

hightide

OCTOBER 2008

SCARBOROUGH'S ESSENTIAL GUIDE

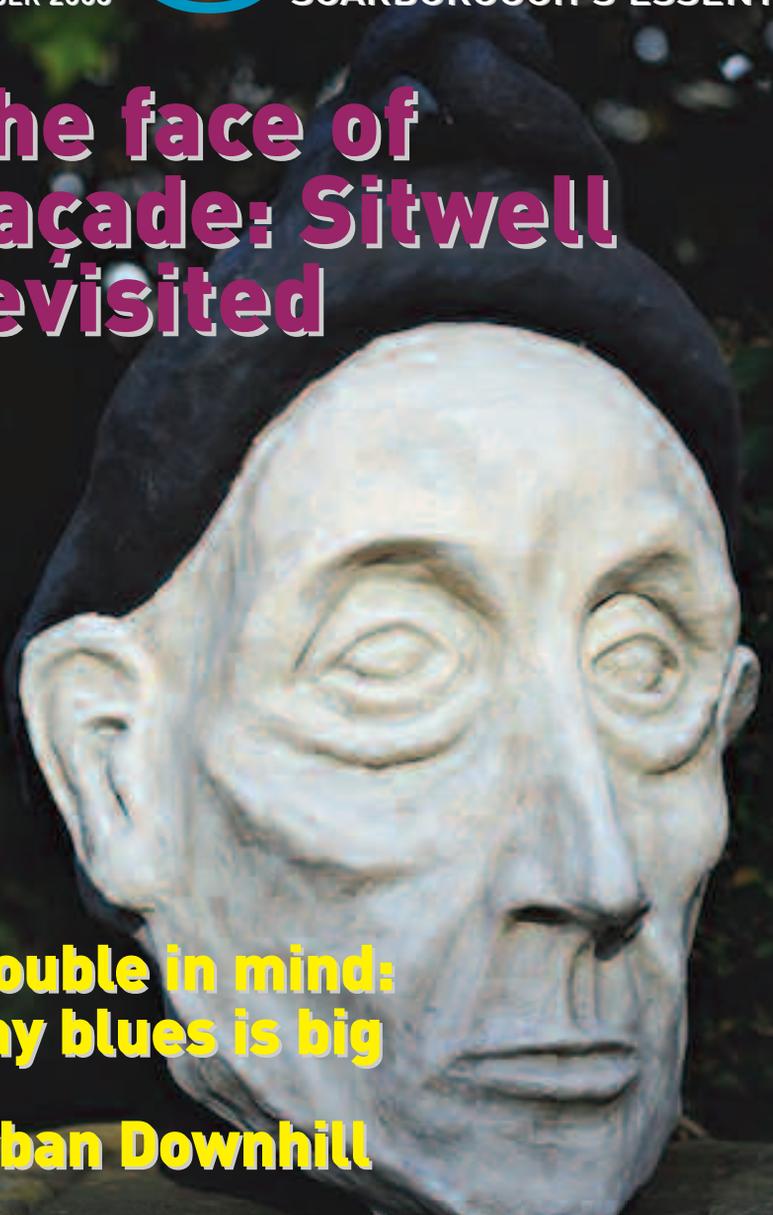
The face of Façade: Sitwell revisited

**Trouble in mind:
why blues is big**

Urban Downhill

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

www.hightidemagazine.com



High Tide reaches its quarter century this month with our 25th monthly issue. And there's no resting on laurels: October 2008 promises more new events, gigs, shows and all that than we've seen in a long time.

Crescent Arts stages an excellent multi-media event that combines Scarborough's past with its very promising future, all drawing on the formidable Edith Sitwell for inspiration.

Plus Scarborough has a new blues club combining local and national talent. And the urban downhill mountain bike championships promise spectacular racing through the old town.

So let's raise a glass to the last two years and the many more events to come.

Cover pic: Tony Bartholomew
Sculpture by students at Yorkshire Coast College

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This month



News

A bus stop, clubs go, Oi stays, art shows



Downhill all the way

Mountain bike racing comes to the Old Town



Cover story: Edith Sitwell, the face of Façade

Roger Osborne reports on a multi-media inspiration



Listings

All the happenings for October



Trouble in mind: birth of the blues club

High Tide meets the man behind an exciting music venture





Scarborough Art Gallery will be featuring artists who work in the town this autumn. North Bay by Andrew Cheetham, recently acquired by the Friends of the gallery, appears in the permanent collection, along with two of his other works. The temporary exhibition is

Scarborough Realists Now, including work by Clive Head, David Finnigan, Nathan Walsh (pictured above) and Steve Whitehead - artists living in Scarborough who have all won national and international renown. www.scarboroughmuseumtrust.org.uk

Bus stops for Musicport

Musicport will be running a bus to and from Bridlington Spa for the evening session of the festival, on Friday 17 October.

