

hightide

JUNE 2008 SCARBOROUGH'S ESSENTIAL GUIDE

The hypnotist: Geno Washington

Solstice chillout

The choo choo cha boogie

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

www.hightidemagazine.com

Is there such a thing as the soul of Scarborough? If it's been missing, it is certainly making a comeback. There's a buzz about town these days, and so many great events it's hard to keep up.

We talk this month to a man who knows something about how to enjoy life full-on. Rompin' stompin' Geno Washington is back on a rare visit and if you've got a pulse you'll be going wild. The Big G is the real deal.

There's more music than you can twang a guitar string at on offer at the Summer Solstice festival. This brand new offering is in the great setting of Hayburn Wyke. Let's hope it's a big hit.

Another of Scarborough's Victorian splendours is also making a comeback. Now you can take a little train ride and eat in the relaxed atmosphere of the station's new bistro. It's all shaping up as the place to be for a long, hot summer.

JUNE 2008

This month

News

A Snake in the shed, strings for Ryedale and Filey gets festmania

Chillout time

The brand new Solstice Festival gets going

The hypnotist

Janis Bright interviews soul legend Geno Washington

Listings

All the happenings for June

Choo choo cha boogie

Roger Osborne takes a trip back to the track

Shed celebrations mark anniversary

Is 16 a significant birthday? It is for the Shed, one of Yorkshire's most improbable and successful venues. Director Simon Thackray has arranged celebrations for 7 June, with the Snake Davis Band.

As gigs go, this promises to be one of the Shed's more conventional outings. Past triumphs have included knitted Elvis wigs, saxophonist Lol Coxhill in a skip, the fish 'n' chip van tour, and of course the one and only Yorkshire pudding boat race.

A previous anniversary saw the tiny venue branch out into Malton market place for a day capped in tremendous form by John Otway. Many other big names have made the trip to Ryedale and keep coming back for more, including Hank Wangford, Norma Waterson, Labi Siffre and Tom Robinson, plus poet Ian McMillan.



Pic: Tony Bartholomew

Ryedale offers classical action

This year's festival runs from 11 to 27 July at venues all over Ryedale, including Malton, Norton, Pickering, Helmsley, Ampleforth, Hovingham and Lastingham. The festival has made a virtue of necessity, turning small indoor spaces and intimate outdoor sites into

very special music venues. The music is mostly classical, from opera to chamber pieces and solo recitals, with performances by brass, silver and steel bands. Poetry and film have their day too. For full programme visit: www.ryedalefestival.co.uk

Comedy, dance, art on in Filey

The festival season swings in with Filey hosting comedy, music, dance and art exhibitions and workshops from 28 June to 6 July.

The festival combines traditional seaside jollities with some cutting edge comedy and visual art.

Chillout time



Take the weekend off and enjoy the Solstice festival, says Roger Osborne

Now that mega-festivals like Glastonbury have become hang-outs for D-list celebs and paparazzi, the mini-festival is where the true spirit of summer lies. As ever Scarborough is at the leading edge.

The idea of a festival to mark the summer solstice came to Tom Watton a couple of years ago. 'I was thinking of a festival based around a country pub, like the old Rosedale Festival, and saw that the 2008 solstice fell on a weekend,' he says.

The Rosedale venue was no longer available, and Hayburn Wyke was a natural choice for Tom: 'The pub puts on regular live music in the summer, and Sharon [the Hayburn landlady] was taken with the idea of a festival.'

The location is fabulous, not just in and around the inn, but with the woods and the wyke all within a short magical walk. Bands and solo artist from around the area will perform on a stage in the garden in front of the pub, with a second stage indoors or in

the camping field. Yes folks, it's your chance get out the festival tent for a whole weekend in the great outdoors.

There'll be a jam session on the Friday evening, and music from 12 noon 'til late on Saturday. The line-up includes Billy Nielsen, Carl Woodford, Grand Theft Audio, Raven, Slinkymalink, Amaya Huntley and a host of others.

The site will be decorated in solstice fashion, Dave Hutchinson will be providing charcoal burners and there are the woods and wyke to explore. Tom says 'We're hoping people come for the weekend, maybe cycle or walk to the venue along the old railway line, and just spend time enjoying themselves in this beautiful location.'

Solstice Weekend Festival

Friday 20 & Saturday 21 June, Hayburn Wyke
Tickets £5 for the weekend, plus £3 per car for parking. Camping is free
Tickets are on sale at Mojo's and the Hayburn Wyke Inn
www.solsticeweekend.co.uk

COVER STORY: GENO

Altogether now: oh-woh Geno-o! Yes, that man, the great US soul stomper, the Big G, is about to shake a tail feather in that most English of towns, Scarborough.

It's not quite so incongruous as it seems. Geno Washington has had an on-off love affair with Blighty ever since he arrived here on 12 December 1961 as a rookie in the US air force.

