

**Arts, Culture and Events  
Lifelong Learning Directorate  
Flintshire County Council  
Annual Report  
September 2009 – August 2010**



**Introduction**

This last year has been one of challenge and change for the Arts, Culture and Events section. Sadie Mossman, Clerical Assistant moved on in January and Graham Smith, Community Events Officer left the section in April, both are greatly missed and their contribution to the section over the years is very much appreciated. In May 2010 we were joined by our new Clerical Assistant, Lynne Caul and by Beth Ditson, our Community Events Officer at the end of August, they are both already a vital part of the ACE team and we look forward to working with them on developing new projects and ideas in the future.

The Flintshire Arts Strategy 2008-13 is continuously informing our planning and thinking which ensures that we fulfil the section's role within the Lifelong Learning Directorate and Flintshire County Council as a whole.

Trefor Lloyd Roberts, Arts Development Officer has been evaluating and developing provision for schools throughout the year and for the first time both Dancefest and Flintshire Schools in Performance were held side by side in a Youth Arts Fest during June and July. In another new development Dancefest was held in the Anthony Hopkins Theatre at Clwyd Theatr Cymru which gave the young participants an opportunity to experience performing on one of North Wales' premier stages.

Throughout the year the team was able to attract external funding for a varied programme of community based activities including the Cultural Olympiad Cauldrons and Furnaces project funded by the Legacy Trust, and Art in Nature an Arts Council of Wales funded project. We were also able to support some regional events such as Helfa Gelf; artists open studios initiative which covers the four counties of Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire and Flintshire.

Although it may seem that the economic climate will have an effect on our financial situation, the creativity and innovation of all of the ACE staff, Trefor Lloyd Roberts, Beth Ditson and our clerical support Lynne Caul and Lucy Hughes, will ensure that Flintshire remains a culturally enriched county to be proud of.

**Gwenno Eleri Jones  
Arts, Culture and Events Manager**



## Schools Programme – Opportunities for Pupils

### Visual Art Exhibitions

#### Foundation Phase Exhibition

10 November – 7 December 2009

Five schools took part in the exhibition at Clwyd Theatr Cymru's Education Gallery showing a range of skills and techniques explored with Foundation Phase pupils.

Penarlag CP School

Sandycroft CP School

Ysgol Llanfynydd

Wats Dyke CP School

Westwood CP School

#### Katie Scarlet Howard Exhibition

'Folklore & Fantasy'

Foundation Phase Project

March 2010

This exhibition, held as part of Flintshire Artsfest 2010, was a visual celebration of Welsh folklore created by pupils from Queensferry CP, St Ethelwolds VA & Sealand CP under the guidance of professional artist Katie A. Scalett Howard. A beautiful

exhibition of work by reception and year 1 pupils whose talent and enthusiasm was prominent in the work produced.



### Youth Speaks

This year 10 schools in all took part in the youth speaks public speaking competition organised in partnership with the Rotary Club, five in the intermediates and five in the seniors.

Four Flintshire teams went through to the district final:

Intermediate Competition

Trophy Winners:

Castell Alun High School

Subject:

'Does Tourism have a positive or negative effect on the planet?'

Chair:

Jo Swan

Speaker:

Molly Russell

Vote of Thanks:

Shaun May

Also through to District Final: Ysgol Maes Garmon

Subject:

'Computer War Games – corrupting children's minds?'

Chair:

Lloyd Antrobus

Speaker:

Eben James

Vote of Thanks:

Keiran Roberts

Senior Competition

Trophy Winners:

Argoed High School

Subject:

'To Be or Not To Be?'

Chair:

Jacob Bragg

Speaker:

Dominic Cawdell

Vote of Thanks:

Thomas Blomfield

Also through to District Final: Ysgol Maes Garmon

Subject:

'Social Networking' – at your peril!

Chair:

Osian James

Speaker:

Rhys Williams

Vote of Thanks:

Sian Owens



### **Dancefest '10**

Dancefest '10 was a first for the ACE team with the festival being held on the main Anthony Hopkins stage at Clwyd Theatr Cymru. The event attracted performances from 22 Schools, 18 Primary and 4 Secondary, and 3 community groups. Performance standards were excellent with pupils from the age of 4yrs to 17yrs taking to the stage.

Participants - 610  
Audience - 750

*"My pupils had a fantastic time rehearsing their dance and performing at Clwyd Theatr Cymru was the icing on the cake"*

**Westwood CP**

### **Filmfest '10**

Film production by Flintshire's young people is continuously being developed within schools and the community, and Flintshire is pleased to provide a festival to showcase this growing talent. This year seven primary schools and three high schools submitted creative and inspiring films.

