

# Oblique Arts Feb, March, April News

## Strange times...

The months have flown by since our last newsletter and its unbelievable how the world has changed so quickly, hopefully you've got used to the 'new normal'. There's quite a bit of news even though most of our projects are now cancelled or postponed due to Covid 19.

## Enhancing Emotional Wellbeing in Youth - EU project

The aim of this project: is to “provide the space, time and safe environment for youth workers to develop their facilitation skills related to youth empowerment and equip them with innovative methods to empower young people through connection with nature, creativity and arts, reducing anxiety, isolation and feelings of hopelessness”.

Oblique Arts is applying for funding with a Spanish partner and if successful, artist's can let us know if they are interested in taking part, it will be one week in Cambridge and one week in Spain.

2 courses each of 7 days (+ 2 travel days) in October + November 2020 (if possible, otherwise we will have decide a suitable date).

- Location: Acumuer, Spain / Cambridge, UK
- Partnership: 6 partners
- Number of participants: 24 participants
- Language: English



## YAB - Empowering Youth !

YAB - Youth Advisory Boards with partner Twenty20 Productions in East Cambs where we'll be guiding and encouraging young people to create social change with funding of £22,000 from Cambridgeshire County Council

The YAB lunchtime meetings were in full swing at Soham & Ely Coll^ges when the covid 19 Pandemic struck so unfortunately their great ideas for social change will be on hold for awhile. One idea that got a lot [ -Notes was to create an outdoor chill out zone called 'Headspace' - a living dome structure made from willow with a wild flower garden, veggies and perhaps bee hives etc...so looking forward to when this project can be resumed.



## Advocacy for Travellers

Many Travellers are now facing extreme hardship. With lockdown in cramped caravans the men cannot work. We are helping 6 families and recently won a Tribunal hearing to get enhanced PIP benefits reinstated for a family in severe need which was backdated to Jan 19. The judge was at home and we were on conference/phone. Extraordinary circumstances. Blackwell Traveller Project on hold



## Abbey Youth – Exhibition 'Abbey at Sea'

Abbey Teens creative workshops ended with a fab exhibition of their work in response to the exhibition 'Loan Sharks' held at the ABBEY PEOPLE shop last February. The exhibition looked amazing and really caught the eye of the locals. Here are some of their comments ...

Reaching out to the community is what CB5 needs! I love the sea installation with sandy sea bed & the suspended wire fish & the horrible plastic reminder! Also love the shadow head profiles - Great! Nice to see a space where the work can be displayed! This is an amazing idea to help kids to get involved in art. Art is good for the mind, soul & well being, it opens the whole universe letting us travel in history, geography, science etc... Keep up the good work! Great to have a space for the community, looking forward to seeing what else happens here... Great to have a space to bring people together. I love the variety of art and the different personalities showing through.. I love the connection between different mediums.

This project was funded by Cambridge City Council & the Loan Sharks.



## Heard by Herd ! – Cows about Cambridge 2020

Isn't it moovellous! We created Bulls head sculptures with the senior citizens at Manor Care Home for our HEARD BY HERD installation in the Grafton Centre. The residents really embraced the concept of multicultural all inclusive cows!

Trash Art Mini Moo was created by Abbey Teens in a series of workshops with Penny & Beverley. We cut & glued recycled CD's, plastic bottles & toys while having conversations about climate change.



## THE LIBRARY PRESENTS – Bulltastic !



A new project has started making an online Summer Carnival at Home – Home is where the Art is. Participants will be shown how to make their own Bull's head by a pdf download with step by step instructions plus 'a how to'... video. Participants will email their photos & mini videos of their completed Bulls to Oblique Arts & be able to view themselves in the Summer Carnival Mural video.

## NEW FUNDING! – post Covid 19

Funding has been granted from the Cambridge City Council for more creative art workshops for Abbey Teens, Adults with Learning Difficulties and Older People in Isolation.

In order to offer Folk Festival artists some alternative work we have applied for an Arts Council grant for artists to deliver a series of workshops online. We will update you if successful.

Network for Social Change has awarded Oblique Arts two grants for core funding, one for £15,000 and another £6,000 ! Thanks to the two women who visited us last November to assess whether we deserved it and also thanks to Beverly's great video pitch! A recent management committee meeting approved some of this funding will go towards paying Bev for time spent doing admin and coordination and to Chris Free for improving Oblique Arts media & online visibility for the next 6 months.

Let us know if you have any projects you'd like to share ?  
Now wash your hands & stay safe !

Love in the time of pandemic xx