



**SANDWELL
CULTURAL FORUM**

**October 2026
Newsletter**

New Venue Hire Directory for Sandwell!

Explore Sandwell Council's venues for meetings, training, functions, and weddings.

Sandwell is a vibrant and diverse borough at the heart of the West Midlands, home to thriving communities, and excellent transport links.

Across our six towns, you'll find over 40 venues offering more than 90 flexible rooms and spaces to hire. From small meeting rooms to large halls and unique heritage settings, there's a space to suit every need.

Our friendly teams are on hand to help you choose the right space and make planning simple.

Whether you're planning a training session, community event, celebration, conference, or wedding, our venues provide the perfect backdrop for your occasion.

[Find out more about our spaces 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.

STARTING TUESDAY 14TH APRIL

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED – JUST CURIOSITY.

The Art Yard

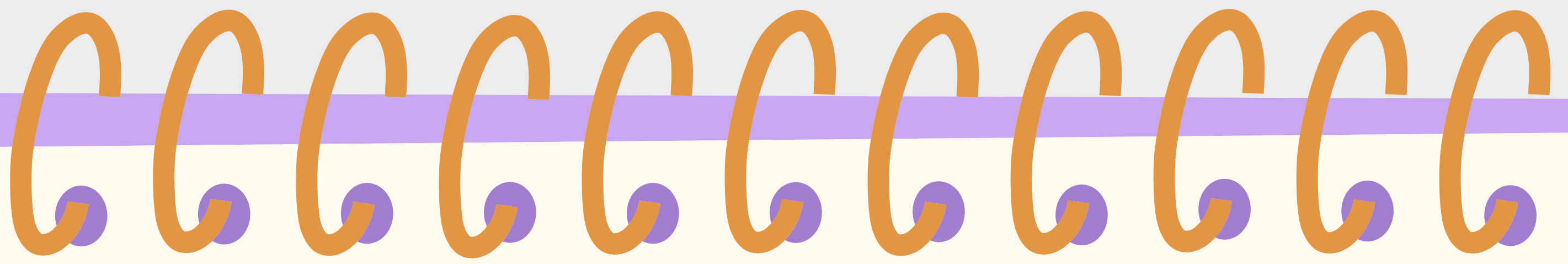
B64 5HX
1:30-3:30PM

ALL MATERIALS AND
REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

TO BOOK OR FIND OUT MORE



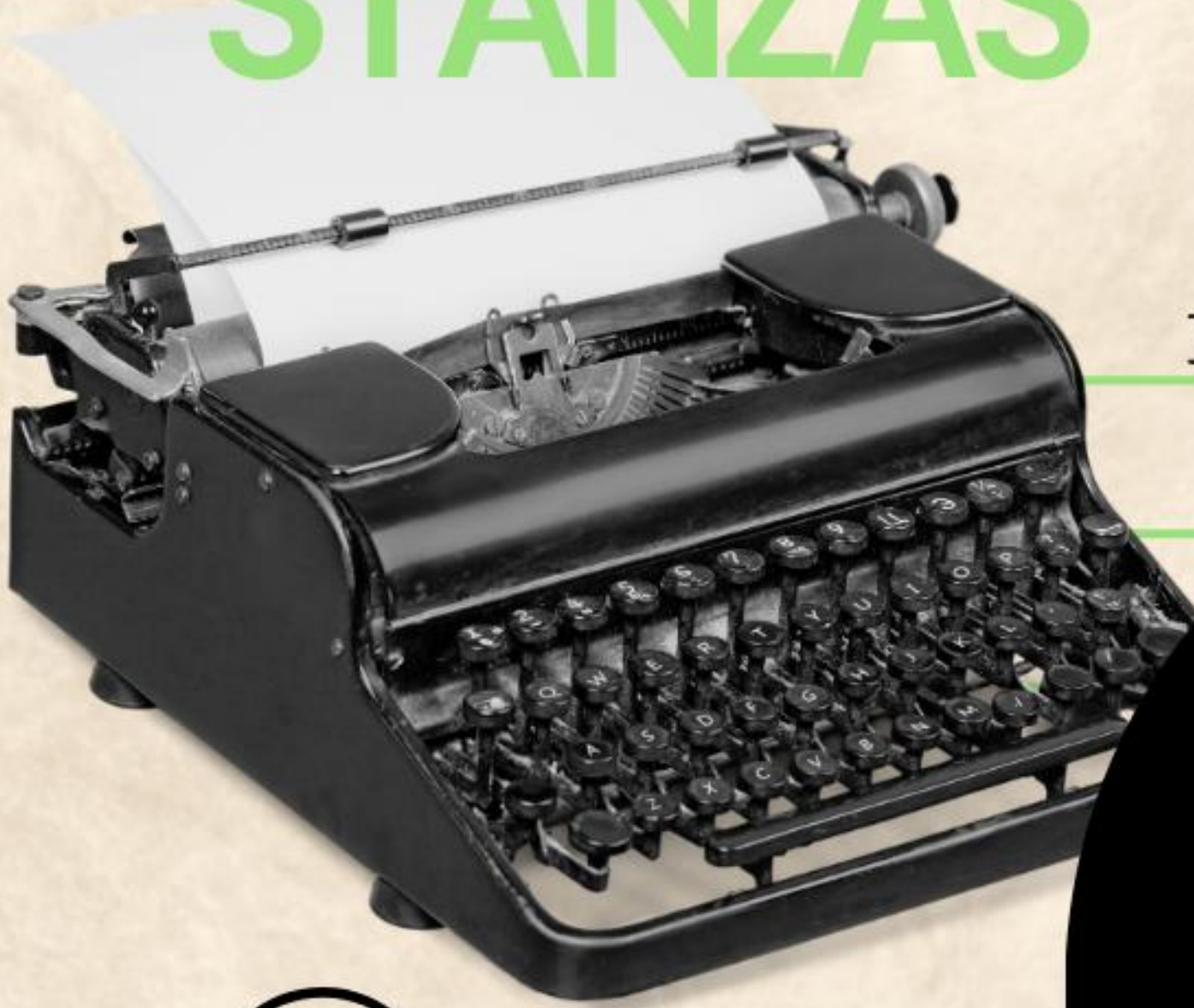
www.beckymccartney.com/courses



SANDWELL STANZAS

HEADLINE POET
**Morgan
Birch**

Friday 30th October 2026



18+

7-9PM

Bleakhouse Library



LOTTERY FUNDED

ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

**OPEN MIC
POETRY
NIGHTS
2026-27**

FREE/PAYF

Sandwell Summer HAF – Art and BSL brings young people together

Thanks to funding from Sandwell MBC and the Department for Education, Real Arts Workshops was able to deliver a week of enriching activities for young people aged 7-16 at West Bromwich Central Library.

Evidence shows that free holiday clubs such as the HAF scheme can have a positive impact on children and young people and provide consistent and easily accessible enrichment activities.

RAW aimed to achieve the following outcomes, among others, for the young people we worked with in this scheme:

- reduce isolation,
- develop confidence,
- learn new things,
 - have fun,
- improve mental health,
 - eliminate boredom
- create new artworks that didn't exist before
- improve self confidence



The young people experienced many sorts of high quality art and craft activities, such as:

- T-shirt design
- pencil drawings
- decorating beautiful wooden birdhouses
- watercolour landscape paintings
- personalised 'Looking After Me' zines

They also made Keith Haring inspired 'spreading friendship' postcards and added their hands to a collective artwork to celebrate 'International Youth Day' - which is now proudly on display in the children's department of the library. Our Deaf tutor, Gary, taught the children some basic sign language and Deaf awareness which they really enjoyed as they were able to sign their own names.

Nutritious hot food was delivered each day by an external catering company, 2MUCH PASSION CIC.



RAW is an independent arts workshops company which encourages people to participate in all sorts of high-quality specialist creative arts activities. We often integrate British Sign Language learning into our sessions. Our activities are immersive and innovative and are created and delivered by specialists.

