



Somerset's Cultural Olympiad – Quest to 2012

Words from the Editors

That's good. You're back for more. Welcome to the second edition of the Somerset Cultural Olympiad/Quest to 2012 newsletter.

We hope that this newsletter can indeed become an effective means of sharing information about the most relevant and exciting events and opportunities in connection with the Cultural Olympiad for Somerset and the South West.

As you may remember from our first edition, we'd also like to use it to tell you about events, activities, jobs, funding and other opportunities that we happen to know about, connected with our cultural life in the widest possible sense.

If you've got any suggestions on how we can improve this newsletter, please get in touch (details at the end of the newsletter), or just let us know what you think about it in general. Really, we mean it!

If the length of this newsletter prevents you from enjoying it to the full, we will attempt to change the format for next time, but be aware that national and regional activity levels are of course likely to increase over the next couple of years, and the sheer volume of relevant information will probably always mean that you as readers would need to pick and choose.

And lastly, apologies for bringing this edition to you so late – we've decided to make this a termly newsletter, so watch out for the next one in October or November.

Regional and National Cultural Olympiad News

WE'RE OFF...!!!

...the journey towards 2012 and the Cultural Olympiad got underway in the South West in the spring of 2009 with:

- The launch of **Artists Taking the Lead**, the first major, UK-wide project to get underway. This £5.4 million project, managed by the Arts Council, will see 12 new works of art (from any art form) commissioned, one in each English region and one in each of the three nations (Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales), each worth up to £500,000.
- The launch of the region's third Inspire mark project, **Antibodies**, at the Arnolfini in Bristol
- The first big milestones for **RELAYS**, the Legacy Trust project for the region, with the *Bristol Festival of Sport and Culture* in March and *Sport + Culture + Passion: Let the Games Begin*, hosted by the Watershed in Bristol in May (for a synopsis of the Relays programme, see below)
- The second event in the **Universal Value** programme on the Jurassic Coast at Budleigh Salterton on April 29
- And on the same day in Devon, a series of events across the county to celebrate **World Dance Day**.

THE QUEST...

...looking ahead to the summer, and the **QUEST** begins its progress through the seven traditional counties of the South West, with journeys beginning in:

- Gloucestershire, where the **River Severn Project** will see activity in Tewkesbury and Lydney on June 20th and 27th respectively,
- Wiltshire & Swindon with the **Stonehenge on Tour** project aiming to get underway later in the year, and
- In Dorset, where the **Connections** project in Sherborne will begin working towards the development of a new walking route to Weymouth with events in May and June.

STEPPING UP TO THE CHALLENGE...

...Summer will also see:

- the third **RELAYS** event at Barnstaple in Devon, the **Youth Sport Festival** on July 5th
- and the return of the UK-wide **Open Weekend on 24th - 26th July** with the theme of **STEPPING UP** to the values and the challenge of hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games...we'll be using this opportunity to launch the concept of the personal **QUEST** by asking you and your communities what it is that you want to achieve between now and 2012.. **what is your QUEST?**

ALL SINGING, ALL DANCING, IN THE ROUND OLYMPIAD...

...moving into the autumn and we'll be looking to see:

- The first outing for a prototype **Immersive Digital Arena** (or the **IDA360⁰**), a hugely innovative arena in which to bring a whole series of sporting, cultural and community activity to life, as part of *Motion Plymouth* and *Young Motion Plymouth*, and

- The return of the **Bandstand Marathon** as part of what we hope will become a region-wide celebration of dance, music and song over the last weekend of September (25th - 27th) + the opportunity for more individuals and schools to sign up to **what is your Quest?**

THE INSPIRE MARK...

...the official identification for all approved Cultural Olympiad projects and programmes (without the mark you can not claim association with the Olympiad) has been awarded to the following projects over the past two months:

- **Universal Value** (Jurassic Coast arts projects)
- **Connections** (Sherborne House Arts)
- **World Dance Day** (Dance in Devon)
- **River Severn** (Gloucestershire County Council)

If you want to know more about the Inspire mark, how to get it and what benefits it might bring your project, please follow the link below:

<http://www.london2012.com/get-involved/cultural-olympiad/inspire-mark-projects.php>

OPEN WEEKEND... SAVE THE DATE: Friday 24 July - Sunday 26 July 2009.

