

PRESS RELEASE

22 July 2008: For Immediate Release

The Theatre of Making Takes Flight at Balloons Over Basingstoke, War Memorial Park, Basingstoke Free Workshops for All: Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 August 2008, 11.15am to 6.00pm

Having just scooped up a second Basingstoke Place To Be Proud of Award and Lottery funding to support children's workshops in the borough, **The Making** has high hopes for this weekend's **Balloons Over Basingstoke** festival.

All day Saturday and Sunday, **The Theatre of Making** marquee in War Memorial Park will host a range of fantastical craft activities run by leading artists.

Children and adults will be encouraged to indulge in flights of fancy to create flying creatures from a variety of materials. Participants will be able to craft a winged insect from willow with **Angela Morley**, make a puppet bird with **Catherine Connolly** or fabricate a flying fairy or elf with **Samantha Bryan**. **Cathy Miles** will be demonstrating how to shape copper wire into a funky pelican.

Those over the age of 10 who bring along an old sweet or biscuit tin can turn it into a 'transport of delight' with eccentric artist **Andy Hazell**. **Lindsay Mann** will be colouring aluminium to make balloon badges and **Lucy McLoughlin** will be using different print techniques to create flags and banners.

All the workshops are free of charge, but people are encouraged to book early on the day at the Theatre of Making's marquee to ensure a place. Anyone over the age of five may participate, but children under twelve years must be accompanied by an adult. Each workshop runs for about an hour.

The workshops at the weekend will be preceded by the **Children's Parade on Friday 1 August**. Starting **outside Debenhams in Festival Place at 8.45pm**, the Parade will process through Basingstoke to War Memorial Park. It will be led by a crazy spaceship car built especially for the occasion by **Andy Hazell**. Music and rhythm will be provided by local schoolchildren who have been working with **Paul Midgley** and the **Drum Runners**.

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The children's workshops have been run in partnership with Basingstoke Play Council and Sentinel Housing's 'Get With' Scheme for young people. The Making also thanks Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Kingfisher Housing Association for their generous contributions.

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Contact Details

For further information, or to request photographic images, please contact Jenny Bethell on 01256 845679 or admin@themaking.org.uk

Note to Editors

Based in Basingstoke, **The Making** is an award-winning arts charity that promotes high quality contemporary craft and design and inspires new audiences to engage in the art of making. It takes art to where people are, delivering popular and innovative events and participatory programmes for children, families and young people.

Please visit www.themaking.org.uk for further information.

The artists involved include

Andy Hazell

Something of a maverick, Andy Hazell, based in Wales, constructs humorous socio-political tinplate automata and site-specific sculptures; both 'small things' and 'large things'. An acutely self-aware global anthropologist, Andy is widely travelled. His photographic observations frame a cultural awareness of film, photojournalism and the archive. His night photos demonstrate an interest in lighting, a material frequently used in his objects, in which the everyday is made monumental.

Angela Morley

Angela Morley works as a garden designer and also makes sculptures from willow and other natural materials. Her work is informed by her love of nature and her delight in the beauty of the natural world from fungi and mosses to feathers and seedpods. She says, 'As a child I spent most of my time wandering the meadows and woods in awe of all the wild plants and as an adult I am still happiest outside. My love of nature is my greatest inspiration'.

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Lindsey Mann

Winchester-based jeweller Lindsey Mann makes lively, colourful pieces using printed aluminium, plastics, silver and found domestic objects. She calls them wearable sculptures rather than jewellery as many of her pieces can both be worn and used as an ornament to decorate the home. She says, 'I am interested in the significance and beauty of everyday objects and the way in which they can so easily be overlooked.'

Catherine Connolly

Catherine Connolly has been working with puppets since 1995, and has worked for many companies including The Little Angel Theatre, The Puppet Barge, The RSC and The Puppet Centre Trust. She is a visiting lecturer in Puppetry at The Central School of Speech & Drama. She is currently working on a Music & Shadow Puppetry collaboration with Theatre De Strange and Little Sparta.

Samantha Bryan

Yorkshire-based artist Samantha Bryan makes fantastical wire and mixed media sculptures. Her quirky and humorous figures depict long-limbed fairies manning bizarre, machine-like contraptions. They are off-beat, zany and charming. She says, 'my aim is to realise the necessities and requirements involved in fairy life - to provide everything a fairy would need during its daily existence.'

Cathy Miles

Cathy Miles is an English metal smith who uses a unique concoction of wire, materials and text to depict common bird life. Based within Birmingham's renowned Jewellery Quarter, Cathy's work is sold in galleries throughout the UK and abroad, as well as through temporary exhibitions including the prestigious SOFA Chicago and ORIGIN: The London Craft Fair. She has also undertaken large public art commissions and is keen to continue experimenting with the possibilities of different scales and media.

Lucy McLoughlin

Lucy McLoughlin MA is a Winchester based textile artist and illustrator. She uses a range of techniques from painting, drawing and screen-printing to embroidery, photography and Photoshop. She has undertaken many private and public commissions ranging from textile wall hangings, to murals and subway art. Lucy also runs creative workshops and regularly works on large-scale participatory art projects in the community.