We provide audiences with a wide variety of bespoke experiences under these general headings:

- Visual arts
- Crafts
- British Sign Language
- Music + Sign Song

We challenge and engage our learners and encourage them to create pieces of art which express how they feel, reflect their own interests and cultures and we listen to what they tell us when we are designing these sorts of programmes.

RAW can be contacted for one off or longer term workshops:

Alex Vann (Arts lead)

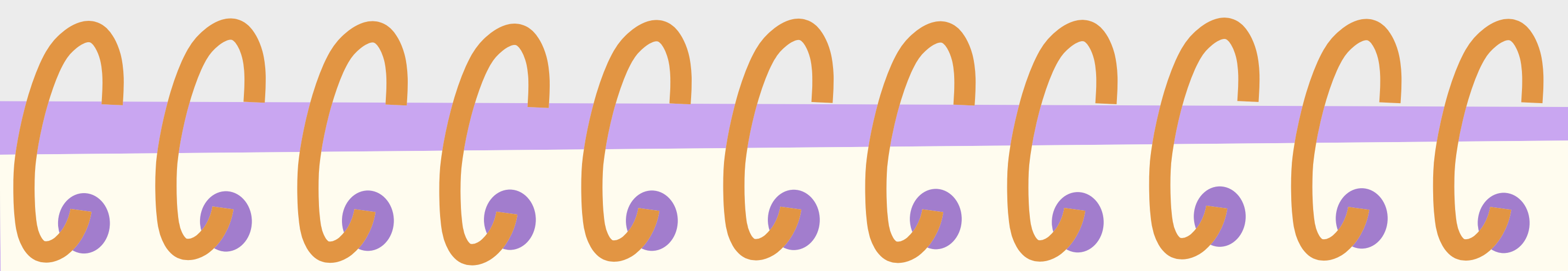
Gary O'Dowd (BSL lead)

Mobile / Text / WhatsApp: 07882 685923

Email: info@realartsworkshops.co.uk

Web: <https://www.realartsworkshops.co.uk/home>





WEST BROMWICH INDOOR MARKET

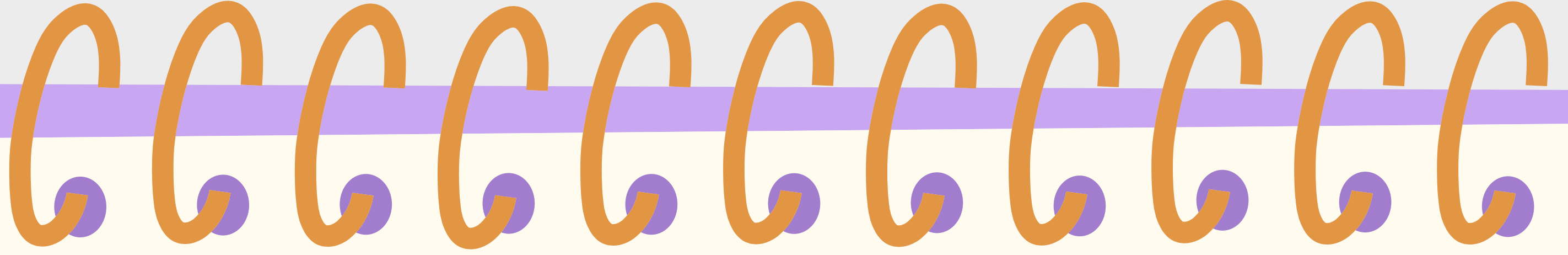
**HENRY'S
BLUESHOUSE**

**STARTS ON
16TH JAN 26**

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).





