

## Editorial for Marshwood Vale Magazine

Now in its ninth year, Lyme Regis ArtsFest has become something of an institution but it is certainly not resting on its laurels. A new logo reflects the energy of the event and its participating artists ( you'll be seeing the logo all over town on banners, bunting and flags), whilst a new venue, The Marine Parade Shelters, provides a wonderful hub of activity and information and becomes the third main exhibition venue, joining the Baptist Church Hall and the Town Mill.

Over 100 local businesses participate in the Art Trail and there are plenty of artists throwing open their studios so that visitors can see them at work and ask them questions . Chelsea Davine's new venture – 'The Shed'- will be having its inaugural show in the Shelters using some radical new display techniques.

As always, there is an emphasis on participation, so visitors can try their hand at, amongst many other things, the ancient art of Japanese fish rubbing – 'Gyotaku' at the Shelters; all manner of crafts and activities for children at Axminster Artisan's day-long Arts and Crafts event at the Woodmead Halls on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>; Collino printing with Hugh Dunford-Wood; illumination and calligraphy with Fiona Graham-Flynn; stained glass with Ann Pengelly and hand felting and peg looming with Jennifer Frances....and if the idea of painting Lyme's glorious dawn appeals, there is Christine Allison's Sunrise and Sizzling Breakfast workshop at By the Bay...at 6am! Children can get stuck in to the Mass Draw Extravaganza and Axminster Artisans are laying on a whole day of children's activities in the Woodmead Halls on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>.

It's not all about the visual arts, though. This year boasts plenty of music including the Bridgend Male Voice Choir, organ talks and demonstrations on the fabulous Skrabl organ in St Michael's, B Sharp Buskers, the glamorous group 'SaxSATION' and an evening of music at the Malthouse...to include jamming on 'Blowing in the Wind'!

There is also a growing role for literature in the line-up. Book your place at By the Bay's Lit Night on 20<sup>th</sup> , where you can hear three writers at the top of their game...including BAFTA-winning script and playwright, Nick Fisher ( also a stalwart of this magazine!)..talking about how to make it in the writing game. Nathalie Manifold is running a series of literary tours on Austen and Fowles themes. David Knight will get us all to look at typography in a different way and Anthea Simmons is running a 'Get Writing!' workshop.The Rotary-sponsored Children's Poetry Competition reaches its conclusion at 'Marine WordFest' at the Marine Theatre on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>. A diverse programme for this event includes 14 year old stand-up comedian, Rex Fisher and a performance by the Gig Club's Shanty Group. Booking essential.

For more details, please visit the website [www.lymeregisartsfest.com](http://www.lymeregisartsfest.com) or grab a free brochure.

