

hightide



APRIL 2010 SCARBOROUGH'S ESSENTIAL GUIDE

CHANGING ROOMS

Beach huts as you never imagined

Litfest live

Wild Willy Barrett

AND: music arts theatre comedy
film exhibitions poetry food & drink

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'The most important graphic designer of the last 25 years' is hard to live up to, yet Vaughan Oliver fully deserves the tag. He's in Scarborough this month to talk about his work.

Also visiting are multi-award winning poet Helen Burke, and youth festival AfterShock.

If that's not enough, check out life in Scarborough as recorded every day in pictures for a new arts project.

APRIL 2010

This month



News

A photography project records daily life



Image and ambiguity

Roger Osborne on a visit from world class graphic designer Vaughan Oliver



Dreamworlds

Poet Helen Burke in the litfest run-up



AfterShock rocks

A highly successful festival reaches out to Scarborough talent



Woolly mammoth

Janis Bright on a knitting extravaganza

Are you nifty with a knitting needle? Then Scarborough arts development agency Create wants to hear from you.

As part of North Yorkshire Open Studios 2010, an amazing life-size, three dimensional knitted picnic is to be created, complete with a knitted garden. And the organisers want all local knitters to join in and help, by knitting parts of the garden or the picnic, ready for the project to go on show in June.

Create director Wendy Clews said everyone could join in, whether experienced knitters or just learning the craft. 'We would love everyone to join in the fun by knitting part of the garden – flowers, grass, leaves, snails, bees, worms, a butterfly – or by knitting part of the picnic – cakes, sandwiches, plates, cups, drink bottles, napkins, anything you think would be appropriate.' Anyone wishing to knit a larger item like a tablecloth, basket, bicycle, swing, lawn mower, deck chair etc, is asked to contact Create to avoid too many of these items being knitted.

The installation will be displayed in the Gallery at Woodend from 11am to 5pm Monday to Friday from 14 to 25 June. Wendy added: 'We will also be looking for other venues to exhibit this work after it has been displayed at Woodend and intend to donate the knitting to a local charity once we have finished exhibiting it.'

Knitted contributions should be sent to Sara at Create, Woodend Creative Workspace, The Crescent, Scarborough, YO11 2PW, tel 01723 384545, to arrive no later than 7 June. Organisers want to credit everyone who contributes so please include your name with your knitting.



Wild Willy Barrett: he's livid!

Yes, the legendary folk punk is back, finds Janis Bright

Willy Barrett is one of those annoying people who are so naturally musical they can play just about anything. And in Willy's case, he probably has.

He's been tagged the godfather of grunge folk but to me it's more a case of psycho punk, a kind of Dick Dale without the West Coast. You'll have seen him on the telly many moons ago with John Otway, playing that guitar that was just a lump of wood with strings on. Also a mean violin – remember Louisa on a Horse, or Luiseronanawse, with the

driving, sawing backing? Oh yes, look out Princes Risborough, he's back.

Willy is on tour this spring with his band Sleeping Dogz, consisting of the equally multi-talented Mary Holland and John Devine. Their cabaret show, visiting Whitby this month, promises uilleann pipes, cello, percussion and keyboards as well as guitar and other strings. And of course the musical styles will be wide ranging, from English folk to latin, jazz and the blues.

It will be a rowdy affair, if

the band's YouTube performance of The Emperor's Head at Cambridge Folk Festival last year is anything to go by. An onstage wheelie bin even gets its big chance as a backing singer, and the crowd is just eating from Wild Willy's hand. Willy insists he's not wild any more, by the way – just livid. Whatever, check out Livid Willy and Sleeping Dogz in Up Close and Periscope at the Coliseum on 10 April.

Tickets £8.00 from the Coliseum or The Port Hole 0845 3732760



Changing rooms: beach hut beauty

Roger Osborne enters a world of seaside imagination

How many beach huts can you fit in two rooms? About 60 if this exhibition is anything to go by. I admit I was put off by the title – Re-imagining the Beach Hut sounds too much like management speak, and I was expecting a kind of corporate rebranding exercise.

In fact the exhibition is a delight. Architects and artists from around the world have sent in models of beach huts, with a group of winners being built and inhabited on the Lincolnshire coast.

Thankfully most of the

entrants have let their imaginations run riot and the result is a dazzling range of possibilities.

Just a few examples: a revolving bright red sea urchin, an Alien Drum Censorium complete with giant ear trumpet, a two tier wedding cake, Jabba (geddit) the contemporary cave, and a Swiss cheese.

Perhaps the best were those that had a seaside theme while being completely weird – how about sitting inside a giant oyster, or peeking out over the rim of an enormous cocktail tumbler, complete with straw

and illuminated lemon slice.

The overall verdict: when it comes to beach huts, the wackier the better. Get along before the show ends – how often do you see a show that makes you feel good about the world. As for the huts – how about having some built in Scarborough?

**Bathing Beauties:
Re-imagining the
Beach Hut For The
21st Century
Scarborough Art
Gallery Until 9 May**

From the heart: Rouhi Shafii

In a world of twenty-four hour news and information we are still surprisingly ignorant of how our fellow humans live. The recent turmoil in Iran filled our TV screens for a week or so, but now all we see and hear are threats and counter-threats about nuclear weapons. But there are other ways to find out about this most fascinating of countries; when news editors move on, writers and film-makers remain.

Rouhi Shafii is an Iranian novelist, memoirist, translator and campaigner for the rights of women. For the past three decades she has combined a public stance against oppression of women in different countries of the world, with a career as a writer. Her best-known book is *Scent Of Saffron*, and autobiographical work telling the story of three generations of an Iranian family. Published in 1997, it has become an established text in colleges in Britain and the United States. In 2006 her novel *Pomegranate Hearts* was published in English in paperback. A political love story spanning the twentieth century, it explores Iranian society and the country's relations with Russia, its near neighbour. Rouhi also translates books from English into Persian, and has recently translated the works of the poet Jaleh Esfahani into English.

She is clear that works of the imagination can give a different insight: 'In today's world, where Iran is often placed in the midst of much controversy, reading the history of the country, not through academic books but a novel which familiarises the reader with the wit and humanism of her people and her natural beauties, is a rewarding experience.'

Rouhi is a member of the Women's Action Network, campaigning in association with Amnesty International for women's rights in all countries. She will be speaking at the Scarborough Literature Festival.

Rouhi Shafii
5:30 pm, Friday 16 April Scarborough Library
Free entry with donations to Amnesty International