

TORBAY CULTURE

BECAUSE IT MATTERS | EST. 2015

Create to Recover

2020

Evaluation

***It's kept me in the realm
where I am still an artist***

Victoria Westaway, Create to Recover artist



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Create to Recover

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INTRODUCTION TO CREATE TO RECOVER

As part of Torbay Culture's response to the immediate impact of the pandemic and the first nationwide lockdown, we applied to the Arts Council England COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund. We wanted to be able to support our local creative sector and plan something that would be flexible, straightforward and relevant for Torbay. We were successful in securing the funding and this meant we could initiate the Create to Recover programme.

Create to Recover was based on a simple principle of 'we need beauty in dark times'. Artist Walter Bockhorn, who painted throughout his entire life continued to produce art even as his sight deteriorated. Walter believed passionately in the idea that creating beauty is even more important during the toughest moments in history. It has been a touchstone for us personally and for Torbay Culture during this period.

The **Create to Recover** programme included an open call for local artists to apply for small amounts of funding so they could re-start their practice, creating work that celebrated the places and people of Torbay; recruitment for a creative producer to develop and support the artists and projects; and partnership activity with a range of local organisations. The response was excellent. Projects have included music, performance, film (both documentary and dramatic), visual arts, sculpture, dance, poetry and circus skills. We have been able in a modest way to support some long-held artist ambitions, helped test new ideas, and enable some creatives to develop larger scale activity as they play a central role in the Torbay's recovery. Local people have been actively involved, as much as possible, within the public health guidance. Some activity has had to move online, but all the artists have carried on creating. Torbay's fascinating heritage has been a central part of many of the artists' projects, and numerous films have been made which also provide a record of this moment in time.

Create to Recover cannot solve the problems we face, but it has provided a model of how to carry on creating during adversity. Not everything went smoothly, there were things we learnt to do better and it tested systems which were stretched at times. But more than anything it worked. Local people have spoken about how they feel lifted by the projects. Artists have said how they were given confidence to get creating. We want to thank everyone who has been part of this, whether creating work, watching, listening, enjoying or participating. To all the partners and to the Arts Council, thank you for making this possible. Finally, we want to express a special thank you to Clare Parker for her hard work and care in producing the programme with sensitivity and professionalism.

Let's Carry On Creating!

Jacob Brandon
Chair of Torbay Culture

Martin Thomas
Executive Director,
Torbay Culture

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INTRODUCTION/ BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

Create to Recover was a programme of commissions which took place across Torbay from July 2020 and following the first lockdown during the Covid-19 pandemic. The programme was initiated by Torbay Culture with funding from Arts Council England COVID-19 emergency response funding to support local creative practitioners, cultural places and communities.

An open call went out through Torbay Culture website, social media and arts jobs listings in summer 2020, inviting individual artists to apply for one of two commissioning levels at either £750 or £1500 project funding, along with an open call for a Creative Producer to work across the whole programme.

Following a recruitment process Clare Parker was appointed as Creative Producer in July 2020, to support the successful delivery, public engagement and promotion of each project. All activity operated within changing public health guidelines on Covid-safety and plans were adapted dynamically throughout the delivery phase which ran until end Oct 2020.

27 artists submitted proposals and a selection panel from Torbay Culture carefully considered all submissions, from which 9 were selected, and all artists were offered feedback which the Creative Producer provided by zoom, telephone conversation or email. All artists (selected or unselected) were invited to join 2 creative producer support sessions where information was exchanged about changes to Covid guidance, and updates on available funding sources. As a result of joining one of these sessions one of the unselected artists was connected to the team at HeArTs and an opportunity evolved for her to show her work at Torbay Hospital.

The projects which were selected represented a mix of art forms across performance, written / spoken word, painting, temporary and permanent sculptural installation, and film. The projects enabled communities across Torbay to engage in a range of ways - as contributors, participants and audiences. Artists collaborated with cultural organisations and community partners across the bay with projects being delivered in Brixham, Paignton and Torquay.

In addition to the 9 artists' projects, a series of convening events/commissions were also supported through Create to Recover which, at the point of writing this report, are due to complete by the end of January 2021 following postponement during second England-wide lockdown.



Image: Present with me, Richard Chappell Dance. Courtesy of Dan Martin



Image: The Waymarker Project, Zoe Singleton. Courtesy of Zoe Singleton



Image: The Waymarker Project, Zoe Singleton. Courtesy of Clare Parker



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THE PROJECTS

CHELSTON IN LOCKDOWN - A SLEEPING BEAUTY

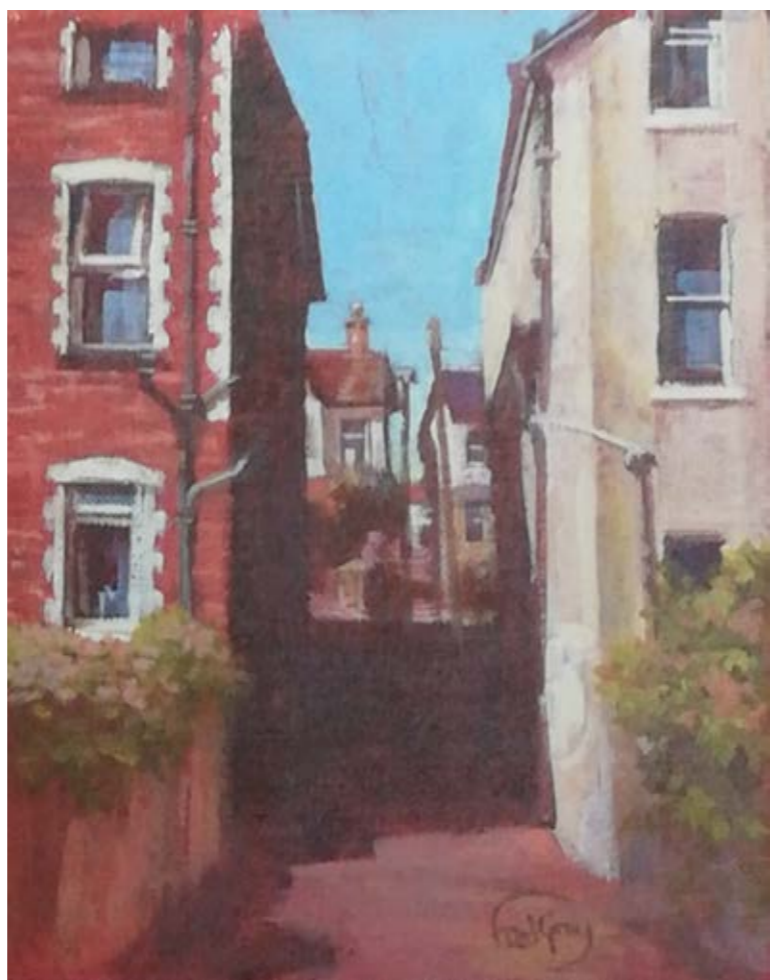
Fred Gray

Fred Gray discovered something about his local area on his early morning walks whilst shielding during the pandemic, becoming acquainted with lanes, steps, buildings and streets; absorbing the character, names, nuances and patterns. His project 'Chelston in lockdown - a sleeping beauty' invited local people to look at their neighbourhood with fresh eyes and to share their experiences and discoveries with Fred about the place just beyond their own doorsteps.