If you are planning or are aware of any activities or events during this weekend that can help us mark the countdown to London 2012, LOCOG would love to hear from you...

Following the successful launch of last year's Cultural Olympiad 'Open Weekend', we're going to be doing it again, but this year it's different. The themes are **Open up** and **Step up** and this year it's not just cultural events we want to involve but also sporting, educational, community, volunteering and environmental initiatives.

Opening up the idea of the 2012 Games being hosted in the UK and their themes and values and **Stepping up** to the challenges and opportunities the Games offer.

Why not use the Quest Programme as a springboard? (As a reminder, Quest is a project that will create a series of physical, virtual and performance journeys through the landscape of the South West). Ideas might include a weekend for individuals, communities and organisations to respond to the challenge of "what's your Quest?" What are you going to do over the next three years that will make a difference to you or your community or your organisation? For example, you might create a place for young people to congregate safely in your community or restore the village pond as a habitat for wildlife; you might walk the full length of the South West Coast Path, start growing your own vegetables on a quest to become self-sufficient; you might run a marathon, go *Free Trade* or become a Transition town or community...

So **What's your Quest?** - make it personal, share it, get involved, have fun, be inspired, inspire others, collaborate, be experimental...*make a difference!*

RELAYS...

...hot off the press. We've just had this project summary through from the RELAYS team and thought you might like to read it...

As Great Britain looks forward in anticipation to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games **RELAYS** will engage with and inspire young people and their communities in the South West. Through an exciting range of festivals, events and school-based activities, **RELAYS** aims to raise aspirations by delivering an innovative and stimulating activity programme.

RELAYS events incorporate an eclectic mixture of sport and cultural elements, ranging from film projects, competitions and festivals to music and dance festivals and school sports events.

Young people from across the region's higher education institutions and communities will be encouraged to volunteer and get involved with the planning and running of **RELAYS** events. They will be given the opportunity to call the events their own, thereby making a positive impact on their communities.

Activity will also run at schools and universities through the Community Classrooms hub-clubs. Students will get the opportunity to train as coaches and mentors, and children to benefit from their expertise and support through workshops and skills development activities.

RELAYS will also engage with businesses, encouraging organisations from across the South West to get involved with 2012 activity in the South West and benefit from networking events and professional development opportunities. South West businesses will also get the opportunity to engage with experts at the region's universities.

THE BANDSTAND MARATHON ...

..even hotter off the press.



The Bandstand Marathon is attracting a great deal of interest, still months before it actually takes place and there is no doubt that there will be plenty more in the future.

Already Superact! have had enquiries from BBC Radio 3 and from a film company, and their Director Paul Smith is delighted to be able to announce that on 24 June 2009 they received confirmation of the Inspire Mark, which is excellent news!

To catch up with all the latest on the Bandstand Marathon, as well as an opportunity to sign up to their newsletter, visit <http://www.bandstandmarathon.org.uk/index.htm>

This is the site which gives information on the events, as well as participating bands and associations. This is also the site which is gathering information on all bandstands throughout the UK and which is championing these great structures and helping revive the use of them for their original purpose.

For more information from Richard Crowe, the Creative Programmer for the South West region, or to subscribe directly to his updates, please contact Tracy Samy at tracy.samy@artscouncil.org.uk

An Invitation to... a Picnic and Mediascape Walk on 26/07/09

Strata Collective will be holding a hilltop picnic and mediascape walk on the afternoon of Sunday, 26 July 2009.

The mediascape picnic is at Sand Point near Weston Super Mare - an introduction for our project 'Soundlines'. Picnickers will use hand held computers and headphones to generate unique soundlines - compositions - whilst walking in this beautiful landscape.

Strata Collective aims to bring communities together by learning about and exploring significant journeys in their local landscapes. We use mediascape (GPS technology) to create site specific music and images which engages and inspires. Places are strictly limited and must be booked in advance. For more information, please email <mailto:info@stratacollective.org>

An Invitation to... a Carnival Procession in Weymouth on 19/08/09

Those of you attending the Arts Council of England South West's recent seminars and workshops on carnival and outdoor celebrations will know that there is an ambition to hold a SW Regional Carnival in Weymouth and Portland during the 2012 Olympic period.

