



Summer Digital Newsletter 2010

Opening remarks...

My last opening remarks were written in February between snow showers, dreaming of daffodils nodding in the breeze and little lambs gambolling in the fields – well we do now have lambs and daffodils and while I may think the breeze is still a bit sharp, the good folk of Middlesbrough town centre seem to imagine that they're on a Mediterranean beach, judging by the amounts of flesh exposed. This is when I know I'm not a true northerner.

In my garden, the cherry trees have burst into blossom this very weekend, so I'm including the opening verse of a poem I wrote a little while back:

My neighbour's lilac and laburnum
shuffle in the tumbling breeze
The cherry blossom has exploded
sparkling like magnesium
The pavements drift with bright confetti
dancing round our careless feet
It seems a shame to sweep it up
It seems a shame to sweep

TVA has done its bit for local wildlife by hanging bird feeders on the bike shed outside our office windows, and so far there have been two – count them – chaffinches who have become regulars. It's not exactly 'Wildlife Watch' but it's a contribution.

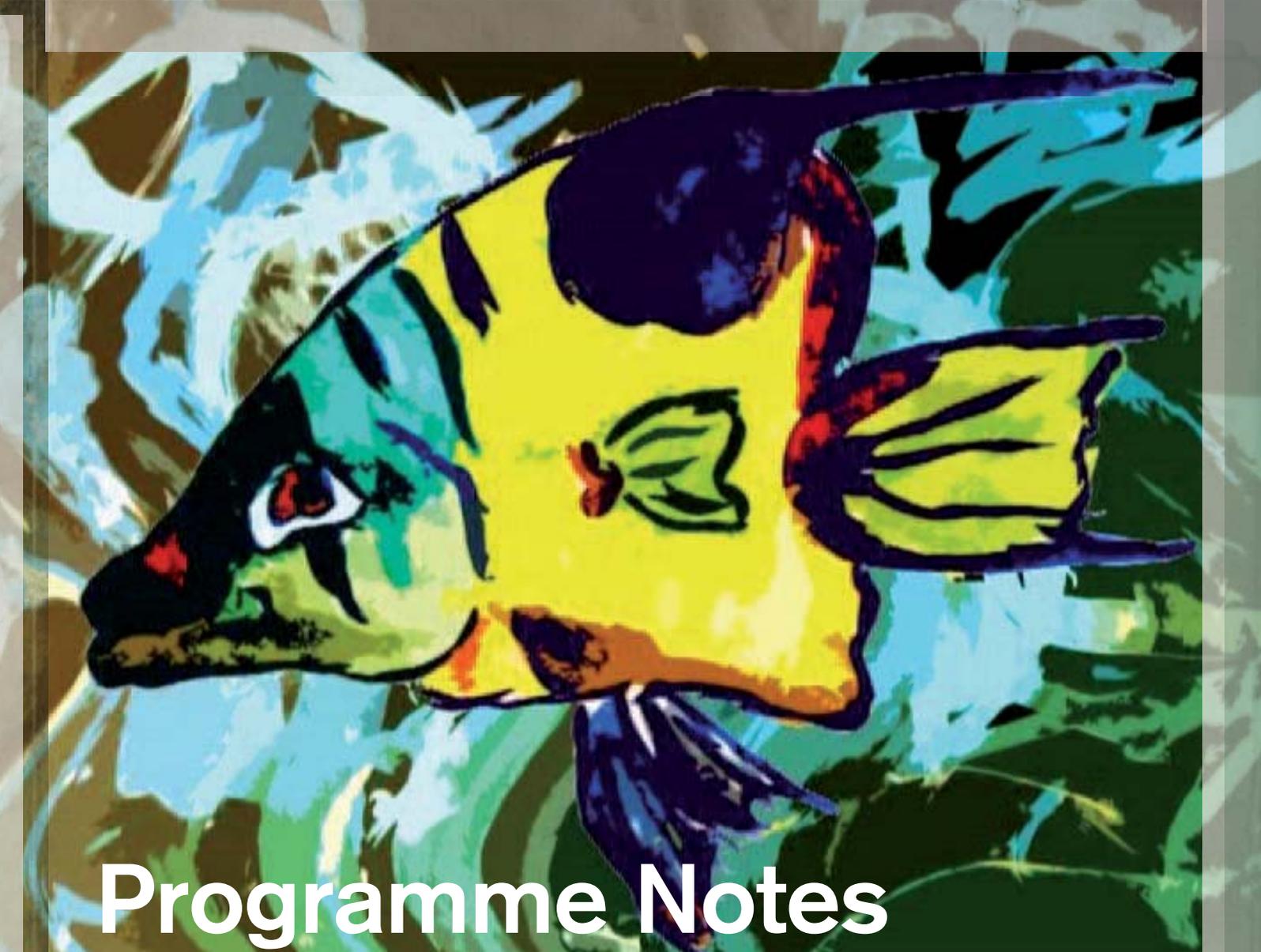
Of course TVA's big environmental news is the fabulous Heritage Lottery Funding for the Green TV project, which I'll leave Joe Dunne to tell you about elsewhere in the newsletter – we couldn't be more delighted, and we feel this project is such a good contribution to the Tees Valley and to some of our key partnerships.

