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1. Free Networking Events Around Lincolnshire This June:

If you are involved in, or want to develop any kind of arts, crafts or other creative activity that enables people to create their own artwork or performance, then join in some free networking events this June.

Run by EMPAF (East Midlands Participatory Arts Forum), each day is designed to give plenty of opportunity to network, discuss your work and ideas, ask questions, share experiences and find out more information about a range of subjects and issues.

Led by a variety of facilitators (who between them have over 100 years community and participatory arts experience!), the agenda includes:

Group sessions opening with questions such as:

- What are community arts employers looking for?
- What do artists/practitioners need to support them?

A sharing and signposting session covering topics such as:

- Arts Council England
- Creative Partnerships and the Mighty Creatives
- Positive Activities Young People (PAYP) and its preferred provider list

And an open discussion session focused entirely on YOUR BURNING ISSUES, as taken from questions posted on post-it notes during the day.

Plus free lunch!

The events take place from 10am to 4pm on:

- Fri 11th June at IMPart Community Arts Centre, Lincoln
- Wed 16th June at Embassy Centre, Skegness
- Thurs 17th June at Festival Hall, Market Rasen
- Fri 18th June at Leicester Children's Holiday Centre, Mablethorpe
- Mon 21st June at The Hub National Centre for Craft & Design, Sleaford
- Tue 22nd June at Stamford Arts Centre, Stamford

Places are available on a first come first served basis, so please contact Jane Millum at jane@empaf.com / Tel: 07984 199477 to book or visit www.empaf.com for more information.

2. New On-Line Mount Cutting Service Launched:

AOTM member Mal Reynolds of Harlequin Frames has just launched a new on-line mount cutting service for both trade and general members of the public.

Mounts4You offers an on-line mount cutting service using a Valiani Computerised Mount Cutter (CMC). Using a number of different cutting heads, the Valiani has the capability to cut, emboss and draw wash lines for the most complicated of mounts, for both volume and creative artwork.

Multi-aperture mounts in single, double or triple formats, mounts with slips and creative mounts can be produced to customer's requirements.

Visit www.mounts4you.co.uk or telephone Mal on 01673 860249 for further information.

3. Welcome To New AOTM Member:

We are delighted to welcome new member Simon Challis to AOTM. Simon is a photographer and lives in the Wolds & Coast Cluster Group area. His work and details are on the AOTM website.

4. New Lincolnshire Open Studios Handbook:

After six months working with the Open Studios Network, we will be uploading a new handbook onto the AOTM website this month. It will be found on the Members Page, under the *Members Only* section and is titled "**Lincolnshire Open Studios Handbook**".

The handbook has been produced, as a reference source, for all members. The idea is to help all members to understand the background and philosophy of Open Studio events, and to help to improve those events in the future. The nine chapters should answer most of the questions that members ask about regularly. The handbook will be a living document on the website, and it will be updated as, and when, necessary.

5. Latest AOTM Website Update:

The latest major update to the AOTM website is a section for Galleries. It has been launched with the first of what we hope will be many more: The Sam Scorer Gallery. This new section has been introduced as a way of not only raising more funds for AOTM, but also by giving members details of the galleries in Lincolnshire (and also letting galleries know who our members are, for potential invites to exhibit in the future). More exciting website updates are in the pipeline - hopefully, details will be in the July Newsletter.

6. European House Of Arts UK 2010:

On June 18th & 19th 2010 there will be a landmark Cultural Trail Festival in Lincoln. A diverse group of musicians, artists & performers from all over Europe are coming to stage a festival at the University in Lincoln. Local people, local artists, local performers and community groups are all taking part in this last festival of the trail.

The Trail is well under way - they have just finished in Hungary, next stop Zgorzelec, Poland, then heading for Lincoln. Please see the website for info on the trail activities. The core reasons and aims of the Trail are having a significant impact on each town / village that it passes. As you can see from the images and the reports on the "Follow The Culture Trail" website page, they are being very successful in their mission and having a great time in the process!

Artistic disciplines include Art : Music : Dance : Food : Literature : Performance : Workshops : Schools : Theatre : Busking : Morris Dance : Open Mic : Bands : Bars : Community Groups : Barbecue : Debate : Literary Workshops : Traditional Irish Dance : Renaissance Music : Crafts : Stalls : Face Painting : Children's Mask Making Workshop & reading / writing workshops.

Fourteen members of AOTM will be exhibiting at the event in the LPAC building at Lincoln University.

For more information please visit www.europeanhouseofarts.org.uk

7. AOTM Artists Invited To Participate In Beacon Art Bimonthlies:

A programme of bimonthly evening art events will be launched on 1st July, 2010. Beacon Art Project has commissioned Hull-based artist Gillian Dyson to create a unique artwork in response to The Mansion House in Louth, Lincolnshire, the first host venue. The launch is also intended to transform this grade II listed building, built in c.1750 for meetings and assemblies, musical events and exhibitions into an arts centre of significance.

Beacon Bimonthlies will take place in three Lincolnshire districts: East Lindsey, North Kesteven and West Lindsey – hosted, where possible, in unusual heritage locations within the community, not usually open to the public. The events will feature presentations from invited guest artists, taking the form of performances, PowerPoint presentations, film screenings or talks. Audience members will also be invited to participate, by showing examples of their own works and responding to the host venues for presentation at future meetings. A designated Beacon Bimonthlies blog and Facebook page will be created to document and display works of both invited guests and audience participants. Audience members will not be restricted to the visual arts although invited guest speakers will be visual artists.

Beacon Bimonthlies will be offered to the public free of charge and, where there is demand, a free return transport service to the venue will be organised in the area. The aim is to host an enjoyable and inspiring social event where audience members feel they have been inspired by something new, had a chance to participate and to meet new people.

Confirmed dates:

Thursday 1st July 7-10pm

Launch event at The Mansion House, Louth, for which artist Gillian Dyson has been commissioned to create an artwork in response to the building.

Groups are being invited to participate during the event, in particular artists from Art On The Map.

August = summer vacation

Wednesday 20th October

Alford Manor House

(Links with Wolds Words)

Artist Gillian Dyson will be invited back to present her work – in particular, the Mansion House piece.

Artist Danica Maier will be the invited guest to speak about her work.

Presentation of responses to the Mansion House Louth event.

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Please send your news for next month's issue to the Newsletter Editor: graham@forgearts.co.uk

Please note that the order of news articles is based solely on the order that they arrive on the Editor's 'desk'.