

Press Release
For Immediate Release
Monday 27 July 2020



Torbay Artists are invited to Create to Recover



Image: Richard Chappell Dance 'Silence Between Waves' Eyeview, part of Torbay's Great Place Scheme 2019. Photographer Dan Martin. Dancer Shaw En Chew.

Artists in Torbay are being supported to begin to make work again after the lockdown. With the cultural sector being hard hit by the pandemic, many artists and cultural organisations have been fighting for their very survival. Torbay Culture¹ was awarded Arts Council England COVID-19 Emergency Response Funding to support the local cultural sector to recover, and today announce a wonderful line up of artistic projects running from August to October 2020 throughout Torbay.

Martin Thomas, Executive Director, Torbay Culture said, ***“Now, more than ever, we need creativity and imagination to begin to recover from the devastating impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. We are delighted to be able to support artists and creative practitioners to begin rebuilding their creative practice, and to collaborate with local***

¹ Torbay Culture collaborates with a huge range of partners to make the bay's cultural offer better and more resilient and to ensure Torbay's ten-year cultural strategy achieves its ambitions to engage audiences with culture and creativity, make the most of the area's built and natural heritage, and ensure that culture is part of the bay's long term future.

people on making artistic work again. Artist Walter Bockhorn said that ‘you must create beauty in dark times’, and Torbay’s creative talent is doing just that”.

The Create to Recover programme will include a diverse mix of open air music, dance and documentary film, participatory circus and painting. Local people will be invited to take part in a range of ways including helping artists uncover local stories and contributing to a giant willow outdoor installation at Torre Abbey. Artists were selected following an open call during July, which received a great amount of interest.

Performance poet Robert Garnham will meet and collaborate with people in Brixham to create ‘Squidbox’ - an original series of poems that will shine a light and uncover local characters and stories from Brixham’s fishing industry and the people who work there.

Artist Fred Gray, whose commercial work includes creating backings for many Aardmann animation films, and who hopes to connect with his neighbours in Chelston to uncover characterful views of the area, said: ***“Physically Chelston is very hilly. Houses tumble over each other layer upon layer. Visually this is very exciting.. a fantastic melting pot visually to contemplate”.***

One of the commissions will enable Zoe Singleton to collaborate with HeARTS² at Torbay Hospital to install a series of stone waymarkers creating a trail through the grounds of the hospital and encouraging staff, patients and visitors to find places for reflection and respite.

Members of the public will be able to see and experience the work at a range of venues throughout the Bay from September to the end October. Full details of the programme will be provided on Torbay Cultures website: <https://www.torbayculture.org>

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Press enquiries

Please contact Clare Parker, Creative Producer, Create to Recover

Email clareparkermail@gmail.com

Tel 07730 065150

² HeARTS (Health and the Arts in Torbay and South Devon) is a programme run by Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust to bring a curated programme of art and events that develop opportunities for both users and providers of healthcare to engage more fully with the diversity of arts to benefit health and wellbeing.

Notes for Editors Projects and Artists

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' is an invitation to 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 is turning 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 will be creating a series of paintings to share these neighbourly perspectives on Chelston, inviting local people in to see the process as it unfolds, and exhibiting the final works at an exhibition in October.

Gloria!

Jane Anderson-Brown



Over the summer Jane Anderson-Brown will gather together professional musicians, and a chorus of singers to rehearse together both remotely and in small socially distanced

groups. The project will culminate in an open-air rehearsal and live performance by Red Earth Opera of Vivaldi's Gloria and short opera extracts, including extracts from the settings of the Orpheus legend.

During lockdown musicians have been extremely hard hit in their ability to earn a living and may be one of the last art forms to begin the road to recovery after the restrictions of the pandemic. This project will support Jane and professional musicians from Red Earth Opera to return to rehearsing and performing together and back into socially-distanced contact with their audiences.

Details of the performance including venue will be available in the coming weeks and we really hope that audiences will relish this chance to experience live music in the open air again.

Historical Torbay

John Tomkins



John Tomkins will collaborate with members of the Torquay Museum Society (TMS) to create 3 documentary films celebrating the heritage of Torbay. The films will be shared online and at Torquay Museum and encourage local people to engage with Torbay's rich cultural heritage.

Create to Recover will support John personally to continue to work professionally as a documentary filmmaker, but also support 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 is an opportunity for isolated members of the society to keep involved using technology.

The project also hopes to recruit new members to the society to ensure its ongoing longevity.

Outside the Fox presents Be Part of the Tail

Sophie Amos



Sophie Amos will develop Outside the Fox, giving disadvantaged communities the opportunity to experience and participate in live circus.

Due to Covid-19, live participation has been completely halted, exacerbating lack of opportunity to participate. The circus-based workshops will 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.

Create to Recover will support Sophie to undertake R&D, deliver a pilot and find cultural partners in Torbay to support sustainable delivery beyond the life of this project.

Present with me

Richard Chappell



Image credit: Silence Between Waves 2019. Dancer Shaw En Chew. Photographer Dan Martin

Richard Chappell will collaborate 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*' will support Richard to begin to make work again following 4 months of cancelled work and act as a bridge to a digital autumn season for Richard Chappell Dance. It will also build 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 will be invited to contribute short clips of themselves dancing through an open call in August.

The film will be screened in October at a number of venues and online.

Squidbox

Robert Garnham



Robert Garnham will be spending his summer learning about the Brixham fishing industry and meeting the people who work there to find out about their lives, hopes, fears and experiences. Drawing on these Robert will create 'Squidbox', an original collection of poems for performance that will 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 will enable Robert to explore a new process and direction in his work and to get back in contact with his audiences after an enforced absence due to lockdown. Check back for details of the performance which will take place in October.

