

## Back Stage

Stewart Bullen David Small Tracie Billington-Beardsley Frank Dowdle Julian Skellett Chris McCormack Karina Horitz Daniel Horitz Peter Broad

## Sound Walk

At the end of the performance, return along the river path to hear a Sound Walk created by environmental sound artists, Adrian Newton and Harry Ovington, and Lynn Davey.

Enjoy recordings of river creatures and people's thoughts and memories about living near the River Stour in Wimborne. All the recordings and texts will soon be available on the website. [www.wimbornecommunitytheatre.co.uk](http://www.wimbornecommunitytheatre.co.uk)



**Wimborne Community Theatre & Millstream Theatre**  
*present*

# Secrets of the Stour

*A site-specific production in a hidden part of Wimborne*



Artwork by Heidi Steller

**July 6,7,8,9 • 7.30 pm**  
**By the River Stour, Julian's Bridge, Wimborne, Dorset**

## About the Production

*'The rivers flow not past, but through us.'*

John Muir, Naturalist & Conservationist

Over the last few years WCT members have researched and developed ideas for *Our Rivers Run Through Us*, a project focusing on themes relating to a sense of what it means to live near the rivers Allen and Stour, and the importance of the river ecology in our lives. Local people of all ages contributed memories about the local rivers, and short films and sound walks, and these culminated in an exhibition and production *'Timeless Stream'*, in October 2021, at Walford Mill, on the banks of the Allen.

Finding a location beside the Stour for the next phase of the project was more difficult and we were thrilled to discover these riverside fields on land owned by Sir William Hanham, particularly as our project coincided with his own ambitions *'to raise awareness of the value of our rivers for the community and for the wildlife that inhabits them. With the Stour running through the Deans Court Estate, we are starting to regenerate the land to bring it back into balance with nature.'*

As with previous projects, funding enabled the group to work with a professional musician/composer, sound artist, artist and puppet makers, and this collaboration with artists ensures the group develops new creative skills, and benefits in many ways from their experience, which in turn enriches the local cultural scene.

Joe Hancock (Artistic Director, Burn the Curtain) brought his expertise in making interactive promenade theatre and helped the group consolidate its ideas and research, and to frame them in the archetypal story of the Hero's Journey.

Research with young and disabled people locally made us aware how affected they have been by psychological and social pressures brought about by the pandemic and by the climate crisis, and this has fed into our story.

An Access Grant from Dorset Performing Arts Fund enabled us to move towards greater inclusion. Tam Gilbert, co-director of Millstream Theatre, developed ways of making the show accessible to people with visual impairment, and to incorporate a degree of audio description.

We hope you enjoy the show. And if you have time at the end, stay a while for a chance to talk about ideas and issues raised by the play.

## About Wimborne Community Theatre

This year WCT celebrates 30 years making unusual theatre in the landscape and non-theatre buildings, exploring past, present and future stories through performance, involving people of all ages.

We have developed and performed over twenty productions inspired by local places and the lives of inhabitants, past and present, real and fictional.

WCT's first production, *'Voyages'*, was set in the grounds of Kingston Lacy in 1991. In 2011, we received Heritage Lottery funding to create a website to archive the materials from all WCT's productions, and we will be launching an updated website soon, thanks to funding from the Valentine Trust.

WCT is a project-based group, which means we apply for funding for each project we plan, and to enable members to work in partnership with arts and cultural organisations, as well as professional artists/practitioners, and to involve other local groups.

We're always pleased to welcome new members: anyone interested in researching, story-making, performing or 'backstage'.

We also hold several social fundraising events during the year, including Quiz and Skittles Evenings.

Our next fundraising event is a **Treasure Trail**, on **Friday evening, September 2**, which will be held in the area around Canford School. Do come along if you'd like to find out more about WCT. Or leave you contact details at the box office, for occasional WCT Newsletter updates.