In those days the music scene was 'heavy duty Shadows,' he recalls. But later he was to get a big surprise and learn a few things about his own culture from over here. He was in Ipswich, where US personnel were big supporters of the local clubs. 'It was changing to the blues – old black music. It was so real,' he says. And the local kids knew everything about those musicians like Fats Domino, Muddy Waters – their biography, even the B-sides to their records. Geno admits it was an education even for someone from the States.

His own heroes included Little Richard, Chuck Berry and Jerry Lee Lewis, types who knew how to rip it up. When he saw white kids doing black music and with girls throwing their knickers on the stage, Geno – until then a

Hipsters, flipsters and funky ti

Geno Washington and the Ram Jam Band had two of the biggest selling albums of the sixties - both recorded live. Hand Clappin, Foot Stompin, Funky Butt

One of the United States' greatest exports comes to Scarborough this month. Janis Bright talked to soul stomper and almost Englishman Geno Washington



The hypnotist

scholarship athlete – decided that was the job for him. 'I thought well, I'm black enough. All I need to do is learn how to sing.'

His first effort with a band got off to a rocky start. The singing was brilliant, the crowd went wild. So they asked for a pay rise. But the manager took umbrage. 'Fifteen guineas? You ain't worth the twelve. You're fired!' He laughs in that unstoppable, infectious way like Muttley crossed with Eartha Kitt. When life is one big riot, you

have to take it with a strong sense of humour.

Telling folks his sister was Dinah Washington and his cousin Martha Reeves finally got him onstage for his true vocation. Since then he's played with everyone from Jimi Hendrix to Jack Bruce to Georgie Fame to this year's tour with Eddie Floyd.

Becoming the real deal with his Ram Jam Band brought all the classic music biz problems though. In the 1970s Geno walked away from music to return to the States for what he calls the spiritual way. Why? 'Money changes people. I'm there trying to brush up my chops and study the game, and people are stealing and all that,' he says. 'All the responsibilities came on to me. Look at Amy Winehouse now. The thing is, suddenly all your demons – well, you can afford them.'

That laugh again. However hard things got, you can't believe this man would stay away for long. In 1981 Dexy's Midnight Runners brought out their smash tribute to the great man, and he was back.

Geno returned to England and reinvented himself as a top hypnotist – 'I got your body, mind and soul then. I loved it, man!' All through it he's had wife Frenchie by his side: her sister is married to Peter Noone of Herman's Hermits. Now they live in London and all in all, Geno has spent most of his adult life in this country. 'I like the attitude of the UK,' he says. 'If you are a foreigner, people say just muck in like the rest of us, go with the flow. I admire that.'

Well, you know what he means. But Geno going with the flow? Nah, this man makes the river flow.

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Live was in the charts for 48 weeks and was only out-sold by The Sound of Music and Bridge Over Troubled Water.

Listings

HIGH FIVES

A cracking month with excellent events in every art form known to humanity (well, almost). On the music front we are itching to see the great Geno Washington, intrigued by Albert Nyathi, and already packing our tents for the Solstice Weekend at Hayburn Wyke. For more outdoors how about the Zutons or Status Quo in the forest, or spend One Big Summer indoors at Vivaz.

Visual art returns to Blandscliff and mima and Scarborough Art Gallery are showing major works.

The SJT has kicked off its Things That Go Bump season with the literally spine-tingling Haunting Julia. And if that wasn't enough there's Bernard O'Donoghue and Fiona Shaw talking about classic literature, and you can start the month with a wine tasting and end it in the company of Justin Moorhouse.

Art shows are listed first. Timings are as correct as we can make them, but check our website for updates or call the venue.

May 3 to July 13 David White

Coffee Lounge Scarborough Art Gallery Free with pass

May 23 to Aug 17 British Surrealism: The Sherwin Collection

mima, Middlesbrough Free

May 23 to Aug 17 Material Culture: Recent Donations

mima (Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art) Free

May 24 to July 6 Curious Collecting

Scarborough Art Gallery
Free with pass

June 1 and continuing Australia revisited, never visited

Blandscliff Gallery Free

June 1 Plants and Bees

Herbal Apothecary, Whitby
12:00 pm

June 1 Geoff Laycock Big Band

Vivaz 8:00 pm £2

June 2 Red Wine Tasting

Le Chat Noir 6:00 pm £3

June 2 to 5 The Orphanage

Stephen Joseph Theatre
7:45 pm £6 (£5)

June 3 Grand Theft Audio

Vivaz 8:00 pm

June 4 Scarborough Jazz: Players Night

Sigma at The Cask 8:45 pm
Free

June 5 to 14, then 19, 20, 25, 26, 28, 30 Snake In The Grass

Stephen Joseph Theatre
7:30 pm £18.50 to £12

June 6 to 12 In Bruges

Stephen Joseph Theatre
7:45 pm £6 (£5)

June 7 One Big Summer

Vivaz 10:00 pm

June 11 Scarborough Jazz: Dylan Howe, Unity 4

Sigma at The Cask 8:45 pm £6 (£5)

June 12 Scarborough Poetry Workshop

Valley Bar 8:00 pm Free

Art for argument

IN RECOGNITION of last month's Rotunda re-opening, Curious Collecting contains various artists' responses to the notion of collecting and exhibiting.

