

ROTW Fringe Events

Michelle has been working very hard to help co-ordinate a wide range of local organisations who are using the umbrella of the Festival to put on their own events over the weekend. Whilst many are still finalising their events a number are already firmly booked, but below is just a taster:

Hitchin Museum, Paynes Park *Saturday*
Workshops by Richard and Elizabeth York with Victorian musical instruments, Offley Morris Men and a display by Hitchin Folk Club.

Penthouse, Sun Street *Saturday*
Tropical Dub Storm is a club night that has been promoting forest conservation issues for over 10 years. Arts/crafts, record stalls, a Caribbean kitchen. 12noon - 1030pm:

Later, The Tropical Dub Storm: the After Party, featuring the mighty Aba-Shanti-I.
There will be a charge for the After Party.

Full details of all the Fringe venues and events (well as much as we can get by print date) will be in the Programme. There will also be events on Friday 14th - such as at Club 85, to get the weekend going.

Shorty's, Queen Street
Saturday evening and Sunday a full programme that may include Amanaboutadag, Blue Review, Mary's Autumn Reign, Badwellash, Jaonovarc, Ronan Boyle, The Rock Factor, Joe Dumont, Gaz Twist, Viscious Cabaret!

The Market Theatre, Sun Street
Sunday : Sunda: 2pm and 4pm performances by Al ámar raqs sharqi Egyptian folk dancers.

The Half Moon, Queen Street
Saturday 15th:3pm-6pm - West Coast Jazz;
8-11pm Juke Joint. Sunday 16th : tbc.

Rhythms of the World is organised 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
6. Leave your car at home

If you would like to get involved please send your contact details to volunteers@rotw.org.uk

The Rhythms Conversation

On the Sunday afternoon in St Mary's Church we have a new initiative which hopefully will become a regular feature of the festival. This year it features Indajit Singh of the Sikh Messenger in conversation with Michael Iprgrave (formerly the Inter Faith advisor to the Arch-Bishop of Canterbury) on the subject of "How we may live together well".

Diversity of Stages and Promoters

As Rhythms grows we try hard to include as many genres of music as possible. To do this we enlist the help of lots of enthusiastic specialist local promoters, like Bloodline for metal, North Herts Ska Punk and Hardcore, Danny Spice for Hip-Hop, Acoustic stage, DR Promotions and Live Circuit for Indie and rock, Bluntbeats for their chillout music in Bancroft Gardens, Tiger Style records for the Dance DJ's, Deadbeat for Emo, Chris Ripple for poetry and eclectic weird stuff and Sukhi Rayatt for Indian classical and folk.



ROTW Fundraisers

Rhythms of the World would like to say a HUGE thank you to Matt Oakman and Owen Stephen for tremendous job they did in organizing another fantastically successful fundraising gig for Rhythms at Club 85 in April. Their efforts raised a massive £1760 for this years festival.

Thanks to Fruition, Cool Ethan, The Otters, Page Against the Machine, Violet Martinez and Ardent Kicks who all put in stunning performances and to all you everyone who came and to those that couldn't get in!



Rhythms of the World gratefully acknowledges financial support from the PRS Foundation

ROTW is delighted to be able to announce that **Hertfordshire County Council** has just given ROTW 2006 a grant of £5000 towards overall costs of the Festival. We'd like to thank them publicly for their support.

'Hertfordshire County Council wants to support cultural and creative excellence in the fields of arts and is delighted to support Rhythms of the World. It recognises that Rhythms of the World plays a vital role in uniting and sustaining the local community and its economy. Hertfordshire County Council fully endorses the focus on diversity and the involvement of children and young people in the event.' For more on the County Council and its services visit www.hertsdirect.org



Issue 8 June 2006

ROTW 2006 Programme Only £1.00

The ROTW 2006 Programme will be on sale at the beginning of July. 80 pages of essential ROTW Festival information for only £1.

Programmes will be on sale at these local venues:

Hitchin Initiative **Harvest Moon**
Sir John Barleycorn **Club 85**
The Nightingale **The Drinkstop**
The Hair Shop **CD Heaven**
Molly Malones **Merryfields**
The Half Moon **David's Music**
and, of course, at the Festival

Our thanks to all these venues for their help

Steward Training

If you want to help out at ROTW by being a Steward for a few hours over the weekend you need to come along to one of our Steward training sessions being held at Church House, by St Marys Church, Hitchin on

Thursday 22nd June, at 7.30pm
Wednesday 28th June at 7..30pm

Training session last about 2 hours. For further information please see inside, www.rotw.org.uk or e-mail volunteers@rotw.org.uk



ROTW 2006 is on its way!