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



## WCT Steering Group

Tracie Billington-Beardsley Barbara Hart Jeff Hart Tuppy Hill  
Anna Hillman Tony Horitz Gill Horitz Clare Small Adrian Williams

• • •

**We are extremely grateful for the help and support of the following people without whom this project would not have been possible:**

- Sir William Hanham, for his generous and positive assistance in helping us 'stage' the production on his land
- Adrian Smith, Gardener, and other Staff at Dean's Court,
- Gavin White, Staff and Parents, Rushcombe School, for their support
- Members of Pallida Choir, Shaftesbury, and all participating musicians
- Professor Adrian Newton for advice and information about the rivers, creatures and plants
- Dan Churchill and Staff at Canford School, for use of boat, and knowledge about the River Stour, and fishing
- Linda Bunting, Wimborne Green Festival
- Everyone who has given their valuable time as Stewards and Helpers
- David Small, for use of his Ferguson tractor
- Tracie Cooper, Dorset Council, for loan of the marquees

• • •

Karen Wimhurst [www.karenwimhurst.co.uk](http://www.karenwimhurst.co.uk)  
Adrian Newton <http://nemeton.org.uk>  
Harry Ovington [www.sonicrewild.co.uk](http://www.sonicrewild.co.uk)  
Heidi Steller <http://www.heidisteller.co.uk>  
Joe Hancock [www.burnthecurtaintheatre](http://www.burnthecurtaintheatre)  
Pallida Choir <https://www.palidachoir.com>  
Tony Horitz, Gill Horitz: [www.stateofplayarts.co.uk](http://www.stateofplayarts.co.uk)

Wilding Wimborne <https://www.facebook.com/wildingwimborne/>  
Planet Wimborne <http://planetwimborne.org>  
Dorset Wildlife Trust <https://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/wildlife-conservation/dorset-wild-rivers>

## CAST

### Scene 1: Siblings on the Shore and Arrival

Fisherman	Julian Skellett
Ushers & Allotmenters	Tuppy Hill, Clare Small, Anna Hillman
Sam, Eldest Grandchild	Amy Pickford (Wed/Fri) Annemarie Hodgson (Thurs/Sat)
Jay, Younger Grandchild	India Murray (Wed/Fri) Samuel Koppel (Thurs/Sat)
Lesley Nectarbel, Celebrant	Barbara Hart
Children	Rushcombe School, Year 4, see below
Choir	See below
Boatman	Dan Churchill
Spirit Guides:	
Otter	Stewart Bullen
Water Crowfoot	Sue Bullen
Caddisfly	Luke Davies
Eel	Dave Morgan (Sc1) , Alan Audley (Sc 5 & 6)
Salmon	Helisha Lindon
Kingfisher	Samuel Koppel (Wed/Fri) India Murray (Thurs/Sat)

### Scene 2: First Portal

Jay	
Opal Truing, Guardian of the First Portal	Kat Courtauld
Adar Truing, Guardian of the First Portal	Shaine Singer

### Scene 3: Field of Shrines

Musicians	See below
The Great Plafondola	Nichola Christie
Circus Folk	The Company
Guardians of the Ranunculus Shrine	Jeff Hart, Barbara Hart
Guardians of the Summer Mayfly Shrine	Eva Small, Jane Skellett
Guardians of the Autumn Frog Shrine	Heather Lowe, Helisha Lindon, Jackie May
Guardians of the Winter Heron Shrine	Alan Audley, Tuppy Hill, Sue Bullen
Monster	Clare Small, Anna Hillman, Luke Davies, Shaine Singer

### Scene 4: Trees that Talk

Lord Wim	Dave Morgan
Lady Wim	Jane Skellett
Quercus Ribur, The Oakman,	Ed Bersey

Messengers

*The Company*

**Scene 5: Dance on the Hill**

The Spirit Guides

Jay

Sam

Choir & Musicians (see below)

Monster

*Shaine Singer, Clare Small*

*Anna Hillman, Dave Morgan*

**Scene 6: On the Shore Again**

Jay

Sam

Boatman

Spirit Guides

**Year 4, Rushcombe School:** (*Dance devised by Alex Hardy and the children*)

**Wednesday, Friday:** *Madison, Luther, Elwood, Layla, Amelia, Eloise, Scarlett, Chloe, Max, Angkor, Isla, Dougie, Lily, Lizzy, Thomas, Jack, Ruby, Lara*