Fred is an established fine artist who has also worked commercially including creating backings for Aardman animation films. In this project he turned his extraordinary visual eye to reveal new views of Chelston and its tumble of different architectural styles and buildings. Drawing on local people's contributions, Fred created a series of paintings to share these neighbourly perspectives on Chelston, and invited local people in to see the process as it unfolded. The evolving works were exhibited in the windows of 19 shops and businesses in Old Mill Road, Walnut Road and Sherwell Valley Road. Fred invited local people to create their own favourite views of Chelston and 20 picture postcards, made by local people aged 3 to 80, were exhibited alongside Fred's work in the local shop windows.

The final exhibition of Fred's paintings, along with the pictures created by members of the local community, took place at Artizan Gallery from 20 - 31 Oct. Local participants and partners attended a special preview event on 19 Oct, and the children participating were given certificates and art materials.

Fred formed new connections in his neighbourhood including with 19 local businesses, Chelston Manor Pub (who have invited him to do masterclasses for local people using their premises), Chelston Shed, and Tara Action, Community Builder for Chelston and her colleagues at Torbay Community Development Trust.



Images: Chelston in lockdown - a sleeping beauty, Fred Gray



Images: Gloria!, Jane Anderson-Brown. Courtesy of John Tomkins



GLORIA!

Jane Anderson-Brown

Over the summer Jane Anderson-Brown gathered together professional musicians, and a chorus of singers to rehearse together both remotely and in small socially distanced groups. The project culminated in an open-air rehearsal and live performance at Cockington Court by Red Earth Opera of Vivaldi's Gloria and short opera extracts, including extracts from the settings of the Orpheus legend.

During lockdown musicians were extremely hard hit in their ability to earn a living and live performances - especially involving singers and brass / wind instruments - were subject to the most stringent restrictions, presenting particular challenges to sharing work with the public. This project supported Jane and professional musicians from Red Earth Opera to return to rehearsing and performing together and back into socially-distanced contact with their audiences.

The rehearsal and performance took place outside at Cockington Court early in September 2020. Many members of the public were able to enjoy listening to rehearsals during the day and a socially-distanced audience of 80 people attended an early evening recital which took place outdoors at the Seachange Studios area.

The Create to Recover programme was able to commission John Tomkins to create a short documentary film to capture the event in order to reach a wider audience online and through social media.

Jane formed new connections with Cockington Court, including some additional busking performances outside the remit of this project. Donations received from the audience on the day meant that Red Earth Opera could purchase some promotional pop up banners for future events. Marissa Wakefield at Cockington Court, who worked in close partnership on this project to enable its smooth running, was delighted to have live music happening at the venue again.

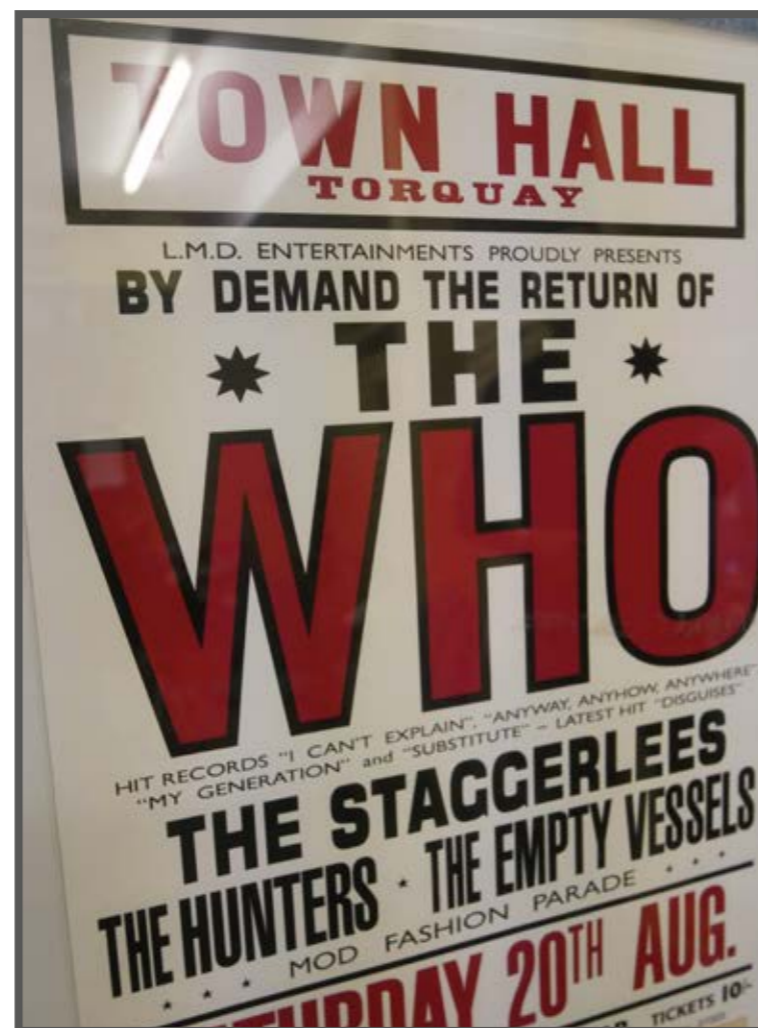
HISTORICAL TORBAY

John Tomkins

John Tomkins collaborated with members of the Torquay Museum Society (TMS) to create 3 documentary films celebrating the heritage of Torbay. The films featured Paignton Palace Theatre, Brixham Battery and Torquay Town Hall. Each film is being released first to members of TMS and then shared online and through live screenings at Torquay Museum to encourage local people to engage with Torbay's rich cultural heritage.

Create to Recover supported John personally to continue to work professionally as a documentary filmmaker, as well as supporting the 250 members of TMS to continue to actively engage with the Museum's rich collection and heritage. TMS has a membership that represents a particularly vulnerable coronavirus cohort including the retired and elderly, so this project was an opportunity for isolated members of the society to keep involved with the Society and Museum using technology.

The films were shared with wider audiences at a celebratory 'Spotlight on Culture' event to be held at Palace Theatre in Dec 2020 as well as through Emberlense and Torbay Culture social media channels.