WEST BROMWICH INDOOR MARKET
EVERY FRIDAY EVENING



WEST BROMWICH INDOOR MARKET

HENRY'S BLUESHOUSE

FRIDAY 2ND OCT - GET LOOSE
FRIDAY 9TH OCT - JUST DOIN' IT
FRIDAY 16TH OCT - THE DIRT ROAD BAND
FRIDAY 23RD OCT - SLIDE BOY ROY
FRIDAY 30TH OCT - THE FLANEURS

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

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 **HENRY'S**
BLUESHOUSE 

 **Sandwell**
Metropolitan Borough Council

WEST BROMWICH
INDOOR MARKET

Made with PosterMyWall.com





BRINGING ARTISTS, CREATIVES, COMMUNITY LEADERS TOGETHER

CONNECT & COLLAB

WALSALL | WOLVERHAMPTON | SANDWELL | DUDLEY

EVERY MONTH | 3RD THURSDAY





Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Funded by
UK Government



**Esmée
Fairbairn**
FOUNDATION

CONNECT & COLLAB

ALL SESSIONS ARE FREE

AGES 16 +

WHAT TO EXPECT
INSPIRING CONVERSATIONS
NETWORKING
COLLABORATION

EVENT DATES

15 OCTOBER 2026

NEURODIVERSITY
IN THE ARTS

CO-LAB SPACE

9 LICHFIELD ST,
WOLVERHAMPTON, WV1 1EA

21 JANUARY 2027

FUNDING & INCOME
IN THE ARTS

CVS DUDLEY

7 ALBION STREET,
DUDLEY, DY5 3EE

19 NOVEMBER 2026

ENTREPRENEURSHIP
& DIY

THE TABLE

33 LOWER HALL LN,
WALSALL WS1 1RR

18 FEBRUARY 2027

CO-CREATION &
CO-PRODUCTION

THE TABLE

33 LOWER HALL LN,
WALSALL WS1 1RR

17 DECEMBER 2026

RESET. REFOCUS.
REBUILD 2027

BRASSHOUSE

BRASSHOUSE LN,
WEST BROMWICH B66 1BA

18 MARCH 2027

PEOPLE, PLACE
& POWER

CO-LAB SPACE

9 LICHFIELD ST,
WOLVERHAMPTON, WV1 1EA

FOR MORE INFORMATION

07447576480

ameenab@poweredbycan.org

JOIN THE JOURNEY

    pbcanofficial



FIND OUT MORE HERE

Kathy's Song: A Celebration of Simon & Garfunkel



Thursday 8 October 2026 7:30 pm
1000 Trades On The Park

Step into the swingin' Sixties and discover the story behind the songs in a truly unmissable evening of live music and captivating storytelling.

This beautifully crafted show has everything: a heartwarming love story, a splash of stardust and a soundtrack that defined a generation. At its heart is the real-life romance between a young Paul Simon and a shy English girl named Kathy – the muse behind some of his most iconic songs. Along the way, we follow the highs and lows of Simon & Garfunkel's rise to fame, with all the hits performed completely live.

Kathy's Song is a surprising and moving story that has audiences smiling, singing along and getting hugely nostalgic. Groovy!

Storyteller/singer Cat Weatherill has performed at the world's greatest storytelling festivals. Singer/guitarist Ian Cooke is an internationally acclaimed musician and composer.

'An absolutely brilliant story and musical experience' - audience comment
[Visit our website for further information and tickets!](#)



Multistory and The Caravan Gallery present The People's Map of Wednesbury, an evolving, collaborative artwork and exhibition made by, and for, its residents.

Join us for a vibrant pop-up community exhibition in a newly transformed high street space in the heart of the town centre that celebrates and documents Wednesbury's industrial heritage, local identity and contemporary life and creates an evolving portrait of the town.

The exhibition runs Saturday 3 October to Saturday 31 October, and is open Wednesday to Saturday, 10am - 3pm. On Saturday 3 October, 5pm to 8pm, we will celebrate the launch with special performances and complimentary refreshments - do come along.

Address: 45 Union Street, Wednesbury, WS10 7HB

Black Country Touring Events

Cinema:

- Joyride

Tuesday 13th October 1pm

Joy (Colman) and Mully (Reid) are two lovable rogues. Joy is angry - she's got a baby and motherhood does not come naturally to her; she feels she's tossed her own dreams aside to give a screeching monster unconditional love.