This year, Weymouth would like to send out an invitation to all regional carnivals to send one troupe to process with them on August 19th in the spirit of making the first steps towards a genuine and rewarding collaboration. The chosen troupe can be small, but of a sufficiently high quality in costume, dance or music as to provide an inspiration for local groups. The Weymouth Carnival is now a foot, or human-powered carnival, with a sustainable agenda. Bicycle troupes, electric milk floats, hand-pulled carts and walking sections are all welcome.

Contact Alan Rogers, Arts Development Officer for Weymouth and Portland, at alan_rogers@weymouth.ac.uk or on 01305 208708 for more information.

TEAM SOMERSET FLAGSHIP PROJECTS UPDATE

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.

As stated previously, the partners involved in Team Somerset include the Somerset Chamber of Trade, Business Link, the Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership (SASP), the Somerset Community Foundation, the Forum for Equality and Diversity in Somerset (FEDS), NHS Somerset, the Somerset Tourism Partnership (STP) and Active Exmoor, Somerset Arts Promoters (SAP), training providers and colleges, as well as all district and borough councils.

Since the last newsletter Team Somerset members have now signed a Memorandum of Understanding that sets out their respective roles and responsibilities. They also presented their first joint Delivery Plan to the Somerset Strategic Partnership’s Economic Leaders Group, as they have been given strategic leadership responsibility for Somerset’s 2012 strategy.

The Team Somerset Cultural Working Group has been meeting regularly every three weeks on a Thursday morning, and others interested in helping to develop Somerset’s involvement in the national and regional 2012 scene have occasionally joined them. The core group has also been widened to include young people’s representation with John Peart, a student from Richard Huish College.

Somerset’s Quest Project – the Ark is born!

Thank you to everyone who attended the event with Richard Crowe at the Bridgwater Arts Centre on 10 March. It was a very productive day and resulted in the beginnings of a wonderful flagship project for Somerset’s Quest to 2012 – an Ark that can be a symbol for our precarious future in the context of climate change, but can also act as a place where people can come together and celebrate what we want to save for future generations. We hope the ‘Ark’ will be a project that can bring Somerset’s artists, young people and communities to an international stage.

Reveal Somerset and Fuse Performance Company submitted a Stage One application to ‘*Artists Taking the Lead*’, the national Cultural Olympiad series of regional projects with Arts Council funding, by the deadline date of the end of May. We hope to hear an outcome soon and will next be meeting with the Creative Producers for the Regional Quest Project (Cirque Bijou and Desperate Men) to help develop our project outline.

Look out for more information in the next newsletter and at the Cultural Conference on 6 October – see ‘Events’ for more details – to hear how you can get involved in making the ‘Ark’ happen.

Say hello to our Team Somerset mascots!

In Somerset we're lucky enough to have two organisations - Bridgwater Arts Centre and AvalonCAN - to have worked with Kinetika, the international performance company, to create growing, animated puppets for the Cultural Olympiad. In this newsletter we'd like to introduce you to the puppet from Bridgwater Arts Centre – he's not named yet but is planning to visit the children at Preston School in Yeovil and West Pennard School near Glastonbury, as they are helping him to find a name.



The Puppet's Journey so far...

After leaving London, a slight knee operation and some finishing touches, our little puppet set off on his adventures.

His first official trip was to visit the then Chairman of Council Alan Gloak at County Hall who very kindly gave him a Team Somerset badge, and as you can see they had their photo taken together.

The puppet has also been to meet the team at Actiontrack in Flax Drayton, school children at Montacute House and then went on to visit some pupils at East Bridgwater Community School during their half term puppet-making project.

Since then he has had many more adventures, including the Green Scythe Fayre at Muchelney near Langport, and Othery Street Fair where he met lots of new people and even had his photo taken at the BBC Somerset Sound Bus.