Headlining that night will be the Levellers with The Chanterelles, Forro Porro, Moussu T E Lei Jovents, Maalstroom, Seikou Susso and Cloudbase performing on

the various stages.

The bus leaves Whitby (Langbourne Road) at 7.30pm and Scarborough (opposite Mojo's) at 8.15pm.

It arrives at Bridlington 8.45 pm & returns at half past midnight.

Ticket for bus and festival session costs £30. Booking is essential, tel 0845 373260

Oi up

Fans of Essex-style punk will be welcoming Sham 69 to Vivaz on 9 November. Following the sell-out success of the Damned, Vivaz are hooking in to tours by legendary punk bands. The band's hits included Borstal Breakout and If The Kids Are United. www.vivaz.co.uk

Sounds good

Both the film society and comedy club have begun their autumn/winter seasons. The jazz club is also forging on and a new blues club (see our feature) is starting up.

Downhill all the way

Top UK riders will compete on Scarborough's streets this month in breathtaking races



If you thought mountain biking was made for muddy tracks and, well, mountains, then think again. This month Scarborough will be hosting the most prestigious event in the UK urban biking calendar – the Fat Face Urban Downhill championships. More than 300 riders, ranging from 12 to 40 in age, will be competing in a prelude event to the world championships

The culmination is the Night Race through the streets of the Old Town. The exact route will be unveiled the day before, to keep the riders guessing, but event director Chris Roberts says 'It's a fast and furious course towards the sea front, avoiding the man made obstacles the whole way down.' The streets and alleyways will form the basis of the course, but there will be

specially built ramps and banks to make it that bit more spectacular. It will, says Chris, 'be a very fast course creating incredibly tight competition.'

Riders will be competing against the clock to get the fastest time and the UK's top stars of mountain biking are taking part in the event, including the four current World Downhill Champions Gee Atherton, Rachel Atherton, Lee Bertram, & Lynda Davis. The course is longer than last year, allowing more room for spectators, although last year's event in Edinburgh drew more than 6,000. Get there early to grab a good vantage point. There will be practice and qualifying rides throughout the day, before the spectacular finale begins at 7pm.

Visit www.nakedracing.co.uk for more information

Edith Sitwell began publishing a series of poems under the title *Facade* in 1918.

Around the same time she invented, cultivated and promoted an image of herself, so overwhelmingly powerful that it risks obscuring her work. The images of this strange, distant, frightening figure are more familiar to us than her writings. What, we might ask, lies beneath and beyond the Sitwell *façade*?

Edith, Osbert and Sachaverell were the offspring of George Sitwell, MP for Scarborough, who kept Wood End as a summer home for his family. The children grew up to be a formidable and controversial group who revelled in the cultural turmoil of the early 20th century, the daring of the avant-garde and the playfulness of surrealism.

The composer William Walton met Sachaverell at Oxford, and lived as a lodger, and 'adopted, elected brother' with the family in London from 1920. Walton wrote music to accompany the *Facade* poems in 1921-2; the work was first performed at the Sitwell's London house in 1922, with Edith reciting the poems from behind a curtain.

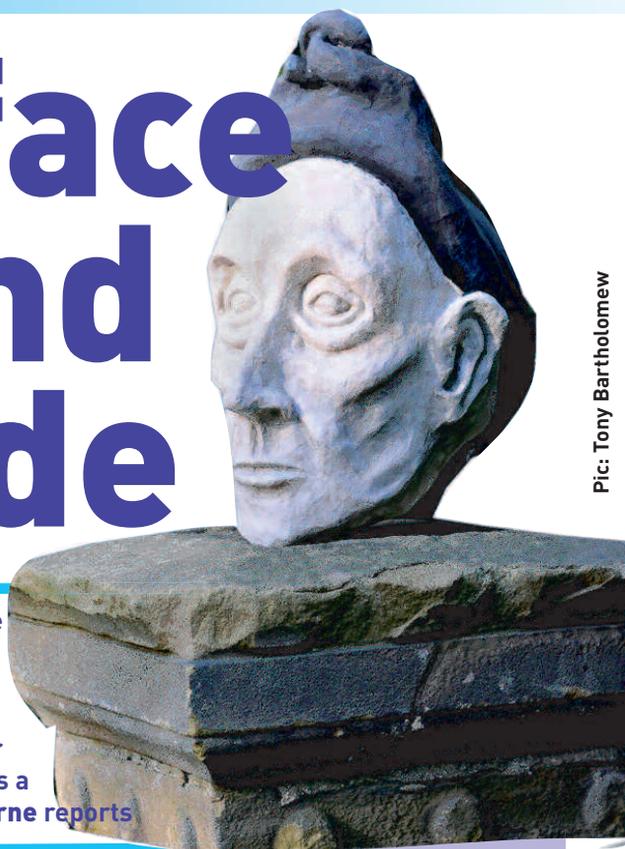
The first public performance in 1923 made Walton's name as an avant-garde composer, and confirmed the Sitwells as patrons of high modernism.