3 THE PROJECTS

OUTSIDE THE FOX PRESENTS
BE PART OF THE TAIL

Sophie Amos

Sophie Amos was supported through Create to Recover to develop Outside the Fox - Be Part of the Tail, an inclusive training programme giving disadvantaged communities the opportunity to experience and participate in live circus. The circus-based workshops aim to give participants practical skills and experience in all forms of performance (from staging, lighting and technical theatre to performance skills and improv techniques) whilst building self-confidence, teamwork and finding a sense of connection through the arts.

Adapting to changing circumstances, Sophie collaborated with filmmaker John Tomkins to produce a promotional film to engage future audiences and build future participation in Outside the Fox. The film has been shared through social media where it has had a wide reach, and provides a lasting outcome for the newly formed company to be able to promote their work.

During the Covid-19 lockdown, live participation completely halted, exacerbating lack of opportunity to participate. The intention for this project was to include a participatory workshop but due to ongoing restrictions this was not possible and so the emphasis of the project shifted to a period of research and development enabling Sophie to work with 3 other specialised circus artists to build a shared practice and participatory programme ready for when restrictions are lifted in 2021.





Image: Present with me, Richard Chappell Dance. Courtesy of Dan Martin

3 THE PROJECTS

PRESENT WITH ME

Richard Chappell

Richard Chappell collaborated with filmmaker Dan Martin, professional dancer Sharol Mackenzie, and a small community cast from Torbay to create a short dance film exploring how movement connects us intimately to each other and to home.

Richard grew up in Torbay and now, working internationally as a choreographer, regularly returns to the Bay to make work and to teach dance. 'Present with me' supported Richard to begin to make work again following 4 months of cancelled work, and acted as a bridge to a digital autumn season for Richard Chappell Dance. It also built on 'Silence Between Waves' 2019 and Richard's collaboration in Torbay with local community dancers, filmmaker Dan Martin and local partners including Dance in Devon and Torre Abbey. Local people were invited to contribute short clips of themselves dancing through an open call in August.

The film premiered at Exeter Northcott as part of an evening of Richard's work in October and is available online at Richard Chappell Dance YouTube channel. Torre Abbey will be screening the film for visitors in 2021 (delayed due to the second lockdown in November 2020).



Images: Squidbox, Robert Garnham. Courtesy of John Tomkins



SQUIDBOX

Robert Garnham

Robert Garnham spent the summer of 2020 learning about the Brixham fishing industry and meeting the people who work there to find out about their lives, hopes, fears and experiences. Robert went out on trawler boats, met with fishermen and people working in Brixham harbour, and researched local history with the support of Brixham Heritage Museum.

Drawing on his research, Robert created 'Squidbox', an original collection of poems for performance that celebrate and shine a light on Brixham's fishing industry and the folk who work there.

Robert Garnham is a spoken word artist and LGBT comedy performance poet based in Torbay. This project enabled Robert to explore a new process and direction in his work, to form new connections and partnerships, and to publish the collection. Robert was also able to collaborate with filmmaker John Tomkins to create a short film version of Squidbox which is available to view online on Robert's YouTube channel.



Images: The Shoal Story, Victoria Westaway. Courtesy of Victoria Westaway

3 THE PROJECTS

THE SHOAL STORY

Victoria Westaway

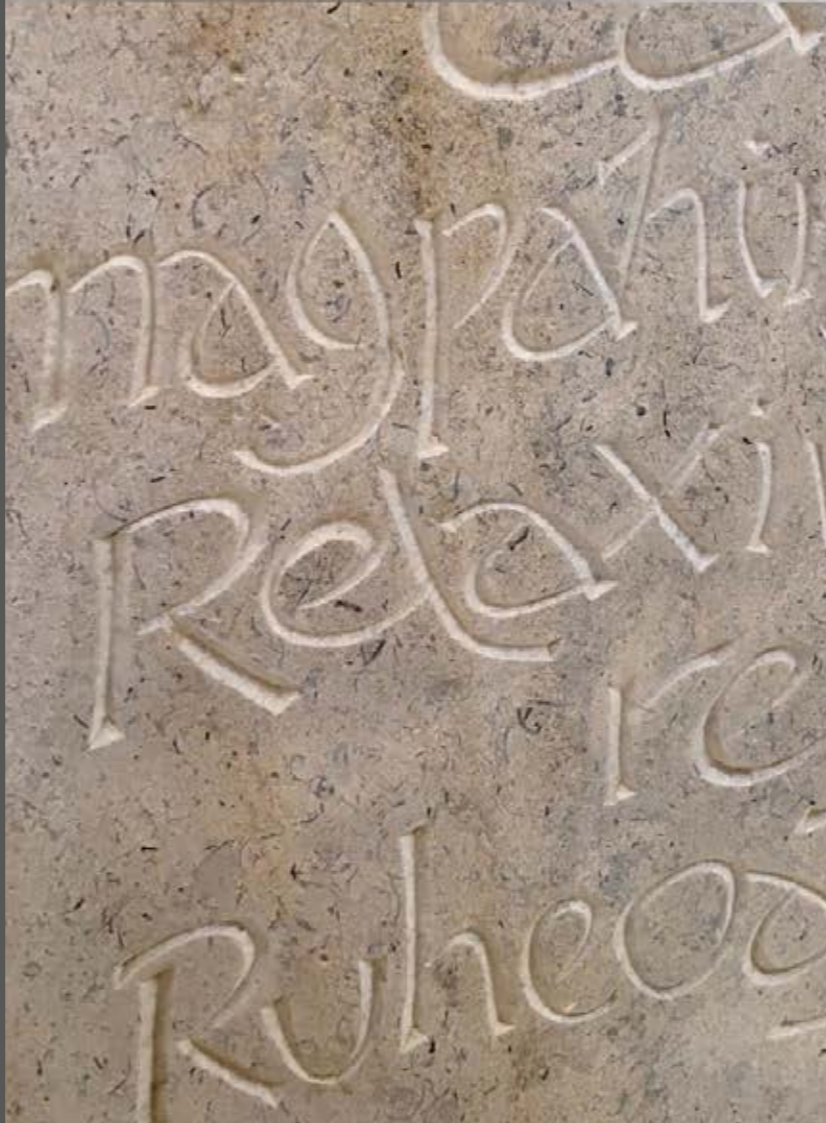
Victoria Westaway invited members of the local community to collaborate on the creation of a temporary willow structure depicting a series of waves onto which a giant shoal of fish swam against the tide. The work was installed on the railings in front of Torre Abbey, starting as a series of waves in August and over the coming weeks gradually the shoal of fish appeared. The original intention was for the work to be taken down at the end of October but Torre Abbey were keen for it to remain in situ until the end of 2020 as the public have really enjoyed it whilst visiting the grounds. The work will then have a new life as it will be moved to Torre Abbey gardens to become a trellis for sweet peas to grow up in 2021.

