

Spring time - Suzie, a bit of silk and a Cessna!

Suzie Hankey, our children's area co-ordinator, will be doing a parachute jump at Cranfield on 5th April to raise money in support of the ROTW Children's area at Bancroft Gardens. If she is prepared to float like a butterfly from 2000 feet then at the very least she wants to sting you for a small donation for such a good cause. If you can spare the odd pound or two then please pledge your support by emailing, phoning or sending a donation to the addresses below. Even if by the time you've read this she has jumped already, you can still send her a donation in support. Monies raised will go towards the organization and costs of putting on the children's area, but if she raises a fortune your donation could also go to supporting the wider Festival once the Children's areas costs are covered.

To support Suzie please contact her via her email - ginger-ninja0@tiscali.co.uk or send your donations c/o PO Box 121, Hitchin, Herts, SG5 2WB



Street Art

Tilly, Sarah and others of the ROTW Street Art Committee have some great ideas for Street Art 2006 and are already working with local schools to create more stunning original artworks under a host of projects. 5 Schools have already agreed to create 18 new Street Banners to be hung across the Town and primary schools are being sought to take part in the 'Aboriginal Art Arches' project to be installed in the Cloisters area of St Mary's that will provide a dramatic, colourful and visually stunning backdrop to the river. The 'Head First Fun Wall' will be a modern variation of the old seaside favourite. To be installed in Bancroft Gardens local children will decorate large boards, with holes for heads and arms/legs to poke through, using colour and their imagination - and yes you can put yourself in the picture! The Committee is also working on other projects around the Band Stand in Bancroft and will be running a series of art workshops over the Festival, particularly in the Children's area.

So if you want to get you or your school involved in these and the other projects, or you want to help the Committee bring them to fruition, or even just help out over the Festival please give Tilly a call. Also if your or your company can help with some small scale sponsorship for paints, boards etc or even if you have a decent sized tent/marquee which could be used for art workshops we'd love to hear from you.

If you can help in any way please contact Tilly on 078227 88979 or check out the art section on the website at www.rotw.org.uk for more information.



ROTW Fundraisers

Saturday 29th April 2006
Club 85, from 7.00pm.
 £4 minimum donation.

Featuring
 FRUITION + COOL ETHAN + THE
 OTTERS + PAGE AGAINST THE
 MACHINE(tbc) + VIOLET MARTINEZ +
 ARDENT KICKS

Six of the best local bands pooling their talents to raise money for this year's festival.

Tabeya presents

'Sha-abi Dreaming - ancient steps, modern moves'

Tabeya (dance company) and Tim Garside present a programme showing the rich spectrum of traditional Egyptian dance and music together with an exploration of music in which we hear the influence of ancient Arabic rhythms.

Sunday 11th June
 Woodside Hall
 Walsworth Road,
 Hitchin

Tickets £9 in advance
 or £12 on the door

Door, Bar and Arabic Bazaar open
 at 7.30pm.

For further information and booking
 contact Claire on 07984 423033



RHYTHMS OF THE WORLD

FREE FESTIVAL OF WORLD MUSIC

Issue 7 March 2006

Rhythms of the World is organized entirely by volunteers from your community. Please show your support for all these people by following the Rhythms Code.

THE RHYTHMS CODE

1. Enjoy the unusual each day of the festival
2. Respect the town of Hitchin for hosting the festival
3. Take personal responsibility for your rubbish
4. Do not bring glass with you into the town
5. Show your appreciation

If you would like to get involved please send your contact details to:

volunteers@rotw.org.uk

et Stall

ROTW Information Market Stall

Saturday 8th April 2006
 11.00am to 3.00pm Hitchin Market Place

If you want to know more about Rhythms of the World - it's aims, how it operates and how you as an individual, group, band, artist or company can get involved in helping making it even better please come along to our Market Stall for a chat. We'll be the stall with the banners, music and smiley faces. You'll be able to meet many of the people who make it all happen and ask any questions you have. Hopefully in exchange you'll leave us your contact details and join us in some way.

See you there.



ROTW 2006 is on its way!

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Rhythms of the World newsletter. As ever at this time of year, although the summer seems along way off, there is already a great deal of work going on to make sure that ROTW 2006 is more diverse, more multicultural, more community focused and more family friendly than ever before. Hitchin is a very special place with so many great people making so much happen, and ROTW as ever, will be playing its part.

The ROTW 2006 Festival planning application has now been submitted to NHDC for review and approval. At this stage (without being presumptuous to the planning process) we are planning to run a similar Festival to 2005 - 10 stages across the centre of Hitchin hosting a huge range of artists and art from around the globe. This year there will be a focus on roots music from around the world, supporting one of our aims of encouraging multicultural exchange. A great example of this already confirmed is NueneNue - a native Amazonian Indian band from Brazil and those of you over 30 may remember Osibisa (you will when you see them). Of course, as ever, ROTW 2006 will encompass a huge range of local, national and international acts and art but another band already confirmed that we're delighted about is the return of The Monsters - the Reverend Michael Roden's band celebrating their 30th Anniversary!! Since he lets ROTW use St Mary's Church for the weekend it was the least we could do! No seriously, my lasting memory of their show in 2004, of Micheal sliding to the front of the stage arms outstretched in full "Al Jolson" style to the closing bars of Shaking all Over makes me wonder what he has up his sleeve for this year.

