

hightide

MAY 2008 SCARBOROUGH'S ESSENTIAL GUIDE

**Living landscapes:
Open Studios**

The Wright stuff

The Rotunda's return

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

www.hightidemagazine.com

Dozens of artists open their studio doors this month for a glimpse of how their work is created. This excellent event is now in its fourth year and gets better every time. It's a great way to get a feel for the colour, materials and shapes the artists work with so make a date for your tour.

Also with month, soprano Vicky Wright makes a welcome appearance in Scarborough with her cross-border music that ranges from hiphop to opera.

And of course there's the much anticipated reopening of Scarborough's geological gem, the Rotunda Museum. We take a preview look at what's in store.

Cover painting by Angela Chalmers

MAY 2008

This month

News

A multi-media extravaganza plus a trip into the dark

The Rotunda's return

The big re-opening is set for this month

Living landscapes

The county's premier visual arts event gets underway

Listings

All the happenings for May

The Wright stuff

Roger Osborne talks to soprano Victoria Wright

Artists can take shots in the dark

Artist David Yates is to run a free-to-use darkroom for photographers in Scarborough. The aim is to support the growing number of artists and creative young people in North and East Yorkshire who are re-discovering and experimenting with analogue, or 'old fashioned' photography.

Based at the newly opened Woodend Creative Workspace, David will provide tuition, darkroom services and mentorship. He said he wants to both pass on traditional knowledge and techniques of analogue photography, and give people an opportunity to push the boundaries of their creativity.

The initiative is supported by the National Lottery through

Arts Council England, and will open in June.

David is a successful exhibiting artist and filmmaker. He has formerly worked as co-ordinator at Leeds Centre for Indian Music and Dance, and as manager of Wyvern Arts - a community arts project involving 50 artists in East Yorkshire. He has organised exhibitions in the UK and throughout Europe, and curated film programmes and workshops for Leeds International Film Festival.

He said: 'An important part of my philosophy is to give back to my community by sharing my experience, knowledge and skills.'

For more information please call/text 07934 558829, email info@jehan.eu or visit www.jehan.eu

Council lends an ear to arts

Scarborough Borough Council is consulting the public about its public art policy. To have your say visit www.scarborough.gov.uk and look under Projects and Consultations. The consultation runs until 31 May.

In the meantime plans are

being laid to create a Scarborough Arts Trail, highlighting existing art and providing the catalyst for more.

The trail has come out of the Arts and Culture Forum which meets each month. This month it's at 5pm on Wednesday 7 May at the SJT.

Festival planned

A major new arts festival will be held in Scarborough in February 2009.

Organised by Create, the festival will include music, dance, theatre, visual arts, film, literature and comedy, as well as a revival of the Festival of Light.

More details of the line-up, venues and dates will follow, but this looks set to be a major cultural event for Scarborough.

Reeling 'em in



This season's film society has been so successful that two more films have been added to the programme.

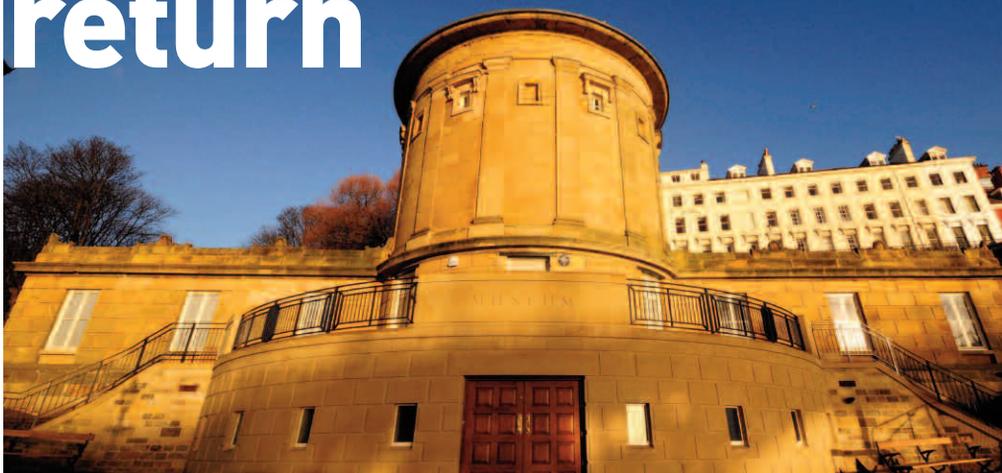
On 9 May the society is showing *Tosca* starring Angela Gheorghiu and Roberto Alagna; then on 23 May a delightful French farce, *Summer Things* starring Charlotte Rampling.

Good move

This month sees High Tide move into the new creative workspace building at Woodend in the Crescent.

If you have events you want us to promote then hand in leaflets, flyers, or any other material at Woodend, marked for the attention of High Tide - or just call in and say hello. Our email address will stay the same.

The Rotunda's return



Historians are likely to look back on this as a second golden age for the museums of Britain. While civic pride and wealthy Victorian merchants ushered in the first age, this time round we have to thank that universal patron, the weekly lottery, for dusting off our national treasures.

