

DOXEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

PRESS RELEASE - 10 February 2005

Village Voices moves up a gear

Mikron Theatre Company's writing team went home yesterday with their heads buzzing with Doxey. They had just spent a hectic forty-eight hours in the village listening to a range of Doxey residents tell stories about the life and times of Doxey in the last 100 years.

Many of these were from personal memories.

Said Richard Povall, chief writer for this project, "We have surely enough stories to write several plays based on Doxey. And the good thing is that there is something in all of them which will resonate with audiences across the country."

This fact-finding expedition, which started last Monday lunch-time, is the latest phase in the Doxey project to create a play, based on the village of Doxey and produced largely by Doxey people. It means that the writing should be on target for the first phase of rehearsals, which start in March.

The group which is making a video record of the whole project has had several meetings and learning of the necessary skills has begun. Other groups which have met for the first time this week or are about to work are: lighting; set-building; costume; music and graphics/publicity. Although the total number of people involved in these groups exceeds 70, there is still room for more people to join.

People would be particularly welcome to join the music and acting groups. At the moment, the emphasis in the music group is in exploring ideas together and having some fun. The acting group has yet to meet, but it has to be stressed that the important thing is enthusiasm. There will be strong support from Mikron, the professional theatre company working with the project, and players of all ages, both female and male will be needed.

In all of the groups working toward the production there is talk of laying the foundations for activities beyond the Village Voices project.

Mikron will be back in Doxey on **22 February** for more research and, on **Thursday, 24 February**, they will be meeting the combined membership of all the activity groups to plan the further stages of the project

at the Sutton Centre, Sutton Drive, Doxey

at 7.00 p.m.

The play will be performed in Doxey on

Saturday, 30 April 2005 at 7.30 p.m.

and

Sunday, 1 May 2005 at 3.30 p.m.

**both in the hall of St Thomas' and St Andrew's Church,
Doxey.**

Following this production, the Mikron writers will rework the play to be performed by its own company of four actor/musicians. The world premiere of this version will be performed in Doxey on

Saturday, 11 June at 7.30 p.m.

in the hall of St Thomas' and St Andrew's Church, Doxey

Following this, the play will become one of the two plays in the Mikron repertoire for its tour of England and Scotland in the summer and autumn of 2005. The play has already been booked for several venues.

Note to editors

“Village Voices” is the working title for a play, based on the community of Doxey on the edge of Stafford. It has developed from the relationship between Doxey and Mikron Theatre Company, which has grown up through extended visits by Mikron to Doxey in 2003 and 2004.

With the support of Mikron, the community will undertake the full range of tasks involved in putting on a play and will, in the process, learn and develop a wide range of skills which can be put to use in future years. Some may use this as stepping-off point for a career. This learning process will be supported by local professionals in the various areas of theatre arts involved.

Co-ordinated by Doxey Community Association, the project is supported by grants from Arts Council, England, Staffordshire County Council and the William Sutton Housing Association. The outcome of further applications for grants is awaited, but financial support from individuals in Doxey is already forthcoming. The following websites may be useful for providing more information:

www.mikron.org.uk for the Mikron Theatre Company

www.doxeyca.org.uk for Doxey Community Association

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Staffordshire
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