Elsewhere in the office people are about their business with other projects and initiatives, and Andrea our Finance Manager has delved deeper into the world of VAT registration than she ever expected to, and I would explain all about this if only I had room. (And just to say, while we may not find VAT the most obviously appealing or indeed comprehensible topic, it is important to us, and we are grateful for the time and expertise contributed to us from Northern Rock PLC.)

Lots of my time and energy is focussed on WorldFest 2010, coming to a venue near you very shortly, or it has just been and it was fabulous as always. Look out for killer pics, and even better – make sure you're part of them by being there - hearing great music, demonstrating your best soft shoe shuffle and enjoying those festival atmospheres.

Rowena Sommerville

Director, TVA



Programme Notes

This has been a busy and productive period for TVA, and the start of the financial year sees the organisation in good health and with all sorts of very interesting and very varied things to be getting on with.

Launching Green TV has been a major focus, obviously the WorldFest has taken up a lot of time and space, and the staff team and the TVA Board have been busy thinking about TVA – its offer, its values and its future. This has been time well spent, and our awayday was particularly fruitful, as well as effecting good interaction between the staff team and some new Board members.

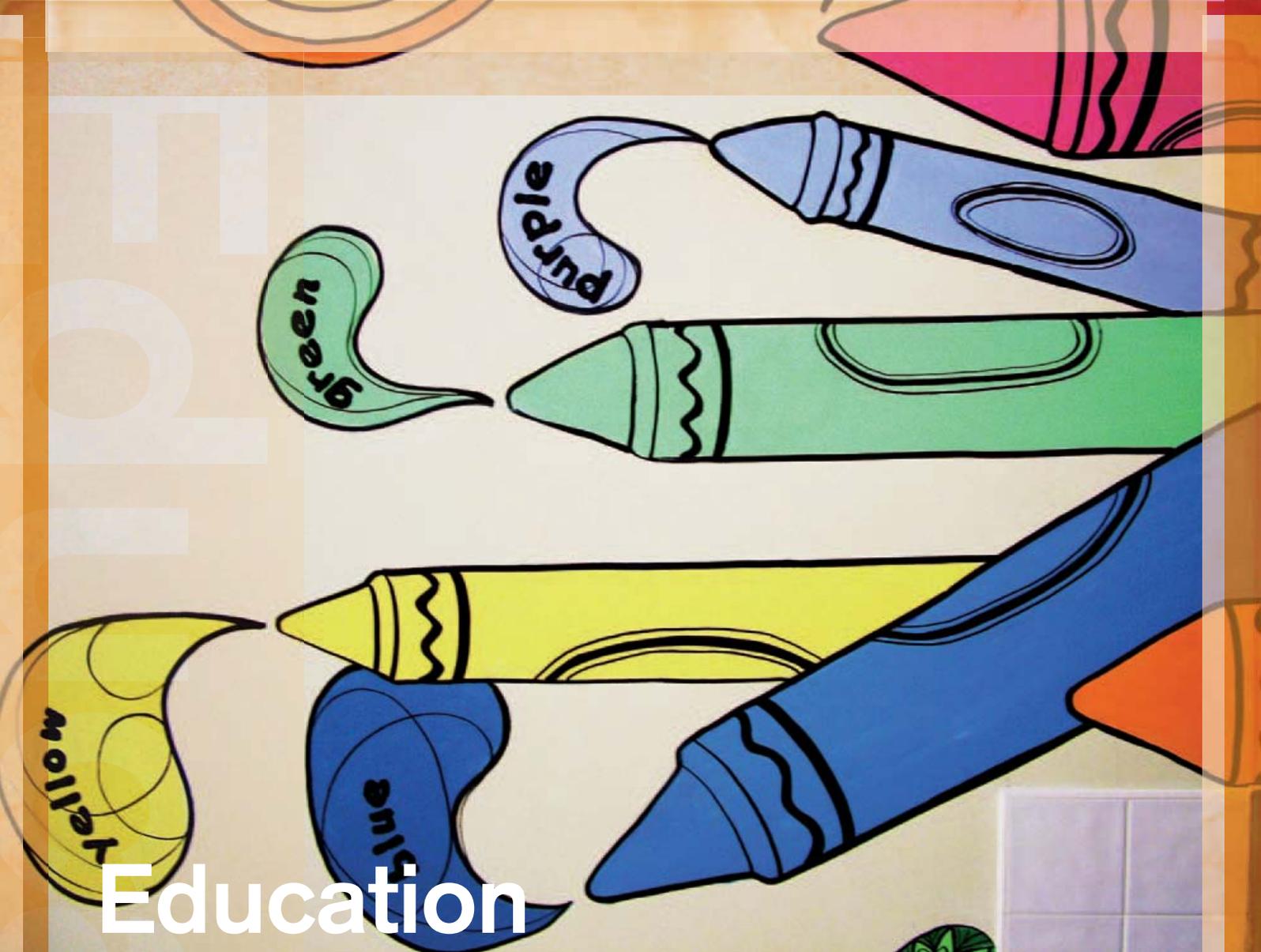
Maurice has been a presence in the office, as Refugee Arts Worker and WorldFest Organiser, answering phone calls in a variety of languages, and making a heroic journey back from French Guyana through volcanic ash on trains and boats and planes, clutching the TVA camera tripod all the while. Now that's what I call a proper sense of values.