Participants – 150  
Audiences - 191

*"Fantastic to watch my film on the big screen"*

### **Writing for Film Workshops**

Writing for Film workshops culminated with the original scripts written by pupils being filmed and screened during the Filmfest. This year's project was extended to include the pupils from Gollfyn CP, Queensferry CP, Bryn Deva CP, Wepre CP, performing their own monologues on film.

Participants – 70 KS2 Pupils

Pupils were quoted as saying:

*"I felt like a real film star" and "I had no idea how much work went into making films".*

The project was funded by Deeside Community Arts, Academi and Flintshire County Council's Arts, Culture and Events section.

### **Rural North – Journey to Jo'Burg**

Three primary schools from the Rural North of Flintshire were given the fantastic opportunity of working with professional Director / Writer Janys Chambers, musician Kevin Paton and visual artist Andrea Davies to create original drama performances based on the book Journey to Jo'Burg.

The performance was performed to high acclaim at the Emlyn Williams Theatre as part of the 'Platform of Excellence' during Flintshire Schools in Performance.



### **Schools:**

Gronant CP  
Ysgol Trelogan  
Ysgol y Llan Whitford

**Participants:** 90

**Audience:** 185

*"Staff and parents were enthralled by the whole performance and thought that it was an excellent piece of theatre. Pupils thought that working with professional Director Janys Chambers was fantastic and were amazed when they saw their ideas and words in the script. One pupil commented, "We made a lot of new friends from the other schools and will enjoy going to the High School with them."*

*As the Head, I was very impressed with the way the children reacted to artists and thought that the standard of the final performance from the three schools was the best piece of drama I have ever seen children perform."*

**Margaret Madoc Jones**  
**Headteacher Ysgol Trelogan**

*"Pupils grew in confidence as a result of participation in this project – some real stars emerged who had been hiding their lights under a bush.*

*It also raised the profile of the performing arts to parents and staff could see how much the children had gained from the project. Other members of staff are now very enthusiastic and would like to be involved in future projects."*

**Kath Royles**  
**Headteacher Ysgol y Llan Whitford**

### **Creative Arts days**

The Creative Arts Days project has given pupils from Deeside Primary Schools an opportunity to sample life at their chosen Secondary School. Pupils from year five attend the High school for two days of arts experiences including Drama, Dance, Music, Percussion and Visual Arts. A high energy and experimental performance ends their experience with an audience of teachers and High School pupils viewing what has been created over the two days. This transition project is a prime example of how the arts can be utilised as a tool to promote confidence and enthusiasm for future education.

Participating High schools  
John Summers HS  
Connah's Quay HS

Participating Primary Schools  
Bryn Deva  
Custom House  
Golftyn  
Wepre  
Queensferry CP  
Sandycroft  
Taliesin  
St Ethelwolds



### **John Summers High School**

#### **Dance Residency**

May – July 2010

In conjunction with NEW Dance a dance residency was held at John Summers High School culminating with a performance alongside other schools in the Flintshire Dancefest

**Participants: 7**

**Funders**

**DCA**

*'Pupils have really benefited from such a wonderful experience'*

**Chris Stamford John Summers High School**

### **Flintshire Schools in Performance**

Flintshire Schools in Performance 2010 had a very varied programme of performances by 14 schools and 4 community groups which showcased the excellent standard of creative teaching and artistic talent we have in our schools and community groups in Flintshire.

Participants - 628  
Audience -1200



*"Thank you for such a fantastic evening, I felt really proud seeing my pupils on stage. They gain so much from this experience and remember it for years after leaving school.... A highlight for us all"*

**Bryn Deva School**

### **Flora's War**

#### **Clwyd Theatr Cymru**

Supporting Schools in accessing CTC's Flora's War performance / workshop through providing funding via a Service level agreement  
Schools were offered half price admission

#### **Participants**

Twenty six schools attended

*'Thank you so much for a wonderful, emotional and fabulous acted production'*

**Golftyn CP**

### **Japanese Youth Exchange '10**

The Flintshire Optec Youth Exchange Trust funds and facilitates the Flintshire and Japan Youth Exchange on an annual basis. The trust was set up by the Japanese company Optec, which was based in Buckley in the early 1990's. The company invested £120,000 to set up the trust which ensures a continuing cultural exchange between young people from Flintshire and Japan. The objects of the Optec Youth Exchange Charitable Trust, which is registered with the Charity Commission, are to promote, maintain, improve and advance education by arranging and funding exchange visits for young people to the towns of Murata, Zao and Kawasaki in Japan. The aims are to promote and foster among young people an understanding and appreciation of Japanese culture, education, commerce and recreation.

A Presentation Evening was held on Monday 2 November at 7.00p.m. in the Council Chambers, County Hall, for perspective candidates, 16 students attended from five of the eleven Flintshire secondary schools invited.

The evening gave the opportunity for students, and their families, interested in applying for the exchange a chance to hear what the 2009 students gained from their experience by way of a power point presentation. Their parents were also on hand to give an insight from their perspective.

