



Improving the healthcare environment

Autumn Newsletter November 2021

Since our last newsletter in Spring of this year, we have continued to live through challenging times; especially for our patients, staff, their families and friends. The Art for Life team are still working hard to continue to support our patients and colleagues in the best and most appropriate ways. A significant part of our work continues to be focused on ensuring that we work with our colleagues in our community and mental health settings, to identify projects that extend our resource to support the wider Trust in improving the healthcare environments and experience for our patients, visitors and staff.

Below is a snapshot of what we have been working on since our last newsletter

Children's Unit



Lucy Hobbs' design on oak entrance

Over the last six months we have completed a number of projects in consultation with the team on the Unit. Working with designer Lucy Hobbs we have completed and installed a series of designs that brighten up and improve the environment as you enter Oak ward. The designs are aimed at the broad age range of children and young people that use the Unit.

The Unit was kindly donated funds by a patient's family. They were keen that their money go to improving the environment of Cubicle 3 on Oak ward where they had spent time. Lucy took their ideas and developed a large design for the wall of the room that has an interactive element – a magnetic area that patients and their families can enjoy playing with.

Detail of Cubicle 3 design





Cubicle 3 of Oak ward with Lucy Hobbs designs installed

The journey that patients and their families make from A&E to the Children's Unit and from the Unit to theatres can be difficult and upsetting. We worked with an A&E nurse and the play team on the Children's Unit to understand the routes that they take around the hospital and what we could create by way of an animal trail that would help them to distract the patients and make the journey less frightening. Using designs from the Unit we chose a series of animal characters that have now been placed around the hospital for the children to spot and talk about as they move around the site.



Lucy Hobbs animal trail

Old Building Hospital Street



Lucy Hobbs' designs for the hospital street

Responding to feedback about the main hospital street outside the Children's Unit we have decommissioned an older piece of artwork, repainted the whole area, thanks to our Estates team, and recently installed designs by Lucy Hobbs that link, in theme and feel, to the artwork within the ward.

Intensive Care Unit



Neville Stanikk's photograph in ICU Pod 3

Art for Life has installed photographs by South West photographer Neville Stanikk above the patients' beds in the newly built Pod 3. It is hoped that the photographs will provide comfort and distraction for patients and their families.

In the corridor of Pod 3 we have installed a series of photographs taken by a previous patient on ICU, Mark Slack. Mark was a long term covid patient who spent some time in the Unit and is now fully recovered. Staff were keen to have his photographs on the Unit as it felt very poignant given his journey and that of creating the new 6 bed pod. A further photograph of Mark's has been used on window film in the staff area.



Mark Slack's photograph of Staple Plain, Quantocks Hills

In the hospital street outside ICU we have installed exhibition boards that document the initial period of the pandemic. 'Behind the Mask', supported with funding from Love Musgrove, was created by designer, Lucy Hobbs, working with Art for Life and the team on the Intensive Care Unit. Lucy used material and photographs gathered



and taken by the staff working in Critical Care to create 8 large boards that capture the photos and memories of those members of staff who were working in the Unit during the early months of the pandemic from March 2020 onwards. Initially the boards were displayed in the Musgrove Gallery as a temporary exhibition and they have now found a permanent home outside ICU.

Ophthalmic Theatre Suite 2



We worked with the project team creating the new modular theatre to source photographs that could be used to improve the patient and staff environment. Our plan was to use garden/landscape style photographs which would tie into the International Garden Photographer of the Year photographs that currently sit in the adjacent Modular Theatre, therefore creating a coherent and joined up approach to the environments.

A series of photographs by Neville Stanikk were framed and installed in the waiting area, corridor space and staff rest area. A further image was used in the light box at the entrance to the new area, welcoming patients and visitors.

Hydropool at Dene Barton



Shauni Lee's design after installation

Issues of privacy were raised following the installation of the new hydropool at Dene Barton and we were asked to look at how we could maximise light whilst making the pool private for users. Taking designs by Shauni Lee already used in the Physiotherapy Dept we produced vinyls for the main windows.

