

May 2009

Hello members,

Many of you will have read the letter of complaint about the Farmers' Market by an anonymous trader in the town. In her reply the following week, Alison Clamp, NOW Chair clarified many points and in particular described just how committed NOW is to supporting the local shops. *You can read Alison's letter on wirksworth.net forum.*

NOW believes that the monthly Farmers' Market is good for the town and regret the discontent amongst some – not all traders. Consequently, the Board has been spending a great deal of time discussing ways to (a) make the town attractive to shoppers (b) promote some of the shops that produce their own goods (c) encourage townfolk to shop locally and (d) utilise the empty shops until they are sold. So what are we doing about it?



1. Street music

With the valued help of Dave Smith and the Festival, NOW has arranged for a range of buskers to entertain week-end shoppers BOTH at the Farmers' Market and in the town centre.

Picture by Nick Lockett

2. Town Council and NOW plan a trip

The Town Council and NOW are planning to make a joint site visit to Hebden Bridge – a town similar in size to Wirksworth – to learn how they have succeeded in making their town a vibrant place to visit and to shop. Apparently, all the community have been involved in this and it will be interesting to see how it compares to Wirksworth. (See Hebden Bridge web-site.)

3. Taste of Wirksworth We plan to have a stall at the June Farmers' Market with 'tasters' of some of the produce sold in

the town. Also we've asked groups in the town to supply leaflets and posters to display on the stall.

Picture by Nick Lockett

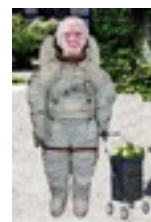


Next Farmers Market – Saturday 6 June – Captain Cholesterol arrives!

A condition Local Foods laid down in awarding its grant was for NOW to actively promote healthy eating to young children. To show our commitment, a national theatre will be giving a FREE show entitled **Captain Cholesterol and the Grannies from Mars** to children and their parents. It is a fun-filled mystery that brings home the healthy eating message in an entertainment packed show.

The show's story goes like this...

At the Much Merrydown fete Granny Smith (pictured here) celebrates First Prize in the apple growing competition. But triumph soon turns to disaster when one of her rivals



collapses with a bad case of the colley-wobbles. When the FBI (Fruit Bureau of Investigation) becomes involved, it is obvious there's more to this than meets the eye.

Exciting stuff! If you want to eat more healthily and you want your children to be inspired to eat a better diet, then come along at 11am on 6th June. Seats are limited so it will be first come, first served. The show is suitable for primary and junior children and their parents.

Bring your shopping basket to what looks like June's Farmers' Market is going to be bursting out all over!

We give a BIG WELCOME to Peak House Practice and Peli-Deli and wish both businesses every success!

Youth Training and Education

We forwarded to you an email from **Elizabeth Hunt** in which she resigned as NOW's Extreme Sports Development Officer to take up a prestigious post she couldn't refuse. Elizabeth made fantastic strides in the short time she was with us, and we miss her. We hope she is enjoying her new post and wish her well. Who knows? She may return one day...

Rhythms of Life

As part of The Rhythms Of Life project, funded by Derbyshire County Council, NOW and Festival are working with Babbling Vagabonds who are facilitating young people to create their own event.

Several from the DropZone Skatepark and YAPS groups have met with Babbling Vagabonds and NOW Director, Wendy Johnson. As a result of discussions, it has been decided to create an afternoon event at the Community Park. Aimed to attract all members of the community, professional performers and creative workers will work together with Babbling Vagabonds.

Ideas have been varied; they include circus skills, beatbox, street dance, BMX sessions, hat making, photography and filming. A shared picnic at the end of the event drew most enthusiasm.

Some activities will be held in the school and youth-club prior to the actual event so that those involved may demonstrate what they have learned from the experience. The activities can be filmed and then hopefully celebrated at this year's Festival with a grand viewing. Watch out for posters giving the date and inviting you to the event...and remember to bring your picnic to share.

Creative Futures

The latest **FESTIVAL** newsletter is packed with plans for this September, This year the Festival will spread over 17 days with three weekend highlights.

The key themes for the visual arts will be **Modernism and Illumination**. Names to watch out for are Ben Cove, Raphael Daden, Kate Genever, Maxine Hall,

Matthew Houlding, Ghislaine Howard and Charles Monkhouse.

A retrospective of work by **Peter Hoon**, a much-loved local painter and printmaker and a much valued NOW founder member is planned to be held in the shop vacated by Beechwoods.

Emma Mortimer and Vicki Cambell have joined Wendy Johnson on the Festival education and outreach team and are beginning work with schools and community to create work to be exhibited in **windows** this year plus a programme of work with key venues.

The performance programme looks exciting with music to suit all tastes. Visit the Festival web-site for up-to-date information.

WIRKSWORTH FILM finished its season in May and has already made plans for some exciting films to be shown next season. Two films will be shown at the Festival. [See a message on the forum of wirksworth.net, suggesting Wirksworth opens a **cinema**. Let us have **YOUR** views.]

RAISE YOUR VOICES a new singing group led by Lester Simpson plan to take part in a concert at the Festival. The group meets every Thursday in the Red Lion – and proving extremely popular.

Inspired by the interesting article and photo of Chris Webb in this week's Mercury, it is planned to give space in future Newsletters to highlight the many creative industries in the town. So please contact me with information and pictures.. stellafeldman@talktalk.net.