Following the information evening thirteen applications were received and all the students fulfilled the short-listing criteria and were interviewed. Short listing took place on Thursday 26 November and interviews on Thursday 3 & Friday 4 December. Six students were selected to participate in the exchange for 2010 and each student was made aware that they would be going to Japan subject to the same number of students being selected from the Murata area.





The Flintshire Students were:

Emily Southall	Alun, Mold
Christopher Holmes	Alun, Mold
Eleanor Thompson	Alun, Mold
Alex Green	Alun, Mold
Robert Byrne	Alun, Mold
Alice Wood	St. Richard Gwyn

In May 2010 we were informed by Norio Takahashi, the organiser in Murata, that he had secured the support of two other neighbouring towns to Murata, Kawasaki and Zao, which ensured that there would be six students participating from Japan.

Kousuke Sato	male
Kei Inomata	female
Emiko Toyohara	female
Sachie Kitagawa	female
Yassushi Watanabe	male
Shino Hiraizumi	female

The Japanese students arrived in Manchester airport on the 27 of July and spent their first night in the St David's Park Hotel. They met their Flintshire families the following morning at a reception held at County hall by the Chair of Flintshire County Council, Cllr Owen Thomas. During their time in Flintshire the students visited London, Cardiff and the Flintshire families arranged a varied programme of activities visiting sites in the local area.



On Monday the 9 of August all twelve students travelled from Manchester, via Munich to Nirata Airport in Japan before catching the bullet train to Tokyo where they stayed overnight. During their time in Murata, Kawasaki and Zao the Flintshire pupils were able to immerse themselves in Japanese culture including doing Japanese calligraphy, drawing a picture on a Kokeshi Doll and visiting a Buddhist Temple. The Flintshire students returned home on the 25 of August after a once in a lifetime experience.

### **Cauldrons and Furnaces – Cultural Olympiad Schools Project**

The Cultural Olympiad Project worked with schools across the Flint area interpreting the heritage and history of Flint Castle, through Drama and Visual Arts. Artists and pupils were encouraged to consult with local history groups and Flint Town Council to ensure that local heritage and folklore was used as inspiration for the work produced.

Workshops took place from January to March 2010 with a performance at Clwyd Theatr Cymru on the 11 February 2010 in the Clwyd Room, the work created was then adapted for a community event in Flint Castle on Sunday the 25 of July 2010. The visual artist, through workshops with the pupils, created the props, sets, costume and lighting to the highest professional standard.

This was fantastic opportunity for the young people of Flint to explore their local history through creative methods, and to work with arts professionals from the local area. The local community also had an input through conversation and consultation and as audiences to the performances.

Working with a professional script writer/director, primary schools in Flint town were involved in creating a series of dramatic interpretations of parts of the Castle's historic past.

The visual artists were employed to work with the performance artist to create props and costume, staging and atmosphere. They created sound, light and projection, and animation based on the drama element of the work.



Drama Director: Robin Goddard  
Visual Artist: Ben Davies

Schools participating:

Flint Gwynedd	40 pupils
Cornist Park	30 pupils
St Mary's Flint	30 pupils
Ysgol Maes Edwin	14 pupils
Ysgol Croes Atti	30 pupils

## **Schools Programme – Opportunities for Teachers**

### **Dancefest INSET**

NEW Dance practitioners, the regional community dance company for Flintshire, Denbighshire and Wrexham, led an inspirational day of dance for Flintshire's teachers. Participants were led through the theory of dance delivery before taking part in practical activities which could be taken back to the classroom for use with their pupils. All of those who attended had a series of workshops from NEW Dance to help them prepare for Dancefest '10.

14 teachers attended this combined Introductory and Intermediate INSET

*"Fantastic Day" – Ysgol Maes Pennant*

*"Can't wait to get my pupils dancing" – Queensferry CP*

### **Flintshire & Denbighshire Drama Teacher's Forum**

In partnership with Denbighshire County Council and Clwyd Theatr Cymru, Flintshire's Arts, Culture and Events section have developed a Forum for Drama teachers from each county to come together to access training and discuss new initiatives as well as to network. Members of the forum have had the opportunity to work with Tim Baker, Education Director at Clwyd Theatr Cymru. The forum is able to inform the Arts, Culture and Events section as to what kind of support and training they require to develop drama back at school.

### **Art in the Environment INSET – Foundation Phase**

As part of the Art in nature project at Wepre Park Mai Thomas and Ticky Lowe ran a training day for Foundation Phase teachers looking at sculpture and natural form. Nine teachers participated and were given practical ideas on achievable sculptural projects for Foundation age pupils.