We are also currently working with the team on an install for the main wall next to the pool.

Breastcare



Leo Davey's artworks



Neville Stanikk's photographs in the staff area

We were asked by the team on Breastcare to install some artwork in one of their imaging rooms and in the rather dull and dark staff rest area. We purchased work from Leo Davey for the patient imaging area and installed 2 lightboxes with colourful photographs by Neville Stanikk in the staff rest room.

Cardiac Cath Lab

Following work on neighbouring Coronary Care Unit, Art for Life were asked to improve wayfinding at the entrance to the Cardiac Catheter Lab and also to extend the tree canopy themed ceiling tiles into the recovery area. Supported by the Estates painting team who repaired and painted the entrance wall, a landscape image by Neville Stanikk was chosen for the Welcome lightbox along with six tree canopy images to go above the recovery beds.



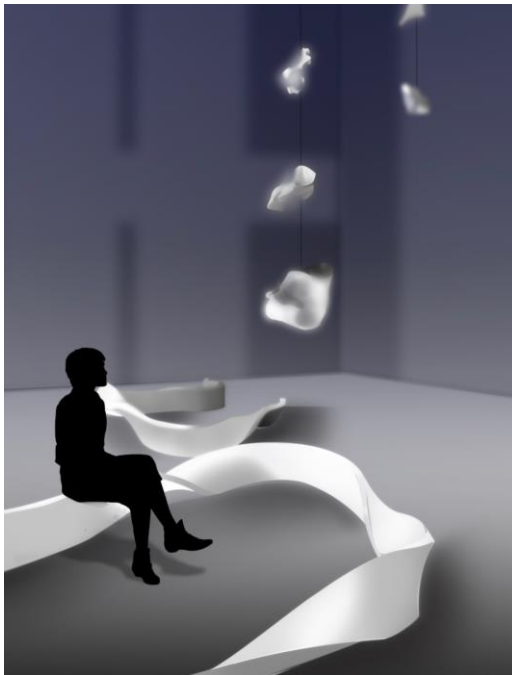
Neville Stanikk photograph

Boredom Busters

After the success of Boredom Busters Volume 1 & 2, the single-use, creative activity resource, produced in the form of a newspaper, we are delighted to be supplying some material for the 3rd Volume which will focus on children and young people. Some of Lucy Hobbs' designs will be included in the next edition that we will plan to disseminate to our Children's Unit and CAMHS teams. The newspaper that has previously been purchased for patients and staff, with the support of Love Musgrove, has been and continues to provide some welcome distraction and entertainment for our patients across the Trust.

Led by Culture Weston and the Arts and Culture Programme of University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust on behalf of the NHS National Performance Advisory Group for Arts, Design and Heritage in Hospitals, Boredom Busters includes activities carefully selected for diverse ages and patient groups, designed to support patient recovery and to relieve pressure on staff.

