

SANDWELL CULTURAL FORUM

February 2025 Newsletter

Join in!

Spectra's Community Company



Meeting on **Wednesday mornings** in Bearwood
For adults with learning disabilities
£5 per session



Working together to create shows, films and performances
by exploring music, movement, acting and visual arts

For more information, or to discuss how we can support access
to these sessions, please email hayley@wearespectra.co.uk

Funded by
UK Government

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ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Spectra's Community Company is open for new members! This group for adults with learning disabilities meets on Wednesday mornings in Bearwood. The Community Company is at the heart of what Spectra does, and works together to create shows, films and performances by exploring music, movement, acting and visual arts. The cost is £5 per session. Please share with anyone you think may be interested.

For more information, or to discuss how we can support access to these sessions please email hayley@wearespectra.co.uk.

[Explore here the previous projects and performances by the Community Company.](#)

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED MEMBER IS... BEARWOOD COMMUNITY HUB.

Situated in Bearwood, their mission is "to foster joyful cultural activities and provide life-changing services for and with local residents, communities, and organisations."

They do so much for the local community including sessions for community wellbeing, stay and play sessions for babies and tots, a grief kind space, ESOL, after school play sessions and a Wednesday Warm Welcome with a Bring Your Own Art Club!

[To find out more visit their website here](#)



Opportunity!

Spectra is looking for a chair!

DEADLINE

9am, Mon 3 February 2025

[Details here](#)

Next meeting date:

Tuesday 29th April 2025,
1.00-3.00pm
Venue TBC. Agenda TBC

Does anyone have any ideas for the agenda focus?

CALL OUT FOR FREELANCE ARTISTS!

Women & Theatre | Getting to know Freelancers (no deadline)

W&T want to broaden their connections with Freelance Facilitators based in Birmingham, and the surrounding areas, for our projects from 2025. We are looking for Facilitators that have an artistic practice and have experience in working in community, hospitals, and with young people.

The call out is open to all, we are particularly keen to hear from freelance artists who are underrepresented in the industry including those from the Global Majority, the LGBTQ+ community, people who identify as deaf, disabled or neurodiverse and those who are working class.

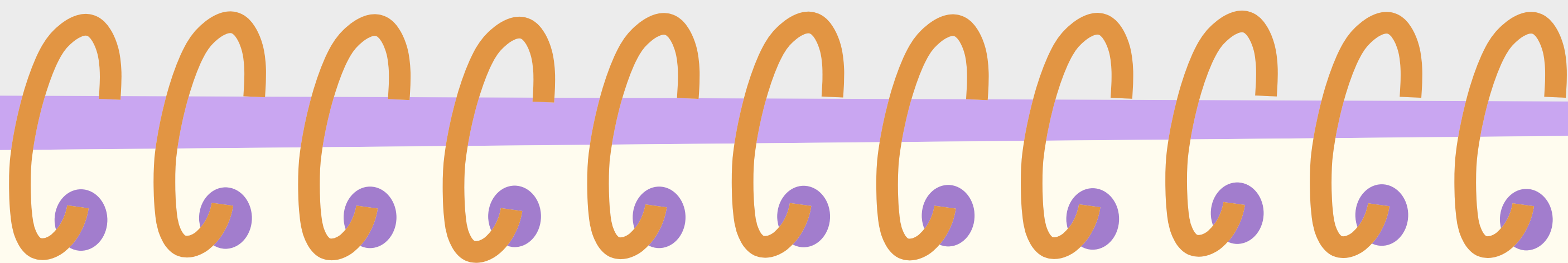
Please note this is a general call out to widen our knowledge of local freelance artists, and not an application for a current role. Send through your name, CV, or any link to your work to info@womenandtheatre.co.uk

Join the Sandwell Cultural Forum

NOW

Do you know someone who wants
to join the Sandwell Forum?
Email Stacey via:
stacey_bagdi@sandwell.gov.uk

Sophina is the new Creative Black Country Creative Advisor for Sandwell. CBC have support available of up to £1000 for Community Groups in Sandwell to try out new creative activity.
[You can find out more online](#)



Feature Events Listing



Click on the text below to find out more about the events and to book

Sandwell Museums:

Events for February will be their website and Facebook:

Sandwell Libraries:

- Breakin' Foundations - FREE dance and design workshops across libraries this half term including Bleakhouse Library, Central Library and Thimblemill Library

More [Event listings here](#)