Participating Schools

St Mary's RC Primary School, Flint

Venerable Edward Morgan RC Primary School, Shotton

Llanfynydd CP School

Cornist Park, Flint

Ysgol Trelawnyd

Ysgol Bryn Deva, Connah's Quay

Northop Hall CP

Abbotts Lane CP, Penyffordd

## **Community Programme**

### **Flintshire's Public Art Projects**

The Planning section of Flintshire County Council has been able to access up to £20,000 per project of new development money from the commercial sector to fund a series of public art pieces within the county. The Arts, Culture and Events section is responsible for managing the selection, community consultation and installation of each project, in partnership with the Development Companies and the Planning section of the council.

### **Mold Library – St Modwen Development**

With money allocated for public art by St. Modwen, the developers of Mold Precinct, artist Brian Fell was commissioned to create a public art piece for Mold to be placed on the bridge link between the Daniel Owen Centre and the Library, facing towards the precinct.

A community Project, working with Gwernaffield and Mold young people was devised to celebrate the unveiling of the artwork 'One Voice'.

The project involved members of the community, children and adults, working with professional visual artists to create large scale portable sculptures and banners based on the history of the area. People of all ages were able to participate in a variety of activities including researching the local history, creating the artwork, and music and dance workshops in preparation for the unveiling ceremony. Similar workshops took place in the Bryn Gwalia Communities First area of Mold, who also took part in the project.



The project took place in Bryn Gwalia on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of September and in Gwernaffield on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2009. All who took part in the project were invited to participate in a procession from the Daniel Owen square to the Mold Food Festival site on Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> of September, showcasing the artwork created during the workshops in a carnival type event. On arrival in Mold an unveiling ceremony took place for the artwork.

### **External Funding**

Funding was secured from Cadwyn Clwyd, £4000 towards the cost of the project, and Gwernaffield Community Council fronted the application, this is evidence that the local area were backing the proposal. Funding was also secured from Mold Town Council - £200, the Mold and District Civic Society -£200.

### **Connah's Quay – Llanarth Road Development**

The Connah's Quay Public Art Project was funded by St. Modwen Developments, and a selection committee of Town and Community Councillors, College Students and School Pupils were set up. Artist Martin Heron was selected to create the artwork 'Spirit of the Quay' which was based on the industrial heritage of the region and the new retail development at Ffordd Llanarth. The artwork was installed at the end of July 2010.



### **Lidl Mold**

The new Lidl development in Mold has also commissioned a public artwork by Martin Heron, which was accepted by the committee of community representatives and the Lidl company. The artwork is due to be installed in the grounds of the new store early 2011.

### **Saltney Development**

Morrisons PLC have commissioned 'Broadbent, Artists, Designers, Makers' to produce a piece of public art. The final art piece will explore Saltney's relationship with the River Dee and the livelihood it supported. The design of the art sculpture takes the form of a boat's hull and is made of steel, copper and wood.



### **Helpa Gelf – Arts trail 2009**

In 2009 eighteen Flintshire artists took part in Helpa Gelf, including three artists who were in residence at Rhosmor Village Hall and four at Trelawnyd Village Hall, funded by Cadwyn Clwyd.

These were artists who worked from their own homes without a purpose built studio and were unable, as a result, to invite the public to see them at work. By hiring the village halls these talented artists were able to show visitors a variety of skills and techniques, from lace making to book binding, from watercolour painting to abstract art. Being able to offer such a variety of experience within one venue was a great benefit to attract visitors into Flintshire during the Helpa Gelf period. There were also practical activities on offer to visitors at these studios, as well as at other studios dotted across the county.



### **The Big Draw**

#### **The Campaign for Drawing**

As Part of the Big Draw 2009 artists Mai Thomas and Ticky Lowe ran a drop in workshop at Wepre Park, Connah's Quay for all ages and abilities. Those who took part had the opportunity to look at seed heads through a microscope and create large drawings of what they saw. Over fifty people called in to take part throughout the day.

### **Art in Nature Year 2**

Six posts were advertised in a-n magazine for three Resident Artists and three New Media Artists to co-ordinate and assist with the second year of the Art in Nature project. Applications were received from 39 artists with 7 short listed for interview for each post. A leaflet was created each term for marketing the project and sent to schools and community groups, 25 groups/schools were selected to participate in the three terms.



Taking inspiration from Wepre Park, one of Flintshire's best known countryside parks, schools and community groups were given the opportunity of working with professional Artists. Participants looked at the landscape, natural objects within Wepre Park grounds, and created art work to be exhibited at the end of each term within the visitor centre at Wepre Park.

Seven artists were employed to run the project, four Resident Artists, Mai Thomas and Ticky Lowe, Patricia Jones and Ann Bridges, who were in residence at Wepre Park Visitor centre, Chris Elliot, Thea Stallwood and Chris Oakley, were new Media artists who ran workshops with schools and the local community creating films of the work produced.

