

Greening Arundel's "Nature in Art: Art in Nature" initiative

Concept

As an historic town located in the South Downs, Arundel is well-known for the beauty of its location and for its vibrant artistic community.

Greening Arundel's mission is to make our town greener and more beautiful through broad-based community engagement. To date we have focussed on building a Green Team of volunteers, who are working to support nature in a variety of ways.

We believe that the time is now right to broaden our scope by highlighting how local artists feature nature in their work and showcasing that art in natural settings. The proposed nature-based installations should educate, inspire and engage those who visit Arundel as well as those who live and work here.

Elements

Over the last 15 months, we have worked hard towards the goal of having the train station offer "a green welcome" to Arundel. This has entailed transforming both the forecourt and pathway into attractive, functional spaces. We plan to build on this by locating the art installations in and around the train station and town approach.

a) the loan of a painting by Frances Knight will enable us to feature the South Downs in the Waiting Room at the station. This should be in place by July. We have invited the SDNPA to take advantage of the attention the painting is expected to draw by displaying materials useful to visitors and locals alike.

b) through our Sunflower Festival earlier in the year, pupils at both primary schools made clay petals and leaves, which will be transformed into mosaics by Sue Webb. We plan to display these mosaics on the paving slabs along the raised beds before and after the underpass. We have not yet secured the funding to make this happen.

c) with funding from GTR and in-kind contributions from Network Rail, we have created a "woodland glen" in the station forecourt complete with an 8-person picnic table. We would like to commission Simon Groves to create a bench to complement our work, perhaps featuring a Kingfisher and Mullet. ADC has committed £1,000 but this is less than half of the total cost.

d) the Bring Back Our Birds project has captured the imagination of Arundel residents in part due to the long-standing association of our town with Swallows, House Martins and Swifts. We have secured funding from the Sustainable Communities Fund for an art installation that would reflect this connection. As a result, Two Circles Design has been commissioned to design and install a representation of a screaming party of Swifts on the large Causeway verge. We hope this will be in place by October 2024.

Communication

We plan to publicise this initiative through the Arundel Update and in the Bell. For more information, contact: greenteam.arundel@gmail.com