

# Tyca

TAUNTON YOUTH CULTURE & ARTS

## We launch the name of our festival

We are over the moon to be able to let you all know that our work with young people, starting with our annual Youth Arts Festival this autumn, is to be called Tyca. It stands for Taunton Youth Culture and Arts.

Tyca has a brand-new logo all of its own which reflects the youthful stamp we want young people to put on the town.

Our new website will also soon reveal a dedicated Tyca portal where you can read about all the arts organisations which are partnering with us, and about

the workshops, performances and events we will be putting on together. The Tyca Festival is running from 1-3 November 2019, with some preparatory workshops beginning in September and October.

For more info, view our website:  
[www.artstaunton.co.uk/tyca](http://www.artstaunton.co.uk/tyca)

The youth steering committee will henceforth be known as the Tyca Taskforce, and their input into our identity and branding was key. We hope you like the name and logo and will start to associate it with diverse arts, young people, and our wonderful county town!



If you have ideas or would like to get involved – get in touch!  
You can contact Kathryn on [kathryn.davies@artstaunton.co.uk](mailto:kathryn.davies@artstaunton.co.uk)  
or Deborah on [deborah@stateofemergencyltd.com](mailto:deborah@stateofemergencyltd.com)



# Tyca Taskforce

How young people are contributing to the foundations of the festival



Back at the end of 2018 we set up a youth steering committee which meets every 6-8 weeks. This Tyca Taskforce is a valuable part of the Festival and an 'acid test' of ideas.

The young people involved may be interested in the arts, production, volunteering or indeed see event management as their future career. We ask them about ideas and listen carefully to their feedback. We encourage them to take greater responsibility for an area of Tyca which may interest them, for example marketing or staging.

We also try to actively incorporate their ideas: suggestions for the future development of Tyca have been far-reaching and include proposals for events and additional art forms to be included from 2020. The input from the Tyca Taskforce is invaluable and it has already influenced the Festival name, logo design and shape of the programme.

The Tyca Taskforce is open to all young people and we are keen to bring together a diverse group who will represent the population of Taunton. Deborah, our Festival Director, has met with the Somerset Youth Parliament and the Community Council for Somerset to investigate how we can reach an even wider range of young people. We are also exploring ways in which we can work closer with vocational courses at colleges, to offer work experience placements as part of the Tyca delivery.

Meetings take place at, and are supported by, Richard Huish College. We meet about every 6-8 weeks for 90 minutes, and this could be the limit of your participation, or you could volunteer for more if you would like. We will be forming a marketing sub-committee to help deliver targeted marketing to young people. If you would like to get involved, simply email us a little paragraph about yourself to [hello@artstaunton.co.uk](mailto:hello@artstaunton.co.uk) with the subject Tyca Taskforce and we will be in touch.

Deborah Baddoo, Youth Festival Director

## Valuing volunteers

At the heart of many charities is the generosity of spirit of volunteers who willingly give their time to help a good cause. Arts Taunton is no different. We have several projects we hope to develop, admin tasks to carry out, essential communications to maintain, and of course with the first Tyca Festival coming up in the autumn, we will definitely need volunteer support at events, not to mention a (voluntary) volunteer manager!

I must say a big thank you to those who've already volunteered or offered to help, meaning that we've been able to engage a more diverse range of skills, experience and knowledge. This includes the Tyca Taskforce for the festival, focus group members, Sheila Read for admin, Dilly Bradley for fundraising, Tony and Judy Laurance in respect of our

distinctive landmark project and fundraising, and Rachael Coward with social media. And to kick-start a regular series on various aspects of the arts, see Rachael's article on animation on the next page.

We are grateful to you all for aiding the development and delivery of our projects by bringing in new opinions, ideas and approaches. Of course, I mustn't forget to mention the past and present trustees of the board, all of whom have given a great deal of time and expertise to help Arts Taunton achieve its goals, and who each take on oversight of specific projects.

At this pivotal point for our charity, it's so important to us to develop worthwhile initiatives, so if anyone out there can offer us help, please do contact us at [hello@artstaunton.co.uk](mailto:hello@artstaunton.co.uk).

Giving of one's own time and expecting nothing in return is the key quality of any volunteer, but if you need any more convincing, there is evidence that volunteering can improve health and well-being! We hope to hear from you soon.

Julie O'Donnell, Chair of Trustees, Arts Taunton



## Animation

This is the first in our series on the A-Z of Art, authored this issue by Rachael Coward. The series will provide a short introduction, let you know of some major practitioners in Somerset, and finally tell you where you can get involved! Our next issue will cover Architecture. If you would like to volunteer to write the article, please email [hello@artstaunton.co.uk](mailto:hello@artstaunton.co.uk) with your ideas.