Design work

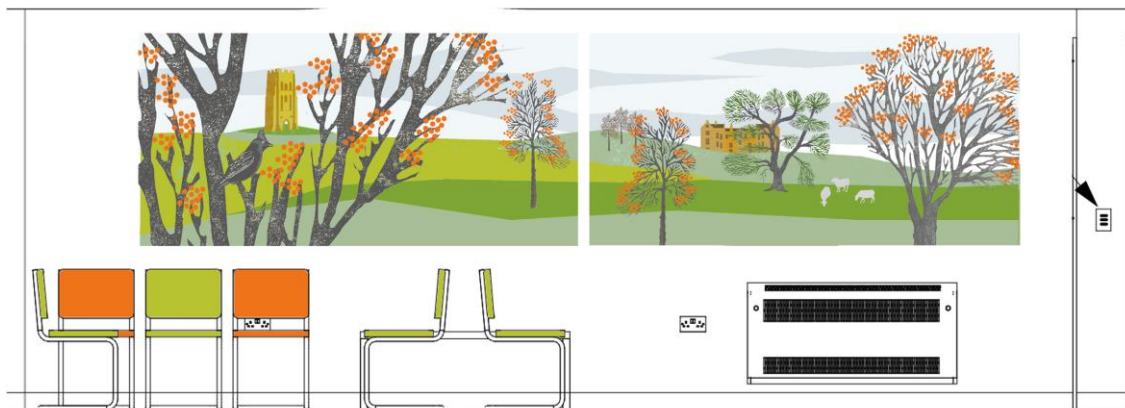


Art for Life has been busy on projects that are currently in their design phase. These projects include those that will be signed off and installed in the next few months and others that are longer term projects.

We continue to work on the **Surgical Centre Phase 2** with Capital Projects and the principal contractor, supporting the Lead Artist, Esther Rolinson. Esther has been developing designs that will be integrated into internal and external areas of the new surgical centre.

Esther Rolinson's design concept for the sculptural courtyard

We have continued to work on the development of designs for **Rowan ward at Summerlands site in Yeovil** where we are working with the project team to integrate artwork into the refurbishment of Rowan 1 & 2. Designs for a number of different areas and applications developed by artist Alison Milner have been signed off and we look forward to installing the work in due course.



Alison Milner's artwork panel shows iconic buildings from the two catchment areas of the Unit.

Somerset Design Vision and Design Standards

With the creation of Somerset NHS Foundation Trust's Design Vision document completed in the summer of 2021, the next phase of the work is to create a document that lays out our design standards that will support the future development of the Trust's healthcare sites. This document will be a best practice guide, supporting the building of new healthcare environments, including those delivered through the New Hospital Programme, by promoting and embedding the principles laid out in the Trust's Design Vision document into all future planning and design work.

Condolence cards photographs

The Trust's Bereavement Team and Art for Life, working with the End of Life Committee, are creating condolence cards that can be used to send out to our patient's families and friends following the death of their loved ones. We were keen to have a photograph on the front of these cards of a Somerset landscape or seascape taken by a member of staff. We supported the project by co-ordinating a mini staff photo competition to select the final 2 photographs being used. Voting by colleagues and the End of Life Committee members was organised by the Bereavement Team.

Coming Up

There are a number of projects on both our acute, community and mental health sites that are being developed which include.....

On our acute site at **Musgrove Park Hospital**:

Fielding ward – we will be working with the ward team to identify designs and install window vinyls in the bed bay and single room that have been impacted by the new therapies building.

Therapies – we are working with the teams in the new therapies building on a proposal to install artwork in the new patient and staff areas.

Paediatric Assessment Unit – with the recent completion of the new PAU area on the Children's Unit we have been asked to look at doing some signage for the new area along with window vinyls that tackle patient privacy issues.

ESAC/SDEC (Emergency Surgery Assessment Centre/Same Day Emergency Care)- We have been approached by staff to look at supporting improvements to the environment of the waiting areas for these 2 areas.

Radiotherapy in the Beacon Centre – we have had a recent meeting with the team on radiotherapy to discuss how we can support the project they are undertaking to improve the environment on the radiotherapy department where patients wait, often on a regular basis.

On our **Community and Mental Health** sites we are:

- Supporting a project to improve the outdoor courtyard area at West Mendip Hospital.
- Following a meeting with the team at Wessex House in Bridgwater, we will be developing ideas for artwork that can brighten up the environment and engage the clients in creative activities.
- We are working with the CAMHS team and a group of young people on the refurbishment of the recently purchased Horizon Centre in Taunton.
- We have been visiting all our community hospital sites to meet with staff and discuss how we might support them in the future. From these visits we will be identifying projects for the short and longer term.

Crisis, responding, recovery and reflection: A national arts programme for NHS hospital staff to mark the COVID-19 pandemic

Art for Life are working with The National Performance Advisory Group (NPAG) for Arts, Design and Heritage in Healthcare on a project that recognises the enormous impact that COVID-19 has had on the lives of all our Trust staff over the past year.

