

For immediate release

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NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITIES TO CREATE AND CONNECT

Seed commissions artists to create activities for local people

Wednesday 27 May: Seed, the Arts Council England funded Creative People and Places project for Sedgemoor, has commissioned five local artists and groups to deliver creative activities that will engage, support and creatively connect people in Sedgemoor during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Seed Director Scott O'Hara said "The lockdown has reduced opportunities for communities to connect with each other and for local artists to make a living. We are thrilled to be able to launch our Creative Lives Under Lockdown initiative and fill some of those needs. Anyone living or working in the Sedgemoor area is invited to look at the activities on offer via our website www.seedsedgemoor.com and join in."

The five activities are:

Let's Dance Sedgemoor led by Sally Mann and Fuse Outdoor Arts. Come and learn a dance online, contribute your own dances and share videos. We will then repeat the dance after lockdown at events and locations around in Sedgemoor such as Bridgwater's Quayside Festival, at the Seaside in Burnham on Sea and elsewhere.

Joyful Noises will see artists Tim Hill and Hannah Earl explore expressions of sound and community coming from the Thursday night Clap for Carers. Share your experience of making a joyful noise and help us create new celebratory traditions for the Covid and post-Covid world.

Arts Quarter Cheddar will build on their very successful Arts Lockdown Challenge activity. We will provide sketchbooks for you to complete and then they will be displayed in Cheddar post-lockdown.

Moments of Stillness is a collaborative video project led by Nadja Mcdevitt and Leila Browning, and involving Create You in Highbridge. When outdoors, shoot up to a minute of footage on your phone to contribute to a film capturing the quiet and tranquillity of life under lockdown in Sedgemoor.

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Bev G Star will lead creative online tutorials, using creative packs assembled and delivered to your home. With a new activity each week, you will learn to make your own dreamcatcher, nature print, mandala, floral wreath and more.

Consortium chairperson Claire Tough from Homes in Sedgemoor also invited people to provide feedback on the other types of activities Seed could make available. "Seed is here to respond to the needs and interests of the community, so we would love to hear from anyone in Sedgemoor about what we could offer through the Creative People and Places programme."

Anyone living or working in Sedgemoor is invited to join the conversation at www.seedsedgemoor.com where you can complete an online survey which is also available at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QZLMR3Q>.

IMAGES



Full size Images to accompany this release can be downloaded via:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1WfUoCn43t35L7oDNqglS8_xV92ZnbDDu

Seed Sedgemoor

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Seed is a Consortium of local organisations comprising:

Homes in Sedgemoor,
Community Council for Somerset,
Bridgwater Senior Citizens Forum,
Somerset Film; and
Bridgwater Town Council.

We believe that arts, culture and creativity are not elite activities, but should be an ordinary part of everyday life, created by, with and for the people. This can be achieved in partnerships with artists in all forms of the creative arts, working in response to the collective imagination and reflecting the things that are important to the communities of Sedgemoor. We seek to make creative arts, culture and heritage part of everyday life in Sedgemoor by growing new opportunities for its people to participate, create and celebrate.

Seed is part of the **Creative People and Places** programme, initiated and funded by Arts Council England through the National Lottery. Creative People and Places is about more people taking the lead in choosing, creating and taking part in art experiences in the places where they live.

There are 30 independent projects, each located in an area where people have traditionally had fewer opportunities to get involved with the arts. Between 2013-2018 Creative People and Places projects have reached over 3 million people, 89% of who do not regularly engage in the arts.

If you would like further information about Seed, this announcement or to arrange an interview please contact Scott O'Hara via scott@seedsedgemoor.com or on ph. 07484 820672

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