During the first of the three residencies Mai Thomas and Ticky Lowe worked with schools and community groups to create textile, felt and willow sculptures based on the seeds found within the grounds of Wepre Park. During the residency the artists also created their own work based on their experiences and the natural objects they found while at Wepre.

The second artist in residence was mosaic artist Tricia Jones who also ran school and community workshops. Tricia created beautiful abstract mosaics during her residency based on the snow and ice woodland scenes she experienced while working in the park. These delicate interpretations of Wepre Park using this ancient art form were on display at Buckley Library throughout the summer.



During the third term of the project renowned artist Ann Bridges worked with schools and visitors to Wepre creating a visual diary of her time within the park. Ann documented the change of the seasons from spring to summer through drawing the plant life she saw while wondering the woodlands.

Each group participated in a final exhibition at the end of each block/term which was situated within Wepre Park Visitor Centre, with a final overall exhibition held at Buckley library, and a Private Viewing of the work was arranged to celebrate the culmination of the groups' Art in Nature experience.

### **Flintshire 10K**

The 10k race and the Flintshire Fun Run were once again held in September starting from the Leisure Centre in Mold. The male 10K winner was Ricky Challinor, Liverpool Harriers and female winner was Marilyn Kitchyn, Tattenhall Runners. Over 120 volunteers from Flintshire helped out on the day in a variety of roles including marshalling and manning drinks stations.

354 people took part in the 10K with a further 238 in the Fun Run.

### **Flintshire Bowls Competition**

The event was hosted by New Brighton Bowling Club with a total of 17 bowling clubs from Flintshire represented. The winners were Colin Smith and Fred Picton from Coed Talon Bowls Club

Teams entered were: Airbus, Argoed, Aston Park, Bryn Gwalia, Coed Talon, Cilcain, Flint Coleshill, Gladstone, Greenfield, Hawkesbury, Mancot, New Brighton, Northop Institute, Penyffordd & Penymynydd, Saltney, Sychdyn, Treuddyn.

### **Over 50's Talent Contest**

This Year's talent contest was co-ordinated by Wrexham County Borough Council and held in the Memorial Hall, Wrexham. From Flintshire 14 acts applied to take part with 7 going through to the final evening performance. The winning act hailed from Wrexham.

### **Night Out Scheme 2009/10**

There were 40 Night Out performances organised in Flintshire this year by 27 different promoter groups, 19 shows were in Community First areas, 2 in the medium of Welsh. Artist Fees of £26623 were covered by Night Out and the Net Cost to Flintshire was £1870. Attendances were 2430, an average of 60.8 per show, 237 volunteers were involved in the organisation of these activities.

Night Out is currently celebrating 30 years of working with the communities of Wales. Night Out values its relationship with the arts officers in Flintshire who work closely with the scheme to ensure local communities can take advantage of high quality performances available.

Night Out offers community groups (the promoter), who have access to a suitable venue (e.g. Community Centre/Village Hall/School etc.), the opportunity to host live arts performances including plays, dance shows, jazz, folk & classical music concerts, poetry, story telling and many other art forms.

The scheme eliminates or minimises financial risk to the promoter. It allows for performances to be staged in virtually any venue regardless of size and facilities such as stage, sound or special lighting.

The scheme can even help the promoter raise up to £100 or even more towards their funds.

### **Beauty & the Beast Night Out Tour**

By Fairgame Theatre Company – November 2009

Night Out Tour to

- Ffrith
- Mostyn
- Sandycroft
- Mold

*'..... a beauty of a production'* Mostyn Community Centre

### **Tall Tales Night Out Community Hall Tour**

by Clwyd Theatr Cymru – December 2009

Night Out Tour to

- Higher Shotton Community First
- Holywell Community First
- Llanasa
- Connahs Quay

*'.... Thoroughly enjoyed the show, fantastic actors, excellent entertainment'*

Llanasa Village Hall

### **The Princess & Pea Community Night Out Tour**

By Proteous Theatre Company – January 2010

Night Out Tour to

- Gronant
- Northop

*'Thank you so much for helping us get a fantastic professional performance'*

Ysgol Gronant PTA

### **'My Mother Told me not to Shout' Night Out Tour to Schools**

Action Transport Theatre

March 2010

Opera performance by Action Transport Theatre toured to Community First schools in Higher Shotton and funded by Deeside Community Arts

- St Ethelwolds
- Bryn Deva School
- Queensferry School
- Venerable Edward Jones School

Audience 350

*'Pupils were fascinated'*

Queensferry CP

*'My first time watching an opera... was like a pop show with posh voices'*

Pupil of St Ethelwolds



### **Rural North ACW Community Arts**

Workshops - July 2010

A series of Community Arts Workshops. Young people were given the opportunity to work with a professional Visual Artist

Workshop Venues:

Pennyffordd Community Centre

Gronant Children's Centre

Mostyn Community Centre

Total Participants: 50

Funding

Gronant Family Centre

ACW



### **Cultural Olympiad – Cauldrons and Furnaces Community Project**

Banner making, movement and dance and percussion workshops were held in schools during July 2010 with the same pupils that performed at Clwyd Theatr Cymru in February during the Cauldrons and Furnaces Schools Project, with a community workshop held on Thursday 22 July.

were performed at Flint Castle on Sunday 25 July 2.00-4.00pm. The whole event was recorded through photography and film. The theme of the afternoon was based on the scripts created in the first stage of the project and the overall theme of cultural invasion and integration.

