



## Somerset's Cultural Olympiad – Quest to 2012

### Words from the Editors

Welcome to the first edition of the Somerset Cultural Olympiad/Quest to 2012 newsletter. We hope that this will be an effective way of getting information out about what the Cultural Olympiad is, how you can get involved and what we think are exciting events and opportunities that the Cultural Olympiad will bring to Somerset.

We'd also like to use this newsletter as an opportunity to tell you about the wide range of events, activities, jobs, funding and other opportunities across Somerset. They may not have a direct link to the Cultural Olympiad, but they all combine to make the county a culturally diverse and exciting place to live in. It's a huge area to cover, but we've no lack of ambition....

As this is our first edition, we may not have the format exactly right, so if you've got any suggestions on how we can improve it, please get in touch (details at the end of the newsletter) and let us know what you think.

We hope to bring you an edition every 6-8 weeks, so watch this space...

### About the Cultural Olympiad and the regional 'Quest to 2012'

The London 2012 Games is not just about sport, but also celebrate cultures, people and languages – in London, the UK and around the world. London 2012 will integrate the cultural aspects of the Olympic and Paralympic Games into a single cultural programme. It aims to:

- ❖ inspire and involve the widest range of London and UK-wide communities;
- ❖ generate sustainable long-term benefits to our cultural life;
- ❖ create outstanding moments of creative excellence across the full range of performing arts and creative industries;
- ❖ connect future generations with the UK's artistic communities and with their peers around the world;
- ❖ promote contemporary London as a major world cultural capital;
- ❖ drive tourism and inward investment and use the creative industries to boost economic regeneration; and
- ❖ embrace the Olympic movement values of 'excellence, respect and friendship' and the Paralympic movement vision to 'empower, achieve, inspire'.

The four-year Cultural Olympiad kicked off on 26-28th September 2008 with a range of inspirational programmes.

The Cultural Olympiad divides into three sections:

- ❖ Ceremonies - extraordinary live spectacles watched on television by one in three people around the world.
- ❖ Major Projects - A number of major cultural projects featured in the London 2012 bid, forming the backbone of the Cultural Olympiad.
- ❖ 'Inspire' mark projects - local and regional events featuring in our UK-wide celebration.

If you would like to know more about the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, take a look at [www.london2012.com](http://www.london2012.com)

Quest is the proposed main focus for the Cultural Olympiad in the South West. It is a visionary project that will create a series of physical, virtual and performance journeys that will connect the region, moving towards 2012 and the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Weymouth, and then beyond. Quest will operate across the sectors and disciplines of culture, sport, science and education, representing a series of unique and powerful partnerships. At its core it asks 'What is your Quest?'

The collective, inclusive and participatory quest will be to undertake a series of challenges and tasks which arise from the communities along the routes that the journeys follow. These challenges might include creating a space where local young people can congregate safely, inventing a new sport or sporting event for the community, or decorating a hillside.

The eight journeys will cover the areas of Gloucestershire; Wiltshire & Swindon; West of England (Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire); Somerset; Dorset, Bournemouth & Poole; Devon, Plymouth & Torbay; Cornwall and last but not least a journey by sea, marking our maritime heritage.

Quest activity will peak (though not end) in 2012 when the core company will be joined by all the sub-regional groups on a grand procession along the Jurassic Coast, via the EARTH Festival, and onto the final Olympic and Paralympic Games Hotspot in Weymouth and Portland, hosts for the sailing and windsurfing events. The networks and

cross-sector partnerships that Quest creates will then sustain activity long beyond the London 2012 Games.

If you would like more information about Quest in the South West, please contact [tracy.samy@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:tracy.samy@artscouncil.org.uk) to subscribe for regular updates from the London 2012 Creative Programmer in the South West region.

## Team Somerset

Team Somerset is a partnership of organisations and individuals working together to create lasting benefits from the 2012 Games for Somerset people and business, as set out in “AIM (Aspiration, Inspiration and Motivation) For Success”, Somerset’s Legacy Strategy for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Somerset County Council is at the operational heart of this ambitious vision, and to achieve it we need to join up and add value to existing activity and develop new ideas, projects and initiatives that would otherwise not have happened.