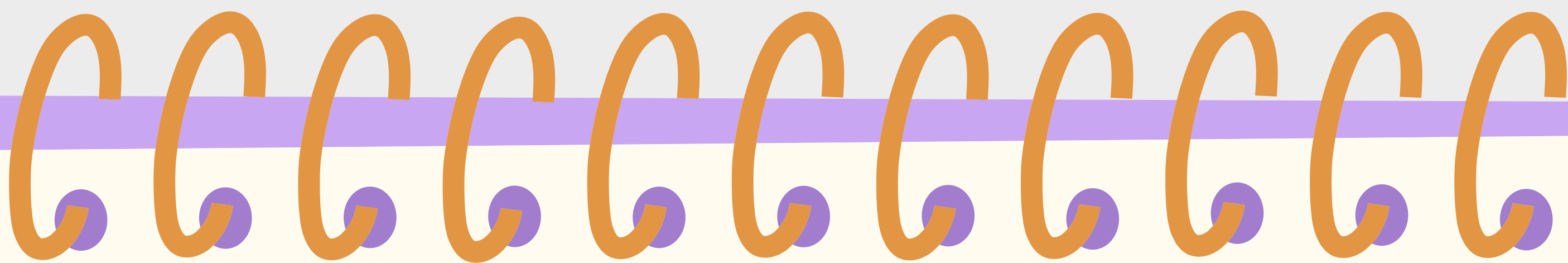
Community Events:

- Smethwick Puppetry Festival: Puppet shows for children, families and adults, workshops, short films, Q&A panels, an exhibition and more, all taking place across 11 community venues in Smethwick during February half term. 15th - 23rd February, free or 'pay what you can'. Full programme and booking
- Dance Workshops: An exciting dance workshop by ME Dance that invites young people (ages 6-10) to discover their creative abilities through traditional styles of African Dance, guided by expert dance teachers. Monday 17th February, 10am & 11:15am, Wednesbury Library. Book your FREE spaces now.
- Animal Puppet Making Workshop: by Swallow's Wings Puppetry. Come along for a fun-filled animal puppet making workshop for ages 4-12. Let your imagination run wild as you bring some animals to life! Monday 17th February, 2pm - 3pm (drop-in), Blackheath Library, FREE to attend, no booking required. More info here.
- The Old Green Time Machine: Theatre show for ages 3+ by Coalesce Dance Theatre. Two intrepid and quirky time travellers are on an urgent mission to save the world - it's a shame their carbon friendly time machine bicycle has seen better days! Friday 21st February, 11am & 2pm, Tipton Library. Book your 'pay what you can' spaces here.
- Unicorns in Uniform! Meet the Author - Tracy Curran at Bear Bookshop - Monday 17th February 2025
- Women Who Redefine Colour Bookclub - Highway of Tears by Jessica McDiarmid - Thursday 27th February 2025

CALL OUT FOR EVENTS IN SANDWELL!

If you have an event in Sandwell, PLEASE add it to Visit Sandwell by clicking here!

We want more Sandwell events on Visit Sandwell - if you need any help with adding events, please contact Stacey!



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Midlands Metropolitan University Hospital

The Art of Care is a series of talks and conversations for artists and creatives, hosted by New Art West Midlands (NAWM) and DASH in partnership with Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust.

The Art of Care will explore how art can address themes connected to the hospital setting and shape future arts programming at The People's Gallery at Midlands Metropolitan University Hospital.

The programme will take place between February and March 2025, both online and in-person at Midlands Metropolitan University Hospital (MMUH), Grove Lane, Smethwick, B66 2QT

Session 1 | Welcome & Introduction

- In-person: Tuesday, 11 February, 10–12 PM
- Online recording: Shared Tuesday, 25 February