During the installation period 60 people interacted in person with the artist at the site, with a mix of local Torbay residents and visitors from out of the area. Due to the nature of the site as a much used walk through, we estimate that around 500 to 1000 people will visit the work from August to December 2020.

The project supported Victoria to return to her artistic and participatory practice following lockdown, and offered a safe and accessible invitation for people to collaborate where each small piece forms part of a powerful whole. A short 'behind the scenes' film was shared on social media.

The project offered 150 'weave fish kits' with simple instructions for making a willow fish which were available to collect from Torre Abbey for community groups and members of the public to take part. Some were also delivered to local households for people to take part who were shielding. Groups and individuals of all ages took part in the project and Vik also ran a zoom tutorial for young people at Play Torbay to take part and make their own fish. Although only 150 fish kits were distributed, 210 fish were returned suggesting that kits were used by more than one person in a household and family members were getting involved.





Images: The Waymarker Project, Zoe Singleton.
Courtesy of Zoe Singleton

3 THE PROJECTS

THE WAYMARKER PROJECT

Zoe Singleton

Zoe Singleton collaborated with staff at Torbay Hospital to create five permanent waymarker stones that form the foundation of a trail around the hospital grounds, connecting spaces along a journey to pause, think and reflect. Each stone is carved with words that have special meaning to hospital staff and in a number of languages and scripts to reflect the diversity of staff, patients and visitors.

80 members of staff at Torbay Hospital submitted words for the stones and Zoe curated the responses into different themes for each of the 5 stones. During the September Open Studios Zoe invited the public into her studio where they were able to witness the stones being carved, and members of the HeArTs team had a virtual tour via zoom. The stones were installed in October by the hospital grounds team and officially 'opened' on Fri 6 Nov by MP Kevin Foster in a virtual gathering involving Zoe, hospital staff, HeArTs, Torbay Culture. A short film created by hospital videographer Liam Meyer to tell the story of the Waymarker Project was shared through the hospital and social media channels in November 2020 as well as through the Spotlight on Culture event at the Palace Theatre.

The Waymarker Project was a collaboration with the HeArTs programme at Torbay Hospital which is integrating artworks into a wide range of indoor and outdoor spaces within the hospital grounds for their therapeutic benefits for staff, patients and visitors.





3 THE PROJECTS

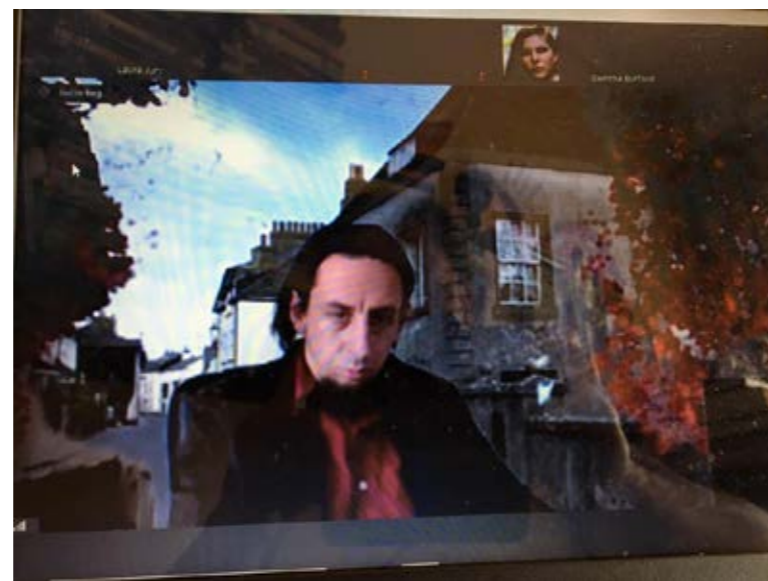
TRUE TALES OF SPOOKY BRIXHAM

Laura Jury

Laura Jury created an original piece of film drama to bring to life Brixham's colourful ghost stories. Working in collaboration with local history experts to create an original script drawing on local folklore and known histories, 'True Tales of Spooky Brixham' highlighted hidden stories and places of interest in the town.

The work was planned to be filmed on location in Brixham, but due to restrictions under Covid-19, filming was achieved over zoom, with performances by professional actors from South Devon Players. South Devon Players are a Brixham-based organisation specialising in researched and historical classical dramas over the past 15 years. This commission provided support for performers and crew fees following a period of cancelled performances and reduced ability for live fundraising events due to Covid-19.

The films were released for ticketed viewing on South Devon Players YouTube channel and available as free to view online from November 2020.



Images: True Tales of Spooky Brixham, Laura Jury. Courtesy of South Devon Players

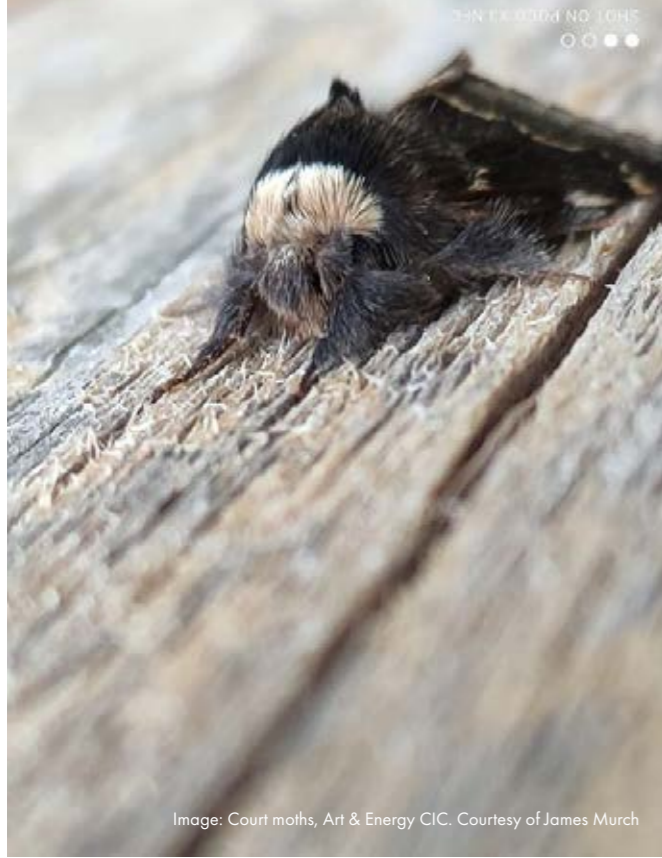


Image: Court moths, Art & Energy CIC. Courtesy of James Murch

1

UV Moth Installation at Cockington Court

'Moths To A Flame' is a collaborative participation project by the Art & Energy Collective. As part of Create to Recover, A&EC transformed recycled plastic bottles collected by The Courts cafe, to create an illuminated UV moth installation in the gateway leading to the Stable Yard Craft Studios at Cockington Court. The project invited local people to get involved in making contributions at home due to current restrictions and the installation opened ahead of the Christmas period at the shops and will remain in situ through January 2021.



