



Project Factory 2021 - 2022

Annual Report

Connect, Collaborate & Celebrate
Enabling projects in the community

DOUBT 2020

Project Factory helped to coordinate a number of projects around the installation of Antony Gormley's DOUBT 2020.

Working with Wells Heritage Partners, Wells Art Contemporary, Niche 338, The Lawrence Centre and Cedars Hall, we raised £45,000 for the transport and installation of the sculpture and the educational and tourism response.

The fundraising was a mixed portfolio of grants from Mendip District Council and Wells City Council, sponsorship, donations and fundraising. The Call My Art Bluff event in Cedars Hall raised almost £6000 in partnership with The Lawrence Centre. Antony Gormley donated a lithograph MANIFOLD 2013 for a prize draw.

Project Factory administers the Gormley Project Education Bursary, which offers schools up to £500 to support their visit to the Wells Heritage Partners: Wells Cathedral, The Bishop's Palace and Wells & Mendip Museum. To date 400 children have participated in the tours and workshops.

We currently have two films in production for the Gormley Project - one for tourism and one for education, with sufficient funds to run the Bursary until March 2023 and return the sculpture.

CHATS

Patron: Tim Marlow OBE

Cedars Hall Arts Talks Series was launched in response to Antony Gormley's DOUBT 2020. The series of monthly talks has been curated by Sophie Rucker and supported by the Blair Foundation and Terence Mordaunt. To date seven artists and thinkers have attracted engaged audiences at Cedars Hall, with Dr Xa Sturgis on 20th May and Rachel Campbell-Johnston on 15th September 2022. Tickets are £10 with young people 18 and under free, students above this age £5.

"The CHATS series has been terrific and, most importantly perhaps, local and easy to get to with free and reduced tickets for students. It has been a great opportunity for our students, and staff, to inform their professional creative understanding and to hear and be inspired by creatives working at the top of their game".

Duncan Cameron: Programme Leader for the Art Foundation at Strode College.

"If we think of DOUBT as this tiny thing that reanimates the whole of the West Front, the fact that through CHATS and Project Factory, who make these forums happen, we can come together and talk about the representation of the world that we make for ourselves is really inspiring. I want to thank Project Factory and this brilliant idea to get live chat to reanimate history."

Antony Gormley 3.4.2022

Heritage Brochure

HERITAGE WELLS: An Introduction To The Historic Sites of Wells

Wells Heritage Partners was created as a formal entity in September 2020 as a partnership between Wells Cathedral, The Bishop's Palace, the Wells & Mendip Museum and the Bishop's Barn. The brochure was the first project to unite them all and is a 32 page brochure covering all the medieval sites of the city under one cover. Project Factory got £3000 from the Heritage Partners towards printing costs.

The brochure contains wonderful photographs of the magnificent buildings of the city by Nick James LRPS, with words from members of the Heritage Partners.

It also includes a contribution from Antony Gormley, whose sculpture DOUBT was installed on the West Front of Wells Cathedral in August 2021.

Promoting the brochure has proved challenging: Somerset Life has recently published a feature on the brochure, Wells Ambassadors promote it to tourists and we hope that the brochure will be promoted during the tourist season.

The brochure is available from Heritage Partnership outlets for £4.50, and from the Project Factory website. The profits are split between the partners.



Project Factory

Project Factory was founded in July 2019 by Kirstie Harris and Emma Lefevre after the successful WakeUpWells Project a four part community project which involved a community consultation, stakeholder conference, community day and lantern parade. We discovered that there were hundreds of organisations and events in Wells and the surrounding area, but there appeared to be a lack of awareness in the community. We produced two communications - a calendar and an events listing to help promote the events and festivals.

