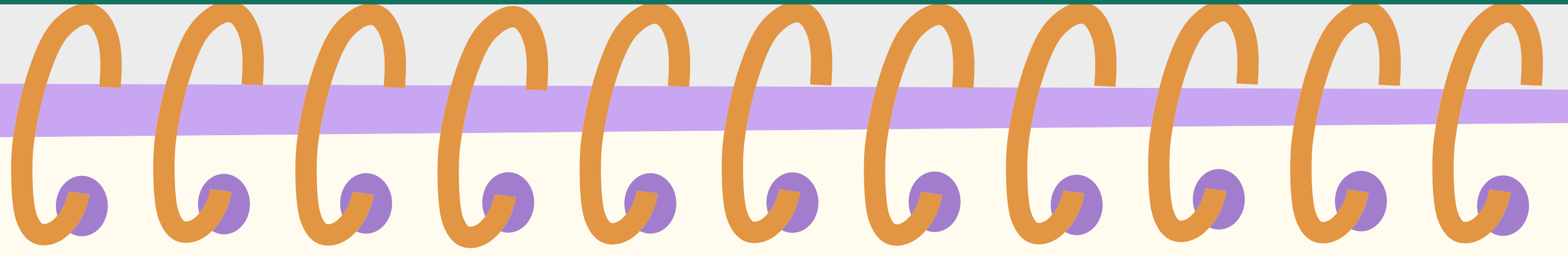
DUDLEY AUDITIONS
1ST - 8TH MAY
DY1 COMMUNITY CENTRE
STAFFORD ST DY1 1RT

HALESOWEN AUDITIONS
15TH - 22ND MAY
HASBURY CLUB 91 BLACKBERRY LANE
HALESOWEN B63 4NZ

TIPTON AUDITIONS
MAY 29TH - 5TH JUNE
GOSPEL OAK SPORTS CENTRE
BILSTON ROAD DY4 0BZ

DUDLEY AUDITIONS
12TH - 19TH JUNE
DUDLEY EX SERVICEMANS CLUB
51 HALL STREET, DY2 7BT





SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY JULY 4TH
OUTSIDELEFT
and
ROCKNROLL
BREWHOUSE
its happening
OUTSIDELEFT.COM/JULY4 | [@rocknrollbrewhouse](https://twitter.com/rocknrollbrewhouse)

WELCOME

Dottie's

COMMUNITY FRIDGE

Enabling businesses and individuals to waste less through the sharing of good quality food that's within it's use-by date

Open to all

Tuesday 12pm - 2pm

Wednesday 9.30am - 12pm

& 5pm - 7pm

Thursday 12pm - 3pm

Friday 9.30am - 12pm



How to support the fridge:

We aim to provide a minimum of 3 items per visit, however we are reliant on surplus donations so cannot always guarantee this.

Spread the word!

Drop off surplus food

Volunteer to help maintain the service

Thank you

We can accept donations, but they must be transported in a cooler bag, straight from your fridge. We cannot accept any home-cooked items.



DOROTHYPARKES

Community Centre

THE DOROTHY PARKES CENTRE
CHURCH ROAD, SMETHWICK, B67 6EH
0121 558 2998
CHARITY NO. 1093189



SCAN HERE



Registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

FACEBOOK: @DOROTHYPARKESCENTRE
INSTAGRAM: DOROTHYPARKES
EMAIL: ADMIN@DOROTHYPARKES.ORG
WEBSITE: WWW.DOROTHYPARKES.ORG

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?

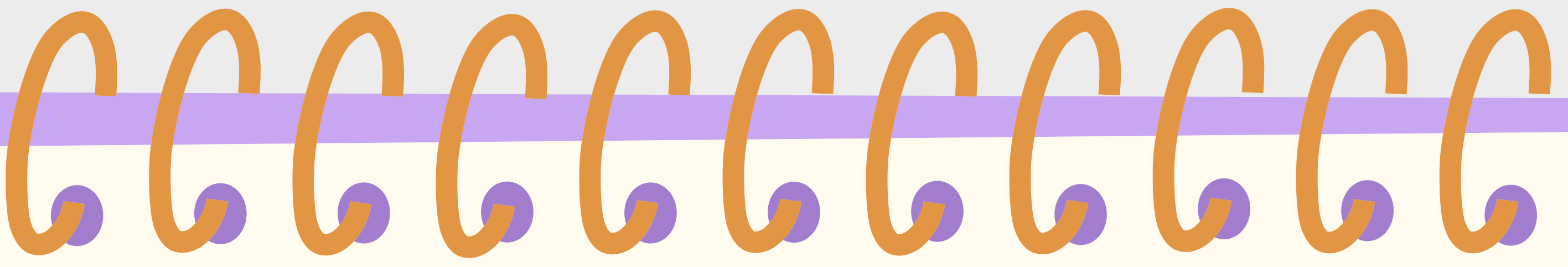
**Email Stacey via:
stacey_bagdi@sandwell.gov.uk**



Live At The Library Presents Chris Avery Kora Feder at Thimblemill Library

Chris Avery is a Welsh guitarist-composer. His work bridges ancient melody and contemporary performance, shaped by a deep engagement with Welsh folk song, dance music, and classical repertoire. His meditative arrangements for guitar and voice rework these materials through a modern lens.

[Book Here](#)



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](#)

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

Noir Hub CIC

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

