

School's Summer Arts Festival



The Arts Education Officer is pulling together an exciting School's Summer Arts Festival with activities running throughout Aberdeenshire in schools and public venues. The Buchan Heritage Association is into its second year of orchestrating workshops in the 'Traditional Arts' at Aden Country Park, these activities, over 2 weeks in June, will see 11 Primary school classes participate in dance, storytelling and singing with experienced tutors and Heritage staff.

SetPoint scientists and artists will work with pupils from other schools at the Scottish Museum of Lighthouses to present a programme of day-long workshops on the theme of 'Light and Colour', a delightful project that will tax the skills of excellent tutors and reveal the resources at the site in all their glory. Building on the success of the 'Shell Cultural Xtra' cultural diversity project in summer 2005, the Authority will be funding Multi-ethnic Aberdeen limited (MeAL) to deliver a programme of 6 full day workshops in schools.

These workshops will include a range of activities from Indian and African dance to Chinese Calligraphy and rap/hip-hop music.

The Summer term will see the completion of the artwork at the Hill of Banchory School, a piece that has been produced by artist Chris Bailey in collaboration with pupils and staff at the school. Furthermore, Deveron Arts will be conducting intriguing arts/footballworkshops in Huntly schools (called 'Artcup') to celebrate the World Cup in Germany.

June 24 sees the 12 young 'acts' recorded during the Youth Music Initiative project of 2005/06 performing their work at the Woodend Barn arts centre.

This project, supported by the Scottish Arts Council and Aberdeenshire Council, has allowed youngsters to not only learn how to play, perform and engineer music but has also given them a chance to design connected artwork and promote the whole project.

David Atherton