Session 2 | What to Do, What to Do

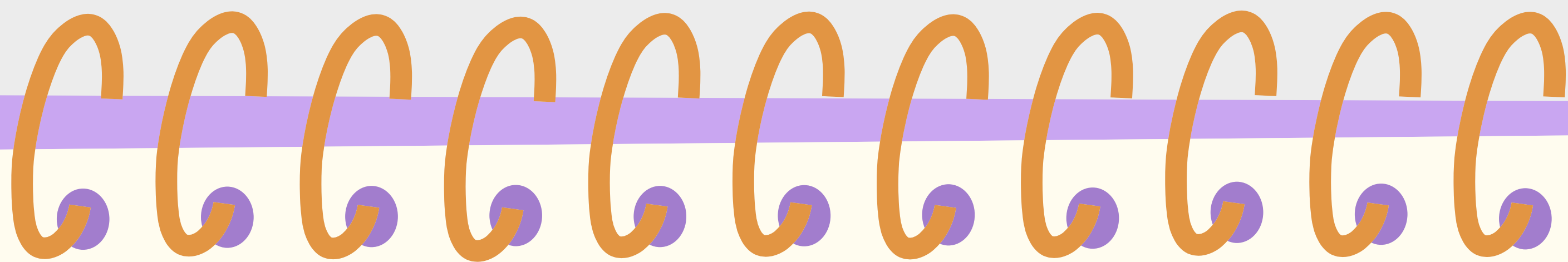
- In-person: Wednesday, 26 February, 10:30–12 PM
- Live Online: Tuesday, 11 March, 2–3 PM

Session 3 | How to Do It

- In-person: Tuesday, 4 March, 10–12 PM
- Live Online: Tuesday, 18 March, 2–3 PM

[Book here](#)





Events Listing



SMETHWICK PUPPETRY FESTIVAL

15 - 23 FEBRUARY 2025

ACROSS 10 VENUES IN SMETHWICK

PAY WHAT YOU CAN YOU CHOOSE THE PRICE!



Puppet shows, workshops, exhibitions and more, for children, adults and families



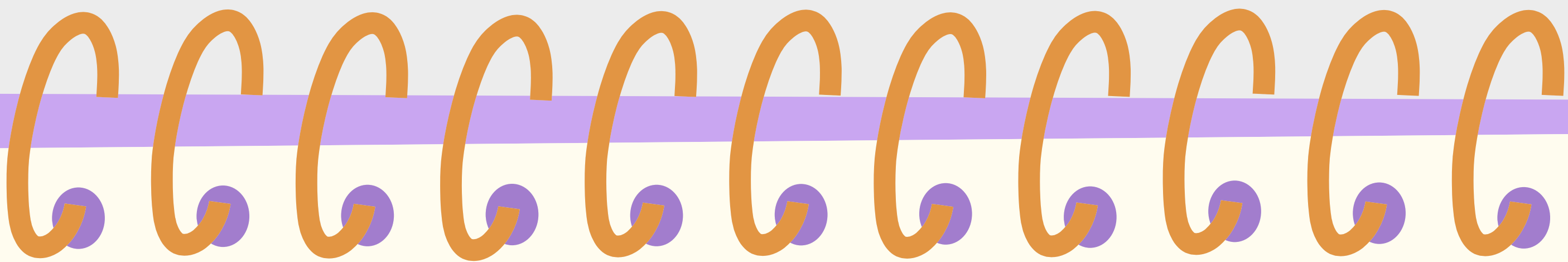
Full Programme & Booking:

bctouring.org.uk/puppet



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Events Listing



Catch this FREE play at Wednesbury Library and Thimblemill Library this February

Window Wanderland

Window Wanderland is a national, award-winning project, which provides resources for communities around the world to set up their own magical window displays, day or night, throughout the year.

Wanderlands bring neighbourhoods together, reduce social isolation, and inspire creativity. Whether it's creating a window in your home, attending a workshop or walking the window trail, this is a celebration of Bearwood and its community.

All people of Bearwood are invited to create a window to display for the Window Wanderland Trail.



Cultural Forum Members List

1. 1000 Trades
2. Anthony McFarlane (Artist)
3. Black Country Touring
4. Bear Bookshop
5. Bearwood Community Hub
6. Bearwood Promoters
7. Big Bear Music
8. Birmingham Opera
9. Blue Sheep Books
10. Birmingham Music Archive
11. Canal & River Trust
12. City of Birmingham Orchestra
13. Chance Heritage Trust
14. Curl Girl Productions
15. Creative Black Country
16. Drama AND SOME cic
17. The Art Yard
18. Powered by Can
19. Kickstarts Dance
20. Outside Left
21. Wild Lives Forest School
22. Learn with Lolonyo
23. Luke Perry (Artist)
24. ME Dance
25. Method in Motion
26. Midlands Metro Hospital
27. Multistory
28. Fantastic Journeys
29. Quennie Lim (Artist)
30. Sandwell College
31. Sarah Cole, writer
32. SCVO
33. SIPS
34. Smethwick Heritage Centre
35. Stan's Cafe
36. SWEDA
37. The Parakeet
38. The People's Orchestra
39. We are Spectra
40. West Midlands Heritage Building Trust
41. Women & Theatre

& Sandwell Council Officers

