

# **Arts in the Neighbouring Cities**

## **Nottingham**

The amateur theatre set up in Nottingham is quite different from that of Derby. Firstly, some of the groups based in the suburbs tend to look towards their respective boroughs for assistance rather than the Nottingham City. Secondly there are two large amateur theatres – the Lace Market Theatre and the Arts Theatre, who not only produce their own material but also hire out their venues to community groups. The Lace Market Theatre is owned outright by the group whilst the Arts Theatre is given by the Co-op on a 99 year peppercorn lease. The role of the Council in supporting groups has therefore been minimal although they have given occasional assistance to groups struggling with capital to maintain their buildings. The City's main support has been through offering mentoring and advice to groups.

There is also the Sandfield Centre which supports schools in developing amateur dramatics. Their venue is also available for hire by voluntary groups.

There are professional companies operating in the City, Theatre Royal and Nottingham Playhouse who produce and perform in the city. These venues are rarely used by amateur groups.

## **Leicester**

Provision of Art in Leicester also seems to be well ahead of Derby. The Performing Arts Theatre currently under construction will be opening its doors in October 2008. This is a major development replacing the Haymarket Theatre and is costing around £50m and funded by the City Council, The Arts Council, EMDA and European Development Fund. The Performing Arts Theatre will be run by the Leicester Theatre Trust, an independent charitable organisation.

There are a number of smaller community venues available for amateur groups.

- The Y Theatre is run by the YMCA and available for hire by community groups, Little Theatre is owned by community groups who run various activities including outreach.
- The De Montfort hall is city Council owned building and available for hire by community groups
- Phoenix theatre provides facilities for films and live theatre.
- Youth Theatre Network works with schools and young people