

hightide

APRIL 2008

SCARBOROUGH'S ESSENTIAL GUIDE

Catching the moment
with Sarahphotogirl



Porthole's touring world
Litfest goes walkabout

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

www.hightidemagazine.com

Barely out of snowtime and the great outdoors beckons. Plans are underway for a great new summer festival, to join that excellent line-up of events that are becoming a regular fixture for the area.

We get out and about with this year's literature festival too. This month sees a host of established writers appearing in Scarborough, and a special walk will showcase past authors' links with the town too.

If you can't bear all that fresh air stuff, just get along to the latest photography show at the Stephen Joseph Theatre, where you can catch some famous faces in forest and moorland settings around here. See our centre spread for a preview.

Cover pic: Dave Rowntree's drums, Sarahphotogirl

News

A solstice celebration, critical acclaim and a new beginning

Porthole's touring world

A Whitby organisation is spreading world music across the UK

Catching the moment

Sarahphotogirl's new show promises new takes on familiar faces

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All the happenings for April

Walkin' the talk

This year's litfest gets out and about with generations of writers

This month's special offer

Judi Dench and Cate Blanchett star in the Oscar-nominated Notes on a Scandal.

We've a copy of the DVD for a lucky winner from our email newsletter subscribers list – we'll draw a name from the hat on Wed 23 April.

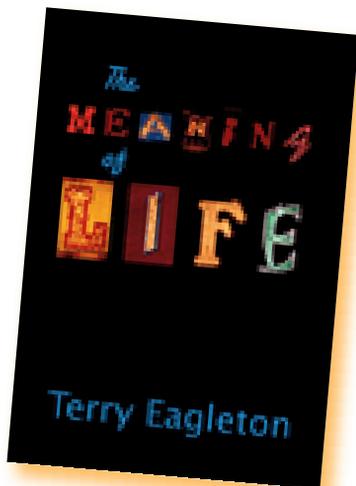
So see our website home page and get signed up for a chance to win.

Top critic lined up for litfest

Writer and critic Terry Eagleton is among the star-studded lineup for this year's Scarborough Literature Festival happening on 17 to 20 April. On the final day the Manchester University professor will give a lecture at the Scarborough Campus on *The Death of Criticism*.

Eagleton is Professor of English and Cultural Theory at Manchester University, and is more widely known as the UK's most influential literary critic. He is a Catholic turned Marxist, a theorist who has turned against theory. More importantly, he is an exhilarating and passionate writer. Eagleton promises to be one of the most interesting speakers to visit Scarborough in recent years.

There are related events planned during the month to run alongside the main litfest



sessions. On 10 April North Yorkshire 199 features the book of poems and photographs awarded the Yorkshire Non-fiction Book of the Year prize.

Jack Binns presents a further rogues' gallery on 14 April.

Dreams come true at summer solstice gathering

Plans are being laid for a festival to mark the summer solstice at Hayburn Wyke. The aim is to have an evening of indoor entertainment, followed by a day of music in glorious summer sunshine.

The Solstice weekend will attempt to recreate the magical atmosphere of the much-loved Rosedale festival, by featuring local musicians in a beautiful setting.

There will be camping facilities and people will be encouraged to use the old railway line to get to and from the venue.

Organiser Tom Watton said 'We have got good support from local residents, and it promises to be a very special event.'

More news will follow in next month's High Tide, but make a date in your diary for 20 and 21 June.

Woodend is nigh

After battles with Japanese knotweed and providing tender loving care to a family of bats, Woodend Creative Workspace will finally be open for business this month.

The staff should be in the building by mid-April, with artists and work-space tenants following soon after. Work on the garden folly will continue.

Jazz fest lines up for a blast

This year's jazz festival is taking shape with Courtney Pine, Guy Barker, Clare Teal, Tango Siempre and Empirical among the acts already booked.

The festival is now a major

fixture in the jazz calendar, and brings crowds of jazz fans to Scarborough from all over Britain and Europe.

Scarborough Jazz Festival 2008 runs from 26 to 28 September at the Spa.