The partners involved in Team Somerset include the Somerset Chamber of Trade, Business Link, the Somerset Activity and Sport Partnership (SASP), the Somerset Community Foundation, the Forum for Equality and Diversity in Somerset (FEDS), the Somerset Primary Care Trust (PCT), the Somerset Tourism Partnership (STP) and Active Exmoor, Somerset Arts Promoters, the Somerset Training Provider Network and the colleges, as well as all district and borough councils.

Team Somerset members are about to sign a Memorandum of Understanding that sets out their respective roles and responsibilities. They are also very close to agreeing the first version of their joint Delivery Plan for 2008-2012.

The work of Team Somerset has so far included securing the hosting of the ICC World Twenty20 Women’s warm-up and group games in Taunton in June 2009 by Somerset County Cricket Ground and a Somerset version of the world-famous Corporate Games to take place at Millfield School in July 2009.

The Team Somerset 500 Club, launched in September 2007 by Somerset County Council Chairman Alan Gloak, is about encouraging local businesses and individuals to donate at least £500 per year, every year leading up to 2012. The money donated will be split between funding young elite athletes and supporting other healthy lifestyle initiatives linked to the 2012 Games. Five hundred members donating £500 per year would result in £1,000,000 being generated by the year 2012.

Young athletes under 25, who are already competing at county, regional and national level, can apply for Team Somerset 500 Club funding on [The Somerset Community Foundation website](#) or by calling Jocelyn Blacker on 01458 833133.

## The Team Somerset Cultural Working Group

Every 3 weeks, usually on a Thursday morning, a core group of people get together to discuss ideas for the Cultural Olympiad and generally get enthused and overexcited about the sheer scale of cultural activity, of every description, in the county.

These people are Polly Davis (*Arts Partnership Development Officer for Somerset County Council*), representing the County and District authorities; Rob Jones (*Policy & Development Manager - Arts and Creative Industries for Somerset County Council*), Lead Officer for Somerset's Cultural Strategy; Birgit Hughes (*Cultural Economy Officer for Somerset County Council*); Robert Miles (*Artistic Director of the Brewhouse*) and/or Charlie Dearden (*Director of Bridgwater Arts Centre*), representing Somerset Arts Promoters. This core group has made a commitment to meet regularly to discuss Cultural Olympiad developments in Somerset, the South West and beyond, but also to act as an information point to others wanting to know more. We're open to anyone who'd like to join for a meeting or two and we'll use this bulletin to let you know more about open meetings we'll hold to discuss specific projects and activities. We are also aware that the core group might not yet be complete, so if there is a young person, and/or performer or artist out there who feels passionate about the potential of the arts and culture for Somerset, and have some time and commitment for meetings with officers to spare, please let us know.

## NEWS

### The return of London 2012's 'Open Weekend' on 24-26th July 2009 as 'Count-down' Weekend

This year's Open Weekend will take place from 24-26<sup>th</sup> July 2009 and will be part of the celebrations to mark the three-year countdown to the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games on 27th July 2012. In the South West we'll also be looking to mark the end of the summer celebrations by building a programme of events for the end of September – both these 'bookend' weekends have already started to attract some exciting events and initiatives from last year but there'll be room for planning lots more. Now is the time to save those dates and start thinking of events that could help us to celebrate these momentous occasions.

### SUPERACT! and the Bandstand Marathon

SUPERACT! went all out to fulfil the aim of humanising public spaces and organised the Bandstand Marathon for the Open Weekend in 2008 - 50 bandstands, 50 bands (largely traditional brass and silver), playing on the same day at the same time! The most widespread Cultural Olympiad event in the UK was an instant success with over 1,200 musicians playing to upwards of 25,000 people on the day.

So what for the future? Giving the South West a great name by taking the Bandstand Marathon to the whole country! London 2012 Creative Programmers are getting thoroughly excited about bringing the event to their regions and creating a rolling programme which aims to culminate in 2012 with over 400 concerts on the same day. Plans are well in hand for the expansion in 2009, and the bandstands of the UK – many of which are under-used or not used at all - will come alive again with great music from the many talented amateur musicians who will populate them.

