

# DOXEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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PRESS RELEASE - 13 June 2005

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## The Doxey/Mikron project chalks up another success

An enthusiastic audience packed Doxey Parish Church on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June for the premiere of **Village Voices**, the latest production in the collaboration between Doxey Community Association and Mikron Theatre Company. After the recent success of the community play in April, written by Mikron and acted by Doxey people, writer and director, Richard Povall reworked the play for Mikron's cast of four professional actors.

A play about a community in a fast-moving world, *Village Voices* explores some serious issues, using Mikron's unique combination of humour and music. How do different people perceive the community they live in and what do they think about their ability to change it for the better?

One of the two intertwining story lines concerns a patrician fisherman, drawn to his Doxey roots, and his developing friendship with local oddball, Cyril. We are soon introduced to Elly, a former Doxeyite, and her friend from London, Jen, who bring high ideals to running the Doxey Post Office.

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The verve, skill and discipline of the young company ensured that, despite numerous quick costume and role changes, the action proceeded smoothly and the audience of nearly 170 people continued to be captivated. “This is just what Doxey needs”, one member of the audience was heard to exclaim. The evening was a very successful launch of a play which Mikron will now take on tour across the country.

Saturday’s performance was dedicated to the memory of Richard Perry, who worked as Stage Manager on the community version of Village Voices.

This is not the end of Doxey’s association with Mikron. Plans for a return visit by the Company are being made for 2006. In the meantime, a trip is being organised from Doxey to see the other play in Mikron’s 2005 programme, **Wheel of Fortune**, at Gnosall on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August and at the Anchor, High Offley, on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August. If you are interested in joining this trip, call **251622**.

### Note to editors

The two versions of Village Voices, described above, are based on the community of Doxey on the edge of Stafford. The project which led to their creation developed from the relationship between Doxey and Mikron Theatre Company, which grew up through extended visits by Mikron to Doxey in 2003 and 2004.

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With the support of Mikron, members of the community undertook the full range of tasks involved in putting on a play and, in the process, learned and developed a wide range of skills which can be put to use in future years. This learning process was supported by local professionals in the various areas of theatre arts involved. Another legacy of the project is the development of greater contact and collaboration between members of the Doxey community.

Co-ordinated by Doxey Community Association, the Village Voices project is supported by grants from Arts Council, England, Staffordshire County Council, "Awards for All", Staffordshire Community Champions, Culturegen – Stafford Borough's organisation for support local arts professionals – the William Sutton Housing Association and by donations from individual residents of Doxey.

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The following websites may be useful for providing more information:

[www.mikron.org.uk](http://www.mikron.org.uk) for the Mikron Theatre Company

[www.doxeyca.org.uk](http://www.doxeyca.org.uk) for Doxey Community Association

**Ends**

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