

News Release



28 September 2009

Mole Valley's Arts Alive Festival 2009 Street Parties Start the Festival with a Bang!

Mole Valley's Arts Alive Festival 2009 officially opened with a bang on Saturday 26th September! The street parties in Dorking and Leatherhead generated a feel-good atmosphere in both town centres, with local musicians, artists, art groups, actors, dancers and festival goers joining together to start the celebrations.

Throughout the day there were performances by local arts groups including **Bloco Do Sul**, **Phoenix Creative Arts**, musicians from local orchestras **Dorking Philharmonia** and **Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra**, **Leatherhead Choral Society**, **The Milestone Big Band**, **Pandemonium**, **Mole Valley Silver Band**, the **Rampant Rooster Morris Dancers**, **St Martins Primary School Choir** and many more!

Painters from the **Dorking Group of Artists** set up their easels in the streets of Dorking to paint and **Dorking Camera Club** displayed their photographs in a shop in St Martins Walk. Additional entertainment was provided by young performers from **Albert & Friends Instant Circus Company**.

Councillor David Sharland, Portfolio Holder for Health, Safety and Wellbeing, said "The Arts Alive Street Parties were a great success in raising awareness of the festival, particularly amongst people who might not traditionally attend arts events. It was wonderful to see such a variety of talented local arts groups performing in the towns, demonstrating that the arts are indeed alive in Mole Valley!"

The Arts Alive festival organisers are especially grateful to global engineering company **KBR**, who as one of the largest employers in Mole Valley has sponsored Arts Alive for twelve consecutive years and **Aerospace Logistics** who are continuing their support for a third year.

The Arts Alive festival is organised by Mole Valley District Council's Leisure Development Department. For full listings visit www.arts-alive.co.uk. Brochures are available from local libraries, Leatherhead Help shop, Dorking Halls and the Leatherhead Theatre or by telephoning **01306 879188**.

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Notes to Editors

For more information on Arts Alive or any of the events involved please contact Kath McCutcheon Arts Development Officer on 01306 879188

Mole Valley District Council is delighted to announce the return of the Arts Alive Festival for its thirteenth year. Arts Alive is an annual festival which showcases a wide variety of arts and community events throughout the month of October and this year the festival line up promises to be as eclectic and entertaining as ever. Packed with over one hundred art, craft and entertainment events there is something for the whole family to enjoy.

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