



# Artists join the party

Sharon Chilcott reports on Worcestershire plans to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

**P**AINTERS, photographers, jewellers, potters, carpenters, ceramicists, glass blowers, silversmiths, furniture makers and weavers – more than 74 artists have signed up for this year's Worcestershire Arts Trail.

The event runs from June 1 to 4, coinciding with the Queen's Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend, so to make it a royal occasion, 10 artists and makers in

different mediums will be creating a piece of work to mark the celebrations.

The artists who will be exhibiting these special pieces include freelance illustrator Shelly Perkins, a regular contributor to Worcestershire Life, whose work will be on show during the Art Trail at 54, Richmond Road, Bewdley. Her limited edition prints, created in a unique way, combine drawing, painting and textural elements

inspired by the countryside around her Worcestershire home.

Other artists working on pieces for the Jubilee are children's book illustrator Petr Horacek, Merlith Morrison-Hutton, who is working on a painting, Jo Verity, who works with decoupage, Sarah Jones, who will be using batik, Garry Jones, who produces humorous ceramics, Jo Dewar who will be designing a piece of wire jewellery (possibly a crown), Sarah Haywood and Paul Powis, who are working on paintings and Mike Blundell who is creating a sculpture.

The aim of the second Worcestershire Arts Trail is to give people the chance to see how a work of art is created. Studios, workshops and even artist's homes normally off-limits to the public will be allowing free access to everyone across all four days.

To find out more about what's on offer on this year's trail, visit [www.worcsartstrail.org](http://www.worcsartstrail.org)



Shelly Perkins's interpretation of the royal tour

## Emblematic enamels

Inspired by the nationwide visits which the Queen is planning in her Diamond Jubilee year, Worcestershire artist Nigel Creed has designed two exquisite enamels that combine the four floral emblems of the British



Left: Elliot Hall Enamels by artist Nigel Creed

Isles – the rose, thistle, daffodil and shamrock.

The enamels, a beautifully decorated box and a coin, are being produced by Elliot Hall Enamels of Blackpole. Painted freehand by skilled artists, the company's enamels are created using traditional

techniques that date back to the mid 18th century when enamel-making was first introduced to the UK.

Company founder Elliot Hall is proud of his Worcestershire background so inspiration frequently comes from the county's heritage. He also names shapes after Worcestershire towns and villages – the coin shape used for the Jubilee piece is Vertis, from the Roman name for the City of Worcester.

For more details: [www.elliottallenamels.co.uk](http://www.elliottallenamels.co.uk)

## Jolly jamborees

A jubilee tea dance, parties in the parks and a showcase of 60 years of music are being organised in the Wyre Forest.

The fun gets underway on Thursday, May 31, when the district council is hosting a tea dance at Kidderminster Town Hall for couples who have been married more than 50 years. Friday, June 1 sees the start of a weekend musical celebration in Kidderminster organised by the Boars Head in conjunction with the Boars Head Gallery with more than 25 bands and DJs, plus arts and poetry events.

Red, white and blue will be the dress code at Wyre Forest District Council's Party in the Park at the Riverside Meadows in Stourport-

PHOTO: WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL



**Above:** Face painting is one of the activities planned for the Jubilee party at Brinton Park

on-Severn on June 3. Party-goers are invited to bring a picnic and enjoy bands including The Heartbeats, Delroy Rockets, Colin Paul and the Louie Cochran Trio.

On Monday, June 4, Brinton Park in Kidderminster is the venue for an evening of entertainment from 4.30 pm until 10pm. Howard Bentham from BBC Hereford and Worcester will present the event featuring local artists. Party-goers are encouraged to go dressed in red, white and blue and celebrate 60 years of the Queen's reign with a patriotic sing-along, finishing with a firework display at 9.45pm.

## For loyal little subjects

There will be plenty of royalty-themed ideas to keep children amused at Worcestershire County Museum at Hartlebury Castle from June 4 to 8. Youngsters can follow a 1950s trail, make a royal crown and decorate a commemorative scroll. The holiday activities will be held between 10.30am and 4pm each day. <http://www.whub.org.uk/cms/museums-worcestershire/hartlebury.aspx>



## All aboard for the celebrations

An Evesham couple are set to cruise into the history books after being selected to represent Worcestershire in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Flotilla.

Town and Wychavon district councillors Andrew and Wendy Dyke have been chosen to join the spectacular assembly of boats and vessels from around the world which will proceed along the Thames to mark Her Majesty's 60 years on the throne.

The couple will set off in their traditional narrowboat Lord Toulouse in early May to make the 221-mile journey to London in time for the big day, on Sunday, June 3. A thousand boats from the UK, Commonwealth and beyond have been selected to take part in the spectacle. The gathering will be the largest flotilla of modern times on the river and it is estimated a one million-strong crowd will line the

riverbanks to cheer the boats along the seven-mile route. Historic and modern boats including rowing boats, steamers and motorised craft will be among the vessels taking part and narrowboat enthusiasts Andrew and Wendy are thrilled they will be there too.

Andrew said: "Boating is such a rewarding experience as it gives you the opportunity to view the landscape from a totally different perspective. We have travelled the Thames before and it is a fantastic way to view London but the flotilla really promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. We want to do the county proud on the day and we hope that this event helps open up other people's eyes to the joys of boating and the stunning waterways Worcestershire is blessed with."

Worcestershire residents are invited to wave the couple off as they leave from the River Severn at Worcester in May.

**For more details:**  
[www.andrewdyke.co.uk](http://www.andrewdyke.co.uk)

Andrew and Wendy Dyke's narrowboat Lord Toulouse