The Rotunda, which re-opens this month, has benefited from £2.8 million from the lottery, the EU and the borough council, with £1.6 million raised from private sources. It might seem like a lot for a small museum, but the ambitions for the Rotunda are very big.

The intention is to establish the museum as a national attraction and to make this a must-see destination for visitors from all over the country – people will come to Scarborough because of the Rotunda, rather than dropping in while they're here.

To bring this about, the Rotunda has been given a

stunning make-over that combines the best of modern design with the historic beauty of this architectural gem. As Shirley Collier, chief executive of the new Museums' Trust says 'It's a special building with a special function and all our teams have shown great sensitivity to this wonderful Scarborough icon.'

The museum has been rebuilt from the inside, with major work on the structure itself, the basement excavated to form a new entry floor, and a complete refit and redesign. A new lift has also been fitted.

The upper round chamber has been refitted in sympathy with William Smith's original 1829 vision, with layers of strata from the Yorkshire coast forming the background to geological and historical exhibits.

In the wings below there are displays of fossils, hands-on activities, features on individual geologists, both past and present, and a 'gateway to the Dinosaur Coast' which aims to

get people interested in the geology on their doorstep.

We asked Shirley which elements would most impress visitors. 'I think for adults the Rotunda Gallery will have a special appeal – I love the feeling of going back in time as you go up the spiral stairs. For children the microscope, set just at their level, is a favourite.' The museums greatest draw may well prove to be the reproduction of William Smith's original map of the geology of England. As Shirley says: 'It is exquisite, a source of inspiration and contemplation. I think museums should be both those things, and the map, for me, sums up what the Rotunda represents.'

Dates, times and details

The Rotunda is open to the public from Sunday 12 May.
Opening times: Tues to Sun (plus Bank Holidays) 10 am to 5 pm
Admission: Adult day ticket £4.50; adult annual ticket £8. Under 18s free; children under 14 must be accompanied
Concessions for over 60s and parties

Yorkshire's premier visual arts event returns for its fourth outing this month, with dozens of artists welcoming visitors to their studios



Angela Chalmers, South Street Gallery

Living Landscapes

If you think original pieces of art are just for the mega-rich, then think again. Artists in the Open Studios weekends have been getting smart about indulging their visitors with small affordable pieces – after all, if you can't buy a major work from all the artists you like, you can at least go home with something to treasure.

In the last couple of years we've ended up with a charcoal drawing, a lino-cut, a

silk and felt scarf, and some coffee cups (thanks Len, John, Rachel and Julie) without breaking the bank and with a promise that we'd save up for something bigger next time.

Now that the scheme is so well-established (this will be the fourth year) there is no need to hare around the countryside trying to get to everyone. Instead it's a chance to relax and enjoy the company of some fascinating people who, with your help,

are making a living out of their creativity.

Scarborough itself is well-represented with exhibitions at the SJT and the South Street gallery (Angela Chalmers and Dawn Brookes among others) as well as important artists such as Len Hodgson, Eileen Heaton and Andrew Cheetham in their studios.

If you need variety, a short trip out to Scalby and Staintondale via Cloughton will reach Judith Ellis, Michael Atkin, Sarah Venus and John Jones. Further afield there are artists all the way from Loftus to Lockton and High Marishes to Rosedale.

Grab the map off the website (details left), look out for the signs, take it slow and don't come home empty-handed.

Open Studios 2008: May 17/18 and 24/25/26

Full details on the catalogue, download from www.art-connections.org.uk

Moors and Coast Taster Exhibition
Pannett Art Gallery, Pannett Park, Whitby

26 April – 8 May 2008
Stephen Joseph Theatre

May 5 - 31

An exhibition of wall based artwork by a range of North Yorkshire Open Studios 08.

South Street Gallery, South Street Scarborough

Ryedale artists and makers are showing at the Ryedale Folk Museum

3 May to 25 June, daily 10 to 4:30

listings

HIGH FIVES

Dutch band Maalstroom head for Whitby for a special gig this month. There's a tribute to the comics that never go out of style, the great Laurel and Hardy, and super-sleuth Sherlock Holmes puts in an appearance too.

This year's Fair in the Square promises a fine bank holiday, while Julia Wray is always excellent at the jazz club.

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)

May 1 to 31 From Studio to South Street

South Street Gallery Free

May 3 to July 13 David White

Coffee Lounge Scarborough Art Gallery Free with pass

May 5 to 31 Art from the Open Studios

Stephen Joseph Theatre Free

May 23 to Aug 17 British Surrealism: The Sherwin Collection

mima (Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art) 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

May 1 to 10 Laurel & Hardy

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

May 1 The Diving Bell And The Butterfly

Stephen Joseph Theatre
7:45 pm £5 (£4)

May 1 Maalstroom

Whitby Rifle Club 7:30 pm Free

May 1 Scarborough Poetry Workshop

The Valley 8 pm Free

May 2 to 5 Continental Market

Scarborough Town Centre
10:00 am onwards

May 2 to 10 (not Sun) No Country For Old Men

Stephen Joseph Theatre
7:45 pm £5 (£4)



May 3 Falsgrave: Illustrated Talk

Scarborough Library 11:15 am £1

May 7 Scarborough Jazz: Mark Toomey

Sigma at The Cask 8:45 pm Free

May 9 Film Society: Tosca

Scarborough Library 7:45 pm £4

May 14 to 15 Sherlock Holmes

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

May 14 Scarborough Jazz: Esther Miller Quintet

Sigma at The Cask
8:45 pm £5 (£4)

Old Spanish customs

It's a few years since the tapas craze hit these shores with a vengeance. In the 1990s, all over Britain, people were ordering patatas bravas and boquerones by the slack handful.

