



Basingstoke
and Deane

News release

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Inspiring art installation provides hope as the borough recovers from the pandemic

A poignant light installation which encourages people to reflect on the COVID-19 pandemic and explore changes we can all make as we recover from its effects will bring Basingstoke Festival to a close this weekend.

Basingstoke is one of only a few locations across the UK to be visited by Robert Montgomery and Deanne Rodger's inspiring installation, Recovery Poems.

Recovery Poems is a temporary light installation developed by London-based company Emergency Exit Arts.

Designed as an emotional response to the COVID-19 pandemic, artists have listened to communities throughout the UK asking questions including how do we commemorate what's been lost as we start to take tentative steps to coming out of lockdown? What do we want to hold onto and grow? What positive changes can we make to society and the natural environment as we recover from the pandemic?

The piece will be displayed outside the Willis Museum in Market Square between 11am and 8pm this Friday and will then take pride of place in front of the Triumphant Gates in London Street between 9am and 4pm on Saturday.

The Triumphal Gates herald the entrance to the town centre. The gates contain sixteen decorative panels, depicting images of local significance, both historical and modern.

Bringing 17 days of arts and culture across the town to an end, the emotional and thought-provoking installation is the final piece of national art to visit this year's Basingstoke Festival.

Cabinet Member for Communities, Planning and Infrastructure Cllr Simon Bound said: "The COVID-19 pandemic has been an extremely difficult time and has touched everyone across the borough.

"In the same week that we have marked the dedication and hard work of Britain's COVID heroes as part of NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day, it is a perfect time to stop and reflect over the past 15 months and remember those who have lost their lives and those still living with the long-term effects from the pandemic.

"I hope this emotional and inspiring piece of art will also allow people to think about the changes we can all make to make the borough a better place as we look ahead to the recovery from the pandemic."

For more information about the Basingstoke Festival and other events taking place this weekend, including Pictures in the Park, visit www.basingstokefestival.co.uk.

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