Banners, stories and percussion based on the school and community workshops

Cauldrons and Furnaces is part of a three year initiative funded by the Legacy Trust to celebrate the Cultural Olympiad with a major event in 2012. The artistic director, Robin Goddard, will be bringing together all the artwork created during the three years in a large extravagant performance at Flint Castle. Visual artists Ben Davies and Judith Wood will work alongside Robin to create banners, projections, costume, props, instruments and lighting. The performance will include contemporary dramatic interpretations produced by over 200 young primary school pupils from Flint schools, percussion pieces created on hand made instruments by over 100 young people with special needs from Flintshire's special schools and choreographed dance pieces by 100 secondary school pupils from the Flint area.

Flint Castle and the area around it has been occupied, invaded and fought over during civil wars. However, the performance won't be a historical pageant slavishly following the historical highlights of Flint Castle. As with other castles in 'The Ring of Iron' Flint Castle had a dual purpose – 'to keep people out' and 'keep people in'. The castles were regarded with pride and awe by the builders and with hate and detestation by the people they subjugated. Present day attitudes are preservation and recognition of their importance in Welsh history. The Olympic rings can be viewed as chains that bind or the meeting point of minds and recognition and celebration of cultural diversity. The Cultural Olympiad provides the opportunity to open a gateway from past events to the future where history meets inspirational contemporary international artistic displays of art, drama, music and dance.



The aim is to transform the political struggles of Flint into a visual feast of performance art and challenging feats of dexterity performed by the young people. They will 'mirror' the various dramatic events with innovative alternative representations. They will build bridges of understanding and appreciation of other cultural art forms from around the world. The youth project will combine circus acts, including acrobats, tumblers, plate-spinners, jugglers, stilt-walkers, magicians and fire-eaters. The young people trained by internationally renowned artists, including dancers, circus artists, singers and musicians will tell the epic story of Flint Castle through, drumming, gamelan, samba bands, singing, acting and storytelling. Life-size puppets and giants will stalk the site, while huge effigies fly above the performers and audience. Youth choirs will mirror the drama played out during the performance with a variety of song ranging from traditional Welsh folk song to World music. The event will treat the audience to an epic visual and oral spectacle of breathtaking proportions. The vibrant artistic extravaganza is intended to celebrate the diversity of cultural accomplishments and recognise the need to foster international respect, understanding and integration in Wales.



The project will support the learning, skills and personal development of young people through links to our education programme and create unique collaborations and innovations between communities and cultural sectors.

Flint castle will come to life in a unique display of youth, sharing the Olympic values of 'excellence, respect and friendship' and the Paralympics vision to 'empower, achieve, inspire'. During the workshops, rehearsals and the final performance the youngsters will explore a variety of demanding and innovative art forms which will challenge their abilities, attitudes and understanding, while unlocking their creative abilities. The performance will leave a lasting legacy that improves the cultural life of both participants and the local community, while providing the youngsters with access to new skills, inspiring them to become involved with future community activities and events.



## Artsfest 2010

In all 21 performances and workshops were delivered in 12 locations across the county, with 7 of the 21 events happening in the professional spaces at Clwyd Theatr Cymru. It is important that Artsfest events are spread throughout Flintshire and the organizers attempt to match up performances and workshops with suitable spaces to give participants and audiences the very best experience possible.

### Venues

Gwaenysgor Village Hall  
Mostyn Village Hall  
Hawarden High School  
St David's Hotel Ewloe  
Clwyd Theatr Cymru  
Springfield Hotel Halkyn  
Bethesda Chapel Mold  
Edith Bankes Memorial Hall Northop  
Connah's Quay High School  
St Mary's Church Mold  
Holywell Art and Craft Mill  
Rhosesmôr Village Hall

One of the festival's main aims is to arrange participatory workshops for the people of Flintshire to develop their creative and artistic skills. This year nine workshops and classes were arranged including dance, music, poetry and the visual arts with people of all ages and abilities.