Porthole's prolific touring world



We hear that live music is thriving as people go in search of interesting downloads and real live experience. But how does the live music business, with its networks of artists, agents, managers and venues, actually work? Roger Osborne went to Skinner Street in Whitby to find out.

The Musicport people have earned their wings by organising the best indoor world music festival in Britain, putting on regular concerts featuring a range of amazingly high quality acts and running a string of education workshops, as well as managing Whitby's Fairtrade shop, the Porthole.

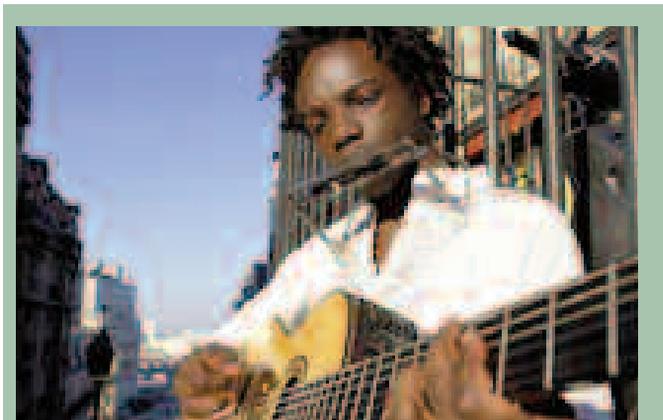
Not satisfied with all this, last November they set up Porthole Productions as an agent and tour manager for world music bands. Jim McLaughlin (above) told us that, once last year's festival was over, they saw there was a need. 'We come across lots of artists who deserve and need more exposure. We act as a link between the musicians and the venues in order to help them reach their audience.'

Some bands have been doing this for themselves, but without the necessary expertise and contacts; while others are based abroad and need UK representation (Porthole has three UK based artists and three based in Europe, see below). Jim says: 'Bear in mind we are working with established professional artists. We establish what they should be charging for gigs, then it's up to us to get them booked in.'

Sounds easy, but there is no substitute for hard graft. There is a huge variety of music venues in Britain, from pubs to arenas. I asked Jim where he would begin to look for bookings. 'You develop a sense for which venues suit which artists. There are directories you can look up, but a lot of it is to do with reputation, knowing what music goes well in what places . . . and contacts.' The Porthole acts could be loosely described as world music; so where does that go down well? 'It doesn't fill arenas but there is a good

audience. Some places are always good for world music.' Like where? 'Bangor, Glossop, Hebden Bridge . . .' All places with a bohemian reputation, and now he is beginning to book artists into college venues too.

To rouse up interest Porthole Productions send out hundreds of CDs, and spend endless hours on email and phone calls. It's not the glamorous side of the business, but it's an essential and satisfying part of the process of bringing live music to its audience.



Porthole represents the following artists:
Samay [UK] Maalstroom [Netherlands]
The Hut People [UK] Moussu T e lei Jovents [France]
Galina Durmushliyska [Bulgaria]
Muntu Valdo [Cameroon, based in UK] – pictured
www.portholeproductions.com



Catching the moment

Her name may be an enigma but her subjects are instantly familiar.

Sarahphotogirl specialises in photographing the assorted mayhem of the music biz. So there's Paul Weller over there, the Zutons here, Thom Yorke like a standing stone on Fylingdales Moor.

It all started when she was at York University and had a bunch of rock posters on her wall. Looking at them endlessly, she thought: 'I could do that. But better.'

So she started approaching

bands and their agents, getting shots where she could, and building a portfolio.

Pictures of Madonna at a very urban red-carpet bash rub shoulders with bands appearing in the great outdoors of Dalby Forest. Sarah often uses bold, hyper-real colour, which is a big change from her starting point with black and white. 'I didn't like colour initially. I think it has to be really stunning for it to work,' she explains.

Though there are shots on stage – a nice one of the Kaiser Chiefs' Ricky Wilson leaping into the vivid blue, for

example – Sarah specialises in backstage and studio portraits.

Now she's turning to a new venture with photomontage, building a picture from hundreds of images. Some will be included in her show at the SJT this month. 'It's early days yet,' she says, 'but I need to move on. I'm trying to use photography and writing together, to create something a little bit magical.'