- Boy

Brushstrokes & Rowley Regis Disability Centre

Set on the east coast of New Zealand in 1984, Boy, an 11-year-old child and devout Michael Jackson fan, gets a chance to know his absentee criminal father, who has returned to find a bag of money he buried years ago.

- Psycho

Friday 9th October at The Art Yard

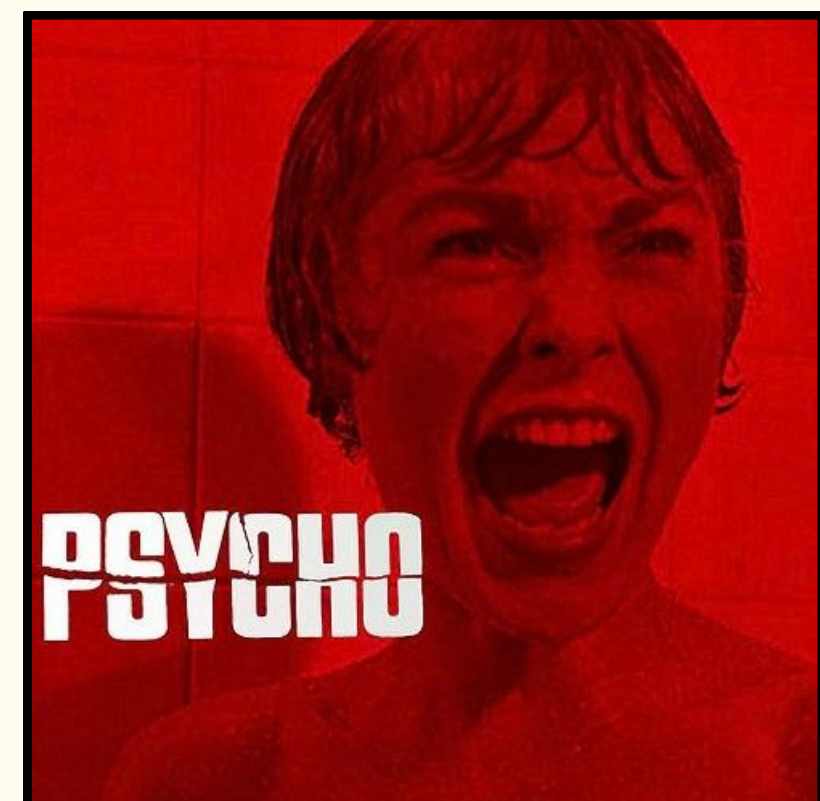
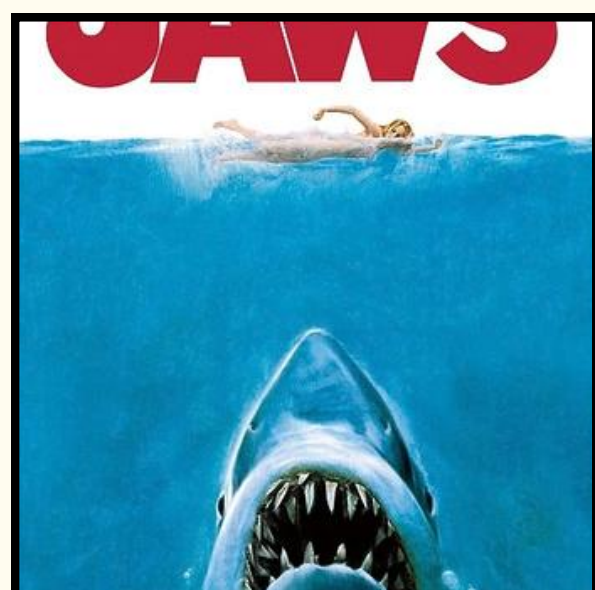
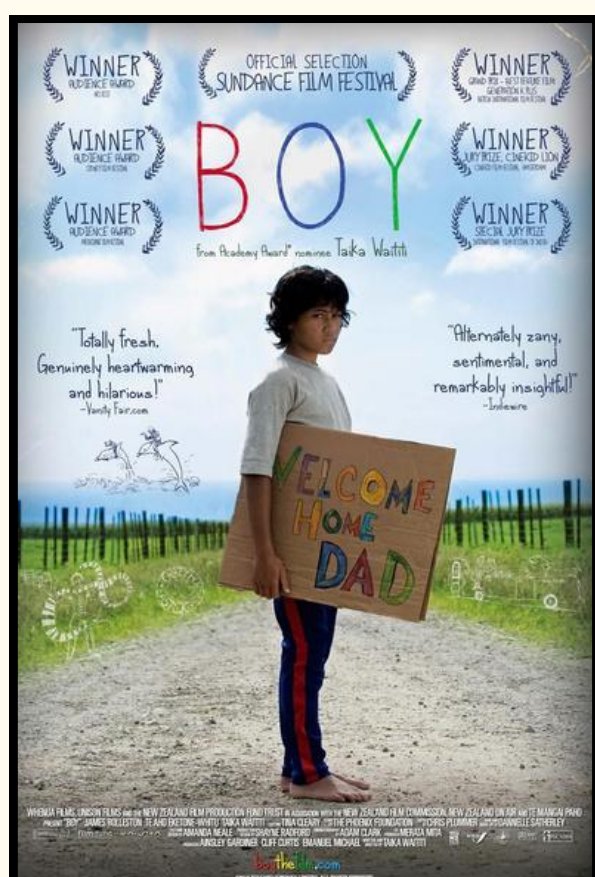
A Phoenix secretary is on the run after stealing a huge amount of money from her employer. She spends the night at Bates Motel, whose owner seems to have a highly dominating mother.