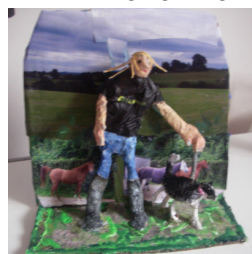
### Workshops

Poetry: Simon Armitage Masterclass

Street Dance: Connah's Quay High School to perform with 2Faced

Choral Singing: Abermorddu CP School to perform with Mike Peters

Choral Singing: Ysgol Gynradd Glanrafon to perform with Ieuan ap Sion



Ceramic Sculpture: With three primary schools and Katie Scarlet Howard

Patchwork workshop: Dot Sherlock

Paper sculpture workshop: Luned Rhys Parri

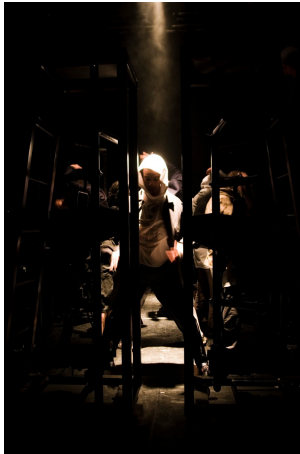
Abstract painting workshop: Judy Gough

Goldwork embroidery workshop: Golden Hinde



This year 2,737 people attended the events arranged by the festival as audiences or participants - this does not include the number of performers within the Flintshire County Music School, the various school choirs or the ceramic sculpture workshops.

To ensure that we are able to employ the very best performers and artists the Arts, Culture and Events section of Flintshire County Council aims to attract external funding from a variety of sources to supplement the core budget.



#### **Core Budget**

£6,183

#### **External Funding**

Cadwyn Clwyd: £11,000 for events in rural Flintshire

Arts Council of Wales: £1,100 towards Katie Scarlet Howard's fee

Academi: £250 towards Simon Armitage's workshop fee

Total grant funding: £12,350

The main aim of the Flintshire Artsfest is to present a variety of quality professional events accessible to all the residents of Flintshire. The Artsfest committee, which comprises community representatives supported by officers, concluded at its review meeting in May that this was achieved in 2010.

#### **Artsfest Programme**

#### **Friday 5 & Saturday 6 Night Out Event**

#### **How to Build a Rocket**

Featuring home movies, science experiments and afternoon tea, this was a funny, affectionate and touching story of one man's attempt to find out the things that have shaped him, on how to decide when to stay and when to go, and how the world can be both big and small. Through 90 minutes of thrills and spills, 'How to Build a Rocket' explored what makes us special and the fundamental rules of rocket science... which are actually rather simple.

Friday 5: Gwaenysgor Village Hall 7.30pm

Attendance: 43

Saturday 6: Mostyn Community Centre 6.00pm

Attendance: 30



#### **Saturday 6**

#### **Flintshire County Music School**

An inspirational evening of beautiful music by Flintshire's most talented young singers and musicians including the Senior County Youth Choir, String Orchestra, Wind Orchestra and Jazz Band. A fantastic experience enjoyed by the entire audience.

Hawarden High School 7.30pm

Attendance: 218

#### **Simon Armitage Writing Masterclass**

This was an opportunity to work with one of the country's most influential poets Simon Armitage in a half day writing workshop. Places were strictly limited and for 16yrs of age and over, participants commented on the value gained from working with such a renowned poet.

St David's Hotel, Ewloe 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Attendance: 16



### **An Evening with Simon Armitage**

Acclaimed Poet Simon Armitage, read from his new book "Seeing Stars" together with a selection of his poetry, and discussed his influences, style and creative techniques. The audience found the event enthralling and inspiring.

*Simon Armitage the modern, accessible and unstuffy face of poetry.....a master of wordplay.... bringing poetry to fresh arenas.* BBC

Clwyd Room, Clwyd Theatr Cymru 7.30pm

Attendance: 100

### **Sunday 7**

#### **Mike Peters and Friends**

Mike Peters, best known as the lead singer with one of Wales' most successful rock music exports, The Alarm, was joined on stage by the Welsh Rugby Choir and pupils from Abermorddu CP School to perform a selection of his hits, old and new, from his stunning musical repertoire. Pupils from Abermorddu CP School found the whole experience exciting and memorable.

*Mike Peters.....Quite simply, the godfather of Welsh rock'. Daily Post*

Anthony Hopkins Theatre, Clwyd Theatr Cymru 7.30pm

Attendance: 330

### **An Audience with William Roache MBE**

William Roache MBE has spent the last 49 years giving pleasure to the public through his work in show business and as Ken Barlow in the successful and infamous television soap, Coronation Street. William gave an insight into his experiences on the Street and some colourful events in his life as an actor.

Clwyd Room, Clwyd Theatr Cymru.

Attendance: 203



### **Monday 8**

#### **Bryn Fon**

Bryn Fon and Band is the biggest folk/rock band in Wales, they've sold more records than any other band in the history of the Welsh rock scene. Bryn and the Band were thrilled to be given this opportunity to perform in Flintshire because they don't get many opportunities to sing to audiences in this beautiful part of Wales.