Welcome to the last newsletter before ROTW 2006. Each year I write that plans are well in hand for an even bigger and better ROTW and this year is no exception. Why? Well, I'm delighted to announce that we have a new stage venue - Hitchin Town Football Club, giving us 11 stages across the Town. Its great to have the Club involved as it's an excellent venue. Why do we need 11 stages? Simple, we've got about 190 acts from all over the world lined up, making ROTW into what must be the most varied, eclectic and all encompassing free world music and arts Festival in Europe, if not wider.

Another venue that has this year joined in with ROTW is No 5 Sun Street. Although not a stage venue No 5 is providing much needed central Hitchin space for helping us manage and support the artists and staff over the Festival, which will make a huge difference to the smooth running of the weekend.

Speaking of planning you may have seen me hit the headlines in The Comet a few weeks ago following some comments I made at a Hitchin Committee meeting. With the introduction of the new Licensing Act there has been a significant increase in the time, effort and sheer hassle factor required to put on any event. My main point wasn't aimed at North Herts District Council, who continue to support the Festival both financially and through a myriad of good will ways, but at national government. The new legislation is in grave danger of making people like ourselves - volunteers - give up trying to organise anything more involved than a jumble sale or a whist drive. The long term effect on communities across the country could be catastrophic, as events like Rhythms grind to a halt under the weight of bureaucracy and communities become more insular. Subsequently I've had a lot of supporting e-mails and phone calls from people around the country engaged in similar endeavours so I think the point was well made, it is a matter of concern for us all.

This years Festival will bring to Hitchin bands and artists from all over the world - from the Amazonian Basin, India, Europe, Africa, Asia and of course, Hitchin. The breadth of music mirrors its origins - spiritual, classical, rap, punk, rock, roll, jazz, blues, bhangra, samba, salsa, folk - virtually all styles and forms. From Korea we have the Dulsori troupe of traditional drummers, From the Amazonian Rainforest we have Neuneneu a group of Shaman musicians of the Mehinaku tribe. We are also having another try at getting The Wadali Brothers who are Sufi Qawwali singers into the country from Pakistan.....watch this space!!


Planning ROTW is a huge task and relies on a great many people, but as we get nearer, and particularly over the weekend itself, we need even more to help us run a safe and fun festival - yes We need You. It takes about 300 volunteer stewards to help run the Festival. We'll of course, provide training and equipment if you can give up perhaps 4 hours (or more) to help us make the Festival happen. More information can be found inside but from me, please think about helping out. The Festival is a community event - put on by the community for the community. If you feel you'd like to put a little back, and have some fun at the same time, please think about helping us make ROTW 2006 happen.

By the 15th of July, all will be in place, the stages set and the artists arrived. All it needs is you and a sunny day. Open your mind, respect yourself, others and the Town and we'll have a great Festival.

Thanks

Bob Mardon
Performance Director

Full details of the Festival and key contact details are to be found at www.rotw.org.uk

Rhythms of the World, PO Box 121, Hitchin, Herts, SG5 2WB Tel:01462 454649  Rhythms of the World is a Registered Charity, No.1090835.

ROTW 2006 July 15,16 2006



Bancroft Gardens : Family Friendly Fun for All

At the ROTW Family Area at Bancroft Gardens this year we have got even more new and interesting activities! For 2006 this includes a professional puppeteer and Harvest Moon (a fantastic shop on Bucklersbury, Hitchin) will be displaying and selling puppets from local Hitchin puppet makers 'The Puppet Company'.

There will be familiar stalls but with some new musical additions. The Music Train is a walk-in stall where children can make their own instruments and take part in workshops on each day. We also have art projects going on around the park (see Tilly's section on Arts Projects) and the usual, ever popular face painting and circus skills areas. We Chris Pape back this year with his slack rope (like a tight rope but slack!) and are looking forward to finding out who has the skill to walk on a wibbly wobbly piece of material!

This year we will also have a table games area provided by Sue Watts and her crew, who welcome older children/young adults to let off some steam playing pool, table tennis etc and as ever a wide variety of foods available. Christine (Stall Manager ROTW) has made a big effort to make sure there is something for everyone!

On a personal note, I would like to thank all of the families who managed their own litter and were also kind enough to help clear the litter left by others at last year's Festival. This is an important part of making our wonderful free Festival as special as it is!! Everyone pitching in, together!

Also, just to let you know I completed my parachute, what an experience! Thank to all of you who have sponsored or donated money - I have raised well over £300, all of which will be spent on the Family activities (face paints, games, arts stuff etc). Of course, any late donations would be hugely appreciated - hint hint!