Janis Bright

Sarahphotogirl's show at the SJT starts on 31 March and runs to 6 May.

Listings

HIGH FIVES

Last year's inaugural literature festival was a welcome addition to the Scarborough cultural calendar; this year's programme is bigger and has built brilliantly on last year's success. Renowned writers are clearly keen to come here – it should be a feast of good things. If you fancy your chances as a bard, give the poetry slam a visit, and if you want to hear the finest literary critic in Britain don't miss Terry Eagleton.

Northern Broadsides also make a welcome return, while the regular comedy, film and jazz clubs go from strength to strength. And if you're wondering what digital media is all about, then get along to the On The Edge final show.

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

Feb 29 to May 11 Based On Paper: The Marzona Collection

mima (Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art) 10:00 am

Mar 1 to April 18 Branching Out

South Street Gallery
10:00 am Free

Mar 31 to April 5 Our House

Stephen Joseph Theatre
7:30 pm £17.50 - £9

Apr 2 Scarborough Jazz: Frank Brooker

Sigma at The Cask 8:45 pm Free

Apr 4 Rafiki Jazz

Coliseum,
Whitby 8:00 pm £10 (£8)

Apr 7 to 8 Artefacts

Stephen Joseph Theatre 7:45 pm
£12.50 - £10

Apr 7 Comedy Club: Roger Monkhouse, Pete Firman

Blue Lounge 8 pm £7

Apr 9 On The Edge: Chris Newell, PAT Testing

Scarborough Campus 7:30 pm
Free, book in advance

Apr 9 Scarborough Jazz: Ben Crosland Quartet

Sigma at The Cask 8:45 pm £5

Apr 11 Film Society: Away From Her

Scarborough Library 7:45 pm £4

Apr 11 Mojo's Music Cafe Night

SJT Restaurant 8:30 pm £7

Apr 12 Brian Rix

Stephen
Joseph Theatre 7:30 pm £15-£13

Apr 14 Archaeology and History Society: Scarborough Rogues, Jack Binns

Scarborough Library
7:30 pm Free

Apr 15 to 19 Northern Broadsides presents Romeo & Juliet

Stephen Joseph Theatre
7:30 pm £17.50 - £9

Apr 16 Scarborough Jazz: Julie Edwards & Kevin Dearden

Sigma at The Cask 8:45 pm Free

Apr 17 to 20 Literature Festival

Scarborough Library See Panel

Apr 19 Fairy Tales & Fantasy Workshop

Scarborough Art Gallery 2:00 pm
Free, book in advance

Apr 23 On The Edge: Mile End by Analogue

Scarborough Campus 7:30 pm £4

Scary fairy tales

I have to declare an interest here – me and books go back a long way together. I'm just about old enough to have trained on hot-metal typesetting machines, transferred illustrations to letterpress blocks by meticulously etching metal with acid, and stamped images onto cloth book covers through hot foil. These commercial processes place the same kinds of limitations on artists as 14-line sonnets or three-minute singles; the joy of commercial art comes from seeing how they cope.

Judging from this exhibition, Victorian artists went in quite different directions. Some, like

C. Wilhelm and Lilian Pollock, saw the potential of black line on white paper to produce extraordinarily intricate scenes, crowded with imagery. To the modern eye these are much less appealing than the simple, and extraordinarily effective, William Heath Robinson illustrations to the Arabian Nights. You might have a weakness for Harry Rowntree's comic nasties, or the oriental flavour of Warwick Goble. There aren't many book cases here, but the striking red wolves on Aesop's Fables show how art can be rendered from a crude industrial process.

Victorians and children have a dodgy relationship – they

seemed to see kids as either way too cute, or as factory fodder. If this exhibition betrays some of the fussiness that comes with idealising their little darlings, let's be thankful that there is evidence of some artists using the medium to their own advantage.

My only real complaint is that, in a show about commercial art, there is no mention, let alone explanation, of any of the industrial processes involved – and these are surely the key to the whole business.