### animation

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noun

"Animation is different from other arts. Its language is the language of caricature."  
- Walt Disney

"Computers don't create computer animation any more than a pencil creates pencil animation. What creates computer animation is the artist." - John Lasseter

### What is it and why is it an art form?

Animation is the technique of creating moving images, often through successive frames of drawings or positions of models to create the illusion of movement. Traditional hand-drawn animation was first seen with Humorous Phases of Funny Faces (1906), made by J. Stuart Blackton, and this art form has been joined by stop motion and computer-generated images (CGI) over the last century. Animations are not

only made into films, they are hugely popular in advertisements, TV shows and social media 'memes'. Animation artists often spend hours perfecting their craft, working to create realistic environments and relatable characters through drawings, model making and digital editing.

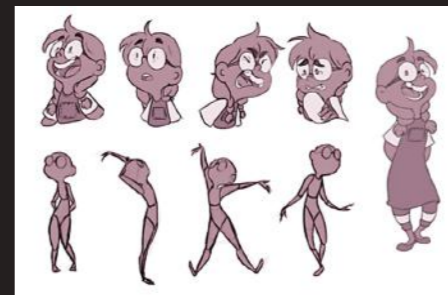
### Who does it in Somerset?

Barnaby Dixon, a freelance animator and puppeteer has gone viral online with his unique hand puppet videos. Based in Bridgwater, Barnaby started out as a stop motion animator, but after becoming frustrated with the time it took to create each piece of work, he moved on to create puppets to give immediacy to characters that would otherwise take many hours of work to come alive. Barnaby often creates work by taking his puppets out and about, and filming them in various locations, often with the addition of



voiceovers, music and sound effects. His work can be found at [www.youtube.com/user/barnabydixon](http://www.youtube.com/user/barnabydixon)

Rebecca Hughes is an illustrator and storyboard artist from Catcott, Somerset. After completing studies in Bridgwater and Taunton she went on to complete a degree in Illustration at Plymouth University, specialising in storyboard art and animatics - a preliminary version of a film, produced by shooting successive sections of a storyboard and adding a soundtrack. She is currently working at Blue Zoo Animation Studio in London. Her work can be found at [www.artofrhues.com](http://www.artofrhues.com)



Primary School has been selected to take part in an international travelling exhibition, beginning in Mexico.

WAG UK International continues to build more international links across the world on behalf of Taunton and the UK and you can join us and find out more at: [www.wagames.org](http://www.wagames.org)



## News from our community speaker from our last public meeting

This issue, Vanessa Garside tells us a little more about her project...

WAG UK International is a voluntary artists group based in Taunton, which exists to give international experiences to UK visual, literary and performance artists. The WAG Organisation is now represented in over 60 countries worldwide, and aims to promote friendship, respect for other cultures, education, peace and love.

Every two years it enables UK artists to attend the World Arts International Festival, most recently held in Belgrade. Following Vanessa's successful participation in the Festival in Belgrade she has been awarded the gold medal for poetry.

The WAG Children's Project seeks to create bonds between children of the world through a love of art. We organise in-house exhibitions and events at the Creative Innovation Centre (CICCIC), and artwork from Sampford Peverill

## Partnership with Bath Spa University



We are thrilled to announce a new partnership with Bath Spa University, [bathspa.ac.uk](http://bathspa.ac.uk). The University specialises in the creative arts and has schools of study which cover Art and Design, Liberal Arts, Business and Education.

The University's mission is to be essential to the educational landscape of the creative arts in the south west. It is true that parents and students have often viewed the Arts as a course of study which won't yield employment. However, Bath Spa is having enormous success: 96%

of their alumni are in further training or employment and 13% are running their own business.

Arts Taunton is linking with the University to provide work placements and internships for its students over the coming years, and provide inspiration for further studies and careers for the young people of Taunton. Some of the current Bath Spa students may even make a pop-up appearance at Tyca 2019! We thank the Vice-Chancellor of the university, Professor Sue Rigby, for her vision and positivity, and her right-hand woman, Kate Love, Director of Development, for making that vision a reality. Look out for more information on our website about our partnership work in the coming months.

### How can you get involved?

Somerset Film is a charity that works to empower individuals and communities through the use of film and digital technologies. They opened The Engine Room media centre in Bridgwater in 2003, and since then have been offering training and education opportunities in moving image technology and also running drop-in sessions and master classes with trained professionals and equipment.

Ignite Somerset is an initiative that works with artists to incorporate digital technology into their own practices. Ignite has its own residency programme, and offers workshops and surgeries as well as creative networking opportunities.

For students studying at Bridgwater and Taunton College, Animation Academy offers the chance to complement their studies and create their own moving image sequences with the help and guidance of a professional animator.