Lots of children said that they thought the puppet was a boy and that he was probably from a planet far away from here. They all said that he should go to school and that their school was the best. They also said he was lucky to be in Somerset as the air is clean, it's pretty, there is a lot to do and you can ride your bike safely.

Look out in the next issue for more information about our AvalonCAN puppet!

The Tour of Britain Cycle Race

After two successful years in the South West, The Tour of Britain is back, and bigger than ever before. This year, Somerset and Devon will play host to not just one, but two stages of the country's biggest professional cycling race, which will take place over eight days, running from Saturday, 12 September to Saturday, 19 September 2009, when a spectacular inner-city finish in London is on the cards.

The Tour, as it is affectionately known by its many fans, will race into the region towards the end of a long week of strenuous cycling, on Thursday 17 and Friday 18 September 2009. Two days in one region is unique for the race and a first in the UK.

Over the coming weeks and months, the two South West counties will be preparing a festival of community activities before, during and after The Tour's visit to the region. Please check out the new bespoke website www.southwesttourofbritain.co.uk for regular updates on what is being proposed and what the implications might be for your town or village.

It's worthwhile remembering that The Tour of Britain is the UK's biggest professional bicycle race and a centrepiece of the British sporting calendar, which attracts over a million spectators to the roadside in 2008, and hundreds of thousands more on television and via the Internet. You can watch video footage of last year's South West Stage and learn about the team sport of road cycling on <http://www.youtube.com/user/SWTOB>.

Once every year some of the world's top cyclists compete on British roads for the right to wear The Tour's yellow jersey. Over the past five years, Olympic, World and Commonwealth Champions have ridden The Tour of Britain, alongside stage and jersey winners from all three Grand Tours. The race has proved successful for British riders too, with Mark Cavendish, Roger Hammond and Olympic Gold Medallist Paul Manning all winning stages in recent editions of the race.

For more information on The Tour and partner events, as well as to register for regular e-mail updates, check out www.tourofbritain.co.uk

96 of the world's top cyclists will once again be taking on the challenge of The Tour of Britain in September 2009 – and Somerset County Council's Tour of Britain Team is hoping for a bumper turn-out from residents and visitors, especially at the start of Stage 6 in Frome and the finish of stage 7 in Yeovil.

South West Tour of Britain Schools 2009

Schools that are within four miles of the race route are eligible to receive the designation "*South West Tour of Britain 09 School*".

To take advantage of this offer, Somerset state schools are being asked to give at least two out of the following four commitments:

- ❑ Using the virtual classroom on Fronter: trying out curriculum suggestions, taking part in digital competitions and helping to build up the resource
- ❑ Making practical plans for Tour of Britain Week (14-18 September 2009) that will actively engage some or all pupils in physical activity challenges
- ❑ Preparing an outing by some or all of the students on at least one of the two Tour of Britain Days - to watch, cheer and/or record the experience in some way
- ❑ Committing to at least one partnership with another South West Tour of Britain School.

Independent schools in Somerset are being asked to avail themselves of the website resources (see above) to enhance their curriculum offer, but can equally expect to receive the designation through active involvement during Tour of Britain week.

Registering with the Tour of Britain Team at Somerset County Council entitles schools in Somerset to the offer of a first-come-first-served assembly run by young future professional cyclists from the SW Bike Academy.

Also on offer are practical help and advice, as well as future access to marketing materials and hopefully international promotions (through a potential award of the London 2012 Inspire Mark).

The Somerset Events, Carnivals and Festivals (ECF) Project

Somerset County Council, in partnership with the five district authorities and a range of other organisations, has launched a new website to support organisers of events, carnivals and festivals in Somerset.

The new on-line Somerset Event Planner is a practical resource to help organisers run successful, safe and well-planned events in Somerset.

It has already been recognised as a leading festival resource for the sector in the South West and can be found at www.somerseteventplanner.co.uk.

Somerset County Council also commissioned ArtReach to carry out a survey on events, carnivals and festivals (ECF) that took place in Somerset in 2008. It showed that these activities attracted over 2 million people in total, with 35-40% visitors originating from outside the county.

A copy of the ArtReach evaluation into Somerset's events, carnivals and festivals is available on the 'What's Hot' section of the Somerset Event Planner, along with a set of recommendations for further work that could support organisers of these activities.