We look forward to seeing and having fun with you all!

Suzie Hankey

Family Area Co-ordinator



Stewards, Stewards, Stewards:

We need every one!

You all know what a great Festival ROTW is, and it's all put on by volunteers. In order to help us run it we need your help - ideally about 300 of you!. One of the most important aspects of the Festival is safe and effective stewarding - man and woman power on the streets helping, supporting, giving out information, maintaining emergency exits, manning road closures and helping Mums and Dads find their lost offspring!

To run the Festival safely we need people (over the age of 18 yrs, although willing younger hands will be found useful roles) to give up some hours over the weekend, and one evening prior for training. Training this year will be held in Church House, by St Marys Church, where over about 2 hours you'll be given basic training on the role and any equipment you may be asked to use. If you can help by giving perhaps 3 or 4 hours of your time over the weekend we'd love to see you. It's good fun, and makes you feel very much part of the whole Festival.

If the idea appeals, please come along to one of the two evening training sessions at Church House, by St Marys Church, Hitchin on

Thursday 22nd June, at 7.30pm

Wednesday 28th June at 7.30pm

For further info please see www.rotw.org.uk or e.mail your details to volunteers@rotw.org.uk.



Street Art

The Street Arts projects of ROTW 2006 will be even bigger and better, with a variety of projects aimed to educate, motivate and encourage participation by everyone. All the projects have been enthusiastically snapped up by local schools and community centres who are keen to build upon the success and the fantastic achievements of last year.

Sara has been co-ordinating the Lamp Post Banner project, with several Secondary schools busy revitalising these, which once hung, will bring a burst of colour throughout the town. Schools involved are: Highfield, Hitchin Girls, The Priory, Hitchin Boys and St Chistophers.

In the Cloister's area, be prepared to be dazzled by Michael's Aboriginal Art Arch project comprising 7 large arches beautifully decorated with bright, Aboriginal designs. This will provide a stunning backdrop to the river. Those involved include: Radburn, Plinston Hall, Mary Exton, Wiltshire Dacre, St Andrews, Whitehill and Woolgrove.

Martin's Head First Fun Wall (a take on the old Aunt Sally boards at the beach for us old 'uns) will be displayed in Bancroft Gardens on 10 8ft x 4ft boards, offering interactive participation by children and adults alike. Come along and entertain yourselves and your friends - but don't forget your camera! Schools and community centres involved include: Renay's Rascals/Featherstone Wood, Knebworth Out of School Club, Wiltshire Dacre, Purwell, Trotts Hill, Highbury, The Buddhist Community Centre, The Radivissa Centre, The Place.

Rosie and Maxine will be giving the Community Bandstand in Bancroft a colourful transformation, with coloured plastic bags cleverly woven on to garden netting to create fantastic mask and animal designs, ably helped by local Girl Guides groups together with budding artists with special needs.

As always, our thanks go to our sponsors; Brookers and EADS Astrium whose support in providing, preparing and delivering the materials used in these projects has been crucial in turning them into reality.

Please visit the ROTW website for updates on projects and Festival workshops. If you are able to offer further sponsorship for these fantastic projects or offer support, please contact Tilly on 078117 88979.



Our great local companies

Last September was the first time the Sponsorship Team got together to look at our projected budget for ROTW 2006 - seems a long time ago now! We had a daunting figure in front of us, with rising costs in just about every budget area. Well, we should have taken heart from the beginning: after all, this is Hitchin's Rhythms Of The World. Businesses and other organisations from Hitchin and the surrounding areas have yet again stood firmly with us for another year, putting their faith, support and money in what they, like us, believe is such a worthwhile cause. Thank you all.

I'd also like to say thanks to more new sponsors to ROTW 2006. First, Hertfordshire County Council Art's Development Group, a big thank you for your support. Next, Norgans Estate Agents, great to welcome you onboard and a big thank you for your support. Same goes, of course, to Starbucks, a big thank you, and finally to staff at the Royal Mail, Hitchin Delivery branch for some very practical and much needed help. It's great to have you all playing a part.

To all our Sponsors a huge Thank You for your support. You should all be congratulated for helping make ROTW 2006 possible.

David Jenkins

Director of Corporate Sponsorship

Images of ROTW

ROTW is delighted that the 'Images of Rhythms' photographic competition is once again being sponsored by Smart Cartridge of Hitchin.



Use your skill and imagination to capture the image that sums up ROTW 2006 and you could win a fantastic prize. Look out for further details in the Programme and on the website.