



watford area arts forum

FORUM NOTES

Summer 2009

Chairman's Notes

A sizzling summer season for the arts

The arts are set for a sizzling summer season in Watford this year.

The first WatfordLIVE! festival is brimming over with energy and enthusiasm in an amazing array of events including open air shows, music and performances.

Full listings of events can be seen in the special Watford Observer supplements and I can only echo Watford's Mayor Dorothy Thornhill, who said at the opening of WAAF's Aspects of Cassiobury Park show: **"Try to go to at least one of the events"**.

My guess is, you will want to do more as well as enjoying all the live entertainment in the town centre.

The good news is it doesn't stop by the end of the festival on June 20. The Mayor also announced, music will return to the bandstand during July and August - with visions of audiences lounging about in deckchairs!

Delightful. And for another spot of delight, I look forward to seeing lots of you at the **WAAF Garden Party at Cheslyn House**, kindly hosted by Freeman of the Borough, Norman and Mavis Tyrwhitt.

To brighten up business at the AGM, on Wednesday, July 8, we have invited Watford's arts and culture manager, Marion Duffin, to share her amazing experience of taking part in last year's Mali Music Festival.

The meeting will once again be held at 8pm Watford Museum - with seasonal refreshments, hopefully spilling into the museum garden.

Happy summer,

Jaffer Bhimji
Chairman

REMEMBER, REMEMBER: Wednesday, July 1, is the date, WAAF membership subscriptions are due. Still just £10 a year and £15 for affiliated groups or corporate membership. So modest it is easily overlooked, but honorary treasurer,

Ian Scleater, would appreciate an early response, which saves postage for reminders! So, please pop a cheque (made out to Watford Area Arts forum) in the post to Ian at 23 Shepherds Road, Watford WD18 7HU. Please, state your current email address.

Aspects of Cassiobury Park A festive kick-start to WatfordLIVE!

The jewel in Watford's crown, Cassiobury Park, was brought to a festive shine at the opening of the Aspects of Cassiobury Park show at Watford Museum on Friday, June 5.

A full house celebrated this early start to the WatfordLIVE! Festival and Mayor Dorothy Thornhill sparkled as she declared the show open and unveiled a painting of Little Cassiobury - a new addition to the museum collection.

Park images in the form of paintings, collages and photographs completely cover the walls in the foyer with in overflow spilling on to the walls of the stairwell.

More than 30 artists have entered into the spirit of the idea of bringing the park to town to mark its 100th anniversary as part of the town's first "home made" festival.

The prizes were wines from Watford's twin town Mainz where third prize winner, Sian Fenwick, was taking part in the annual Festival of the Arts and missed her "moment" in Watford. Second prize went to Don Lanstone, who was present - as official photographer of the event.

The winner, Martin Matthews, caught up with his "moment" at the end of the party. Martin had hoped to return from holiday in Crete in time of the 7pm opening, but his train from Gatwick was delayed. Friends informed him by mobile, met him at the station and whisked him to the museum for a late presentation and a huge winning smile!

**Aspects of Cassiobury Park continue at Watford Museum until Saturday, June 20.*



Photo: Don Lanstone

Mayor Dorothy Thornhill with the newly acquired painting of Little Cassiobury - the 17th century dower house for Cassiobury House "an important historic building, we must preserve". Looking on with Jaffer Bhimji, is new Watford arts officer, Sophie Ronson, who judged the competition.



Photo: Don Lanstone

The winner, Martin Matthews, on his knees by his pastel, April, following a last minute presentation by WAAF chairman, Jaffer Bhimji