

Curtain up on giant play plans

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DOZENS of Stroud people have begun brushing up their acting skills with the first of a series of workshops leading to the town's mammoth community play.

More than 40 residents joined the inaugural drama session at organisers Dr Foster's New Mills rehearsal space off Slad Road.

And on Sunday 100 people will be singing there at the first musical workshop.

Camilla Hale, co-ordinator of the huge autumn play — expected to be seen by 7,000 people — said: "Everyone interested is welcome to come along when Pete Rosser will lead the session.

"Even if you've never sung outside of the bath, or if you are a trained Pavarotti, this is your opportunity."

The play will be Stroud's biggest community event for decades and up to 1,000 residents are expected to take part.

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Community play co-ordinator
Camilla Hale

The audience at the Leisure Centre main hall will see the final product of 20 voluntary script researchers.

They are studying the history of Stroud as actors, set builders, designers and others begin their contributions too.

Camilla added that the skills sessions in drama and singing were for anyone, of any ability and any age who could go along and learn about acting, singing and music.

Co-directors of the community play Greg Banks and Jo Bousfield are running the drama sessions and plan another tomorrow.

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