

# hightide

MARCH 2010 SCARBOROUGH'S ESSENTIAL GUIDE

## Image and ambiguity: Vaughan Oliver

**Dreamworlds: poetry live**

**Aftershock rocks**

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

**[www.hightidemagazine.com](http://www.hightidemagazine.com)**

'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.

## MARCH 2010

### This month

#### News

A photography project records daily life

3

#### Image and ambiguity

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

4

#### Dreamworlds

Poet Helen Burke in the litfest run-up

5

#### AfterShock rocks

A highly successful festival reaches out to Scarborough talent

6

# Hardy annual: project marks a year in pictures

## Janis Bright on the run up to next year's Coastival

An imaginative project is to chart the year-long run up to the next Coastival is charting local life in photographs.

Photographer Tony Bartholomew is to take a single photograph every day for the year, and the results are posted on the Coastival site that same day. They will be displayed until the February 2011 event, and could be made available as postcards.

So far Tony's pictures have taken on a distinctly nature-based theme, the extreme weather conditions being highly photogenic. He's also recorded the foreshore skipping on Shrove Tuesday, surfers and that great tradition the Sunday footie.

The shot for 14 February (above) caught street actobats practising tricks. Tony said: 'They were keeping the Sunday afternoon visitors to Scarborough seafront entertained with a form of the art of Parkour (street running). They gather around a few different locations in the town to practice and pass on advice to others wishing to learn more about the sport.'

The photo-a-day project is something Tony has always wanted to do, he says. 'The opportunity to be part of Coastival has given me the added impetus to do it.

'It will be a challenge, but enormous fun. Usually I am working to a specific client brief so it will be nice to be able to take and publish pictures purely for the pleasure and the strength of the image involved.'

See Coastival 365 at [www.coastival.com/365](http://www.coastival.com/365)



# Image and ambiguity: Vaughan Oliver

## Roger Osborne on the visit of a world class graphic designer

**J**ust a handful of people get to give a visual identity to an era; Vaughan Oliver definitely is one of those.

The 1980s were the breakthrough years for Oliver, a graphic designer from the northeast who burst onto the UK music scene with his sleeve designs for record label 4AD. Records by the likes of the Cocteau Twins, the Breeders, This Mortal Coil, the Pixies and Throwing Muses all carry his innovative and deeply influential designs. Running his own company v23, Oliver helped to lay the foundations for the design revolution that followed from where punk left off.

Oliver is celebrated for introducing a new relation between type and images, using what is usually described as visual

strangeness – distorted and altered images – to open up a whole new area for design.

He set out to make connections with music by portraying his own responses to the music in visual form, rather than simply designing something to fit the image of each band. His passion for the music produced by 4AD also gave a whole new meaning to the relations between images and music.

As he has said: 'I have always had the artist's interest at heart and would pursue a solution that was born out of the music in an attempt to communicate visually what is suggested by the music.' This made him one of the most influential cultural innovators of the 1980s and 1990s.

Outside 4AD Oliver worked with David Sylvain, the

Psychedelic Furs and Venture Records. His firm has worked in magazine design for *Émigré* and Ray Gun Publishing, and on publicity for the Young Vic.

Television commercials for Microsoft, Sony and Converse have followed, and Oliver's work is part of the permanent collection in the V&A's Twentieth Century gallery.

Vaughan Oliver is the latest in a long line of world class designers brought to Scarborough by designer and design writer Patrick Argent. Every one has provided real insights not just into design but into contemporary life. Miss this at your peril.

**Vaughan Oliver, 2pm Friday 12 March; Westwood Building, Yorkshire Coast College. Entry is free, all are welcome**



# Dreamworlds: poetry live

Poet Helen Burke visits this month as part of the run-up to The Long Weekend, Scarborough's literature festival.

In the poetry world, Helen Burke has been there and done that over the last 25 years. Highly experienced in the craft, she has won numerous prizes and her poetry has been published in a bunch of magazines and anthologies. More recently she has become a regular at literature festivals and completed a run with her one-woman show at Edinburgh Festival in 2008. That brought her a coveted three-star rating from the Scotsman in an event melee where it's hard to attract the critics' attention.

As for the poetry, it's an exhilarating ride, full of surreal

yet all too believable images. Half a coconut leads to an encounter with someone with ginger hair telling off Mad Mickey. Or take this incident, from *Message*:

*Dear both  
Eileen called. You were out.  
Wonder why? Ha-ha.  
I have left the banjo in the fridge  
And scraped off most of the  
cheesecake.  
The woman was seeing red.  
Jesus. I was scared I don't mind  
telling you.  
And her plaster cast only just off  
on the  
Thursday.*

And the dreamlike quality is there in the more reflective, less wildly full-on pieces too. A meditation called *The Apple House* calls on 'edible time' as we wake up and 'our teeth close on the creamy, unbiten day'.

In *The Happening*, amid a world of unrealised possibilities,

*No-one is brushing a tear away.  
No-one is cocking a snook at  
the past.*

Helen has begun to branch out into other media in the last few years. She had a play performed as part of York Literature Festival, where she also won the Waterstones Poetry Prize. She is being mentored by the BBC with a view to writing a piece for radio, and has started to work as a visual artist.

Her Scarborough appearance will include selections from her latest collection of poetry, *Tomorrow the Birds Will Sing*. Catch Helen Burke at the library on Thursday 11 March. Tickets £3.

# AfterShock rocks



Young people will get the chance to work with professional artists this month at a mini-festival organised by North Yorkshire County Council. The AfterShock event includes workshops in dance, banners, manga, DJing and giant puppet making. The live music running throughout will include headliners The Squatters, a dance band starting to make waves on the national scene. AfterShock is part of the annual CultureShock festival held in July in Northallerton. The idea is to spread the chance for young people to get involved and showcase their work throughout the county. Best of all, it's free.

AfterShock runs from 3-10pm on 20 March at the Sainsbury's Community Centre.