



Improving the healthcare environment and experience

Autumn Newsletter – November 2025

We hope everyone is settling into the pace of Autumn and looking forward to the festive period ahead

Since our last newsletter, shared in the spring, we have continued to work with colleagues and partners to develop and deliver a range of exciting environmental projects alongside our on-going participatory and exhibition programmes; working to improve the environment and experience of our healthcare settings for our patients, visitors, and staff. Here is a snapshot of what we have been working on

Environmental projects

Stairwell in Women's Hospital at Yeovil District Hospital

Earlier this year we completed the 1st phase of a project to improve the stairwells in the Women's Hospital, working with Hannah Broadway to develop designs that brighten up these rather bland spaces, making the journey more welcoming for families and staff. We have now completed this project, installing Hannah's designs in the 2nd stairwell adding warmth and colour to these spaces.



Artwork by Hannah Broadway
Photo: Art for Life

Antenatal Clinic at Yeovil District Hospital



Artist Hannah Broadway worked with Art for Life and the Antenatal team on a project to improve the environment of the clinic in the Women's Hospital at YDH. We were keen to link this project to the stairwell project nearby, giving it a similar feel and approach. Having asked the team about what was important for them to see in their department, Hannah developed designs that were installed in August. Feedback from the team has been very positive with comments about how "much more welcoming, less clinical in feeling, and just brighter the area feels."

Artwork by Hannah Broadway Photo: Art for Life

Ward 9, Old Building, Musgrove Park Hospital

Following the recent refurbishment of Ward 9, we were asked by the ward team to inject some warmth, colour and interest in the main ward area. The team selected artist Kate Bond who developed design ideas based on a mood board informed by the feedback and ideas from the team. Once the designs were signed off we installed the artwork in September.

Artwork by Kate Bond Photo: Art for Life



Maternity Counselling Room at Yeovil District Hospital



Art for Life were asked to support the refurbishment of this room, working alongside the Maternity Bereavement team to achieve a more welcoming environment. Having worked up a colour scheme and design for the room the project was supported by SSL in getting the flooring replaced and the walls repainted. Funded by Art for Life, artwork for the window by Kate Bond has been installed and Kate's framed work is due to go up this month. A charitable funds bid for new furniture is currently being assessed and will hopefully complete the final scheme.

Artwork by Kate Bond Photo: Art for Life

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.

Concourse, Old Building Corridor at Musgrove Park Hospital

Jon England's Trace is a project responding to the new Surgical Centre at Musgrove Park Hospital, that draws upon the often unconscious traces of use, age and wear accumulated throughout Musgrove's daily operation. Jon says "*in combining these traces with individual, engaging, and little-known stories from the hospital's formative period, they seek to create a cumulative 'portrait', encapsulating its history and placing its emblematic origins into the context of the whole. By combining archive imagery and historic narrative, drawing attention to generally unnoticed details, and utilising unexpected materials and processes to link both history and context, the works aspire to be engaging to staff, patients and visitors alike, whether one-time visitors, or those passing through the space multiple times a day.*"



Four views of boots belonging to L. J. Wiltgen

Design by Jon England

Eye Clinic, Outpatients at Musgrove Park Hospital

Following on from the successful installation of Hannah Broadway's work in the main Eye Clinic Waiting Room, the team asked Hannah to produce a design for Waiting Area 2 which would be child friendly as well as appealing to all ages. Hannah has completed the design and it will be installed soon.



Design by Hannah Broadway

Triscombe Older Persons Unit at Musgrove Park Hospital

We are working with the staff on Triscombe Ward to improve the Quiet Room space where families are often given news about their relatives. There is also some small remedial work taking place to repair the former Somerset College artwork in the corridor where things have been removed from the wall leaving a blank space within the artwork.

Beacon Centre Day Room at Musgrove Park Hospital

We are supporting the team to look at updating the Day Room in the Beacon Centre alongside improving the Conservatory space for staff.

Pyrland

Following successful installations in Pyrland Wards 1 & 2, artist Alison Milner is working on designs for the Dining Room on Ward 2.