Works by Rebecca Warren and Nick Martin focus on museums, inviting us to ask ourselves what we are looking for in those peculiar glass cases; while Abigail Lane puts her camera inside a museum case to look out at the visitors.

Alex Hartley puts a Monet behind frosted glass, frustrating our instinct to look at pictures just because they're famous, and Mariele Neudecker imposes a solar eclipse on an existing scene

using light and lenses. Sitting in the middle of all this is the monumental installation by Tony Cragg, titled New Stones, Newton's Tones, in which bits of discarded plastic are arranged into a majestic and aesthetically beautiful work.

The note on Damien Hirst's piece acknowledges the task of the curator in bringing objects together, in much the same way as the artists in this exhibition. So how does this work? For me there is a bit too much variation in the motives and goals of the artists for this all to hang together, and there is a divide between the pieces that respond to museums and those that are collections of objects

or thoughts. Cragg's work fits well with David White in the coffee lounge. Both are looking at everyday throwaway stuff (in White's case, hundreds of TV programmes) and making it into something both endearing and enduring.

These adventurous exhibitions present art that offers real, meaningful responses to the world. Not everything is going to work perfectly but these are shows we can get our teeth into and argue about. Get to them while you can.

Curious Collecting: 23 May to 6 July; 433 Television drawings by David White 3 May to 13 July

June 13
Bernard O'Donoghue
St Mary's Parish Hall, Beverley
7:30 pm £5

June 13 to 21 (not Sun)
Happy Go Lucky
Stephen Joseph Theatre
7:45 pm £6 (£5)

June 14
Classics Readers' Day
Bridlington Spa 10:00 am £5

June 15 **Dancing**
Queen Futurist 7:30 pm
£19.50 (£18)

June 16 to 18, 21, 23, 24,
27, 28 Haunting Julia
Stephen Joseph Theatre
7:30 pm £18.50 to £12

June 18 Creative Coast
Merchant 6:00 pm

June 18
Scarborough Jazz:
Thom Whitworth
Sigma at The Cask
8:45 pm Free

June 20 & 21 Solstice
Weekend Festival
Hayburn Wyke 12:00 pm £5

June 20
Martin Stephenson
Whitby Coliseum 8:00 pm £9 (£7)

June 21
Northern Soul Night
Vivaz 8:00 pm

June 22
Geno Washington
Stephen Joseph Theatre 7:30 pm
£16 to £14

June 25
Scarborough Jazz:
Sara Littlefield
Sigma at The Cask 8:45 pm Free

June 26
Scarborough Poetry
Workshop
Valley Bar 8:00 pm Free

June 26
Albert Nyathi & Imbongi
Whitby Coliseum
8 pm £10 (£8)

June 26
Global I Con Live
Vivaz 8:00 pm

June 27 and various dates to
Aug 27
Cover Her Feet SJT
Restaurant 1:10 pm £6

June 27 Natalie Rudd
Art Gallery 12:30 pm Free

June 27 Zutons
Dalby Forest 7:00 pm £26

June 28 Status Quo
Dalby Forest 7:00 pm £30

June 30 to July 3
Son Of Rambow
Stephen Joseph Theatre
7:45 pm £6 (£5)

June 30
Comedy Club: Justin
Moorhouse & Pete
Firman
Blue Lounge 8:00 pm £7 (£5)

See our website for full event details



Choo choo cha boogie

Lesley Humphreys wants to take us right back to the track with her Station House Café and bistro

Once upon a time the traditional British seaside holiday seemed to be in terminal decline. But change is afoot and people are rediscovering the delights of the paddle, pier and prom, though this time around they want a bit of sophistication along with authenticity. Cue Lesley and David Humphreys, together responsible for the revival of a neglected corner of Scarborough's former glories.

The Humphreys took over the running of the North Bay railway 18 months ago, and recently took on a 25-year lease. That encouraged them to invest in the project and this month they will be opening a new café and bistro, The Glasshouse, to go alongside the also new Station House café.

'When we arrived,' Lesley explained, 'there was just the tiny green hut, used as a ticket office.' The new chalet-style buildings are impressive, with lots of outside seating, and give the whole area a lift. The Humphreys have also bought new locos for the railway as well as all-weather carriages. 'We intend to be open all year, with the bistro in particular appealing to Scarborough people,' says Lesley.

The couple have long Scarborough connections and clearly relish being part of the revival of the town. They use local suppliers for everything from building work to food, and their site now includes the just-reopened Water Chute and boating lake that was part of Kinderland.

So get along to North Bay, have a ride out to Scalby Mills, a brisk walk and then back to the bistro; it could become the thing to do in Scarborough.

Café shop and trains: 10 to 4:30 £2.80 return trip, Café bistro 10 am to 11 pm