



News Release

6 July 2009

Mole Valley Arts Alive Festival 2009

Mole Valley District Council is delighted to announce the Arts Alive Festival returning for its thirteenth year. Arts Alive runs throughout the month of October and features a wide variety of arts and community events. Packed with over one hundred art, craft and entertainment events there is something to appeal to everyone.

Arts Alive officially opens on **Saturday 26th September** with street parties in both Dorking and Leatherhead from **10.00am to 4.00pm**. During the day artists, art groups and festival goers will have the chance to join together and start the celebrations with a bang.

The festival patron for 2009 will be the Scottish actor and local resident **John Gordon Sinclair**. John rose to fame playing Gregory in the much loved film *Gregory's Girl*. Since then he has worked extensively in films, television, radio and theatre, where he won an Olivier best actor award for his role in *She Loves Me*. More recently he starred in the Alan Ayckbourn play *Absurd Person Singular* in London and is currently writing his first novel, which is a crime thriller.

Handel, Purcell, Haydn, Mendelssohn and Chopin all have anniversaries in 2009, and performances by **Dorking Camerata** and the pupils of the **Yehudi Menuhin School** will be celebrating this fact. The **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra** will be performing some well loved classics, and music of many other genres is also represented including **John Dankworth, The Doonans, and One Night of Queen**.

There are plenty of arts activities and workshops for children and young people, such as cheerleading and a streetdance workshop, as well as some great shows including **Macbeth** by *Shakespeare 4 Kidz* and **Big Box of Bananas** by CBeebies presenter *Andy Day*.

There will be many other exciting things to see and do, including screenings from the *Mole Valley Film Festival*, *Around the World in 80 Pumpkins*, **Julian Clary** and *SING-A-LONG-A Sound of Music*.

The festival will close with a gala night on **Monday 2nd November** at **Leatherhead Theatre**. Featuring highlights from the festival, and starring festival patron **John Gordon Sinclair**, performances will include the **Milestones Big Band**.

Councillor Janette Purkiss, Portfolio Holder for Community and Youth, said "The Arts Alive festival is a fantastic opportunity for local artists and performers to come together and celebrate the arts in Mole Valley. The festival goes from strength to strength each year."

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 will be available from mid August from local libraries, Leatherhead Help shop, Dorking Halls and the Leatherhead Theatre or by telephoning **01306 879188**.

Ends

Notes to Editors

Interviews and photocalls with Arts Alive 2009 participants are available on request.

Arts Alive was established in 1996 and has grown to become the largest annual community arts festival in the Mole Valley district. Arts Alive began as a two-week literature festival taking place during the last two weeks of October. The festival has developed significantly over the years to include all art forms and in 2006 Arts Alive celebrated its 10th anniversary with events taking place across the whole of October.

Media contacts for further information:

Kay Dawson
Communications Officer
Customer Services & Partnerships
Tel: 01306 879269
Email: kay.dawson@molevalley.gov.uk

Kath McCutcheon
Arts Development Officer
Leisure Development Department
Tel: 01306 879188
Email: kath.mccutcheon@molevalley.gov.uk