

Hybrid:articles

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It's all go this month...

hybrid:arts



**NEWS
BITES**

Hybrid move to pasteurs new

Hybrid:arts have officially relocated to our brand spanking new abode at the heart of Leamington's Cultural Quarter. In partnership with Regeneration, the Old Town regeneration project and Warwick District Council, a creative hub has evolved, home to offices, training and rehearsal spaces. This dynamic environment is perfect for Hybrid:arts, thriving with professional creatives and buzzing with energy, positioning us right at the centre of the cultural hub. We'd like to express our thanks for the vision of WDC for making this happen. The Spencer Yard Formal Launch will take place on Thursday 29th June 6-8pm, and will include screenings of dance and theatre, live music, speeches and a poem reading by Brenda Tai Layton, written specifically for the event. Additionally, a Community Open Day will be held on Saturday 1st July 10am-4pm, offering free taster workshops in Visual and Performing Arts and Literature. This will be followed by performances in the square by Diatonic Chamber Choir, Motionhouse Chaser and Bambadinka West African Drumming and Dance. We also plan to keep a Spencer Yard blog on our new website, so you can keep up to date with all the goings on whenever you please.

LYC AT THE FAIR

LYC tracks, recorded at Hybrid:arts, were played on the Waltzers at the Mop thanks to Terry, who got himself a job with the fun fair last month. There is no escape. There are also plans for an LYC performance to be staged as part of the launch of Spencer Yard on the Community Day on the 1st of July...watch out world.



Lack of social skills

According to a study by the Association of Graduate Recruiters, almost half of chief executives are predicting a shortfall in suitable candidates over the next 12 months because of lack of social skills and cultural awareness. Negative attitudes to industry and poor social skills means that employers are struggling to fill vacancies. Instead, recruiters are looking out for "softer skills", such as team working, leadership and communication rather than focussing on academic achievement. This is great news for Hybrid:arts students, as our focus is on encouraging team work, respect, awareness and knowledge of industry rather than just gaining qualifications. In addition to this, our students regularly interact with industry professionals, giving them guided tours and presentations. In this respect, we excel at what mainstream institutions lack, making our students highly employable as well as qualified.

www.educationguardian.co.uk

Clare Mitchell embarks on new journey

The lovely Clare Mitchell has taken up the post of Regional Youth Arts Officer – funded by Arts Council England and informed by a recent consultation, organised to assess current arts provision for young people in informal education. After 2 and a half weeks in the role, Clare is pleased with the response she has received.

“It’s early days at the moment, so much of my time has been spent travelling around the West Midlands meeting different people and organisations. The general reaction has been highly encouraging. ACE have put a lot of weight behind the post, and so there’s a will behind it with great potential for change. I’ve been greeted with a great surge of ‘yes’, and I look forward to more and more innovative creative action. People are really keen and excited to look at policy and draw arts into policy.”

This is one of the most promising elements of the role - the fact that it is based at Government Office, right at the heart of policy making. Clare is pleased that influential people are reacting so positively and displaying a desire to embed arts in education and bring the two strands together.

“In contrast to the obvious stereotype, working at Government Office in Birmingham is proving to be very exciting. I’m part of a dynamic team, positioned on a floor swarming with other arts, cultural and educational organisations.”

The main focus of the role is to encourage engagement in the arts, raising the profile of art-based youth work and facilitating increased involvement and consultation with young people, artists and arts organisations in shaping youth arts provision. From the Arts Council’s perspective this is one of the first strategically-based arts posts that has been created. In this respect, the role will very much become shaped by what Clare does and who she meets as the role develops.

“It’s about giving artists and practitioners the confidence and knowledge to deliver arts practice. I want to encourage the exchange of knowledge, best practice and act as a reference point for people interested to learn more about the arts and get past the perception that if you can’t draw, you can’t be involved with the arts.”

LYC update

The Lillington lads shot to fame at the end of May when Nick and John appeared on BBC Midlands Today, after attending the Achieving Excellence in Public Health Conference in Wolverhampton. The focus was on alcohol awareness amongst young people, and the lads really excelled themselves by speaking frankly about alcohol abuse - and really caused a storm simply by way of the fact they were the only young people there! They did a great job of representing their peers. As a number of key figures attended the event, Nick and John were able to get their views across to the decision makers who hold true influence and power in their community.

Right - artwork created by the Lillington Crew



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