

News Lines



Spring
Bulletin
2008

3

Storyscape

Can you imagine an artefact that will tell a story? It has been done before with Japanese Kamishibais, Indian Khavads and European miniature theatres, but thanks to a grant from The Arts Council Mythstories has been able to commission a contemporary artist to come up with a brand new storytelling object. The storyscape will have a two fold use, not only serving as a new exhibit within the museum but also featuring with storytelling Xanthe Gresham in a brand new performance storytelling piece.

The storyscape telling a Shropshire tale will take its place within in a revamped Shropshire Gallery in July, and Xanthe's storytelling piece will be premiered in the museum in August. At present Sara Grant Thorold (formerly Shropshire County Council Arts Service) and Adrian Plant (Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery) are short-listing the artists for interviews in late February.



And with all this in mind we have been busy...

Giving The Museum A New Look For 2008

In the Summer of 2007 the museum was lucky enough to be able to take up a long term loan of the "Artbox". A giant treasure chest topped with two raven automata, it was originally commissioned by the Eric Robinson Arts Trust to tour paintings from the trust's collection around schools. Fortuitously, within the museum, it serves as a storyscape of the tale of "the treasure of Stokesay" while also providing a much needed exhibit store. However to show off the new exhibits to best effect we needed to remodel the Shropshire Gallery. As you can see the task is well on its way and visitors will be able to enjoy a much more interactive experience in our local stories gallery in the coming year.



One Thing Leads To Another, And Another...

Revamping the gallery space has also given us the chance to move the Society for Storytelling Library to a new location within the museum.

As luck would have it this was not a moment too soon, because we needed to find extra space for computer equipment to display two new archives.



The London Centre for International Storytelling's Archive of performance storytelling is an audio archive of storytelling performances, talks and interviews collected between 1983 and 2007. It was compiled with the aid of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the use of artists, students, academics and researchers and Mythstories is proud to be chosen as one of the locations where it can be viewed.

Also a grant from Museums, Libraries and Archives enabled us to professionally archive "Breaking the silence" a Shropshire story collection project undertaken by Helen East for Shropshire Libraries in 1994.

A Whirlwind Roundup Of What's Gone On Since Newslines 2...



Tales & Trails Trophy 2007

In September Telling Space went walkies, holding the annual Tales & Trails Trophy on Nesscliffe Hill. Intrepid storytellers of all ages made their way to the top of the hill to tell their stories.

And we're pleased to announce that the trophy was unanimously awarded to one of the younger tellers, Amber (pictured above left).



Sally Pomme Clayton – Rama & Sita x5
After winning Storyquest event of 2006 we received our prize in November with five performances by international storytelling star Sally Pomme Clayton for Diwali. Sally told the story of Rama & Sita to 4 classes from local schools and a meeting of The Family Telling Place using the museum's automata.

Gypsy Traveller Cultural Skills Exhibition

On Thursday 15th November Mythstories played host to Home Start's Traveller's Cultural Skills Roadshow. The free entry drop-in pulled in interested visitors on a busy market day in Wem, and allowed us to show off the Romany Gypsy Storytelling Wagon exhibit made by pupils from the Thomas Adams Secondary School with funding from The Local Network Fund and support from The Traveller Education Service.



Toot Toot Toot On Your Little Flute

In November Mythstories was the venue for a North American flute workshop. Tutor Pat French helped participants make their own pentatonic (5 note scale) flutes from plastic waste pipe with just the use of hand tools. None of us are expert players yet, we went to the workshop with nothing and came away with our own musical instruments. Let us know if you want a repeat workshop so you can have a try.



There's Always Something Different At The Family Telling Place

October's meeting celebrated the Mexican Day of the Dead, November brought Sally Pomme Clayton and The Story Of Rama & Sita. December was all about Stars and in January things were magical with Rob the Magician. On Sunday 10th February at 11.00 am we will be making a Japanese storybox (a kamishibai). What next? Well, you decide come along on Sunday and plan the future programme.

Watch Out Birmingham Here They Come Again!

Year 10 pupils from Thomas Adams School are working with storyteller Anna Conomos at Mythstories towards the Young Storyteller of the Year contest. Can they sweep the board? Watch this space!

Volunteers

We welcome two new volunteers, Julia and Hazel, who are busy cataloguing the books and exhibits in the museum. Do you want to help? Just ring, we'd be glad to see you.

Dates for your Diary... Dates for your Diary... Dates for your Diary...

The Family Telling Place at Mythstories museum 11.00am to 12.30pm Sundays 10th February, 9th March, 13th April, 11th May, 8th June ring 07969 541552 to check if there are available spaces

Telling Space at Mythstories museum (unless stated) 7.00pm- 9.30pm Tuesdays 26th February, 25th March, 22nd April, 27th May.

Festival at the Edge 2008 Storytelling Workshops at Mythstories

Sat 16th Feb. Storytelling with the under five's with Sal Tonge **Sold Out**

Sat 1st Mar. Beginning Storytelling with Clive Hopwood

Sat 15th Mar. Faith in Stories with Donald Smith

Sat 29th Mar. Step Forward in Storytelling with Helen East

Sat 12th Apr. Not Waving But Drowning with Cath Aran

Sat 26th Apr. Voice with Giles Abbott **Sold Out**

All £15/£10 conc.- for details ring 01939 236626

Rhymes and Tells at The Six Bells, Bishops Castle every 4th Sunday except Bank Holiday weekends 8.00pm info 01588 680685

Tales at the Edge at the Cinnamon Café, Bridgnorth every 2nd Tuesday 8.00pm info 01694 771379

The Swan Club at the Newhampton Inn, Wolverhampton every 1st Monday 8.00pm info chandstory@tiscali.co.uk

2008's **Festival at the Edge** will be from the 18th – 20th July. Weekend and session ticket prices are on the website www.festivalattheedge.org

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Mythstories, museum of myth and fable
The Morgan Library, Aston Street, Wem,
Shropshire, United Kingdom. SY4 5AU
01939 235500 / 07969 541552
info@mythstories.com
www.mythstories.com
registered charity number 1086122
vat registration number 728 9557 79