



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Liz Fox

Phone: 07586 348372

Email: liz@seedsedgemoor.com

seedsedgemoor.com

New Projects Celebrate the Art and Culture of the Cheddar Valley

7 Dec 2022

Local arts organisation Seed Sedgemoor have commissioned new projects developing and celebrating local culture. Seed is Arts Council England's Creative People and Places Project bringing creative opportunities to areas in Sedgemoor that are isolated from the kind of provision enjoyed by larger towns and cities. Early this year Seed held a series of consultations to find out what residents in Axbridge, Cheddar and the Polden Hills felt they were missing and what artistic activities they would most like to see. Local artists and residents then submitted applications from which Seed has commissioned a selection of new projects. From crafting and clay work, to theatre shows, music and storytelling there will be opportunities for everyone to get involved and participate in the coming months.

Seed first brought **Window Wanderland** to Cheddar in 2020. It is now in its third year, inspiring a trail of beautifully illuminated windows which you can visit daily 6-8pm until 11 Dec. The windows were created in homes and in workshops at Kings Leisure, the school and Cheddar Library led by the Arts Quarter. The trail is available to download.

Cheddar Individuality Project, led by Artist Bridget Hemmings draws on Antony Gormley's Field of Figures idea to celebrate the character of the Cheddar Valley through an art installation of ceramic figures. People who live or work in Cheddar Valley are invited to help create 1000 individual clay figures which will be displayed this summer. As well as working with local charities, housing associations and organisations, two free public workshops are taking place in Jan and Feb and are bookable now online.

Cheddar Folk Banners is a project led by Inkjam. Every Monday they are offering a warm welcome at The Arts Quarter, Cheddar. With drop-in coffee morning sessions to research old photos and share stories about Cheddar and the surrounding Villages which will then be illustrated by local children and turned into textile banners for an exhibition this summer.

Cheddar Youth Theatre was started in October to provide opportunities for young drama lovers aged 6-11 and 11-18. The group meets at the Catholic Church Hall weekly on Wednesday from

4.30pm to explore drama, music, improvisation and games with actor David Reakes and guests from Somerset Youth Theatre.

Cheddar Frequencies led by artist Richard Tomlinson, will be creating an audio portrait from the community of Cheddar and surrounding villages. Participants will learn how to edit their sounds and co-create a physical sound-artwork.

Outside of Cheddar, Theatre and Musical group the Lady Garden are leading **Discovery of Sumorset Herstory** a project researching stories from the Cossington area alongside a delve into the history of 17th Century witch trials in Somerset. There will be workshops in story sharing, song writing, and the creation of crankies – Appalachian style puppet theatres – to draw parallels between the lives of women in the medieval area and today.

Clay Club is a gently social series of pottery workshops with Artist Tina Salvidge who is teaching hand building and decoration techniques using clay. The weekly classes on Tuesday in Badgworth and Axbridge are free but limited in number so you will need to book early.

Musicians are invited to join a twice monthly **Chilton Polden Music Group** sessions at the Village Hall on Monday evenings. With additional low-cost lessons in guitar playing and singing. Players of all instruments and standards from beginners up are welcome.

A **theatre production** of the highly acclaimed Godot is a Woman brought to Axbridge Town Hall last month received standing ovations from a full house. David Eagle presents his show Flying Solo on 25 Feb. The shows have been arranged by Seed through the Rural Touring Programme which brings high quality productions to small venues. If you would like to see theatre to your pub, village hall or community space Seed can help facilitate this.

In tough times we turn to the arts to raise our spirits, share our experiences and build community. The Creative People and Places project run by Seed Sedgemoor is one of 39 across the country about more people taking the lead in choosing, creating and taking part in arts and culture experiences in the places where they live. Arts Council Funding distributed by Seed ensures that activities are either free or local cost so that everyone has some opportunity to be creative.

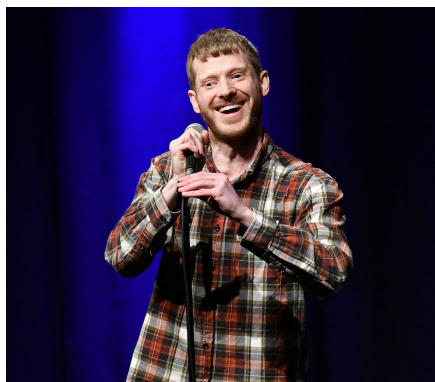
For more information about the projects and how to get involved visit www.seedsedgemoor.com

You can also find Seed Sedgemoor on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @seedsedgemoor

IMAGES

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

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nghuVfPABdw4sjxwHRL0x6SirkQCNEWSU?usp=sharing>



Seed Sedgemoor

The Engine Room | 52 High St. Bridgwater Somerset TA6 3BL info@seedsedgemoor.com | 01278 433187

Seed is a Consortium of local organisations comprising:

Homes in Sedgemoor,
Community Council for Somerset,

Bridgwater Senior Citizens Forum,
Somerset Film; Young Somerset 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 Arts Council England's Creative People and Places programme (CPP). Creative People and Places is about more people taking the lead in choosing, creating and taking part in arts and culture experiences in the places where they live. It is an intervention by Arts Council England to inspire new ways of thinking about cultural engagement in local authority areas where the official statistics showed historically low levels of engagement. There are 39 projects across the country, each located in a place where people are least likely to engage with arts and culture. The Arts Council has committed £38 million to the programme between 2022-2025. Between 2012 and 2019 it created 7.4 million engagements with the CPP programme and 86% of people who participated weren't previously engaging regularly with arts and culture.

#createyourplace

www.creativepeopleplaces.org.uk

www.artscouncil.org.uk/creative-people-and-places/creative-people-and-places-projects

**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**

**interview please contact Liz Fox
via liz@seedsedgemoor.com or on ph. 07586 348372**

/ends