For further information please call 01823 666641 or visit [www.superact.org.uk](http://www.superact.org.uk) or [www.bandstandmarathon.org.uk](http://www.bandstandmarathon.org.uk)

### Youth Music Council - call for South West Members!

YMC is now looking for new members of the National Youth Music Council from the regions not yet represented, including the South West. The YMC is a national young people's advisory forum for Youth Music which was formed last year. If there are any young people interested in knowing more, they can contact Christina Timms, Regional Executive Officer, West Midlands (temporary SW cover) Youth Music on 07738 147733 to receive further details and an application form. [www.youthmusic.org.uk](http://www.youthmusic.org.uk)

### New Count Me In website

Check out the new *Count Me In* website [www.countmeinarts.org](http://www.countmeinarts.org) for information on the inclusive music company that provides music sessions for everyone.

### Young Roots

The Young Roots Programme offers Heritage Lottery grants of between £3,000 and £25,000 for projects that involve 13 to 25 year-olds in finding out about their heritage, developing skills, building confidence and promoting community involvement. To receive a Young Roots grant a project must relate to the varied heritage of the UK and:

- ❖ Provide new opportunities for a wide range of young people aged 13 to 25 to learn about their own and each other's heritage;
- ❖ Allow young people to lead and take part in creative and engaging activities;
- ❖ Develop partnerships between youth organisations and heritage organisations; and
- ❖ Create opportunities to celebrate young people's achievements in the project and share their learning with the wider community.

Young Roots is a rolling programme and there are no deadlines for applications. [www.hlf.org.uk/English/HowToApply/OurGrantGivingProgrammes/YoungRoots](http://www.hlf.org.uk/English/HowToApply/OurGrantGivingProgrammes/YoungRoots)

## Are you an artist practising South Asian arts in the South West?

If so, Asian Arts Agency would like to hear from you. In its role as regional development agency, the Agency is undertaking a mapping exercise for all artists practising South Asian arts that live and work in the South West region. After the completion of this mapping exercise they will be identifying immediate priorities for their artist development programme by involving other key arts agencies in the region (such as Arts Council England, educational agencies and Local Authorities).

If you offer South Asian arts workshops or are an artist practising South Asian arts, and would like to obtain a questionnaire and have your say, please contact Helen Dorritt at [helen@asianartsagency.co.uk](mailto:helen@asianartsagency.co.uk) or on 0117 929 1110.

## B&Q awards offer up to £10,000 to 40 organisations

B&Q has announced this year's community awards scheme, the One Planet Living® (OPL) Awards. To celebrate its 40th anniversary, they are offering up to £10,000 of B&Q products to 40 projects around the UK, double the number that they supported last year. Applicants need to demonstrate that their activities will support one of the following themes:

- ❖ saving energy
- ❖ nature conservation
- ❖ local culture and heritage
- ❖ grow your own

This year the B&Q OPL Awards will give £10,000 of B&Q products to one community group that shows how they will contribute significantly to working towards a 'one planet way of living'. It will also give four awards of £5,000, and 35 awards of £2,000, to groups who demonstrate how they meet the above themes. The deadline for applications is 27th March 2009. [www.diy.com/awards](http://www.diy.com/awards)

## Somerset's Outdoor Cultural Events, Carnivals and Festivals Toolkit – Call for case studies

The on-line planning guide for all outdoor cultural events, carnival and festivals in Somerset is currently being developed. The website should be up and running in April and bring together a range of support and ideas on how to make your event more sustainable. There'll be more news on the project and the launch of the planning guide in the next edition. In the meantime, if you have any relevant case studies, ideas or best practice examples, please feel free to send them to Tiina Taatila at [tiinataatila@hotmail.com](mailto:tiinataatila@hotmail.com)

## EVENTS

### One-day seminar with Richard Crowe, Creative Programmer for the Cultural Olympiad in the South West – Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009

Don't miss your chance to ask Richard about the national and regional plans for the Cultural Olympiad, and how he thinks Somerset could get involved. The Team Somerset Cultural Working Group will also share their ideas about 'Somerset – Quest to 2012' and want to hear your ideas and suggestions for how we can start to put our plans into action. We'll be holding the event at Bridgwater Arts Centre and will start the morning session (11am-1pm) with a general update, info and Q & A, followed by a two-hour workshop (2pm-4pm) on developing the Somerset journey with the Team Somerset Cultural Working Group and others inspired to join in from the morning session. A sandwich lunch will be provided and the event is **FREE**.