Image Courtesy of Palace Theatre

2

'Spotlight on Culture' event at Palace Theatre

A Spotlight on Culture brought together creative practitioners, cultural venues and organisations, local businesses, community groups and people to mark the importance of culture in community resilience and recovery. The event was held on 17 December at the Palace Theatre and also celebrated the theatre's 130th birthday year and the success of Jazz Hands CIC in joining the ranks of #SmallBiz100. The event also saw the premiere of the Create To Recover films produced by John Tomkins, and a special showing of 'A Masque From Italy' by Agatha Christie, created by Matt Hulse and Ben Nealon for the 'Poems from the Palace Theatre' project, with special thanks to Julius Green.

3 THE PROJECTS

CONVENING EVENTS..

In addition to the 9 commissioned projects, Create to Recover was also able to support 3 convening events to bring people together in our local cultural venues and celebrate and share the importance of culture in community resilience and belonging.

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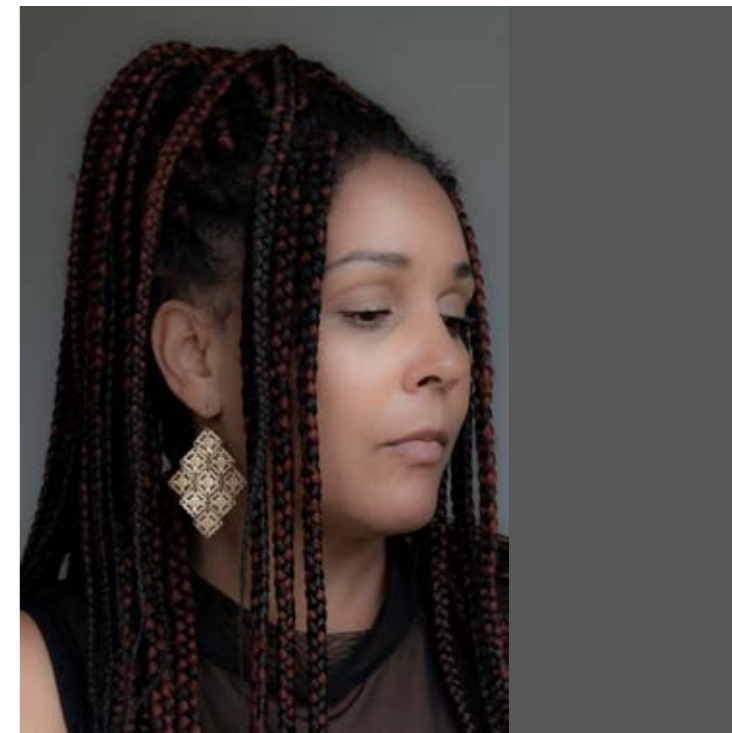
'Identity and difference: home and belonging' poetry workshop at Palace Theatre

This event, supported by Literature Works, has been postponed to future date due to current Covid-19 restrictions.

The event will be a poetry workshop led by Louisa Adjoa Parker, in partnership with Paignton Palace Theatre.

Louise is based in the South West and an acclaimed writer, poet and speaker, and Diversity & Inclusion consultant for The Inclusion Agency.

The workshop will include warm up exercises, group discussion, writing exercises, editing and performance practice skills and an opportunity for local participants to share their work within a supportive environment.



4 IMPACT IN NUMBERS

- 9** **artists** from a wide range of art forms were supported to realise new creative projects
- 1** **creative producer** was employed across the programme
- 9** **new professionally produced films** created:
 - 3 x heritage documentary films (John Tomkins);
 - 2 x project documentation (Jane Anderson-Brown / John Tomkins; Zoe Singleton / Torbay Hospital digital media team)
 - 1 x drama film (Laura Jury);
 - 1 x dance film (Richard Chappell Dance / Dan Martin);
 - 1 x performance poetry film (Robert Garnham / John Tomkins);
 - 1 x circus promo film (Sophie Amos / John Tomkins)
- 1** **temporary sculpture** (Victoria Westaway);
- 1** **temporary lighting installation** (Art & Collective);
- 1** **permanent sculpture trail** (Zoe Singleton)
- 1** **exhibition of 21 paintings** (shared in gallery, shop windows Fred Gray)
- 1** **live performance event** (Jane Anderson-Brown)
- 1** **publication** (Robert Garnham)
- 7** **behind the scenes films** made by Creative Producer for social media project promotion (Victoria Westaway; Sophie Amos; Fred Gray; John Tomkins; Laura Jury; Jane Anderson-Brown; Zoe Singleton)
- 530** **participants** across the 9 projects
- 21** **partners / collaborating organisations** across the 9 projects

Project / artist	New works	Participants	Live / online audiences*	Partners / collaborating organisations	Other impacts
Historical Torbay / John Tomkins	3 documentary films	50 interviewees	See details below **	Torquay Museum; Torquay Museum Society; Brixham Battery; Palace Theatre	Brixham Battery producing DVD version for income generation.
Chelston in lockdown / Fred Gray	1 gallery exhibition of 21 original artworks; 1 exhibition of work in progress through a shop window gallery trail	19 local businesses; 20 participants contributing artworks	100-150 visitors to Artisan gallery	Torbay Community Development Trust (esp community builder Tara Acton); Artizan Gallery; Chelston Post Office; Chelston Manor pub; Seasons Art Class	3 prints / 17 postcards sold through Artizan. Prints and postcards created - intention is to invite local businesses to sell them when we are out of lockdown. Chelston Beach Hut coverage raised awareness of Fred in local area. 100 creative activity postcard packs went to local residents.
Gloria! / Jane Anderson-Brown	1 live concert	25 performers	80 live audience	Cockington Court; Emberlense	Documentary film created to enable Red Earth Opera to promote their work to Torbay audiences. Donations from audience on day enabled Red Earth Opera to buy 2 new pop up banners. Jane applied to commission opportunity for Time & Tide bell as a result of this connection.
Outside the Fox / Sophie Amos	1 promo film	4 professional artists	1000+ views of film online	Palace Theatre	Sophie was supported by CP to submit a DYCP bid to Arts Council England in Nov 2020. New supportive relationship going forwards with Palace Theatre.
True Tales of Spooky Brixham / Laura Jury	1 drama film	3 professional actors, 3 crew members	Not available yet	Brixham Theatre	Renewed connections with Brixham Heritage Museum for local history research.