Feedback on the event planner is very welcome, and further work to expand the site will be carried out in the autumn.

The project was funded by Somerset County Council's Arts Service and Somerset Rural Renaissance and its results have confirmed the view that "Life is a Party in Somerset", because events, carnivals and festivals are a vital part of the local economy and provide a major arts attraction.

EVENTS

The Future of Heritage in Somerset Consultation

Somerset Heritage Service is moving to a new location in late summer 2010. You will find the Museums Service, the Historic Environment Service, Local Studies Library and Somerset Record Office all in one place.

They want to know your views on the facilities, information, events and activities that you would like them to provide. Your comments will directly feed into the planning for public programmes at the new centre.

Two events were held in the first part of July. If you missed them and would still like to share your views, please contact Helen Mansfield on 01823 362844 or HMansfield@somerset.gov.uk.

Bridgwater's Topsy Turvy

Bridgwater Arts Centre are putting together an exciting summer of young people's activities, including workshops in flag and banner making, circus skills and 'Rough Music'.

Topsy Turvy will take place over the last two weeks in July and the first two weeks in August and the workshops can be found in schools, parks, open spaces and at the Arts Centre. They will culminate on 16 August with a day of procession, music, dance, street performance, storytelling, puppetry, visual arts, crafts and celebration in the streets of Bridgwater, with the Arts Centre and Castle Street as the focal point.

There will be stalls selling local artists and craft people's work, opportunities for people to have a go and participate in activities or just to sit back and enjoy the creativity of others. The performances will be a mixture of members of the local community's work led by professional arts workers and professional local and regional artists.

Go to www.bridgwaterartscentre.co.uk for more details and how you can get involved.

Ilchester's Archaeological Open Day

On Sunday, 2 August 2009 the Somerset Heritage Service will offer displays and tours of Ilchester by County Archaeologists and an excavation open day. The event also includes finds identification surgeries and family learning activities.

Minehead's Nocturne Women's Cycle Race

This summer the West Somerset town of Minehead will play host to the UK's first road race dedicated solely to women.

The event also has the largest cash prize ever presented in the history of UK women's cycling. The organisers are hopeful that the country's top professional female cyclists will compete on the roads of Minehead on Friday, 7 August 2009 at 7.30pm.

Up to sixty competitors may battle it out over approximately 30 laps on the 1.6 km (1 mile) circuit situated in the town and along the sea front, and a stunning number of spectators would make this a night to remember, so please help to spread the news.

Frome's Made in Somerset

Take Art is presenting the third biennial 'Made in Somerset' event from Wednesday 9 September until Friday 11 September at the Merlin Theatre in Frome, with three days of performance, exploration and debate.

Register your interest with becci@takeart.org.

Manchester's Decibel Showcase

This biennial national event is back too! Arts Council England will be showcasing the best work from artists with diverse practice, including those who may have had limited opportunities to participate in the arts from 15-18 September 2009. This includes, but is not limited to, artists from black and minority ethnic backgrounds and disabled people.

The showcase will take place in Manchester, renowned for the richness of its creativity and culture. This modern cosmopolitan city is home to some of the most forward thinking and dynamic venues anywhere in England and they are thrilled that many of them are working with them in staging the showcase.

On their website (<http://www.decibelpas.com/en/home>) you will find all you need to know about the showcase, including how to register, booking to see showcase performances and attending the complementary activities.

The national Future of Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference

The 5th National Conference takes place on Thursday, 17 September 2008 at the Cavendish Conference Centre, London W1G. The event is supported by DCMS, MLA, CLOA, IDeA, Arts Council England, English Heritage and Sport England.

As the recession bites deeper, budget constraints are putting non-statutory services under pressure. This timely annual conference will explore how the culture, tourism and sport sectors can meet the challenges that lie ahead and promote their position in providing high quality public services responsive to the needs of communities.