Theatre 5 and Modular ward at Yeovil District Hospital

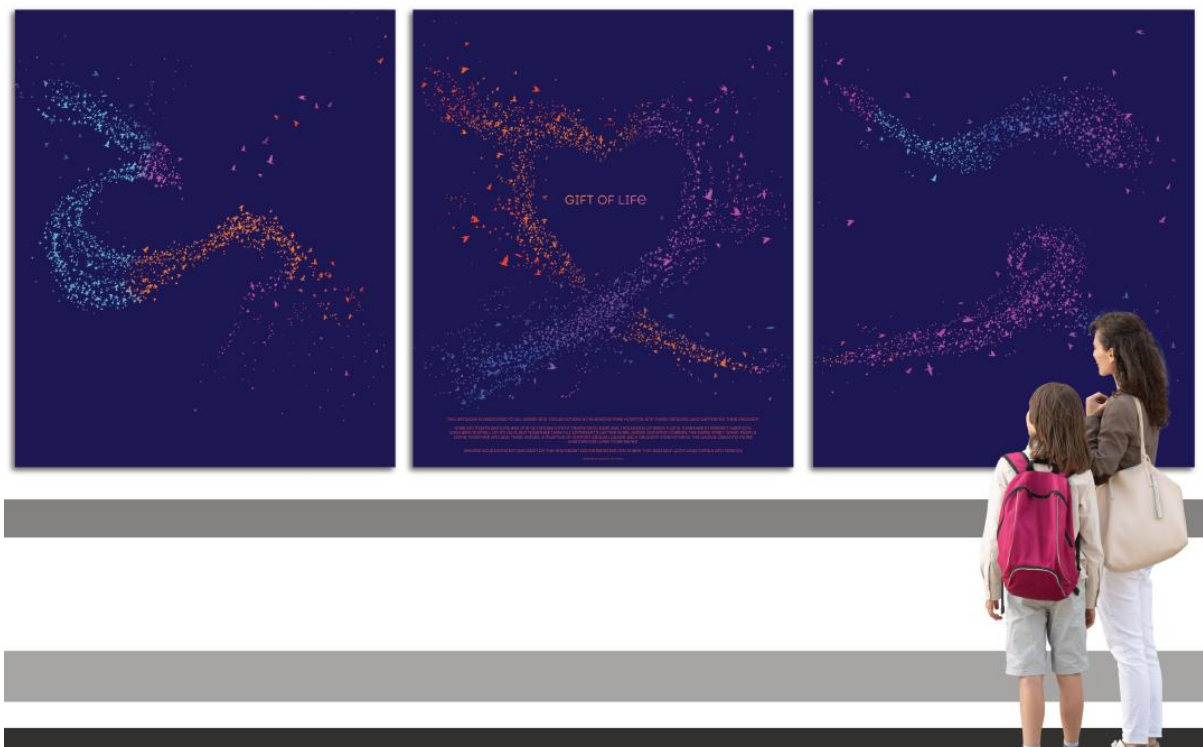
We continue to work with the user groups for both upcoming projects at Yeovil to ensure that opportunities for integrating artwork into the new modular theatre and ward are explored and realised. Artworks by artist Leo Davey have been purchased for installation in the new modular theatre.

Surgical Centre at Musgrove Park Hospital

We continue to work on the Surgical Centre with Capital Projects, the principal contractor Kier and architects BDP, supporting the project's Lead Artist, Esther Rolinson. Esther has been developing designs that will be integrated into internal and external areas of the new Surgical Centre. Source, will be a family of artworks that include designs for the building façade, the courtyard and interior artworks. We are delighted to announce that the courtyard element of the project will be supported by money raised by the Trust's Charity.

Organ Donation Memorial Artwork for the Surgical Centre at Musgrove Park Hospital

Working with the Organ Donation Committee, Art for Life has appointed Hospital Art Studio to design and produce an artwork for the entrance to the new Surgical Centre. The artwork will commemorate organ donors and celebrate the gift they have given, whilst raising awareness and promoting organ donation. This project is being funded by Charitable Funds raised by the Organ Donation Committee.



Extract from Design Concept presentation
Courtesy Hospital Art Studio

Coming Up

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

- Supporting plans to improve the reception area at Bridgwater Hospital
- Supporting the design team on the Early Pregnancy Advice Centre (EPAC) project at Musgrove Park Hospital
- Working with the team on Day Surgery at Yeovil District Hospital and artist Alison Jacobs on designs to improve the Unit
- A project for the newly refurbished St Andrews and Phoenix areas at Wells Priory.
- Having successfully raised money from Yeovil's League of Friends, we have started to work on a project to improve the environment of the Same Day Emergency Care department (SDEC) at Yeovil District Hospital

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

Participatory programme

Music

Our music programme is funded entirely by the Trust's charitable funds and current funding runs until Christmas. Our aim is to work with the Charity to develop the programme further and reach more patients. We are also supporting mental health teams at Rowan Ward to purchase musical instruments. We are currently working on a short film to capture the impact of live music from the perspective of staff and patients.

