

SANDWELL CULTURAL FORUM

April 2026 Newsletter

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



PoArtry

An Evening of Poetry and Spoken Word

Tues, 21st April 2026
7:00pm – 9:00pm
(doors open 6:30pm)

To put your name into the performance hat
email: infoartyard@gmail.com

Tel: 01384 910968

Events cost £3 on the door
With free - Tea/coffee and biscuits

 The Art Yard, 19 - 20 Upper High St., Cradley Heath, B64 5HX



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.beckymcartney.com/courses




A Demonstration of Watercolour Painting

By:  **David Wilcox BA**

at The Art Yard, Cradley Heath, B64 5HX

Thursday, 16th April 2026
7:00pm to 9:00pm
Doors open 6:30pm
Free light refreshments

Events cost £3 on the door
Booking essential



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

YOU TOO
CAN
PAINT THIS

Mommy Duck & Chicks!



FUN Step by step ART sessions with Alex Burgess
Create and take home a painting to be proud of.

☺ Materials are provided ☺ Art skills not necessary ☺ Refreshments provided ☺

Saturday 11th April '26

2-5pm ... at

The Art Yard

£20
... per person

Venue & Booking Information

☎ 01384 910968

✉ infoartyard@gmail.com

19 - 20 Upper High Street, Cradley Heath, West Midlands, B64 5HX

WEST BROMWICH INDOOR MARKET

STARTS ON 16TH JAN 26

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).

HENRY'S BLUESHOUSE **Sandwell** Metropolitan Borough Council **WEST BROMWICH** INDOOR MARKET

APRIL'S PERFORMANCES

- 3 HONEYBOY HICKLING BLUES BAND
- 10 STEVE YOUNG AND THE REALTIME PLAYERS
- 17 THE SHAKEDOWN BROTHERS
- 24 ALEX VOYSEY BLUES BAND

Sandwell Libraries, Museums and Archives presents...

SANDWELL STANZAS

HEADLINE POET

Emma Purshouse

Smethwick Thimble
Mill Library

FREE ENTRY

Friday 24th April 2026



**OPEN
MIC
NIGHTS
2026**

**6.30PM
-
8.30PM**

The second headline poet for our Sandwell Stanzas open mic poetry nights is Emma Purshouse! Previous and first Wolverhampton Poet Laureate 2020-2022, Emma is an award-winning published poet, freelance writer, performer, and comedienne. We have plenty of open mic slots available for you to share the same stage as the wonderful Emma, 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





Free Community WORKSHOPS

for 5 - 8 year olds

8TH & 9TH

April



**SMETHWICK &
WEST BROMWICH
LIBRARIES**

Book your free space on
[TicketSource.co.uk](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk)

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on?q=the+magical+adventures+of+super+singh>

parents & carers are welcome to enjoy a
chai & chat!



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



Freelance Opportunity

Spectra is seeking a policy artist to help create an accessible and meaningful digital version of our Company Culture guide. Find the full callout: <https://wearespectra.co.uk/2026/03/19/spectra-is-seeking-a-policy-artist/>

Spectra's Steering Group has come up with some initial ideas: a film, a comic strip, something involving animation, or some combination of the three. However, we are very open to something we haven't thought of, as long as it is digital and there are interactive elements to engage the audience.

Closing date: 10am, 21st April 2026

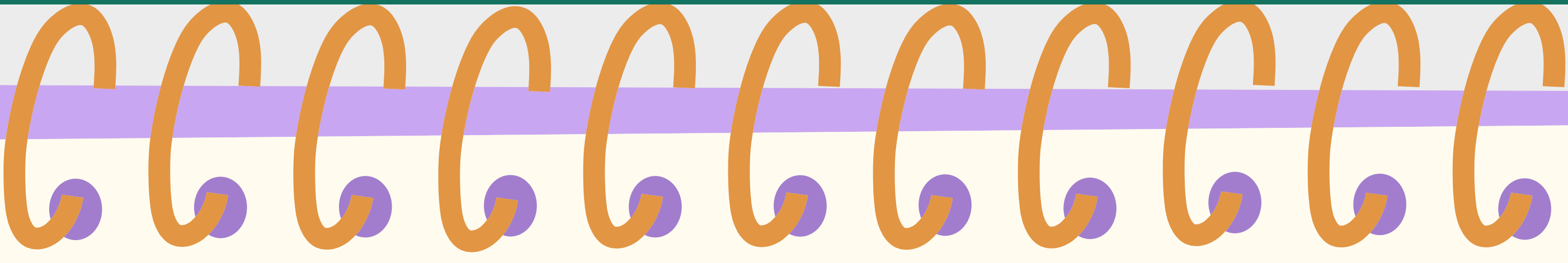
Terms: Freelance contract, April 2026 – July 2026

Fee: £2250 for a minimum of 6 collaborative sessions with the Steering Group; responsive design, production and installation of the output; meetings, planning and reflection. Materials budget of £1250

Location: Hybrid – Sandwell, West Midlands, and working remotely

We seek to support access costs where possible. Please don't hesitate to contact us to discuss further. If you need or would prefer the job description or the application form in a different format, please don't hesitate to contact kerry@wearespectra.co.uk

This role is made possible by funding from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Arts Council England and The National Lottery Community Fund – Reaching Communities