- Jaws

Friday 23rd October at Gatis Community Space

Terror reigns when a mammoth, man-eating Great White Shark attacks swimmers in the waters off a small beach resort.

"Shark" & Chip night at Gatis Community Space!



Black Country Touring Events

1. The Dustbusters by Feasible Ferret Theatre

Tuesday 6 October 2026 - 10.30am & 2.30pm

West Bromwich Town Hall

As part of Celebrate Sandwell at West Bromwich Town Hall!

The day will include a range of stalls, workshops, activities and opportunities to connect with organisations across Sandwell, making it a wonderful occasion for the whole community.

2. Kingfisher & Heron Workshop & Walkabout by Fetch Theatre

Saturday 31st October at Ekho Collective

Fetch Theatre have created a collection of fantastic giant puppets that can be paraded and performed to enchant audiences of all ages. Often the figureheads for community events, each magical puppet has its own identity and a tale to tell through movement animated by the puppeteer. In daylight or lit up for night time performances, these incredible creatures amaze and inspire us to consider the natural world and the folklore associated with the natural environment. Meet the Kingfisher, Heron and Dragonfly and take part in head dress making workshops, or lanterns in the darker months, for a joyful parade.

3. George & the Drag Queen by Pipeline Theatre

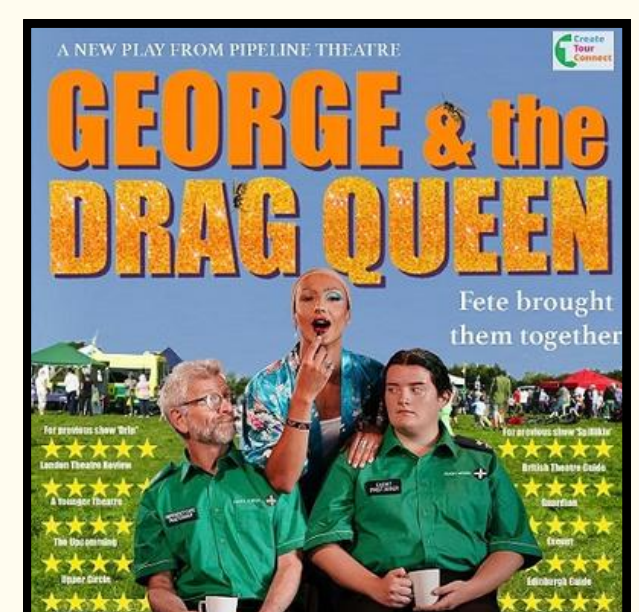
Wednesbury & Thimblemill Library

With three actors, a changing set and Pipeline's trademark immersive soundscape, this show will take you on an unlikely, funny, poignant journey.