The problem was that the Spanish custom of lingering over bar snacks before dining at midnight, never quite gelled with the British love of the mid-evening three-course restaurant blow-out. You ended up going home feeling

hungry, or waiting endlessly for the next dish to arrive. Now, at last, the problem has been solved by a small taberna in, of all places, Pickering.

Let's get something said right away: the Castlegate Taberna serves not only the best Spanish food I have eaten in Britain (and I've had plenty), the food is consistently the finest to be had in this neck of the woods. The tapas format allows for variety, innovation and change.

On our last visit we had asparagus salad, gnocchi, puy lentils, calamares, scrambled eggs with green garlic stalks, smoked salmon and a whole lot more, washed down by a bone-dry Spanish white. Every dish was well thought out, fresh, interesting and delicious.

The service is excellent, the price reasonable; give yourselves a treat and get out to Pickering – you won't go home hungry. *Roger Osborne*

May 15 Scarborough Poetry Workshop

The Valley 8 pm Free

May 16 Berkoff's Women Stephen Joseph Theatre 7:45 pm £12.50 - £10

May 17 to 18 Open Studios Weekend

Various locations – see feature on p 5 All day Free

May 17 Scarborough Symphony Orchestra

Spa 7:30 pm £7, £6

May 17 No Fear!

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

May 17 Jim Moray

Coliseum, Whitby 8:00 pm £12 (£10)

May 21 Scarborough Jazz: Stuart MacDonald

Sigma at The Cask 8:45 pm Free

May 22 to 31 (and in rep to Aug 23) Haunting Julia

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

May 23 Film Society:

Summer Things

Scarborough Library 7:45 pm £4

May 24 to 26 Open Studios Weekend

Various locations – see feature on p 5 All day Free

The Valley 8 pm Free

May 30 Curious Collecting: talk by Claire Longrigg

Scarborough Art Gallery 12:30 pm Free

Continental market

On its never-ending tour of the universe, the Continental market touches down in Scarborough once again. You might think in these days of globalisation that everything would be available all the time. But the market manages to bring something new and different and highly edible. Long may its tour continue.



May 26 Fair in the Square

Trafalgar Square 10:00 am Free

May 28 Scarborough Jazz: Julia Wray Band

Sigma at The Cask 8:45 pm Free

May 29 Scarborough Poetry Workshop

May 31 Victoria Wright and guests

Scarborough Library Doors at 7, starts 7.30 prompt £6.50 tickets from Mojo's

See our website for full event details

Victoria's got the Wright stuff

Victoria Wright spoke to Roger Osborne about how she developed her love of opera into a trained voice for the stage

Opera singers are the athletes of the musical world. Victoria Wright should know; it takes her 20 minutes to warm up before a performance and by the end she is exhausted.

Vicky told High Tide: 'Singing opera is very physical, you have to use your whole body to produce the right sound. You put everything into it.' In most singing you use your throat and head and maybe a bit of chest, but 'In operatic singing you are taught to lift your diaphragm and engage your entire body.'

Vicky has loved opera (along with most other kinds of music) for as long as she can remember, and her talent was soon recognised.

When her school music teacher in Manchester joined the Royal Northern College of Music, she went to him for lessons; but how do you improve on natural talent? 'It is important to develop a solid technique to sustain your voice

and give it the necessary power over the length of a performance.'

Singers fit into categories within the operatic tradition – how did Vicky decide she was a mezzo-soprano? 'The mezzo voice is slightly lower than the soprano, but it's not so much to with range, more with the timbre or tone of your voice.' Sopranos have a bright ringing sound whereas mezzos are darker and warmer, a sound which naturally suits Vicky's voice.

She grew up listening to Janet Baker and Regina Resnick (famous in the role of Carmen); her current favourite

is the Swedish mezzo-soprano Ann Sophie von Otter.

If all this makes Vicky sound like a remote operatic diva, then the truth could hardly be more different. She lives in Scarborough, teaches at Barrowcliff primary school, and is wildly enthusiastic about all kinds of music. But opera is her thing. So get along to her concert on 31 May and give yourself a real treat.



Colin Coupland

Victoria Wright accompanied by Monica Daniels with special guests

**Scarborough Library Concert Room
7:30 pm, 31 May.
Tickets £6.50 from Mojo's Music Café**

Proceeds go to support Macmillan Nurses