Twenty two Trusts across England, including ours, have signed up to be involved in this national arts programme of prominence to mark the COVID-19 pandemic and support NHS staff in their continued work, wellbeing and future recovery. The programme will comprise two elements:

1. A high profile national arts commission
This will involve hospital staff in its creation and be presented as a high profile, ambitious and inclusive live event taking place across all 22 Trusts. It might, for example, be a film, a piece of music or performance for all staff. Due to the nature of COVID-19 and the fact that there is unlikely to be a clear end to the pandemic, the commission is likely to have an element of ongoing tribute to continue to honour those working and those lost to the virus.
2. 22 locally delivered artist commissions which result in either permanent or temporary artworks/projects that will be tailored specifically to the needs and experiences of staff in each of the 22 Trusts. This element of the programme is currently moving forward with the recently appointed project artist, Alison Milner. Alison will be working with us and the project team on developing a proposal that uses the 'tiny treasures' submitted by staff as part of the project 'Our Hands in the Time of Corona' as a resource for a project in our wildlife garden at Musgrove.

More news on all of these and other projects in our next newsletter.....

Music

Our music programme offering music workshops to a small number of wards running alongside our musical performances in the concourse and on the wards has had to stop because of the pandemic. We will be looking to start again as soon as possible.

The Wall and the Musgrove Gallery

Our exhibition programme has continued with 'Somerset Reacquainted - Solace' exhibition recently installed in both our exhibition spaces; the Musgrove Gallery and The Wall.

Where can solace be found in a time of sadness? What is its source? How can artwork offer comfort and consolation to ease distress? These questions were posed to artists who were invited to create locally-specific artworks which reflect, elicit and share notions of solace, cheer and calm.

As we tentatively emerge from a global pandemic, this exhibition offers comfort and hope to both the maker and the viewer. Immersion in artistic practice and the



associated sense of becoming grounded has offered a place of relative stability for many artists during a period of great uncertainty. Well-being became more important than ever during the Covid-19 lockdowns. For some artists, the professional void created by the pandemic opened up time to focus on self-care and rediscover the meaning of their work and the importance of subjectivities. This exhibition showcases new works

from Somerset artists which seek to provide a sense or a moment of solace, calmness and wellbeing for anyone who passes or spends a little time here.

'Solace' forms part of the 'Somerset Reacquainted Tour', an extension of Somerset Reacquainted, a project started during the first 2020 lockdown in which more than 63 Somerset Art Works members participated. 'Solace' offers the public a chance to see new artworks created to provide comfort, triggered by the experience of the last 18 months.

Participating artists: Gill Bliss, Jill Davies, Philip Dudman, Jess Egan, Pennie Elfick, Linda Green, Naomi Kendall, Pauline Lerry, Jenny Mellings, Jan Ollis, Sarah Rogers, Cameron Scott, Miriam Sheppard, Michael Tarr, Emma Tuck.

Somerset Reacquainted is part of the Artist Development Programme of Somerset Art Works, funded by Arts Council England. This 2-part exhibition, is co-produced by Sara Dudman and Somerset Art Works, in partnership with Art for Life.

Feedback

It is really important to us that we get feedback on our work. Getting people's thoughts allows us to reflect on projects and make sure that we learn what works and what doesn't so please do get in touch and let us know what you think about any of our projects. Below is a recent comment we received

"Walking the corridors of Musgrove in the middle of a dark still night I came across pieces by Sara Dudman and Debbie Locke – I can't tell you how comforting and calming they were. Helped me to remember the father I lost years ago, the same man who died on Friday. Thanks so much to Sara for loaning these to the hospital. Thanks also for all your love, you people out there. Art is vital."

Here's to a happy festive season one and all,

The Art for Life team at Somerset NHS Foundation Trust
Lisa Harty, Art and Design Co-ordinator
Emma Quick, Project Support Officer

For more information on the work of Art for Life or any projects please contact artforlife@somersetft.nhs.uk or visit <https://www.somersetft.nhs.uk/art-for-life/>