Speakers include:

- Cllr Stephen Castle, Deputy Chair, Culture, Tourism and Sport Board, Local Government Association (LGA)
- David Albutt, Policy Officer, Chief Cultural and Leisure Officers Association (CLOA)
- Martyn Allison, National Adviser, Culture and Sport, IDeA
- Sandy Nairne, Director, National Portrait Gallery

For information and tickets, visit www.neilstewartassociates.com/se230 or call Laura Brownlee on 020 7324 4372.

Somerset's national Cultural Conference

Do you work within the arts, make films, write or play in a band? Fallen in love with carnival, admire public art, adore the outdoors or just live for festivals?? Are you a policy or decision maker, do you run your own business, work within the community, education or public sector, or are part of the Economic, Leisure or Tourism industries?

If you have answered yes to any of these, this is an event not to be missed: a FREE conference designed to celebrate the Arts in Somerset, and across the South West.

The event will be on 6th October 2009 at the Fleet Air Arm Museum in Somerset from 9am until 4:30pm. **Attendance is through registration only**, so please email Rob Jones on rjones@somerset.gov.uk for details.

More information will be available soon, but in the meantime you can follow us on Twitter <http://twitter.com/artsconference>

OTHER NEWS

Somerset Workplace Cycle Challenge

Employees in Taunton and Bridgwater were encouraged to sign up to a Somerset County Council challenge that saw them win prizes for getting on their bikes.

The Somerset Workplace Cycle Challenge was a free, fun cycling challenge aimed at businesses in Taunton and Bridgwater. Run by Somerset County Council's Moving Forward team, it took place between 22 June and 5 July 2009. The Moving Forward initiative encourages and supports people to explore options for travelling without a car in Somerset.

Teams competed against other organisations, departments or teams of a similar size to see who can get the most staff to cycle during the challenge. Team members could cycle whenever and wherever they felt comfortable, for travel to work or for leisure.

The challenge provided an opportunity for people to get together with their colleagues and be in with the chance of winning some prizes along the way. Some of the prizes up for grabs included a Ridgeback bike worth over £500, cycle gear and cinema tickets.

For more information on future Moving Forward events and initiatives see www.movingsomersetforward.co.uk.

New Somerset Arts website

The new Somerset Arts website is under development! The partnership of the County Arts Service and Somerset Arts Promoters has now appointed web developers to begin their work, so look out for opportunities on the current site to give your views about what you'd like to see on the new site. The Service will be launching the new Somerset Arts

website at the Cultural Conference on 6 October, which is another reason to book your place for that soon.

See www.somersetarts.com for more information over the coming weeks.

Taunton Deane Economic Vision

A new report has been published that develops a fresh and challenging vision for Taunton's economy based on a stakeholder consultation exercise in March 2009. Commissioned by Taunton Deane Borough Council (TDBC), and supported by its main partner in economic development, Somerset County Council, individual and group interviews were held with political and business leaders, chief executives of colleges and hospitals, commercial developers, promoters of the arts, culture and sports, technology, tourism and the town centre, managers from employment and training agencies, economic development directors and lead officers and sixth-form and undergraduate students. Key opportunities were identified for certain areas of Taunton's economy:

- Creativity & Culture: A dedicated organising infrastructure for connecting and promoting Creative Taunton; on-going, stable funding for creative projects; growing creative industries; space for creativity and culture
- Digital & Green: Southwest One and the IBM partnership; a dynamic 'green economy' town; a telework strategy for public employers
- Health & Education: A physical central place for higher education in Taunton; building 'knowledge communities' – green, creative and health innovation; retaining and attracting talent
- Production & Construction: Modern industrial estates; a green building programme; engaging with employers; a buy local programme.

If you would like to read the report in full, email Caroline Corfe, TDBC Arts Officer, for a copy c.corfe@tauntondeane.gov.uk

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Investing in your Future: Learning Launchpad Fund

The Learning Launchpad Fund provides investment to organisations in their early stages of development. Investment is offered at two stages:

Stage one investments – these investments of up to £30,000 are suitable for people who are starting out with a new idea. Stage two investments – these investments of up to £100,000 are typically suitable for organisations or initiatives that are already up and running and want to grow.

If your idea delivers its social goals via a social enterprise or for-profit commercial organisational business, the funders will usually look for either a recoverable loan or an equity stake in your business, or a convertible grant that they can make back once your cash flow can sustain it. See www.learninglaunchpad.org/what-we-offer.php for more details.