* See publicity for online stats to date

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 Music Scene Memories at Torquay Town Hall; 2600 views 7938 people reach 36 shares (1 week since release) 32 plays on vimeo
 Historical Torbay : The Palace Theatre Paignton; 2200 views 6637 people reach 27 shares (1 week since release) 32 plays on vimeo
 Historical Torbay : The Brixham Battery; 6400 views 17143 people reach 54 shares (10 weeks since release) 90 plays on vimeo

Project / artist	New works	Participants	Live / online audiences*	Partners / collaborating organisations	Other impacts
The Shoal Story / Vik Westaway	1 temporary sculptural installation (inc 210 fish made by local people)	300 participant makers aged 8 to 80. 1 zoom workshop with young people age 8-12.	Approx 60 members of public interacted during install; estimate 500 to 1,000 visitors over 4 months	Torre Abbey, Play Torbay, Doorstep Arts, Shoal Swimmers, Ladies Lounge; Seasons Art Class	500+ views of behind the scenes film and many comments on social media (inc tweets from local B&Bs). Play Torbay have said they would like to develop a project with Vik in the future.
Squidbox / Robert Garnham	1 published collection of poems; 1 film of Squidbox performance poetry	6 local fishermen; 6 others	90 live audience at Palace Theatre; 60 online views over first few weeks	Brixham Heritage Museum; Emberlense Productions	Partnership with Brixham museum leading towards a collaborative project in 2021
Waymarker Project / Zoe Singleton	1 permanent sculpture trail of 5 stones at Torbay Hospital; 1 documentary film about the project	80 members of Torbay Hospital Staff; 10 HeArTs team members	63 online views over first few weeks	Torbay Hospital; HeArTs; Artizan Gallery	Partnership evolving between the artist and HeArTs for a future sculpture trail. Members of the public were able to view the stones during Open Studios in Sept 2020.
Present with me / Richard Chappell	1 dance film; screened at Exeter Northcott, online and to be screened at Torre Abbey	1 professional dancer, 2 community dancers (aged 17 and 92); 1 professional filmmaker	50 live audience at Exeter Northcott; 63 online views over first few weeks	Torre Abbey; Exeter Northcott; Dance in Devon	Mentoring process enabled through project for the young dancer on applying to dance college this year. 'Present with me' will be screened as part of Spring Moves Dance Festival in Ireland in 2021.

* See publicity for online stats to date



REFLECTIONS & LEARNING



A positive for artists has been the lightness of touch both in the initial application process and expectations throughout the project, and in terms of reporting to Torbay Culture and project administration. Many of the artists felt that they were being trusted to deliver their projects without over-interference from the team at Torbay Culture, or additional expectations around impact targets that other funders / commissions may look for.

Artists recognised the value of being flexible and pragmatic about how to achieve projects and how delivery may need to change in the light of changing circumstances - particularly so because of changing regulations due to the pandemic. Many of the projects had to adapt plans, and being able to use digital media helped artists to shift plans to achieve their project aims and reach audiences where it was not possible in real life.

The commissions were of a modest scale but had a significant impact on the artists, who spoke of how important the commission was in keeping them connected with their practice and making work, often in circumstances where all their other work had been cancelled.

Musicians working with Jane Anderson-Brown spoke of the wellbeing to themselves and audiences of live music happening after so many months when musicians had been unable to work.

Robert Garnham commented that getting the commission had given him a much needed boost and the confidence that he could continue to make work despite the impact of Covid-19 and his performance work stopping

Jane Anderson-Brown wanted to use the project as a way of promoting Red Earth Opera to Torbay audiences who have been hard to reach. Whilst we reached maximum capacity at the venue given social distancing with a live audience of 80 people, we decided to commission a documentary film of the project to enable Jane to reach wider audiences through online and social media.

Laura Jury had planned to work towards a live performance, then plans shifted to filming on location, and again had to change to zoom filming due to worries amongst the production team about Covid-safety on location.



Images courtesy of John Tomkins. Jade Campbell & Erin Walcon, Doorstep Arts / Palace Theatre documentary; Marissa Wakefield, Cockington Court / Gloria! documentary.

Though commissions of this scale would not normally draw a great deal of press or social media interest, the programme did attract good coverage in local print and radio. This was helped by partners who put out their own press releases - particularly Artizan Gallery on Fred Gray's project and Torbay Hospital on Zoe Singleton's project.

Victoria Westaway commented on the high level of publicity and awareness about her project through social media and the value of using film to capture and advocate for her work which is something she plans to take forwards into future commissions by creating time-lapses of the work being created.

Zoe Singleton commented on the wider recognition she had gained as a publicly-commissioned artist on this project, through the publicity in local press and radio, and social media, and showcasing this project during Open Studios.

The commission enabled the artists to progress their project with confidence, underwriting the costs involved for artists who would normally have to take a risk upfront against potential box office returns or exhibition sales.

Laura Jury was able to contract and pay actors in advance, which in turn gave them a boost at a time where their income had fallen away.

The value of the commission went far beyond the monetary value and many artists highlighted that the recognition and credibility of receiving support from Torbay Culture was the most significant element for them, opening doors to other partners and increasing awareness among local participants and audiences.

Sophie Amos commented that the support of a Producer was invaluable in guiding her around the budgeting, contracting of artists / ITC rates, and risk assessment elements of her project, particularly as an emerging artist new to aspects of producing projects. An open and collaborative relationship with the team at Torbay Culture, meant Sophie felt supported and unafraid of flagging up areas where she needed help or had less experience, which would not have been available if this was simply a funded project without that support.

Strong partnerships were formed as a result of the projects.

Torre Abbey were very supportive of projects with Richard Chappell and Victoria Westaway, as a venue for the work to be shared. For Shoal Story, Torre Abbey led on all aspects of participation with groups and individuals connected to the Abbey's programme. Richard Chappell commented that the relationship with Torre Abbey had really blossomed and they are co-developing plans for 2021.

New staff at Brixham Heritage Museum became very engaged with Robert Garnham's project, providing access to local history resources, and thinking creatively about potential future collaborative projects.

Torbay Hospital are keen to build on the Waymarker Project and the collaboration with Zoe, Torbay Culture and Artizan Gallery, to further develop the sculpture trail and a project is being scoped for delivery in 2021.

A new collaboration was formed between Sophie Amos and Palace Theatre as the venue for workshops and performances in the future for Outside the Fox.

Different partners and organisations had very different attitudes to risk and the changing rules under Covid-19 meant there was ongoing nervousness about what was allowed and what would be possible in the future. The Creative Producer was able to support artists in keeping up to date with changing regulations, liaising with the Council where permissions were needed, and in completing all risk assessments which many artists and partners acknowledged was reassuring and removed a large amount of stress. Decisions about where to place work were made with an understanding of these different risk profiles - for example choosing privately managed venues over council managed venues due to the likelihood of obtaining permissions in some cases - particularly where lead-times were short.