Another area of focus for this year is to expand the range and type of activities in the Children's and Family area of Bancroft Gardens. Always a great place to be, for 2006 we'll be changing the layout a little to give families more usable grassy space, a more even sound level across the picnic area and more activities. Suzie Hankey, one of our large number of volunteers, is taking the lead on the children's area and such is her dedication that she is doing a Parachute jump in April to help raise much needed cash to help buy materials and other equipment for the Gardens. See inside for more details and how to support her - but from me Good Luck!

Other info inside updates you on the artistic projects already underway, the ROTW Stall on the Market Square on 8th April where you can find out more about the Festival and getting involved, a ROTW Fund raising gig at Club 85 and lots more.

And finally, but perhaps most importantly this year we've launched the 'Rhythms Code' - a simple but powerful set of words which we think highlight what we need you to do at the Festival - enjoy yourself, respect others and the Town and give a little back. If we can all do that then I'm convinced that ROTW 2006 will be a huge success

Thanks
Bob Mardon
 Performance Director



It's time for your company to get involved!

ROTW 2006 is looking to be every bit as good as last year, no, I dare to say better. Our enthusiastic sponsors for 2005 have in many cases already committed to continuing their support for ROTW 2006 and a big thank you goes especially to **Stephen Howard Homes, Waitrose, The Comet and The Co-Operative Group** for this. However, as you'd expect, the ROTW sponsorship team have been busy since the last Festival and I'm very pleased to announce that a number of new sponsors have already got involved with ROTW 2006. It's great to be able welcome to the ROTW family **Willmott Dixon, Marshall Amplification, Specialist Cars BMW, Fairhaven Foods, Pizza Express and Apogee International**. These companies have already seen the value of ROTW and committed their support for the 2006 Festival and we thank them for their enthusiasm and support. And, there will be more! A full list of all our sponsors - without whose support we would struggle immensely and we thank them all - are on our website at www.rotw.org.

If you or your company would like to get involved in ROTW as a sponsor and would like to know more, please contact the sponsorship team through the website. We will help you tailor a package to suit your circumstances and explain the commercial benefits to your company as well as the obvious feel good factor of simply being involved in such a great event. Go on, get involved, it will make you feel better with an added bonus of two very enjoyable days that you have helped to make possible! Thank you!

David Jenkins

Director of Corporate Sponsorship

ROTW Fringe Events

With ROTW being a real community event and with its popularity increasing every year, we want to make sure that even more people get involved in 2006 and benefit from the wonderful experience that is Rhythms. This is why we are calling on all local businesses and community groups to be part of the Festival Fringe by holding events at their own venues over the course of the ROTW weekend. If your club, venue, shop, restaurant or any other type of space want to put on an event alongside the Festival, playing host to an art, music or dance event and really contributing to the spirit and variety of the festival, then please go to the website or contact Michelle Roberts to find out more. More and more venues are putting on their own events over the weekend and if you let us know we can help publicise your event in the ROTW Programme, on the website and from the stages.

Michelle Roberts

Fringe Co-ordinator Tel:07725 196 841

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Bancroft Gardens

As Bob mentioned on the front page this year we are putting more emphasis on the child and family friendly area of Bancroft Gardens to make it even more enjoyable. By slightly re-organising the layout of the stalls, stage etc we can make sure that we make best use of the grass and shady areas. North Hertfordshire District Council has kindly agreed to remove the small metal fence that cuts across the grass area (to separate the long gone pitch and putt course) and by making changes to the sound system we can provide more even sound levels (rather than loud or quiet). I've taken over the general organization of the area and we already have some great plans for children's activities - arts, puppets, circus skills, workshops etc and these are developing almost daily. We expect to exhibit some of the schools community art and the 'Head First Fun Wall'.

There's always a down side though and we do need to raise some funds to help buy paints, black boards and other materials/costs. I am doing a parachute jump to help raise money to go towards this but if you or your company can help out with some modest financial support it would be brilliant. Bancroft Gardens is always a great part of the Festival and this year I'm determined to make it even better,

Suzie Hankey

Family Area Co-ordinator

ROTW Trustee changes

Although we don't normally mention things like AGMs in the newsletter, like all Charities, ROTW has to formally adopt its accounts and annually appoint a number of people to be Trustees. In November last year we held the AGM in the Sunrunner pub as is usual and the various bits of necessary business were successfully concluded. However, at the meeting three Trustees formally stood down after very long and dedicated stints helping ROTW and we would like to publicly thank them for all their efforts. Mark Wearne has been involved in ROTW right from the start as a member of original Oxfam Campaigns Group and was the leading light in keeping the festival going through "the wet years". In the last few years he was the Festival's artistic director, being responsible amongst many other things for the huge Dream Catcher, the street art banners and so much more. Hilary Ide, as Chairperson, has been involved in just about everything and kept a tight reign on the committee meetings keeping them brief and to the point. Robin Campbell, as Director of Corporate Sponsorship has built up our sponsorship from next to nothing to being one of our main sources of much needed income and goods in kind from sponsors that quite simply enabled the Festival to happen. All three have played key, long term roles in making ROTW what it is today and I'd like, on behalf of everyone involved in the Festival and indeed everyone who has ever been to Rhythms of the World, to say a huge and very public THANK YOU.

At the same meeting four new ROTW Trustees were formally appointed - namely David Jenkins, Matthew Wyle, Christine Neal and Mike Ringe and I know they'll do their best to make sure ROTW continues to go from strength to strength

Bob Mardon

Performance Director