

News Lines



Summer
Bulletin
2008

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StoryCraft

In May Mythstories launched a new club mixing storytelling and craft activities for half terms and holidays; naturally enough the club is called "StoryCraft". It is aimed at children from 6 to 13 and their parents and will take place at 10.30 until 12.30 when the kids are off school.

The inaugural meeting acted as a taster session where those present tried their hands at mosaics, shadow puppets, stained glass painting and making kamishibai and kavads. Pictured below is Kavad making in progress, can you recognise that storyteller's portrait on the top?

The first meeting of the Summer holidays will be held in the museum on Tuesday 22nd of July, come along and join us!



The Museum Welcomes Some New Exhibits

Thanks to the generosity of some well travelled storytellers Mythstories has some new exhibits on display this year from the Indian subcontinent.

We'd like to thank Helen East & Rick Wilson for acquiring a beautiful Ola Palm book depicting the avatars of Vishnu. It is a screen made from dried and cured Ola palm leaves stitched together then etched and stained that has small semi circular flaps which reveal pictures drawn with lamp black and fixed with gum.



We'd also like to thank Peter Chand for thinking of the museum while on his travels. Peter brought back some beautiful artefacts to allow us to add authenticity to the museum's Diwali celebrations later this year.



A Whirlwind round-up of what's been going on...



Tir Na Nog

Back in October last year we spent a week in Ysgol Llanddulas creating stories with the Year 5/6 class to bring local legend and mythology back to life. This was part of an inspiring project led by Glynis Davies, English Literacy Advisery Teacher for Conwy, to create a storytelling garden for the school. We

returned to the school on May 2nd to tell tales to the whole school in the completed garden. The weather was fine, Ali managed to get the first sunburn of 2008, and Dez had the honour of cutting the red tape to declare the "Tir Na Nog" open. Let's hope that, once upon a time, every school will have a storytelling garden of their own.

It Started With A Story, But How Did It Finish?

In January Mythstories hosted a visit from a Year 2 class group from Chandos Primary School in Birmingham accompanied by artists, crafts workers and animators from Craftspace. In the words of Deirdre from Craftspace, "the children went on from the session at Mythstories to explore different animation and metal techniques. They then developed their own ideas for characters and in groups wrote 3 short stories involving their characters which we have gone on to

animate. Each of the children have made their own characters out of recycled metal boxes who then feature in one of the films. Each of the films has one of the children narrating the story and another group of children have worked with a teacher at school to create a soundtrack. We have also made a short documentary film about the project." This picture of the animation process was taken by artist Melanie Tomlinson.



LCIS Archive Training Completed

Kate Norgate from London Centre for International Storytelling has now completed the training of Mythstories staff in the use of the unique audio archive of storytelling performances, talks and interviews collected between 1983 and 2007. Visitors can now share

our new skills to gain access to a treasure trove of storytelling history.



Young Tongues Compete In Young Storyteller Of The Year Awards

Three students from Thomas Adams School in Wem and sixteen from William Penny Brookes in Much Wenlock took their chance to take centre stage at Birmingham Library Theatre to compete in this year's Young Storyteller Of The Year Awards. They found they were up against fierce competition, and this year, although not victorious, returned having thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



Knobs, Knockers & Mysterious Doors

Mythstories has been creating stories again, working on a Culture Zone project in partnership with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Dance Xchange and Telford & Wrekin Library Service called "Sense A Story". We have delivered storywalks to pupils from 4 to 11 years of age, then led them to create their own stories. Newport Infants chose door knobs and knockers as the theme of their storywalk around their town and found a very spooky door, impossible to open, which became part of their very own tale of Newport's past.

The school's stories were interpreted in music and dance performances shared with parents and fellow pupils. Then the Library Service helped the children make large story chests containing artefacts to help in the telling of their tales. At the start of July we will be appearing at a Culture Zone celebration at Enginuity in Ironbridge to lead other pupils in storywalks around the site to discover the story chests and hear their tales.

Workshops Prove A Great Success

The Festival at the Edge “edge extras” workshops held at the museum really seemed to have made participants happy. Here is a just a small selection of their comments.....

“Dynamic and well structured, very practical. Thank you so much for an invaluable day! Loved the participative approach to everything.”

“Just finished the brilliant series of workshops. Made new friends and learned lots of storytelling skills. Please repeat!”

“Excellent workshops. Has inspired me to try and set up a local group; great teachers, students and staff.”

“I really enjoyed the workshops – all different but all building skills and confidence. Thank you.”

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

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

Storyscape The premiere of the Mythstories Storyscape created by artist Louise Frances Evans and told by Xanthe Gresham Thurs 21st August, 2.30pm. Tickets £10 - Arts Council England Lottery Funded.

StoryCraft for half-terms and holidays at Mythstories museum 11.00am to 12.30pm Tuesdays 22nd July to 26th August. For children from 6 to 13years and their parents.

Telling Space at Mythstories museum (unless stated) 7.00pm- 9.30pm Tuesdays 24th June, 22nd July (storywalk details ring below), 26th August.

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 except August info 01694 771379

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



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