Roger Osborne
Fairy Tales and Fantasy
Scarborough Art Gallery
14 March to 11 May

Apr 23
Danel Quartet Stephen
Joseph Theatre 7:30 pm £15-£11

Apr 23
Scarborough Jazz: Joel Purnell
Sigma at The Cask 8:45 pm Free

Apr 25
Lunchtime Talk: Lara Goodband Scarborough Art
Gallery 12:30 pm Free

Apr 28 to May 10
Laurel & Hardy
Stephen Joseph Theatre
7:30 pm £17.50 - £9

Apr 30
Terry Eagleton
Scarborough Campus 6 pm Free

Apr 30
On The Edge: Digital Media Showcase
Scarborough Campus
7:30 pm Free

Apr 30 Scarborough Jazz: Martin Jones
Sigma at The Cask 8:45 pm Free

Literature Festival Programme

www.scarboroughliteraturefestival.co.uk

Thursday 17 April
10.00 am G. P. Taylor
12.30 pm Concert with Scarborough Poetry Workshop
2.00 pm Writers' Café
2.00 pm Workshop: Poetry and writing for therapy with Kate Evans
2.00 pm Workshop: Magazine and on-line writing with Janis Bright
4.00 pm Workshop: Writing history, travel and memoirs for publication with Roger Osborne
7.00 pm Taking the Train
8.00 pm Poetry Slam

Friday 18th April
10 am Simon Armitage
12 noon Literary Lunch at The Crescent Hotel with Susan Hill
3.30 pm Joanne Harris
6 pm Literary walk
7.30 pm Ian Rankin

Saturday 19th April
10.30 am Helen Dunmore and Deborah Moggach
12 noon Literary Lunch at The Crescent Hotel with Sarah Dunant
2.30 pm Crime Panel with Mark Billingham, Stephen Booth, Natasha Cooper and Denise Mina
4.30 pm Blake Morrison
7.30 pm Saturday panel with Christopher Brookmyre, Justin Cartwright and Jasper Fforde

Sunday 20th April
10 am Breakfast with Simon Hoggart and James Nash
1 pm Carol Drinkwater
4 pm Louis de Bernieres and Ilone Antonius-Jones

Sunday 20th April (Children's Events)
10.30 am Steve Cole
1 pm Cartoon Creations
2.30 pm Puppet making with Animated Objects Theatre

Walkin' the talk



This year's literature festival breaks out of the library to explore the town's history with Suzanne Potter

This year's Scarborough Literature Festival has attracted a host of important writers to Scarborough, writes Roger Osborne. The likes of Joanne Harris and Sarah Dunant will be joining a long and distinguished tradition.

The town's reputation as a beautiful place to visit – for inspiration, rest or even convalescence – has drawn artists and writers for centuries. A good chapter-full of these writers will be brought to life during the festival a Literary Walk around the town.

Suzanne Potter (pictured above left), who leads the walk, is a seasoned professional. In 1999 she co-founded Step Back In Time, specialising in historic walks and talks around Scarborough, catering for all kinds of visitors and working through hotels and the Tourist Information Centres. The business has extended to shepherding coach parties, and they now work

mainly with organised groups of visitors.

Suzanne is a linguist by training, and has always had a strong interest in history and literature. She belongs to the Readers Group at Scarborough library, so when plans were being laid for last year's festival, she was ready and able to lead both a history and a literary walk.

The walks were extremely popular, and this year the literary walk returns. It will start at St Mary's church with the grave of Anne Bronte, and wind through the town before ending up at the library in time for Ian Rankin. Along the way walkers are likely to come across literary luminaries such as Wilfred Owen. The war poet was stationed here for several months during the First World War, before returning to the front and being tragically killed just a week before the armistice.

The Sitwells are familiar figures in Scarborough, where their father was MP, and with



**Above:
Wilfred Owen
Left:
Anne Bronte
Below:
Susan Hill**

a family home at Wood End. Charles Dickens, an exceptionally well-travelled writer, came to Scarborough to give some of his famous readings. Susan Hill – who is also appearing at the festival – will also feature, as the town's most eminent modern literary native.

As Suzanne says, 'The walk is a great way to learn more about Scarborough's history and its literary connections.'