If you would like to attend, please email Polly Davis [pydavis@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:pydavis@somerset.gov.uk) by Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March to confirm.

### Carnival Learning Day – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2009

This is advanced notice of a Carnival Learning Day which is being organised and funded by the Arts Council England South West for Saturday, 28th March 2009. The day aims to provide information to carnival representatives from clubs, committees and solo entrants about:

- ❖ Sources of Funding and How to Get It!
- ❖ Working with Schools and Children
- ❖ How to Get Your Story in the Press
- ❖ And an opportunity to learn new skills with artists from Mandinga Arts.

The venue will be in Somerset (either Taunton or Bridgwater). The day will run from 10.30am - 4pm and be **FREE** to all attendees. Places will be limited to between 100-150 for the overall day, so no more than 2 people from the same organisation, please. To register your interest contact Maria Tilbury at [maria.tilbury@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:maria.tilbury@artscouncil.org.uk)

### Two National Youth Arts Conferences for 2009

ENYAN, the English National Youth Arts Network, is delighted to announce 2 new national conferences for 2009:

- ❖ Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May: City Hall, London
- ❖ Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June: The Custom's House, Tyne & Wear

The title and programme for both events will be announced shortly, but in the meantime do make sure the dates are in your diaries so you don't miss out and email [enyan@artswork.org.uk](mailto:enyan@artswork.org.uk) to express your interest in attending. Please state which conference (or both!) you would like to attend. ENYAN is the national membership and advocating body for the youth arts sector in England.

### Time to Move Conference

A national conference will be held on Thursday, 9th and Friday, 10th July at the Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre in Taunton to celebrate the achievements of the *Time to Move* project and to explore future directions in dance and older people. To pre-register your interest please email [rose@takeart.org](mailto:rose@takeart.org)

### Somerset Music Hub Mapping Project

The South West Music Forum is currently undertaking a project funded by the South West Regional Development Agency to map the music industry in the South West. The aim of this project is to clearly demonstrate the size, activity, gaps and needs in the industry, as well as the economic impact of the music industry in the region, and build membership of the individual regional forums such as the Somerset Music Hub. For Somerset, the first stage of this mapping will coincide with the publication of a free directory, listing music industry businesses and organisations in the county. For further information on this mapping project, please visit [www.bristolmusicfoundation.com/projects/mapping](http://www.bristolmusicfoundation.com/projects/mapping)

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Registration for Somerset Art Weeks (SAW) 09 - Deadline extended to Friday, 27th February 2009

Somerset Art Works has received an exceptional number of enquiries regarding SAW 09 registration. Many artists and organisations wish to take part, but are still in the process of finding their 'matching' venue and/or artists. To avoid disappointment, they are therefore **extending the registration deadline** until Friday, 27th February 2009. Go to [www.somersetartworks.org.uk](http://www.somersetartworks.org.uk) where you can link up with additional artists or share venues by using the message board service.

### Artist in Residence - Transition

University College Falmouth incorporating Dartington College of Arts are offering a residency to an artist to work within the context of a college of arts which is in transition, and to engage in aspects of sustainability, ecology, financially and socio-politically. Artists can be from any arts discipline and should be engaged with an

exploratory or experimental practice. The residency is to include a form of public access appropriate to the practice of the artist and the aims and objectives of the project. This could include talks, presentations, workshops, exhibitions or performances.

The submission deadline is 1pm, Monday, 16th February 2009. Shortlisted artists will be invited for interview on 27th February 2009. Please contact Ray White, Groundwork South West, 1st Floor, Lyster Court, Queen Alexandra Square, The Millfields, Plymouth PL1 3JB or [Ray.White@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:Ray.White@groundwork.org.uk) for further information.

## Opportunities for the Arts to Thrive! in Somerset

Through a combination of Arts Council *Thrive!* and Regularly Funded Organisation (RFO) funding, Somerset is looking to recruit a team of experienced specialists able to take forward the strategic development of arts across the county.

