



For Immediate Release

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### **Stoke your creativity by taking part in Art in Unusual Times programme**

Residents of all ages are being encouraged to stoke their creativity during this lockdown period by enjoying a fun-filled programme of arts and culture in the comfort of their own homes.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has been working closely with local artists and organisations to bring you Art in Unusual Times – a virtual programme featuring the best in arts and crafts, dance, theatre, performances and public art during the lockdown period.

During the jam-packed programme, Junk Jodie will be giving families the chance to show off their artistic flair using items from around the house through her four Basingstoke-themed junk make sessions and let your imagination roam free as Pumpkin Pantos makes a welcome return, treating children to four new Basing-folk storytelling sessions.

Providing some welcome inspiration for those wetter days, local artists PJ Preston and Kev Munday have created art activity guides which can be downloaded online.

And for those who want to get more hands-on, QMC has relaunched its online Creative Arts Saturday Club which gives Year 8 and 9 pupils across the borough the chance to take part in interactive sessions exploring fine art, graphic design, photography and textiles. The work participants produce during these sessions will be featured in an exhibition in the town centre planned for this summer.

Communities will also get the chance to transform their neighbourhoods into outdoor art galleries with the return of the successful Window Wanderland project. Window Wanderland is an award-winning, COVID-safe project, which provides resources for communities around the world to set up their own magical, illuminated window displays. Wanderland brings neighbourhoods together, reduces social isolation, inspires creativity and is a perfect opportunity for those who do not have access to digital channels.

You can keep up with the latest activities and new opportunities to take part by visiting [www.basingstokefestival.co.uk](http://www.basingstokefestival.co.uk), which will be regularly updated.

Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture and Partnerships Cllr Simon Bound said: “We know the latest lockdown has been particularly difficult for residents with the colder weather and challenges with home schooling so I am delighted that we have been able to pull together a fun-filled Arts in Unusual Times programme for you all to enjoy in your homes.

“Taking part in arts and performance is good for your wellbeing so we hope these activities will provide a much-needed boost as we move into spring. We are very lucky to have talented artists, performers and arts organisations in our borough and I would like to thank them for working with us to bring you a jam-packed programme of exciting activities to take part in – there really is something for everyone.”

For more information on the programme and how to take part, visit [www.basingstokefestival.co.uk](http://www.basingstokefestival.co.uk) @BasingstokeFestival on Facebook and @BstokeFestival on Twitter and Instagram

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