The Shoal Story

Victoria Westaway



Victoria Westaway is inviting 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 will swim against the tide. The work will be 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 will appear.

The project will offer 150 'weave fish kits' with simple instructions for making a willow fish. These kits will be available to collect from Torre Abbey for community groups and members of the public to take part. Some will be delivered to local households for people to take part who are shielding.

The project will support Victoria to return to her artistic and participatory practice following lockdown, and offers a safe and accessible invitation for people to collaborate where each small piece forms part of a powerful whole.

The Waymarker Project

Zoe Singleton



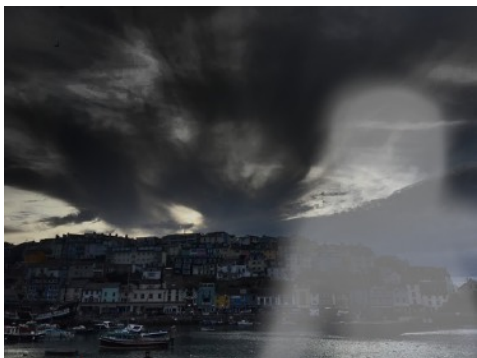
Zoe Singleton will collaborate with staff at Torbay Hospital to create five waymarker stones that will form the foundation of a trail around the hospital grounds, connecting spaces along a journey to pause, think and reflect.

Each stone will be carved with a word that has special meaning to hospital staff and carved in a number of languages that reflect the diversity of staff, patients and visitors. The Waymarker Project will be 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.

Zoe will source stone for the project to reflect links to the exceptional geology of Torbay's coast, including the bay's own UNESCO Global Geopark³ and the nearby Jurassic Coast.

True Tales of Spooky Brixham

Laura Jury



Laura Jury will create an original piece of theatre 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' will highlight hidden stories and places of interest in the town.

The work will be filmed on location in Brixham, with performances by professional actors from South Devon Players, and available for audiences to watch online in October 2020.

³ The English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark covers the Torbay local government area, and is international recognition of the locality's exceptional geological, cultural heritage and environment.

South Devon Players are a Brixham-based organisation specialising in researched and historical classical dramas over the past 15 years. This commission will provide support for performers and crew fees following a period of cancelled performances and reduced ability for live fundraising events due to Covid-19.

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All activity will follow Government and Public Health guidance in respect of social distancing and the wellbeing of attendees and participants.

Torbay Culture's Create to Recover programme is supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
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Notes for Editors

Photo & film opportunities

Contact Clare Parker, Producer, Create to Recover to arrange a photo or film opportunity by emailing clareparkermail@gmail.com / call 07730 065150.

- 18-21 August** **Victoria Westaway** **Torre Abbey grounds**
Victoria will be installing the main willow waves structure on the railings at Torre Abbey alongside the pitch and putt. Victoria is happy to be filmed, photographed and interviewed by prior arrangement.
- Sat 5 Sept 2-4pm** **Celebrate Chelston** **Sherwell Park**
This event is a celebration of a project which ran with residents of Chelston before, during and after lockdown in collaboration with artist Victoria Westaway. At the event, Create to Recover commissioned artist and Chelston resident Fred Grey will be inviting people from the Chelston area to engage with his project and see the work at various stages in development.
- Sun 6 Sept** **Jane Anderson-Brown** **Cockington Seachange Studios**
Jane, professional musicians and members of Red Earth Opera will hold an open air rehearsal in the afternoon followed by a full recital outdoors starting at 6pm. Jane and members of the company are happy to be interviewed and for the rehearsal / performance to be filmed and photographed.
- w/c 14 Sept** **Zoe Singleton** **Devon Open Studios**
Zoe will take part in Devon Open Studios and invites people in to see the work in creation as she forms and engraves 5 waymarker stones to be installed in the grounds of Torbay Hospital. Zoe is happy to be interviewed, filmed and photographed in her studio with the work.
- Laura Jury / South Devon Players** **Brixham**
The company will be filming at locations around Brixham and are happy to be interviewed and for the process to be photographed / filmed.
- Starting 12 Oct** **Zoe Singleton** **Torbay Hospital**
Zoe will be installing the Waymarker Stones at the hospital over a week and is happy to be interviewed, filmed etc - potentially members of the HeARTS team at Torbay Hospital may be available for interviews about the therapeutic benefits of arts in the hospital setting for staff, patients and visitors.
- Victoria Westaway** **Torre Abbey grounds**
The work will be in its finished state with a mass shoal of fish made and added by members of the public.

(cont'd)

Mon 12 Oct

Sophie Amos **Venue tbc**

Sophie will be holding a circus workshop for diverse participants.

w/c 19 Oct

Fred Gray **Artizan Gallery**

Fred's exhibition of the work created will run from 19 - 31 Oct at Artisan Studios in Torquay. Fred will be available for interview / film.

John Tomkins **Torquay Museum**

The films created in collaboration with members of Torquay Museum Society will be screened throughout the week in the Museum and John and TMS members will be available for interviews.

Richard Chappell **venue tbc**

Richard's project culminates in a film which will be screened at a number of venues.

Laura Jury **venue tbc (Brixham)**

The film created with South Devon Players will be screened.

Robert Garnham **venue tbc (Brixham)**

Robert will perform Squidbox - a series of new poems created in collaboration with Brixham's fishing folk - at a venue in Brixham.