New artspace

New Facades is the first exhibition to be held in the newly-created artspace that sits right in the middle of the Sitwell's old house at Wood End. Crescent Arts director Stuart Cameron was initially unsure about using the Sitwells as a theme, but an encounter

The face behind Façade

Pic: Tony Bartholomew



Façade was the work that turned the Scarborough-based Sitwells from eccentric literary amateurs into an influence on British art. This month sees the opening of a gallery in their old house on the Crescent, as well as a performance of Façade. Roger Osborne reports

with those images changed his mind: 'The National Portrait gallery held an exhibition of Cecil Beaton's photos of Edith, and the more I looked at them, the more there was to see.

3-D sound

Stuart had been impressed by the costume department at Yorkshire Coast College, and asked students there, with the help of artist and mask-maker Cath Whippey, to come up with contemporary responses to the iconic images.

He also invited the School of Arts and New Media at the university to make new 3-D sound recordings based on Edith Sitwell's recitals of the Façade poems. The recordings will form part of the show.

As well as all that, the exhibition contains Graham Mack's interactive virtual panoramas, allowing you to navigate your way through the old Sitwell house.

Costumes, sound, and photographic panoramas could be a taste of things to come in the Crescent artspace.

Stuart Cameron says he is not pushing the exhibitions in a particular direction: 'I have an open mind about how the space should be used.

'My approach is to find artists with interesting ideas, and to help them to foster and develop those ideas, without knowing in advance what the outcome will be.'

New Facades, Crescent Artspace, Woodend

**Opening 2pm 4 October.
Tues to Sat 11am to 5pm to
14 October Admission Free**

**Meet the Makers of the
New Facades exhibition
2pm 11 October**

**Façade performance by the
Orchestra of St. Paul's,
conducted by Ben Palmer
with William Sitwell and
Pippa Longworth.
Projections: Gerald Mynot**

**7pm 4 October,
Scarborough Library
Concert Hall**

**Tickets from Crescent Arts
www.crescentarts.co.uk**

Listings

HIGH FIVES

Last chance to catch the Brigantia craft exhibition at Danby till 8 October.

The Comedy Club features a whole bunch of talent including Rhod Gilbert; Lust, Caution and Atonement both play at the film society; and Barrie Rutter struts his stuff at the SJT in Jack Lear.

You know how it goes - get out and get doing!

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

19 July – 19 Oct
Rachel Howfield: Left Behind

Scarborough Art Gallery

29 Aug to 16 Nov
The Naked and the Nude: Works from the Tate Collection

mima (Middlesbrough Institute Of Modern Art)

29 Aug to 16 Nov
Forward Thinking: Eric Bainbridge

mima (Middlesbrough Institute Of Modern Art)

13 Sep to 18 Oct
Paula Zimmermann

South Street Gallery

26 Sep to 8 Oct
Brigantia Art Exhibition

Moors National Park Centre

4 Oct to 14 Dec
Scarborough Realists Now

Scarborough Art Gallery

10 Oct to 30 Nov
Views for Christmas

Blandscliff Gallery

22 Oct to 5 Nov
Inspired By

Moors National Park Centre

25 Oct to 25 Jan
Lisa Skelton

Scarborough Art Gallery

4 Sep to 4 Oct
Woman in Mind

Stephen Joseph Theatre

1 & 2 Oct
Tropic Thunder

Hollywood Plaza

1 & 2 Oct
The Duchess

Hollywood Plaza

1 & 2 Oct
The Waiting Room

Stephen Joseph Theatre

2 to 23 Oct
Beverley Literature Festival

Various venues in Beverley

2 Oct
Rotunda Geology Group: Fossils since William Smith

University Campus

2 Oct
Scarborough Blues Club

Sigma at The Cask

4 Oct
Urban Downhill

South Bay/Old Town

4 to 5 Oct
British Longboard Club Championships

South Bay Beach





The Levellers will play the opening night of Musicport at its new venue in Bridlington

