

Events diary for July

Friday, July 3

Artists and Music: The summer months in Henley and the surrounding area are filled with music and include the Henley Festival of Music, Glyndebourne and Garsington Opera and the Rewind pop festival. This has provided the catalyst for an exhibition which explores the influence of music on some of the leading artists of the 20th century. Artists exhibiting include John Piper, Maggie Hambling, Mary Fedden, Julian Trevelyan, Peter Blake, Marj Bond, Clare Bigger, John Brown, Terry Frost, Andrew Logan, Ceri Richards, Stanley Spencer, Feliks Topolski, Louis Turpin, Wilhelmina Barns-Graham, Martin Cook, Dale Devereux, Barker and Eric Rimmington. Bohun Gallery, 15 Reading Road, Henley on Thames. 01491 576228.

Inspired Art Family Trail: Activity worksheet which provides a fun family trail around the Explore Oxford galleries finding art everywhere in Oxford's history. Suitable for all the family. Available 10am to 4.30pm Monday to Saturday for £1 from the museum's gift shop. Museum of Oxford, St. Aldates, Oxford. 01865 252334.

Japanese Tea Experience: Learn about the art of the Japanese tea ceremony in the Ashmolean's authentic tea house. 2.30pm £15. Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford. Part of the MCS Arts Festival Oxford, see www.artsfestivaloxford.org. 01865 305 305.

Rycotewood: The Rycotewood Furniture Centre has delivered furniture training in Oxfordshire since 1938. Located at the City of Oxford College since 2004, it is a renowned centre of excellence delivering vocational training for people who want careers in furniture design and making. July will see an exhibition of specially selected work from current and recent graduates to celebrate fine furniture design and craft in the heart of Oxford. Old Fire Station, George Street, Oxford. www.oldfirestation.org.uk/exhibit/rycotewood. 01865 26398.

Shifting Sands - Hybrid Rituals and Symbols in Contemporary Cultures: An exhibition of works by Serena Korda and Dr. Lakra. Folkloric rituals, from harvest festivals in Sussex to Day of the Dead celebrations in Mexico, continue to be shaped by the rites and activities which traditionally bound communities together. Free. For more information visit: www.modernartoxford.org.uk. 01865 813813.

In the hands of critics

The Fishes in North Hinksey is once again giving over its glorious garden to a fantastic festival of art when it plays host to the Summer Oxford Art Fair on Saturday and Sunday August 8 and 9, 2015.

More than 40 artists from Oxford, Abingdon, Thame and further afield will gather in The Fishes' grounds during the two day art weekend, transforming the pub's garden into an outdoor gallery filled with unique pieces of modern and contemporary art.

Paintings, sculptures and ceramics, photographs, jewellery and even antiques will be among the treasures on show, alongside their creators who will be on hand to share the stories behind the individual pieces.

Among them will be Stafford artist Mark Harris who specialises in landscape and portrait paintings in oils

and acrylics on canvas characterised by their use of strong colours and light <http://www.mark-harris.com>

Join him and all the other artists on either or both days of the free-to-attend event and soak up the festival atmosphere whilst you enjoy a cool drink and maybe a bite to eat from The Fishes' new summer BBQ menus. There will be plenty to choose from including American inspired dishes like pulled pork with corn on the cob and Waldorf salad as well as classic British burgers and hotdogs served with summery mixed leaves, tomatoes and coleslaw.

There will also be live music and entertainment on both days. On Saturday, the Ashnah American Tribal Style & Fusion Dancers will be performing and on Sunday the Oxford Jazz Collective will play in the afternoon.

Wander around the garden and find a sunny or shady spot to sit back and enjoy the art works and decide whether there's a piece for your home or office wall or a sculpture for your garden that you just have to have.

With prices starting at a very affordable £20-25, there really is something for everyone.

Budding artists of all ages can also get creative on the day and take part in a summer art challenge to raise money for charity. Make a £1 donation to the Peach Foundation, which raises money to support community and conservancy projects both in Oxfordshire and overseas www.peachfoundation.co.uk and paint your work of art in miniature on a small canvas. If you catch the judges' eye, you could win a bottle of bubbly, a voucher to spend on

food and drink at The Fishes and a trophy.

"It's great to be welcoming back the Summer Oxford Art Fair to the pub and to be making a weekend long festival out of it," says The Fishes manager Owain Llwyd Jones. "It's the third time we've given our garden over to art and artists, who turn it into the most incredible display of talent. This year, with two days of feasting, fun and fabulous art, it's going to be more colourful than ever."

Organiser of the event Joelle Dinnage is likewise pleased to be back at The Fishes, adding that the art fair brings together a wide range of different artists working in different media in a one-off setting.

"We're fortunate to have this wonderful garden - just a stone's throw from town yet in lovely countryside - right here on our doorstep and to be able to fill it with so much amazing art," she says. "There's so much novel and exciting art coming out of the city and beyond right now, it really demands a special place to show it. That place is undoubtedly here. Do come and enjoy it," she says.

The Summer Oxford Art Fair takes place from 11am to 5pm on Saturday 8th August and Sunday 9th August 2015 at The Fishes in North Hinksey and is free to enter.

■ For more information please go to www.theoxfordartfair.com. Artists interested in exhibiting at the Summer Oxford Art Fair can apply here <http://theoxfordartfair.com/application-form/>. The Fishes is at North Hinksey Village, Oxford, OX2 0NA. Tel: 01865 249796 www.fishesoxford.co.uk