The Project Factory projects are volunteer led, and funds raised are re-invested into community projects. Overheads include administrative costs, communications, publicity and marketing. We have recently supported Making Space Wells the crafting initiative with a £1000 grant, and The Changing Shops of Wells photographic exhibition with sponsorship of £500. To find out more visit www.projectfactory.uk



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Wake Up Wells

In January 2020, Project Factory received a grant from National Lottery Community Fund for a second Wake Up Wells Community Day and Big Picnic. It was an ambitious plan to work with a range of organisations to deliver opportunities across the city, but specifically we had support from Wells Cathedral to run a community day inside the Cathedral and on Cathedral Green. The project was finally delivered in July 2021 with Wells Rotary organising music performances and stalls on the Green, crafting workshops with Sew Buntiful Wells and the Community Mosaic project. The Big Picnic by Sustainable Wells Fresh n' Good Collective offered free vouchers to people who use the Food Bank and the Connect Centre.

Following lockdown in May 2021, Project Factory was invited by the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset Annie Maw to welcome the Duke and Duchess of Wessex to Wells and show them the Sew Buntiful display of bunting: a resilience project with Wells City Council to cheer up and reconnect people after a period of isolation. Sew Buntiful would evolve to become Making Space Wells, a crafting collective that shares expertise and teaches new skills. We donated a seed grant of £1000 to help them get started.

The second Lantern Parade took place in 2020 just before lockdown, and the next one is planned for October half-term 2022.

Opera Brava

Outdoor Opera in Wells is a project conducted in partnership with Opera Brava, Britain's leading outdoor touring opera company and The Bishop's Palace.

Tosca will be performed on 14th July and The Barber of Seville on 15th July in the Bishop's Palace gardens. Both performances will be in English. The event is designed to be inclusive and suitable for a diverse range of people, this is reflected in the ticket price: £35 per night for adults and £10 per night for under 16s. Tickets are available through The Bishop's Palace box office www.bishops-palace.org.uk.

Project Factory has been fundraising for this initiative and we are looking for support from local business. We are keen to create a full cultural experience and will be providing a bar which will offer Pimms and Prosecco and the opportunity to purchase a delicious four course artisan picnic direct from Project Factory's website.

Any surplus funds from the operas will be used to help fund our accompanying education programme which will initially involve 3 workshops for 180 local children delivered by Opera Brava in the Undercroft of The Bishop's Palace. The workshops will involve year 5 and 6 children from local primary schools and will provide them with the opportunity to learn about, as well as participate in, opera.

Platinum Jubilee

In collaboration with the Mayor Philip Welch and Wells Rotary, an ambitious community day has been planned for 5th June.

To commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen, June MacFarlane from Project Factory has produced a souvenir brochure as a tribute from the people of Wells. Photographs were donated by many people, but particularly by local photographer Jason Bryant. The brochure contains contributions from local residents from all walks of life, and is a wholehearted recognition of the affection in which The Queen is held. It is on sale from local outlets and from the Project Factory website for £5. Profits go to local community projects.

Project Factory is also mounting an exhibition of Jason Bryant's photographs of the Queen entitled THE QUEEN & I which will be on show in the South Cloister of Wells Cathedral from 28 May - 12 June. Admission is free.

On behalf of the Jubilee organising committee and in partnership with WOWFest, Project Factory applied for grants from the National Lottery Community Fund, Somerset Community Foundation Arts Council and Wells City Council to fund the community day. We are supporting a day packed with free arts and music events, are offering 180 children free cookery workshops with Fun Kitchen and, in collaboration with WCN, Fresh n' Good Collective and Wells Cathedral, a Cream Tea in the Nave.



Project Factory

Along with other networked organisations, Project Factory was instrumental in setting up the Wells Coronavirus Network and its response to the pandemic, providing strategic, banking, administrative and fundraising support. This informal network became Wells Community Network CIC in July 2021 and Emma Lefevre is a Director.

"Project Factory has a track record of being a major force for good in our community. They are quick to respond to local need and very flexible in finding solutions, encouraging organisations to work together and forge ahead. They listen, they care and above all you can rely on them to take a professional approach at all times." Siobhan Goodwin, Community Engagement Manager, The Bishop's Palace.