**Thursday, Saturday:** *Madison (not Sat performance), Drew, Parker, Sonny, Amelia (not Sat performance), Eloise, Harrison, Chloe, Molly, Theo, Hugo, Dougie, Dexter, Freya, Thomas, Holly, Ethan, Arturs*

**Choir**

<i>Di George</i>	<i>Kat Courtauld</i>	<i>Holly Walter</i>	<i>Sammy Upton</i>	<i>Yuko Shiba</i>
<i>Tuppy Hill</i>	<i>Karen Wimhurst</i>	<i>Miranda Walter</i>	<i>Victoria Pirie</i>	<i>Amy Pickford</i>
<i>Linda Smith</i>	<i>Jackie May</i>	<i>Katharine Gowing</i>	<i>Mathew Tagney</i>	<i>Robin Walter</i>
<i>Ed Bersey</i>	<i>Jeff Hart</i>	<i>Nichola Christie</i>	<i>Jane Skellet</i>	

**Music** for River Creatures, Circus, Monster, Grandmother Oak, Dance:

*Karen Wimhurst*

**Musicians**

*Sam Stubbs*, alto sax    *John Clayton*, alto sax    *Karen Wimhurst*, clarinet

*Ed Bersey*, percussion    *Yuko Shiba*, percussion

**Songs**

The Water (Sc1)

*Johnny Flynn. Arr. Karen Wimhurst*

Seed Planting Song (Sc 1)

*Alex Hardy and Year 4 Children, Rushcombe Sch*

Circle Game (Sc 3)

*Joni Mitchell. Arr. Karen Wimhurst*

Quercus (Sc4)

*Solo bass Ed Bersey, Words Gill Horitz*

Our River (Sc 5)

*Arr. Karen Wimhurst, Words Gill Horitz*

The River is Flowing (Sc 6)

*Trad.*

Story

*Joe Hancock*

Script

*Tony Horitz*

Artistic Director

*Tony Horitz*

Guest Artistic Director/Dramaturge

*Joe Hancock*

Choir & Musical Director, Composer

*Karen Wimhurst*

Assistant Director

*Tam Gilbert*

Sound Artists

*Adrian Newton & Harry Ovington*

Puppet workshop Leader

*Kerrie Seymour*

Assistant Director

*Holly Walter*

Millstream Access Worker

*Sandra Davies*

Production Manager

*Harry Ovington*

Project Managers

*Rachel Limb, Julia Pulman, (White Sheep Projects) with Barbara Hart, Tuppy Hill, Gill Horitz*

Costumes

*Hannah Small*

Props

*Hannah Small, Clare Small*

Spirit Totems

*Clare Small*

Portals

*Clare Small, David Small & WCT Crafters*

Oak Tree & Myclium Flags

*Clare Small*

Costumes, Cloaks, Shrine flags

*Hannah Small, Tuppy Hill, Barbara Hart, Anna Hillman, Jackie May, Stewart Bullen, Sue Bullen, Heather Lowe*

Fish Headdresses

*Hannah Small with Rushcombe School*

Monster Puppet by

*Kerrie Seymour*

Heron Puppet by

*Heidi Steller*

Mayfly Puppet by

*Charlotte Wye & Julia Wojciechowska*

Frog Puppet by

*Will Hargreaves*

Water Crowfoot Puppet by

*Clare Small, Anna Hillman*

Shrine Maker

*Stewart Bullen*

Shrine Decorator

*Heidi Steller*

Talismans

*Community workshop attendees*

Peapod wine-maker

*Sue Bullen*

Tractor driver

*David Small*

Video

*Alastair Nisbet*

Audio Description

*Tam Gilbert*

Accessible site model

*Jane Skellet*

BSL Interpreter

*Wendy Ebsworth*

Behind the Scenes

*WCT Crafters*

Straw bales

*Peter Cox Agric. Services*

