



STIRRING IMAGINATIONS: Kumiko Mendl with a shadow puppet theatre

PICTURE: Lloyd Ellington

Storyteller inspires children with stories from the Far East

Bath's Museum of East Asian Art held a storytelling event at the weekend in an effort to teach children about cultural diversity.

The event, *Stories from East Asia*, was organised with the London 2012 Open Weekend which marked the start of a three-year countdown

to the Olympics.

A storyteller from the London-based Yellow Earth Theatre, Kumiko Mendl, hosted the event.

She used a traditional East Asian tale from Vietnam and incorporated the museum's own artefacts into the story.

The children took an active role in the day's event by using specific props to make noises when certain words were spoken by the storyteller. Families were also encouraged to create their own five-minute stories using props and mystery objects.

Education and development officer Kate Burakowski said: "The Olympics bring cultures together and so does the museum. For young children who haven't been abroad yet we expose them to different cultures. The aim was to inspire and spark their imagination."

Shakespeare has rap twist

TIMSBURY: Pupils from Years 5 and 6 at St Mary's Primary School chose William Shakespeare's play *The Tempest* as their end-of-term production and then adapted it in their own style.

They gave it a modern twist by using modern dance, rap and pantomime to help tell the story.

A collection was held at the end of each performance and £200 raised for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Eyes on prize

BATH: Internationally-known painter David Napp is the latest entrant for the Bath Prize art competition.

Organised and sponsored by The Bath Gallery, the contest is open to both professional and amateur artists who are given the brief of painting a part of the city.

Entries close on August 24 and paintings must be received by September 7. Full details and an entry form can be found at www.thebathprize.co.uk.

New officers

BATH: The annual meeting of the Probus Club of Bath saw a new president, Sydney Haywood, and a new chairman, Roger Godfrey elected.

Membership is open to professional and businessmen aged 60 and over, who are fully or partially-retired. Contact Bath 352153 for more information.