



Street Arts Showcase

On 1 October 2005 a Street Arts Showcase event was held at The Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms. From 2pm a number of performers showed their work to the public and to a gathering of Shropshire Festival organisers. The free event was attended by hundreds of people during the day and culminated in a beautiful fire garden with giant towered sculptures.

Performances throughout the day included:

- Whalley Range All Stars in "Bedcases" - a mysterious giant four poster bed revealing stories, songs and secrets, everyone who experienced the Bedcases came out smiling
- Desperate Men in "The Man With a Bear's Heart" - you needed to be brave to go in the caravan, but many people did and yes they met the man with a bears heart
- Curious Cargo with "The Lost Luggage Porters" - just how confusing can it get moving luggage about the place?
- The Flying Buttresses - who were these strange little people who travel the world gathering possessions and wisdom as they go
- sculptures by Max Marshall - shapes so beautiful some people felt the urge to dance around them, at night the colours illuminated dusky Onny Meadows
- Rhythms of the City provided Samba sounds and sights, assisted by Bang-on a community groups from Bishops Castle playing Brazilian carnival instruments. What a sound - what a sight!
- The finale! and in the evening when the light had gone we saw "Fire Garden" and "Candeo" by pa-Boom. An enchanting sculpture garden with animal and plant shapes twisted and set alight, tall chimneys of fire, and columns of lighted shapes adding to the atmospheric experience.

Some of the dancing was performed by the local girls group wearing costumes they had made with artist Lucy Wells. Sonia Maffeis, a choreographer from London, had helped the group rehearse a stunning dance routine to complement the sultry South American sounds.

The Street Arts Showcase was produced by the Celebrating Shropshire project and Shropshire County Council's Arts Development Team. Funding was provided by European Objective Two, Rural Regeneration Zone, Shropshire County Council, and Arts Council of England West Midlands.

Please view the downloadable PDFs - they might take a little while to load - Photographs by W.N. Bishop.