



## **BRIDGNORTH CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL links up with *SP8 of the Art* – *the Mark Speight Foundation***

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The organisers of the Bridgnorth Children's Festival are delighted to announce that they are linking up with *SP8 of the Art – the Mark Speight Foundation* for this year's event.

Raised and educated in Wolverhampton, Mark became one of the country's best-loved children's entertainers before his sad death in 2008. With his superb artistic cartooning skills and zany antics he was one of the BBC's top presenters with the network's highly rated children's show, SMart, and was involved in a number of other projects including Red Nose Day appearances and documentaries on saving the environment and endangered species. Mark was also Junior President of the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign and this year they have named their Young Pavement Artist of the Year Award in his memory.

**SP8 of the Art – the Mark Speight Foundation** was established in order to fulfil two aims:

1. To seek out future artistic skills and talent in children aged between 4 and 18, in all its various forms including portraiture, landscape, fashion design, architecture, graphic design, sculpture and modern art and
2. To promote and encourage the involvement of all young people in art as a means of self expression; contributing to personal and community development.

Commenting on the link up **Mark Gibbons**, Children's Festival Co-ordinator, said,

***"The work of the SP8 of the Art – the Mark Speight Foundation neatly ties into what we as Festival organisers are aiming to do. Over the 3 years we've been established the Festival has always provided a wide range of art workshops, demonstrations and activities.***

***We are always looking for ways to inspire people coming to the Festival to have a go at something new or improve their skills in particular area. This association will help us achieve one of our key objectives in providing unique development and learning opportunities for children and young people."***

Although the exact nature of the activities to be provided have not been finalised yet, SP8 of the Art – the Mark Speight Foundation will be providing a **caricaturist** who will

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be at the Festival and who will be creating drawings of those attending. In addition it is hoped that other **national celebrities** and **artists** will be attending the Festival.

Over the years the Festival has provided pottery workshops, cartoon and comic drawing activities, large scale graffiti and Big Art and in conjunction with the former District Council ArtsPlay Team a variety of craft activities.

Some of these activities will again be available and new additions for 2009 include: T-shirt and card making.

The Children's Festival will be held at **Oldbury Wells School** on the **August Bank Holiday Sunday & Monday** (30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> August). **Admission is free** and there will be a host of other arts and crafts activities, workshops and demonstrations.

[ENDS]

### Notes for Editors

The Children's Festival will take place on **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> and Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2008** (the Bank Holiday weekend) at **Oldbury Wells School** site.

The organising team includes senior teaching professionals, members of the business community, youth workers and advisors. County, Town and District Councillors have pledged their support.

The Festival website is [www.childrens-festival.co.uk](http://www.childrens-festival.co.uk). Photos from the website may be used by the media on condition that they accompany Festival reports.

All of the schools in the local area have pledged support for the Festival.

Individuals working directly with young people as part of this initiative will comply with CRB checking processes.

The Children's Festival is organised by a charitable company.

For details of **SP8 of the Art – the Mark Speight Foundation** log on to [www.speightofheart.org.uk](http://www.speightofheart.org.uk)

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