**4 to 14 Oct
New Facades Installation**
Crescent Artspace, Woodend

**4 Oct
Façade**
Scarborough Library

**5 Oct
Eric Taylor**
Stephen Joseph Theatre

**6 Oct
Comedy Club:
Rhod Gilbert**
Blue Lounge

**7 Oct
Flhip Flhop**
Stephen Joseph Theatre

**7 Oct
Aynsley Lister and Band**
Sigma at The Cask

**8 Oct
Cropper, Welsh, Roscoe
Piano Trio**
Stephen Joseph Theatre

**8 Oct
Scarborough Jazz: Al
Wood and Nick Mills**
Sigma at The Cask

**9 Oct
Scarborough Blues Club**
Sigma at The Cask

**10 Oct
Film Society: Lust, Caution**
Scarborough Library

**11 Oct
Printmaking Workshop**
Crescent Arts

**12 Oct
St Martin's Festival: Organ
Recital**
St Martin's Church

**13 Oct
Food workshop:
Understanding our food**
Le Chat Noir

**14 Oct
Michael Weston King**
Sigma at The Cask

**15 Oct
Scarborough Jazz: Jim
Mullen and Rod Mason**
Sigma at The Cask

**16 Oct to 8 Nov
Jack Lear**
Stephen Joseph Theatre

**16 Oct
Scarborough Blues Club**
Sigma at The Cask

**17 to 19 Oct
Musicport**
Bridlington Spa

**18 Oct
Printmaking Workshop**
Crescent Arts

**18 Oct
Big Draw Workshop**
Woodend Creative Workspace

**20 Oct
Comedy Club: Gordon
Southern & Matt Price**
Blue Lounge

**22 Oct
Scarborough Jazz: Jon
Taylor**
Sigma at The Cask

**23 Oct
Scarborough Blues Club**
Sigma at The Cask

**24 to 27 Oct
Dinosaur Coast
Fossil Roadshow**
Woodend Creative Workspace

**24 Oct
Clive Head and
Steve Whitehead**
Scarborough Art Gallery

**24 Oct
Film Society: Atonement**
Scarborough Library

**28 Oct
The
Ezio
Zone**

Sigma at
The Cask



**29 Oct
Scarborough Jazz:
Steve Perry**
Sigma at The Cask

**30 Oct
Kate Braida: Workshop**
Scarborough Art Gallery

**30 Oct
Scarborough Blues Club**
Sigma at The Cask

**See our website for full
event details**

Trouble in mind: birth of the blues



Roger Osborne talks to the man behind Scarborough's newest venture

Live music looks set for a timely boost with the formation of a new blues club. Based at Sigma, the lower floor of the Cask Inn, Scarborough Blues club will run every Thursday from 8pm with free entry.

In addition there will be regular 'Super Tuesday' gigs featuring high class guest musicians – blues, acoustic and other genres – from around the country. Entry for these gigs will be around £10

Thursday nights will feature the house band led by Tom Townsend (guitar, vocals), Paul Tilley (drums) and James Grunwell (bass) along with other talented local musicians. The moving force behind the club is Mark Horsley, who first

found the blues in a familiar way: 'The first single I ever bought was The House of the Rising Sun, by the Animals. Of course, I didn't realise at the time that I was listening to the blues but it was certainly the sort of music I liked.'

Music clubs need high quality music and a good venue. Mark lived in Scarborough in the 1970s, the heyday of the Penthouse Club, and has recently been involved with the jazz club. He was impressed with their new venue: 'When the club moved to the Cask last year I was surprised to find how little used the Sigma Bar was.' Out of

that was born the idea of a blues club.

As well as bringing in live acts, and giving Scarborough's impressive musicians a place to develop, Mark wants the club to nurture new talent. 'Too many venues just lay on live gigs and do nothing to actually assist musicians to reach their full potential. I'd like to think we can be much more supportive than that. This is why our jam sessions will be an important part of the club.'

Upcoming gigs

Aynsley Lister (7 October)
Michael Weston King (14 October)
The Ezio Zone (28 October)
Guy Tortora (4 November)

Further gigs booked through to March 2009
www.scarboroughbluesclub.co.uk