See you there!



Rowena Sommerville
Director, TVA





Education

Moving On has started in Darlington, working with looked after young people who are currently in the process of leaving the care system. In the very creative hands of Vicky Holbrough, Nicola Parkin and support staff from the leaving care team, the group are designing, creating and making visual artwork and working towards their Bronze Arts Award over the next few months. With thanks to Awards for All and Darlington Borough Council for their funding and support.

Our Harmony film is currently in post-production and we'll be seeing the premiere of that at the WorldFest Youth Event...look out for a cameo role from the Mayor!

The ladies and gents of the Big Sky Arts project in Hartlepool are continuing to make excellent music (and more than a little noise) on Wednesday mornings, and by the end of May we'll have a disc of new tracks ready. Elsewhere in Hartlepool, teenage mums and mums-to-be are impressing us all with their creative writing and (very) new babies - multi-tasking their way to a moving piece of work created in the taster session, which is included in this newsletter later. We know there are good things to come from this group over the next few months.



Education



OTHER PROJECTS

Artist Lyndsey Roe has been creating a mural at Acklam Whin Children's Centre in Middlesbrough, working with parents and tots, and representing child development stages, whilst in Redcar, artist Rachel Gretton has been working with young people from Rye Hills School and Redcar Youth Centre to create wonderful glass pieces and a large-scale artwork to be installed at the Youth Centre.

Arts Award Training

We recently ran an in-house Bronze/Silver Training session for Redcar Youth Service - thanks to them for their warm welcome and plentiful chocolate. We're looking forward to lots of young people achieving their Arts Awards in the borough.

We're running public training on 12th October at the TVA Offices but look out for another date in August and now that we're a Gold Award Trainer, we'll be running the first Gold Top-up Training in November. To book go to www.artsaward.org.uk

And finally...

Amongst managing live projects I'm now looking at future projects with Barnardo's, Arts Specialist Status Schools and a couple of others, so I've got my work cut out over this Summer Term – long may it continue!



Jane Gray
Education Officer



Education

Ballad of the Young Mothers' Hands

**This hand can feel the movement of my baby
It is the hand that my baby girl will hold onto
This is the hand that will brush
through my baby girl's long locks**

I like my hand on my bump
When my baby gives me a thump
He is special in every way
And I will love him everyday

**Although my veiny hand can't make the Spock sign
When I become a mammy my hand
Will feed and change my child, be gentle
The first to hold my baby and wipe away her tears**

I like my hand on my bump
When my baby gives me a thump
He is special in every way
And I will love him everyday

**This hand will be the first hand to hold
My unborn son: it feels the movement of him
This hand will comfort when he's down
This hand will brush away his tears**

I like my hand on my bump
When my baby gives me a thump
He is special in every way
And I will love him everyday

**This hand will cradle my baby
This hand could match my baby's hands
This hand could comfort my baby forever
These hands will learn new things daily**

I like my hand on my bump
When my baby gives me a thump
He is special in every way
And I will love him everyday