Posts & opportunities include:

- ❖ Somerset Thrive, Project Director
- ❖ Strategy and Resource Development, Field Officer
- ❖ Early Years Specialist, Lead Officer
- ❖ Outdoor Celebratory Arts, Lead Officer
- ❖ Building Schools for the Future, Response Officer
- ❖ Web site design and development (in partnership with the County Arts Service), tender opportunity available

We would like to hear from people interested in building strategic partnerships, promoting excellence, encouraging learning and extending participation, who are also able to challenge and inspire us with new ideas and different experiences. If this could be you, please either visit our websites [www.takeart.org/thrive](http://www.takeart.org/thrive) or [www.somerset.arts.com](http://www.somerset.arts.com) to download an application pack or contact Becci Davis at Take Art on 01460 249450 or [becci@takeart.org](mailto:becci@takeart.org)

## Somerset Design Enterprise Network – Training Day

Somerset Design Enterprise Network is announcing a CPD (Continuing Professional Development) training day on 'Web & Interactive Media Project Management'. It may be possible for delegates to obtain funding to pay for their attendance through Train to Gain and is open to anyone in the creative industries (project managers, government agencies and business directors). The first date is 7<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

Read the full story at: [http://www.designenterprisenetwork.net/design\\_events.html](http://www.designenterprisenetwork.net/design_events.html)

## Spark - 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009, Holton Lee, nr Poole, Dorset

This is a two-day residential event for disabled and deaf artists who want to create work as part of the Cultural Olympiad. Spark is an opportunity for artists from the region to discuss and develop their ideas, link with potential partners, and have an opportunity to talk to 2012 producers and funders.

For more information contact Carla Hiley, Development Administrator, Arts Council England, South West: [carla.hiley@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:carla.hiley@artscouncil.org.uk) tel: 01392 229230

### Entry Level

How would you improve the main entrance to The Brewhouse? Artist Simon Lee Dicker invites you to share your ideas about how the façade of The Brewhouse could be improved. Simon will be creating an artwork in response to your drawings and comments so, whether your ideas are sublime or ridiculous, please have your say.

There are a number of ways to participate:

- ❖ Collect a copy of the printed participatory document from The Brewhouse Box Office from 3 February (to be returned by 21/2/09)
- ❖ Come to the events outside The Brewhouse on the 19th, 20th and 21st February 2009 between 10am-2pm
- ❖ Find out more or make a comment on the blog <http://entrylevelart.blogspot.com>

### How to get in touch:

If you would like to discuss any Cultural Olympiad-related matters with the Team Somerset Cultural Working Group, please contact Polly Davis or Birgit Hughes (details below) for possible times and dates. We want as many people as possible to get involved in the events and activities that the Cultural Olympiad will bring, so please don't be shy and get in touch with your views, ideas and suggestions. Also, as this bulletin is meant as a resource for you and the county, feel free to suggest items for inclusion.

**Polly Davis**  
Arts Partnership Development Officer

Somerset County Council  
Cultural Service Administration Centre  
Mount Street  
BRIDGWATER  
TA6 3ES  
Direct line: 01278 454604  
[pydavis@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:pydavis@somerset.gov.uk)  
[www.somersetarts.com](http://www.somersetarts.com)    [www.somerset.gov.uk](http://www.somerset.gov.uk)

**Birgit Hughes**  
Cultural Economy Officer

Somerset County Council  
Economy and Europe Group  
County Hall  
TAUNTON  
TA1 4DY  
Direct line: 01823 355396  
[bhughes@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:bhughes@somerset.gov.uk)

You've received this e-bulletin because you have told one of us in the past that you are interested in news relating to the arts in Somerset and/or the Cultural Olympiad/Quest to 2012. Please mention this newsletter to others that you are in contact with. If they too are interested in being added to our database, please ask them to e-mail [pydavis@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:pydavis@somerset.gov.uk) with the word '**subscribe**' in the subject line. Alternatively, if you'd like us to remove your name from the distribution list, please do likewise with the word '**unsubscribe**'. Thank you.