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

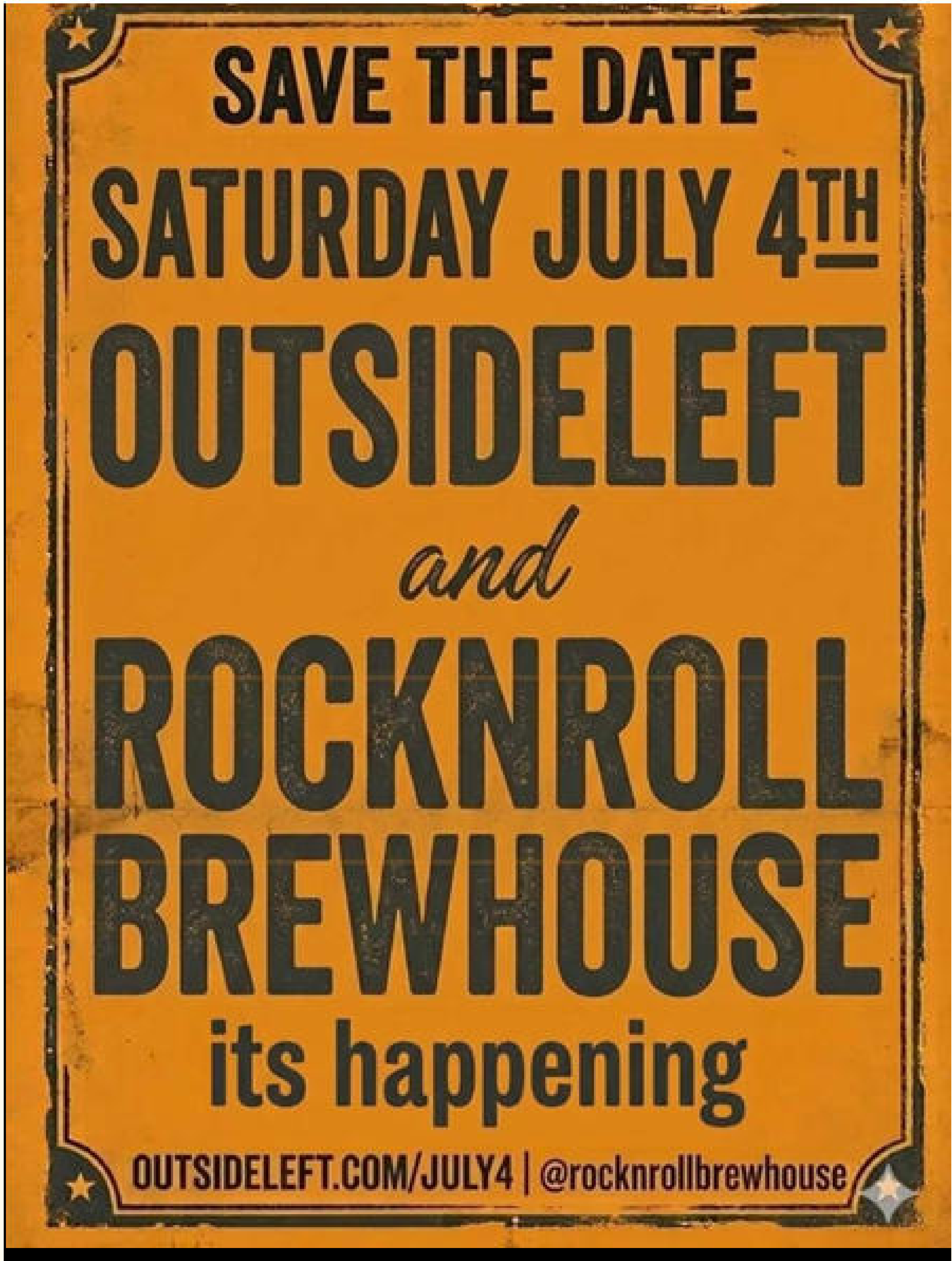
DUDLEY AUDITIONS
1ST - 8TH MAY
DY1 COMMUNITY CENTRE
STAFFORD ST DY1 1RT

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





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

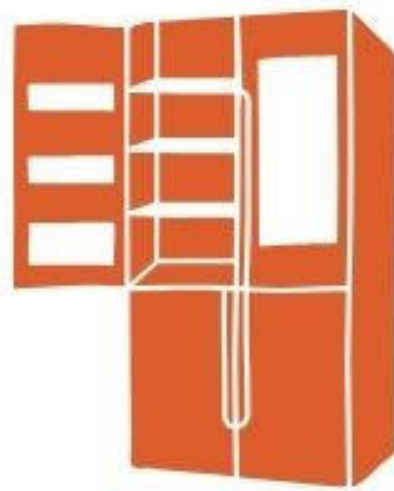
Tuesday 12pm - 2pm

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

FREE!

SANDWELL VALLEY DOG FAIR

SUNDAY 19 APRIL 2026 | 10AM - 4PM

We're excited to welcome back our annual Dog Fair for its second year!
Join us for free and get involved with...

-  Dog Show – 16 categories (£2 entry)
-  Public agility course
-  Agility demonstrations
-  Doggy market
-  Local business and charities



If you are interested in having a stall please email Visitor_Services@sandwell.gov.uk





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](#)



**Monday 4 May 2026. 12pm-4pm.
Entry Free -no booking needed**

The Fabulous 40s

Join us for our annual celebration and commemoration of all things 1940s at Haden Hill House and Park.

- Live music
- Costumed characters and historic vehicles
- demonstrations and re-enactments
- Hands on activities and entertainment
- Bring a picnic and a blanket and stay all afternoon

 Haden Hill House Museum, Off Barrs Rd, Cradley Heath, B64 7JU
For more information and opening times visit www.visitsandwell.com/sandwell-museums
On social media @sandwellmuseums

The banner features several circular images: a group of people in 1940s attire, a vintage car, a crowd of people sitting on the grass, and a red tent at an outdoor event.

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