Jane Anderson-Brown had initially wanted to stage Gloria! at either Cockington Park or Palace Avenue Gardens but the decision was made to seek another venue due to a combination of capacity issues to respond to permission requests in a timely way and sensitivity to risk at both Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust and Torbay Council. Working with Cockington Court who were keen to collaborate and had autonomy of decision-making about events and risk mitigation, meant we were able to plan the event with more confidence and certainty of going ahead. The relationship has blossomed with Cockington Court with Jane Anderson-Brown doing regular busking performances and with an installation of a temporary lighting treatment in December 2020.

Many of the artists worked closely with communities and participating groups and individuals and commented on how beneficial it was to their practice at this time to be either re-connecting with the public or working in a participatory way for the very first time.

Zoe Singleton commented that collaborating with staff to co-produce the stones had felt really joyful and was a very new experience for her as she generally works alone in her studio. It has opened her eyes up to a new type of participatory practice and public commissioning of her work which she is keen to pursue further.

Fred Gray usually works in an isolated way in his studio, or on large collaborative professional productions. His Create to Recover project was the first time he has engaged with his local neighbourhood and community and he commented that the project had brought him into connection with the people around him and refreshed his practice. His project engaged local people in making their own pictures of favourite views in Chelston and all the work was shared through a shop window gallery trail in the 3 main shopping streets in Chelston. As a result many local people have become involved with the project, curious about Fred's work and inspired to look at their neighbourhood anew. Fred has also connected with Tara Acton, community builder for Chelston and is considering ways to build on these neighbourhood connections in future projects across Torbay.

Robert Garnham reflected on the sense of connection he has built with Brixham and the number of new connections he has made locally with individuals and through the Museum. He is keen to build on these relationships in future projects but also really values the sense of belonging he has gained as a result of doing the project. One response from a member of the public on facebook has suggested he be recognised as the 'Bard of Brixham' (if there were such a position).

Richard Chappell reflected that through this project he has really experienced the value of working in this more intimate and focused way with a small number of participants as opposed to mass participation projects. This experience has given him the confidence to argue for this approach with funders and not feel like the value of participation always lies in mass engagement and can be just as valuable as a deeper practice with fewer people.

Artists observed other ways in which their practice had developed or evolved as a result of Create to Recover.

Richard Chappell developed his collaboration with filmmaker Dan Martin from one of documenting his choreographic work to one where Dan is an equal collaborative partner in making creative dance films. This is informing the Company's work going forwards with plans for a large scale engagement project in Exeter using film ahead of a new performance at Exeter Northcott.

Victoria Westaway was able to build a willow sculpture in situ for the first time and the experience of working outdoors in the public domain gave her experience and confidence ahead of a project in Lyme Regis in late autumn 2020.

Robert Garnham reflected how the project had evolved his practice as he hadn't spent such a long sustained time examining one topic and writing a collection of poems on one theme.

As well as these successes the artists faced many challenges - most universally the challenges of creating and producing work for the public in the face of ever changing guidelines and restrictions as a result of Covid-19.

There were tensions around the balance of marketing and managing audience expectations on Gloria! Capacity was very limited for audience members at the site, and with restrictions on singing and wind instruments having only just eased from 3m social distancing to 2m, the event was pitched as an open rehearsal and recital with the public encouraged to listen from a socially-distanced spot around the wide grounds and not overcrowd the Seachange Studios area. This brought some challenges in

terms of promoting the event to the maximum but the producing and venue team were concerned about overcrowding so wanted to avoid mass promotion. Stewarding the event also presented a challenge as audience members were new in returning to live performance and unclear of what was expected of them, with some people showing a lack of awareness of social distancing etiquette which had to be managed quite closely.

Sophie Amos had planned to deliver a pilot workshop for Outside the Fox - Be Part of the Tail in October 2020 with participants but due to the new government restrictions around masks and issues of sanitising props it became clear that this would not be feasible. Delivery was re-imagined to spend more time on R&D and to create a promotional film that could be used in 2021 to promote future workshops with participants.

Richard Chappell faced challenges working with participants who were especially vulnerable to Covid-19 and although a thorough risk assessment and Covid-safety protocol was in place for his project, there were ongoing worries about working with vulnerable participants. Worries were compounded by the professional dancer coming down with a cough and being unable to access a test locally for Covid-19, and instead having to be driven to Barnstaple. Because the dancer had been in contact with participants a few days before symptoms appeared the company members and participants went into isolation for several days whilst test results were awaited. The test result came back negative and the filming was able to be rearranged for 2 weeks later and went ahead, but the logistical complications and anxiety for company members should not be underestimated - especially given the company do not live locally and travel and accommodation arrangements quickly became very complex and expensive.

Reaching participants was made even more difficult due to the short time frame of the programme coinciding with a pandemic.

Robert Garnham had attempted to use social media to reach people to crowd-source a poem as this is something he regularly does as part of his live performance and he was keen to see if it was possible remotely. However, whilst people were viewing his material digitally, getting a response and directly engaging people with the project using digital approaches was much more challenging and he abandoned this idea.

Communication channels with staff at Torbay Hospital were not as straightforward as had been anticipated and reaching the staff was difficult for Zoe's project. This was made even more challenging as engagement was during August which is a time when many staff were taking annual leave. We were able to overcome this by attending the grounds on several occasions and approaching staff on their breaks outside and through finally connecting with the hospital communications team as a result of a facebook post. Once we had managed to get the message out to the staff we had a tremendous response which was 5 times what the team at HeArTs had predicted, showing there is an interest from staff if they can be reached.

Richard Chappell experienced some issues with reaching participants as partner organisations - particularly ROC - who would normally help facilitate this were hard to contact and members of staff were furloughed.

Supply chains and lead times were an issue for a number of the projects, exacerbated by the effects of Covid-19 and the short timescales for the programme.

Vik Westaway would have struggled to source & soak willow if the project had not landed in the summer. Fred Gray was keen to commission the frames for his work from Chelston Shed but they were unable to respond in the timeframes needed. Other suppliers such as specialist printers had gone out of business as a result of the pandemic, meaning that artists struggled to source supplies locally.

Laura Jury found getting permissions from homeowners to use their house as a back-drop for filming was especially difficult during the pandemic.

Lead times for permissions from the Council were challenging. This would have been an issue in normal circumstances due to the short lead times for delivery of the whole programme, but was exacerbated by capacity being under strain at the Council due to other demands as a result of the pandemic.

Whilst the contracting and invoicing process has been straightforward, delays with processing and making payments caused issues for many of the artists, particularly with cashflow as they were having to pay out for materials and collaborating artist fees and wait to be reimbursed. The impact on this on freelance artists has been noted and improvements to payment systems have been put in place.

The artists fed back about their wider learning on the project.

Fred Gray felt that he had learnt about pacing himself and managing his own expectations of what was practical and possible for the project.

Laura Jury reflected that her learning had been about local history, supported through a renewed connection with Brixham Heritage Museum, which will go on to inform the work the company produce.