This play shows how ordinary people can become caught between compassion and prejudice, loyalty and fear, while grasping for understanding and connection.

'George and the Drag Queen' is part of the national Create Tour Connect project.

Visit <https://bctouring.ssboxoffice.com/events/?> for further information and tickets!



Every family carries a story: free story circle at Smethwick Heritage Centre

Thursday 8 October, 10.30am to 12.30pm
Smethwick Heritage Centre, Victoria Park Lodge, High Street,
Smethwick B66 3NJ

Come and tell yours. Filmmaker and artist Billy Dosanjh is hosting a free story circle for anyone with a Smethwick or Sandwell family story, of any background or generation. It is a small group of no more than 15 people, sitting together over tea to share how their families came to Smethwick, what they carried with them, what they left behind and what has been passed down. Nobody has to perform, prepare or read anything, and no experience is needed. Elders and their families are especially welcome.

This is the fifth session in a series that began in September at Smethwick Library and the Heritage Centre. The stories gathered will shape a new artist film and body of photographs being developed with the community. Consent is explained on the day, and nothing is recorded or used without permission.

Free, with refreshments provided. Just turn up, or email info@smethwick.org.uk.

Run by Reimagining Industrial Migratory Stories CIC with Smethwick Heritage Centre Trust. Supported using public funding by Arts Council England.

THIS YEAR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2026

IS ABOUT HONOURING OUR
“COMMUNITIES”

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AT
SMETHWICK LIBRARY
FOR STORYTELLING AND POETRY
WITH MELONIE BARNABY

There will also be fact finding and
books available to celebrate the
MONTH

PLEASE ASK STAFF FOR DATES AND
DETAILS

COME AND SUPPORT THE
COMMUNITY



BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH

SARAH McQUAID

**'One of the most
instantly
recognisable
voices in current
music ...**

**Shades of Joni
Mitchell in a jam
with Karen
Carpenter and
Lana Del Rey.'**

Photo by Phil Nicholls



 sarahmcquaid.com

 [sarahmcquaidmusic](https://www.facebook.com/sarahmcquaidmusic)

 [sarahmcquaid](https://www.youtube.com/sarahmcquaid)

 [@sarahmcquaidmusic](https://www.instagram.com/sarahmcquaidmusic)

 [@sarahmcquaid](https://twitter.com/sarahmcquaid)

Thimblemill Library

Saturday January 30 2027

7pm for 7.30pm

Tickets £15 concessions £12



INFAMOUS ARTS PRESENT

THE TOYMAKER



A FAMILY FESTIVE SHOW OF
TRADITIONAL STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD
SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES



**CURRENTLY TAKING BOOKINGS FOR OUR
WINTER 2026 MIDLANDS TOUR
SUITABLE FOR ALL SIZE VENUES, LIBRARIES &
SCHOOLS**

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT US;
[INFO@INFAMOUSARTS.CO.UK](mailto:info@infamousarts.co.uk)**

0121 439 5410



Bearwood Community Hub
presents

NEW **Curiosity Café**



Starts 19th May 2026!

Skills Share

What knowledge or skills can you share?
What do you want to learn from someone else?

Task & Finish Group

What local issues do you want to help solve?

Community Guide

Bring your memories, recommendations and favourite spots
to add to our Community Guide map!

Library of Things

Sign up to help develop a library of tools and equipment for residents to share

Thimblemill Library

3rd Tuesday Every Month, drop in 2-5pm & 6-8pm

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**



22nd July!



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