Springfield Hotel, Holywell 8.30pm

Attendance: 54

### **Friday 12**

#### **Rhys Meirion and Guests Concert**

An evening of song and celebration in the beautiful setting of Bethesda Chapel where the audience joined in with songs in both Welsh and English with one of Wales' premier tenors, Rhys Meirion. The evening was a great success with performances by Cor Ysgol Glanrafon and local singer Ieuan ap Sion.

Capel Bethesda, Mold 7.30pm

Attendance: 245

### **Silent Movie Theatre- The Lion Tamer a Night Out Event**

Took us back to the golden days of the silver screen, where heroes were heroes, villains were villains, and true love always prevailed...With live music and silent comedy, 'SILENT MOVIE' is a brand-new, indoor show from Bash Steet Theatre who have established an international reputation for action-packed family entertainment.

*'A very clever, witty and well thought out show, and a fantastic finale...kept young and old entranced for a full hour.'* The Guardian

Edith Bankes Memorial Hall, Northop 7.30pm

Attendance: 40



#### **Sunday 14**

##### **Edward Fox: An Evening with Anthony Trollope**

Edward Fox, who has followed a long career in theatre, films and television, and is from the renowned Fox acting dynasty, performed passages from Anthony Trollope's autobiography in this evening of entertainment. A truly inspirational evening.

Anthony Hopkins Theatre, Clwyd Theatr Cymru

7.30pm

Attendance: 259

##### **An Audience with Eric Knowles**

Audiences came along to a mini Antiques Roadshow and met the affable and knowledgeable **Eric Knowles**.

They sat back and enjoyed tales of his fascinating life (with and without antiques). Eric then cast light on selected antiques brought by members of the audience.

Clwyd Room, Clwyd Theatr Cymru 2.30pm

Attendance: 182

#### **Tuesday 16 March**

##### **2Faced Dance Company – UK's leading Male Dance Company.**

##### **'STILL BREATHING'**

The dancers performed a highly charged, gritty new work which took 2Faced Dance Company's unique fusion of break, street and contemporary dance to a new level. ...an evening of dance not to be missed.

2Faced were also joined by pupils from Connah's Quay High School.

*"Explosively fresh... this is exactly what the modern dance scene has been crying out for"*

7.30pm Connah's Quay High School

Attendance: 120



##### **Jazz Event**

Universally acclaimed American tenor sax player Scott Hamilton appeared with Wales's premier jazz guitarist Trefor Owen, and the Bill Coleman Trio, which features, Brian Dee (piano), Bill Coleman (double bass) and Dave Hassell (drums).

Scott Hamilton was voted International Jazz Saxophonist of the Year at the inaugural Ronnie Scott Jazz Awards in 2007.

The event was organized in association with the North Wales Jazz Society.

Clwyd Room, Clwyd Theatr Cymru 8.30pm

Attendance: 181

##### **Katie Scarlet Howard Exhibition Private View**

##### **Folklore & Fantasy**

This exhibition was a visual celebration of Welsh folklore created by pupils from Queensferry CP, St Ethelwolds VA & Sealand CP under the guidance of professional artist Katie A. Scalett Howard. A beautiful exhibition of work by reception and year 1 pupils whose talent and enthusiasm was prominent in the work produced.

*'Katie Howard...talented, original and one of the freshest artist working on the Welsh scene'*

Arts & Craft Wales

Education Gallery, Clwyd Theatr Cymru

Attendance: 183

#### **Saturday 20**

##### **Hallé Choir**

Conductor: Gregory Batsleer,

Organist: Jonathan Scott,

Flintshire Artsfest was proud to present the Hallé Choir. Featuring 150 singers they sang a varied programme of unaccompanied and accompanied music including Parry's I was Glad, Taverner's The Lamb and Fauré's Cantique de Jean Racine. A skin tingling performance thoroughly enjoyed by the audience, a once in a lifetime experience.

St. Mary's Church, Mold 7.30pm

Attendance: 217

**Flintshire Visual Arts and Crafts Network events during  
ArtsFest '10  
Art and Craft Exhibition**

This was a fantastic opportunity to see beautiful and intriguing work by the members of the Flintshire Visual Arts and Craft Network. The exhibition comprised various skills and techniques from painting to quilting, jewellery making to woodturning.

5 – 28 March at the Holywell Art and Craft Mill

Attendance: 250

**Visual Arts and Crafts workshops at Rhosesmor Village Hall**

Dot Sherlock: Patchwork workshop

Attendance: 18

Luned Rhys Parri: Paper sculpture workshop

Attendance: 12

Judy Gough: Abstract painting workshop

Attendance: 18

Golden Hinde: Goldwork embroidery workshop

Attendance: 18