The Learning Launchpad Fund will be accepting applications throughout 2009/10. Rounds 1 and 2 have now passed but future application deadlines are:

- Round 3 – 3 September 2009
- Round 4 – 24 November 2009
- Round 5 – 16 February 2010.

Kaleido is seeking New Trustees

Kaleido, the South West Regional Agency for deaf and disabled art, is seeking to strengthen their Board of Trustees. They are particularly seeking people with financial, fundraising, human resources, and legal or marketing skills. Trustees can expect to spend around 6-8 hours a month on their duties in these most important development work roles. For more information, contact Kim Wide on 01392 219440 or e-mail communications@kaleidoarts.org.

Find Your Perfect Culture Partner

Are you looking for a partner in Europe or internationally for a cultural project you are planning? *partners.culture.info* is an online bulletin board where you can:

- list your project if you are looking for partners
 - read about organisations looking for partners for their trans-national projects
- partners* is suitable for a whole range of cultural projects - performing arts, visual arts, literature, museums, galleries...

Getting started is simple:

- ❑ To see organisations currently looking for partners, visit <http://partners.culture.info>.
- ❑ To submit your partner search, email partnersearchlisting@culture.info and you will receive an email with instructions on sending your submission.

BIG Awards for All

A BIG new-look Awards for All programme launches as the BIG Lottery Fund opens its own new version of the highly popular small grants scheme in England and Wales.

The BIG Awards for All programme will be the Fund's biggest-ever commitment to a small grant scheme supporting community projects, offering a more easily accessible programme with even quicker decision times.

A total of £45 million is available in England offering Big Lottery Fund grants of between £300 to £10,000 to grassroots groups in the community and voluntary sector, health bodies, schools and parish or town councils. The programme aims to make a difference to communities and the lives of those most in need and will focus on social and environmental projects that benefit local communities.

Application forms are available at www.awardsforall.org.uk or by calling 0845 410 2030.

Taunton Deane Community Arts Grant Scheme

The community arts grant scheme for 2009/10 is open for applications from community groups that develop creative activities for people who might not otherwise have access to the arts.

Contact c.corfe@tauntondeane.gov.uk for an application form and guidelines or telephone 01823 356521.

Media Skills for Disadvantaged Young People in England

Mediabox, a Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) fund to give disadvantaged 13-19 year olds living in England the opportunity to develop and produce creative media projects, using print, television, film, radio or online platforms, has announced that its funding programmes will re-open for applications.

Mediabox, delivered by a consortium led by First Light Movies and Media Trust, in partnership with Skillset and the UK Film Council, administers a number of grant schemes which are open to individuals and youth-led organisations.

The following schemes are currently open for application:

- My Mediabox, which provides grants of up to £500 and is open to individual young people via competitions and partner organisations. Competitions are announced throughout the year.
- Mini Mediabox, which provides grants of £1,000 to £5,000 and is open to grassroots and community youth organisations. The latest funding round opened on 1 May 2009.

For more information, visit <http://www.media-box.co.uk/whatis.php?ID=9>

Global Music Company supporting music education

The aim of this foundation, set up by EMI records, is to support projects that encourage education, in particular for young people, in all aspects of music. Bursaries (£5000) and general awards up to £2,500 are available.

General awards are for:

- * Music students in full-time education to fund their instrument/equipment purchases
- * Schools to deliver music education (with the exception of statutory national curriculum music teaching)
- * Music teachers to offer courses and training

Bursaries are for students at one of the seven recognised UK & Ireland Music Colleges (Royal Scottish Academy of Music & Drama, Glasgow; Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, Cardiff; Royal Academy of Music, London; Institute of Popular Music, University

of Liverpool; Birmingham Conservatoire; Music Tech Schools, London and Irish World Music Centre, Limerick).

The deadline for applications to be considered at the next Trustees meeting is 21 August 2009. Any forms received after this date will be passed to the next meeting.

Contact Janie Off for more details on 020 7795 7000 or enquiries@emimusicfoundation.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.

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Birgit Hughes **Cultural Economy Officer**

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