The Glass Box is part of Taunton Library and was set up in 2016 as an innovation and enterprise space to showcase new technology, help the community to develop digital skills and provide an engaging space for study, research, workshops, events and collaboration. The Glass Box is now well established and has helped thousands of children, businesses, start-ups, and anyone who has an interest in exploring new technology and developing their creative skills.

Rachael Coward

## Founding Funders

Back in February, we launched Founding Funders - a fundraising programme to help our work take flight in 2019. We are delighted to announce that we have already received two substantial donations from new friends of Arts Taunton: Melanie and Philip Gibbs of Hatch Beauchamp, and the Bramble Trust, of Churchill.

We are immensely grateful and encouraged by their support, which gives us committed funds for 2019 and 2020.

We will be holding a fundraising event for the programme in the Autumn of this year - more news to follow in the next newsletter and on our website. Thank you to all who support us, whether financially, through their time or their organising skills! We couldn't do it without you.

Kathryn Davies, Director of Development





## Arts Taunton has lunch with HM The Queen

On 28th March, Arts Taunton was honoured with an invitation to a lunch in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen to mark the occasion of her visit to Somerset.

About a hundred guests attended the 'Celebration of Somerset' lunch which was held at King's Bruton to mark the school's 500th Anniversary. Arts Taunton was represented by Founding Trustee, Kit Chapman, and Youth Arts Festival Director, Deborah Baddoo. This was in recognition of our mission to establish the county town as a major regional centre for the arts.

In her speech, The Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset, Mrs Annie Maw, said that Her Majesty was keen to meet people and organisations from across the county who had been invited because they "are remarkable and unique" doing valuable work that had "contributed to the welfare of the community".

The sun shone and after a delicious lunch we all assembled on the lawn in front of the school to watch the Queen name a new police horse. The ceremony concluded with a call for three cheers to Her Majesty ... but not before being asked to cheer respectfully and gently for fear of frightening the young mount!

## Plans for an iconic artwork on Creechbarrow Hill

Arts Taunton is planning to commission and install an innovative and exciting artwork on Creechbarrow Hill – beside Toneway and opposite Creech Castle. It will be a major West Country landmark, visible from the M5 motorway and the mainline railway - an artwork that will put Somerset's county town firmly on the cultural map.

The UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO), a division of the Ministry of Defence (MoD), is located at Creechbarrow Hill and the artwork would be installed within its premises. UKHO maps the world's seas, providing hydrographic and geospatial data to mariners all over the world. UKHO has been based in Taunton since 1941 and the Directors are supportive of the proposed artwork. Indeed, its precise site on the hill has already been determined. The MoD, who owns the land, has also given a provisional green light to move ahead, pending final approval.



### But what do you think?

Share your thoughts with us via Twitter, Facebook (both @ArtsTaunton) or by emailing [hello@artstaunton.co.uk](mailto:hello@artstaunton.co.uk)

## Why support Arts Taunton?

Happily, Clarke Willmott LLP has renewed its support of us for another year.

We will be engaging in a two-way partnership which includes such activities as: Clarke Willmott staff getting involved in volunteering opportunities, a young employee sitting on our Tyca Taskforce, and the chance for entrants to our visual art exhibition to have their work displayed in the Clarke Willmott offices in December. We are delighted that they are sponsoring us again, and below Tim Walker, a Partner in the firm, lays out why the relationship is also important to them.

If your firm is interested in a tailored corporate partnership like this, please email [kathryn.davies@artstaunton.co.uk](mailto:kathryn.davies@artstaunton.co.uk).

Mr Clarke and Mr Willmott first practised law in Taunton more than 100 years ago. At one stage Clarke Willmott had 13 offices in Somerset.

Now, Clarke Willmott is a national law firm of nearly 700 people with offices in six cities in England – and Blackbrook Business Park, Taunton.

From Taunton we work with all our offices to provide a full legal service to local, regional and national clients.

So why did we respond to the requests of a few visionary people and become the first Corporate Sponsor of Arts Taunton?

First, our practice depends on attracting good quality lawyers who want to live and work in Somerset. A vibrant Arts scene is a key attraction to good staff.

Secondly, as a growing town, the integration of new people into our community is essential to its success. The Arts has a vital role to play in building community spirit.

Thirdly, we want to continue in a role we have played locally for many years in providing leadership and support to initiatives which make Taunton a great place in which to live and work. Arts Taunton is an organisation which has that as its focus and we are engaging with Arts Taunton in a number of ways, not just through some grant funding, to help it achieve its aims.

To find out more about the six cities where we work – and the services we provide, please visit [www.clarkewillmott.com](http://www.clarkewillmott.com).

Tim Walker, Partner, Clarke Willmott LLP

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