Sophie Amos fed back that she had learned about aspects of producing a project such as contracting artists, risk assessments, and managing budgets, as well as partnership relationship building.



Image: Glorial, Jane Anderson-Brown. Courtesy of John Tomkins

“The support and the umbrella of Create to Recover has been very useful.. its good from the point of view of networking, and feeling part of the Torbay creative scene.”

“It was a big social thing.. a group hug without the physical contact. Everybody who took part felt it gave a boost to their wellbeing, and a lot of the audience were saying it was so nice to hear live music again.”

Jane Anderson-Brown



Image: Chelston in lockdown - a sleeping beauty, Fred Gray. Courtesy of Fred Gray

“Its been about getting the work going, and out of my attic bubble.”

Fred Gray



Image: The Waymarker Project, Zoe Singleton. Courtesy of Zoe Singleton.

“Working on a public project added weight to what I do in my whole portfolio of work.”

“This was a community project and it really opened my eyes to the richness of that sort of project. I found working with the staff, and having their responses and their text, really enjoyable.”

Zoe Singleton

“As a company it has put us out there..”

Sophie Amos



Image: Outside the Fox - Be Part of the Tail. Courtesy of John Tomkins



Image: Historical Torbay, John Tomkins. Courtesy of John Tomkins

“I lost 90% of my work when lockdown happened.. Bizarrely I came out of Covid stronger than I went in to it.”

“I’m trying to tell the story of the people the best way I can.”

John Tomkins

“Support from producers for seed commissions is essential.. so that the output of delivery is what the artist is focused on. And having someone to speak to when things got difficult has been a bit of a life saver.”

“This has allowed us to evolve the creative relationship with Dan as an artistic collaborator on every level... It led us to think about how short films can become starting off points for full length works, or summaries of past full length works, to explore new audiences and different places it can reach”

Richard Chappell



Image: Present with me, Richard Chappell Dance. Courtesy of Dan Martin



Image: True Tales of Spooky Brixham, Laura Jury. Courtesy of South Devon Players

“Most of us haven't had a lot of work this year because of Covid.. so it's good for the pocket book.. but it's also increasing that sense of self-worth through difficult times.”

“We've gone out and explored more local history, found out new stories, new information... and because we are a company of people that specialise in historical dramas, that becomes very, very useful for us for future writing and research.”

Laura Jury

“The project changed my practice enormously. It was a challenge to write about something prescribed and actual rather than follow the usual flights of imagination that I often employ in my writing. It was also a challenge and a joy to combine my usual style, oeuvre and humour with a subject matter so far removed from my usual.”

“The most biggest thing I learned is the sense of community and community spirit in Brixham, as well as obvious things like life at sea and the history of the town. It was also a fantastic learning experience to explore the role of women and refugees in the history of the town, and how history affects us even today and serves as a lesson.”

“It was important for me to do this project because it really did allow me to become at one with my home town and area and connect with people through my art. Obviously, it was good to be paid to do something creative, but more than anything it was a joy to have my work taken seriously by people within local cultural institutions. I believe that this project has given me enormous confidence to apply for other commissions, and not underestimate what I am capable of as an artist.”

Robert Garnham



Image: Squidbox, Robert Garnham. Courtesy of John Tomkins

“Just to be back out there using my hands again was really good for my soul... It’s really nice to be somewhere for a few days to create something, as opposed to alone in my workshop making. Just chatting to people while I was weaving, it was like being an artist in residence.”

Victoria Westaway



Programme Wide		
Listings	English Riviera mag	Oct edition
Newsletter	Arts Council Creative Lowdown	Aug 6 edition
Article	Torbay Weekly	31 July edition
Fred Gray		
Interview	BBC Radio Devon	22 Oct edition
Article	Torbay Weekly	
Editorial	Chelston Beach Hut	Sept edition
Review	Chelston Beach Hut	Dec edition
Zoe Singleton		
Article	The Moorlander	16-29 Oct 2020 edition
Feature	Breeze radio and online	26 Aug 2020
News item	BBC Radio Devon	20 Aug 2020
Newsletter	Torbay Hospital staff online	18 Aug 2020
Article	Torbay Weekly	4 Sep 2020 edition

Waymarker	187 views / CP Twitter	8 Aug
Shoal Story install	199 views / CP Twitter	18 Aug
Shoal Stoy part 2	534 views / CP Twitter	23 Aug
Waymarker / Breeze	362 views / GHR Twitter	26 Aug
Gloria!	407 views / CP Twitter	29 Aug
Fred Gray	197 views / CP Twitter	5 Sep
Gloria! Clips	196 views / CP Twitter	6 Sep
Gloria! documentary	249 views / YouTube 1400 views / facebook & 26 shares	8 Sep
Shoal Story fish clip	237 views / Twitter	10 Sep
Shoal Story clip 2	230 views / Twitter	17 Sep
Outside the Fox	1000 views / facebook & 11 shares	
Historical Torbay	117 views / CP Twitter	27 Sep
Town Hall memories	237 views / CP Twitter	27 Sep
Battery trailer	255 views / Twitter	7 Oct
RCD trailer	174 views / CP Twitter	10 Oct
OTF trailer	117 views / CP Twitter	12 Oct
RCD clip	328 views / Twitter	12 Oct
Laura Jury clip	20 Views / YouTube	13 Oct
Present with me	290 views / YouTube	19 Oct
Squidbox trailer	143 views / CP Twitter	31 Oct

Spotlight on Culture event at Palace Theatre was attended by **150** audience members. **596** visitors came into Cockington Court during the first two weeks, many more visited the gardens and open spaces.

TORBAY CULTURE

BECAUSE IT MATTERS | EST. 2015

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CREDITS

ARTISTS

Sophie Amos
Jane Anderson-Brown
Richard Chappell
Robert Garnham
Fred Gray
Laura Jury
Zoe Singleton
John Tomkins
Victoria Westaway
Art & Energy CIC

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS:

Artizan Gallery
Brixham Battery
Brixham Heritage Museum
Cockington Court
HeArTs / Torbay Hospital
Literature Works
Palace Theatre Paignton
Torre Abbey
Torbay Community Development Trust
Torbay Council
Torquay Museum
Torquay Museum Society

Creative Producer for Torbay Culture:
Clare Parker

Report Designed by: Paul Brierley

With thanks to Arts Council COVID-19 emergency response funding.

Torbay Culture was established in 2015 to progress Enjoy, Talk, Do, Be - the ten year cultural strategy for Torbay and its communities. The strategy is focused around people and place-shaping, with a mission to enable the cultural and creative development of our home, designated as the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark, and make Torbay a better place in which to live, work, learn and visit. TDA is the accountable body for Torbay Culture, its team and financial management. TDA works in collaboration with Board members of Torbay Culture and partners to implement the strategy to transform cultural provision and engagement in the area www.torbayculture.org



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Create to Recover
2020