



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Elliott Morgan

Phone: 07983404 639

Email: Elliott@seedsedgemoor.com

Test your metal on this collaborative art project at Bridgwater Fair

Fri 13th September

Artist Jake Bowers invites you to join him at Bridgwater Fair and take part in an exciting collaborative public art project by helping to forge the mane and tail of a life-sized Gypsy Cob. By crafting a piece of steel into a lock of hair, you can contribute to the creation of this magnificent steel sculpture.

The Thirsty Bear Forge, run by artist blacksmith Jake Bowers, is an artistic metalworking studio that uses the ancient art of blacksmithing to create both contemporary and traditional metalwork designs. Known for his craftsmanship and attention to detail Jake uses a coke-fired forge to heat and forge steel over an anvil, ensuring each piece has the personal touch of an expert artisan. Jake holds a triple distinction diploma in Blacksmithing and Metalwork and a journeyman's certificate from the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths founded in 1299.

Jake said

"We need at least 300 forged pieces to complete the horse, which will be one of 12 sculptures representing each British region and nation. With this project we want to honour Romany history and showcase their contribution to the landscape through the traditional Romany craft of blacksmithing."

The completed sculpture will be donated to Bridgwater at no cost to residents, as the entire project is a commission from Seed. It is hoped that the sculpture will be placed in a prominent position on the Fair Field and enjoyed by residents for years to come.

You can get involved and leave your mark on this unique artwork at The Fair Field in Bridgwater on Thursday the 26th of September. There's no need to book. Jake is keen for anyone wanting to take part to turn up and contribute

Jake worked on a previous similar project for the National Trust called "Changing Chalk"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wK83LAM-WAQ>

Find out more about Jake and [Thirsty Bear Forge on via their website](#)



IMAGES

Full size Images and poster to accompany this release can be downloaded via:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1SSFgAocaU5Djgfa8bugoduXAr7sxNDRW>



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 the Creative People and Places programme, supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England. Thanks to National Lottery players, Creative People and Places is about more people taking the lead in choosing, creating and taking part in creative and cultural experiences in the places where they live.

Since 2012, there have been over 15 million engagements with the CPP programme and 90%¹ of people who participate in CPP weren't previously engaging regularly with creativity and culture. [Find out more about each project, the difference the programme has made and our learning >](#)

¹ Average across 3 Audience Finder National Reports 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24

#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 Elliott Morgan via elliott@seedsedgemoor.com or on ph. 07586 348372

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