Participants of *Getting It* - Artists: Bob Beagrie and Andy Willoughby



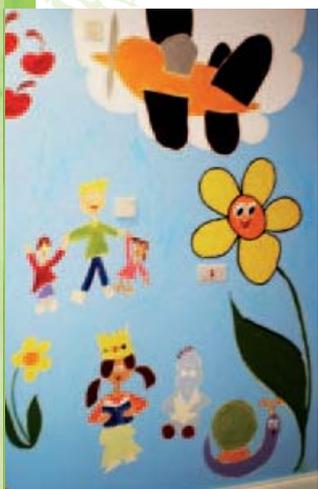
Heritage & Environment

What better way to start this newsletter than with wonderful brilliant news? As has been mentioned earlier by Rowena, in late March we learnt that we were successful with our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Green TV project, to the tune of £245,100!

Green TV is an innovative and exciting programme of environmental and heritage engagement through the arts for the Tees Valley. The overall aim of the project is to raise awareness of and increase public access to key areas of outstanding natural heritage within the sub-region. For more information about the project, please visit www.teesvalleyarts.org.uk/greentv

In an attempt not to bore and confuse you too much with the ins, outs and complexities of what will happen, how and when, Green TV will have artists working alongside conservation site workers and teachers delivering a diverse range of exciting arts based activities engaging primary school pupils, their families and the wider community/ public with local natural heritage/ wildlife sites across the Tees Valley.

At the end of April, Rowena, Jeremy Garside (Wildlife Trust), Caroline Found (RSPB) and I interviewed a shortlist of ten very strong candidates for the five available artist positions for year one. I am very pleased to say that Lindsay Duncanson, Adrian Moule, Tony Charles, Paul Dolan and Kev Howard were appointed, and I'm thoroughly looking forward to working with them to deliver Green TV.





Heritage & Environment



And things are starting very quickly indeed, with a launch event that took place at the beginning of May, and then residencies in the first five schools (there will be 10 a year) starting in late May, running through to the end of July. Therefore I am frantically organising everything, and loving every minute of it – finally being able to run this project that I believe in so strongly, am so passionate about and which has been in the pipeline in one shape or another since I started at TVA over 2 years ago.

Relatively little else is currently happening on the project front apart from Green TV, but I suppose I can be forgiven for that. I have recently concluded two other projects, which, based on the feedback of participants and partners were a great success, and from my point of view, thoroughly enjoyable to work on. Those were the mural at Easterside Children's Centre, where Shirley Wells created a fantastic mural, transforming an area at the centre into a vibrant and stimulating reading space, and the Going Underground project, that interesting and unlikely project engaging primary school learners with geodiversity, biodiversity and history through a local quarry site using visual arts, photography, drama and creative writing.

So please check the webpage (www.teesvalleyarts.org.uk/greentv.html) to keep yourselves updated.

To sort of borrow a phrase from Orange;

the future is bright, but this time, the future is green!



Joe Dunne
Heritage & Environment Officer





stART

It's that time again, when Simon sends an email around with the deadline for the next newsletter! At the moment The stART Project is halfway through its first cohort and I don't have any news to write about so thought I'd play at being a journalist; I grabbed a camera and notebook and set off to interview the young people of cohort 1.

This is what they want to tell you (avid readers) about the project!

I love The stART Project because it builds your confidence. The activities are straight up, simple, interesting and exciting. The course leaders are on the same wavelength as us. Very good atmosphere. Very chilled out. Amir Din, 19

A fun experience, getting to meet new friends and learn different types of art. Going to The Baltic was unusual in a good way; a thrilling experience. JLegg Tru Story, 18

stART has boosted my confidence a lot, it's made me more relaxed and a better artist. It's an absolutely amazing experience and I'd recommend it to anyone who wants to follow an artistic career. Jamie Simpson, 18

I'm into writing but doing a visual arts course has helped in ways you wouldn't expect. It's made my writing more descriptive and given me loads of new ideas for horror narratives.

Peter Jackson, 19



stART...

“

I like everything about The stART Project. I like all the different work we do, it's never boring. Since being there I've learnt a lot of things that I never knew before. I've learnt to like my work and not to just throw things out because everything I do is my own work. Simone, 16

It's great to work with responsive, creative young people away from the usual teacher/pupil dynamic. stART proves that non formal educational environments work. Nicola Parkin – Artist

I like the way it's appealing to all, whether you're artistic or not the project helps young people create some lovely art. Jamie Wisdom – Project Support Worker

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So there you are; instead of me rabbiting on about how great this project is, you have a message directly from the participants themselves. This message demonstrates a genuine demand for the project; **stART MUST CONTINUE!**



Tim Coyte
Projects Officer



Gambia experience...

by stART participant Peter Jackson

Jamie Wisdom, stART worker, was recently caught up in the chaos surrounding the Icelandic Volcano. Here stART participant Peter Jackson describes Jamie's experiences.