In partnership with Westlands Entertainment, we will shortly be able to refer patients to a weekly memory choir supported by our Dementia Team at YDH.

Touring Craft Cases

Working with Somerset Art Works and their emerging maker programme we will be showcasing basket maker Jo Entwhistle as part of our touring craft exhibitions. Jo works in willow and is based on the levels. Her work will be installed in the reception area at Frome Community Hospital before Christmas.

Jo Entwhistle – Basket Maker



Staff workshops



Double Elephant Christmas cards

Running up to the festive season we have 4 staff wellbeing workshops being delivered across the 2 Acute sites, Bridgwater and Wincanton Community Hospitals. Double Elephant, an Exeter based print workshop will be delivering Christmas Card printing sessions and Holly Foskett Barnes will be using watercolours to support staff to make paper wreaths.



Holly Foskett Barnes watercolours

Dance Programmes

Our partnership with Westlands Entertainment continues to develop for a now, oversubscribed community-based dance sessions for our patients with Cancer or Parkinson's disease.

Wells Community Mental Health Project

Art Therapist Rosie Pickett will be starting the Wells project in January 2026 with an initial 12-week programme of creative sessions led by a community-based artist working in partnership with Wells Cathedral. This is a coproduction with approx. 12 individuals who have accessed community mental health services in the Wells area. This will be a pilot project to explore how local heritage, creativity and group work can support people experiencing long term mental health challenges.

Children's Department

Zoe Snape will be taking up a new artist residency across both acute paediatric departments. The residency, working with children and families, is again funded by South West Heritage Trust. Inspired by the Hope Bourne exhibition, currently showing at Somerset Museum of Rural Life in Glastonbury, children will be creating their own sketch books, exploring themes of nature, the environment and imaginative worlds.

Virtual Reality

Teams from YDH's ICU and Children's Departments have been exploring how we can incorporate film to support rehabilitation and distraction using VR headsets. For ICU the project focuses on using footage of local or favourite sites/walks/runs to encourage and motivate patients to find connection and physical movement. In the Children's Dept playleader Holly Wilson is looking at how the use of VR can reduce the need for general anaesthetic where anxiety is a barrier to treatment.

Exhibitions

We are delighted to have welcomed Zoe Snape to the team in June as our Exhibition Coordinator. Zoe will be organising the exhibitions across our acute sites.

Jackie Spurrier's exhibition, 'Hues of Moos' was installed to the delight of staff members who have enjoyed her previous exhibitions of cow portraits. Jackie has been portraying the personalities of cows for over 20 years. A former doctor and now mindfulness teacher, she painted these large brightly coloured acrylic canvases specifically for The Wall at Musgrove Park Hospital to provide a welcoming environment on a spectrum of warm backgrounds of pinks, purples and mauves. Jackie says, *'I worked here, my children were born here, and I'm honoured to bring a bit of colour and calm into a place that matters so much. If my cows make you smile, then they've done their job'*. This cheerful exhibition runs into January 2026.



The Musgrove Gallery is currently hosting a celebration of Somerset Art Works' 30th anniversary. 'Lustre' features 30 artworks by SAW's members reflecting on the importance of creativity and wellbeing. Curated by Paul Newman, the exhibition supports the local creative community and provides a positive and uplifting environment for patients and staff. This diverse exhibition continues until January 2026 and includes paintings, prints, textiles and sculpture.



The Outpatient's Gallery at Yeovil Hospital features Katie Hester's exhibition, 'African Safari'. Katie is a self-taught animal-portrait artist based in Somerset. She supports wildlife conservation through her art and was recently nominated as a 2024 finalist for the DSWF wildlife artist of the year. Katie specialises in hyper-realistic animal portraits using colour or graphite pencils and invites the viewer into a world of these majestic animals with an intimate sense of connection. This arresting exhibition will provide outpatients with a distraction until January 2026.

Noble by Katie Hester

Feedback

It is very important that we get feedback on our work. Gathering people's thoughts allows us to reflect on projects and make sure that we learn what works well, and less well, so please do get in touch and let us know what you think about any of our projects.

Wishing you all a wonderful Autumn and Winter. Our next newsletter will be shared in Spring 2026.

The Art for Life team at Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

Lisa Harty, Art and Design Manager

Caroline Barnes, Creative Health Coordinator

Emma Quick, Art and Design Project Officer

Zoe Snape, Exhibitions Coordinator

For more information on the work of Art for Life or any projects please contact artforlife@somersetft.nhs.uk