

PRESS RELEASE

13 May 2009: For Immediate Release

Go for Gold with The Theatre of Making and local sports organisations in Basingstoke's Market Place

Venue: **Market Place, (in front of the Willis Museum),
Basingstoke RG21 7QD**

Date and time: **Thursday 28 May 2009 10am-4pm**

Free Craft and Sports Workshops for All

There is a strong sporting theme to this unique family event that offers a dazzling array of free craft and sports workshops to anyone passing Basingstoke's Market Place on Thursday 28 May.

A life-size willow athlete produced by children at Manor Field Junior School, Brighton Hill, will welcome you. **Flora Gare** will help families to weave miniature athletes from wire. Those with nimble fingers can fabricate a felt footie strip or customise a T-shirt with textile artists **Sharon Kearley** and **Dawn Dupree**. They can hammer out their own 'Olympic' medal with silversmith **Maya Selway**, create a 'ball' badge for the sport of their choice with jeweller **Lindsay Mann** or make a moving wooden acrobat with toy-maker **Robert Race**.

In the Market Place, qualified professional coaches from leading local sports organisations, will help visitors improve their sporting prowess. The morning kicks off with the **Children's Soccer Academy** (CSA 07FA) who will help you to hone your football skills. A star turn at midday will be **Fabios Santos**, well-known Basingstoke capoeira practitioner/teacher, and his colleagues who will defy the laws of gravity with their demonstrations of this Afro-Brazilian marital art. Later **Totally Tennis** coaches will give you a taste of Wimbledon with fun tennis sessions, showcasing their tennis skills and teach you how to serve up a demon shot. At the end of the afternoon, **Basingstoke Gymnastic Club** will turn up with their poms and high kicks and encourage you to cheer on your team. Your day will not be complete without a visit to the Willis Museum and its new Sainsbury Gallery where one of the Hampshire treasures on display will be the 1948 London Olympic torch.

Each craft workshop runs for about an hour. Anyone over the age of five may participate, but children under twelve years must be accompanied by an adult. Workshop places are free, but book from 9.30 onwards at the Theatre of Making Marquee to be sure of a place. For budding sportsmen and women, sports workshops are every ten minutes. Just join the queue and wait your turn.

This event is organised by craft education charity, The Making, and is a partnership between The Making, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, the Willis Museum and local sports organisations. It is planned as a pilot for Basingstoke's Cultural Olympiad programme.

The Making acknowledges the generous support of this event and education programme by The Linbury Trust, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Kingfisher Housing Association,

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Contact Details

For the schedule, see The Making website www.themaking.org.uk. For further information, or to request photographic images, please contact Jenny Bethell on 01256 845679 or admin@themaking.org.uk.

Pre-event photo opportunities at [Manor Field Junior School \(Haydn Road, Brighton Hill\)](#) on 18 May 1300-1500.

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Note to Editors

The Making is an award-winning arts charity based in Basingstoke 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

Dawn Dupree

Textile artist, Dawn Dupree creates evocative, semi-abstract urban landscapes by building up printed layers of colour and images. They are full of unexpected surprises and juxtapositions each telling a separate narrative often slightly unsettling undertones.

http://www.themaking.org.uk/content/makers/2007/09/dawn_dupree.html

Flora Gare

Basingstoke-based artist, Flora Gare, makes delicate suspended structures which explore ideas about transience, memory and the passing of time. She works using a variety of materials – fibre optics, nylon threads, copper wire, resins, and acetates. She also runs a lot of school projects.

http://www.themaking.org.uk/content/makers/2009/05/flora_gare.html

Sharon Kearley

Hampshire textile artist, Sharon Kearley has just returned home from a long spell working in Spain. Her delicate handwoven sculptural pieces, yarn manipulation, embellished with beads, feathers, metals and semi-precious stones are well suited as fashion and costume pieces.

www.sharonkearley.wordpress.com

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.'

http://www.themaking.org.uk/content/makers/2007/4/lindsay_mann.html

Robert Race

Toy-maker, Robert Race, has been making quirky wooden objects for nearly thirty years, starting with dolls' houses and miniature furniture. He also made some moving toys for children, but these gradually developed into moving objects intended for adults and automata which incorporated simple mechanisms. He is a particular favourite with regular attendees at Theatre of Making events.

http://www.themaking.org.uk/content/makers/2007/12/robert_race.html

Maya Selway

London-based silversmith Maya Selway makes her first appearance at the Theatre of Making. Her award-winning work focuses on contemporary items for the home such as vases, cutlery and drinking vessels. It has been shown at many prestigious venues across the UK including the V&A and Goldsmiths' Hall.

www.mayaselway.com

The Sports Organisations

The Childrens Soccer Academy (CSA 07 FA), which is based in Greenham, teaches and coaches football to children from the age of 2 right up to 18, regardless of age or ability. The Academy runs its own sessions: it also works with youth services, schools, community centres and local groups in West Berkshire, Reading and North Hampshire. It aims to build skills, team spirit and self-esteem. Its philosophy is that everyone should have fun and enjoy learning how to develop fitness in an achievable and positive way. <http://www.childrensocceracademy.co.uk/>

Capoeira practitioner, Fabio Santos, hails from Brazil. He now lives in Basingstoke, teaches in Basingstoke (at the Sports Centre, Festival Place), Winchester, Reading and Southampton, and performs throughout the country. **Capoeira** is a spectacular Afro-Brazilian art form that involves movements from martial arts, games, and dance. It was created in Brazil by the slaves brought from Africa some time after the 16th century. The art of Capoeira is open to everyone regardless of age or ability. <http://www.fabiosantos.co.uk/contact.html>

Totally Tennis is a lively local tennis club based in the War Memorial Park in Basingstoke. It has been the driving force of tennis development in the area over the past eighteen years. It offers a tennis coaching programme that is open to everyone regardless of age and ability, as well 'pay and play' and casual court use. The club also has a thriving outreach programme within the local community, which includes its very successful schools programme and OFSTED registered Holiday scheme. All coaches are CRB checked, first aid trained and fully licensed with the Lawn Tennis Association. <http://www.totallytennis.entadsl.com/>

Basingstoke Gymnastics Club is part of the community-based lifestyle and Gymnastics centre in Houndmills, Basingstoke. A charitable organisation regulated by British Gymnastics, the club boasts a team of highly qualified, professional coaches who teach Trampolining, Recreational Gymnastics, Tumbling, Women's and Men's Artistic, Teen Club, Adult Gym, Freestyle and soon will be introducing Sports Aerobics. From its one hour a week sessions it select gymnasts for its squads. Cheerleading is one of its latest courses and already very popular.

<http://www.activelifecentre.co.uk/>