I interviewed Jamie about his experience in Gambia; he told me how the Icelandic volcano had caused him to be stranded. Travelling had been put on halt and therefore his experience of Gambia had changed dramatically.

He first travelled to Gambia after being invited to a friend's wedding, on the day of the wedding he became aware of the news reports about disrupted travel. In the week before the grounding of flights, Jamie didn't have a chance to experience the real Gambia and mainly followed his British friends to restaurants after being told of dangers outside of the tourist area. Once Jamie had confirmation that he was stranded in Gambia, he and his partner Nicky decided to investigate more of Gambia. Jamie spoke with Ebrima a gardener who invited them to his home and this was perfect for Jamie and Nicky to explore Gambia.

After Ebrima completed his workday they followed him to his home and en-route he experienced a surreal change of life, the tourist location had free running water and many other luxuries whereas in Ebrima's village, water was collected from a well. Jamie helped a 16 year old girl filling buckets of water. They continued on to Ebrima's home and passed children playing piggy in the middle, not with a ball, but with an old flip flop yet they couldn't stop smiling with enjoyment.

Making it to Ebrima's home they were greeted by his family and presented with a drink consisting of water from the well and an orange powder which applied flavour. Ebrima showed Jamie and Nicky his portfolio of achievements in basic ICT skills and Jamie wondered why he worked as a gardener. Ebrima told him his father paid for his education and ever since he passed away Ebrima couldn't further his education. After halting his education Ebrima focused on earning for his family. Before leaving, Jamie offered to give money to Ebrima who told Jamie to hand it to his mother before he had to travel back to the tourist resort. Saying their goodbyes Jamie left clothing for Ebrima and his family.

Starting off as a wedding soon became an experience Jamie and Nicky will never forget, making new friends and giving them a greater understanding of the world.

Peter Jackson





Worldfest 2010

Well, WorldFest 2010 has come and gone, and if you missed it then you really missed having a good time, hearing great music, seeing exciting and diverse musicians and performers, and being with joyful audiences in exuberant atmospheres.

We kicked off at ARC Stockton with the 100 drum salute, followed by Dennis Bovell and his International Orchestra and the Pablo U-Wa band from Paris; the Youth Event in the Crypt of Middlesbrough Town Hall was particularly well-attended and showcased a real range of young talent from the region, with music that ranged from Rap to Ave Maria to big band swing, plus excellent artwork displays and a short film made with young Muslims called 'Harmony on Tees'; the Community Event was lovely with delicious food, varied enjoyable bands and performers and a captivating cultural costume parade; and then the Gala Night in Middlesbrough Town Hall began with a bang – 100 drums again – followed by the foot-tapping, barn-storming sounds of Dennis Bovell and his Dub Band, and the legendary veteran reggae stars Misty In Roots – the joint was jumping!

Big thanks to Kev Howard for the photos on these pages.

If you didn't make it along this year then please make sure you get it in your diary for next year; WorldFest is a really different, special and enjoyable event – a warm welcome and a good time is guaranteed for all.

Rowena Sommerville and Maurice Dezou
Festival Co-ordinators

Worldfest 2010

Love Revolution



Misty in Roots - Gala Night



Dennis Bovell - Nuit d'Afrique



Flava - Youth Event



Holly Shahverdi - Youth Event



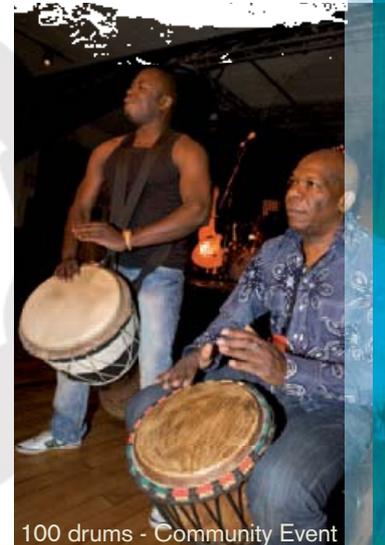
Salam UK - Community Event



Cultural Showcase - Community Event



Qawwali Singer



100 drums - Community Event

Tees Valley Arts can work with you to plan and set up a programme of creative activities, find a suitable artist, help to frame a budget and secure funding, and then manage the project, both artistically and administratively. If you have an idea you would like to discuss, please contact us:



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