

NATIONAL  
**DAY**  
24.09.20



PRESS RELEASE – 09 JULY 2020

## Ways that care providers have used the arts to keep connected during Covid-19

Arts in Care Homes, an initiative by the National Activity Providers Association (NAPA), announces the National Day of Arts in Care Homes on **24 September 2020**, and this year's theme **#CreativeCommunities**.

Join us in celebrating the contribution the arts and creativity play in enhancing the quality of life for people living in care homes. We are also celebrating the carers, activity specialists and community partners who make it possible. We are inviting care providers to share stories about arts and creative activities and, where there is capacity, to plan and deliver events on 24 September. We are especially interested to hear how arts activities have connected people, and how they have been developed and adapted during Lockdown.

Across the UK and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had such a devastating impact on the care home community, we are aware care workers and activity specialists have continued to run creative and cultural programmes with their residents. As lockdown eases, we want to share the wonderful work that has been taking place and ensure that care home residents and staff are not forgotten.

*"Creative participation can contribute to a longer, happier, healthier life. It can help to amplify the voices of older people and enhance their contribution to society. It can help to overcome negative stereotypes and reduce our fear of ageing."*

**Older and Wiser? Creative Aging in the UK 2010 – 2019\***

*"We know how badly Covid-19 has affected those who live and work in care homes. The National Day of Arts In Care Homes provides us with an ideal opportunity to share examples of how the arts have enabled us to stay connected with loved ones and members of our local communities.. We look forward to hearing your stories and we thank you for all your creative interactions."*

**Hilary Woodhead, NAPA Executive Director**

### To join in

We invite you to organise an event and/or share your stories with us on Twitter [@Artsincarehomes](https://twitter.com/Artsincarehomes) using the hashtags [#AICH2020](https://twitter.com/Artsincarehomes) [#CreativeCommunities](https://twitter.com/Artsincarehomes). Please visit our website to register an event and for further information: [www.artsincarehomes.org.uk/artsincarehomes2020](http://www.artsincarehomes.org.uk/artsincarehomes2020)

ARTS IN  
**CARE  
HOMES**

 **NAPA**  
National Activity  
Providers Association

Sponsored by

**The Baring  
Foundation**



**The Rayne Foundation**

## Inspirational projects that will be shared on the day include:

### Creative Writing

The Poetry Takeaway will be working with three Sunrise Senior Living and Gracewell care homes providing online training and their unique 'takeaway' service for ten nominated residents and staff from one home. Participants will choose their own preferred ingredients in the form of details and memories about a person or place. The Poetry Takeaway poets will deliver the poems in the form of videos and wrapped takeaway poems will be sent by post. [www.thepoetrytakeaway.co.uk](http://www.thepoetrytakeaway.co.uk)  
[www.sunriseseniorliving.com](http://www.sunriseseniorliving.com)

### Visual Arts

Creative Paths CIC, a Nottingham based not for profit social enterprise, will launch *Creating Spaces to Connect*. The resource pack will feature easy makes and ideas to help transform care home environments and grow creative communities. [www.creativepaths.org.uk](http://www.creativepaths.org.uk)

### Music

Intergenerational Music Making, a pioneer of intergenerational music projects, will hold an exciting celebration event on the day. This will be the culmination of creative sessions promoting wellbeing, community and compassion held over the summer. [www.imm-music.com](http://www.imm-music.com)

### For further information please contact:

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### About Arts in Care Homes

Arts in Care Homes and the National Day of Arts in Care Homes is an initiative by the National Activity Providers Association (NAPA) and funded for five years by The Baring Foundation and The Rayne Foundation. It is now in its second year. It acts as a central hub for delivery of arts and creative activities in care homes with user friendly resources, research and *How To* guides for care homes.

[www.artsincarehomes.org.uk](http://www.artsincarehomes.org.uk)

### Arts in Care Homes Only Connect Pen Pals

Only Connect Pen Pals was adapted at the beginning of March to become an online project. Messages of support, including letters, postcards, artwork and/or poems are sent to care homes by email. We have connected over 200 care homes with volunteers including artists, arts organisations, school children and families. [www.artsincarehomes.org.uk/aboutonlyconnect](http://www.artsincarehomes.org.uk/aboutonlyconnect)

*"Being a pen pal and writing letters has made me feel useful again"* Resident, Sunrise Seniors Living

*"A warm thanks to the children for making us all smile. We have so much appreciated the lovely*

*art and kind words through this time."* Care Home Manager, Bromley

**NAPA** is a membership organisation and charity, and is a leader in field promoting the importance of meaningful activities in care homes and the need for training and support for care staff.

[www.napa-activities.co.uk](http://www.napa-activities.co.uk)

### Baring Foundation

From 2010-2019 the Baring Foundation's Arts programme focused on supporting participatory arts with people over the age of 60, including people living in care homes. The Foundation continues to support Arts in Care Homes Day.

[www.baringfoundation.org.uk](http://www.baringfoundation.org.uk)

\*Older and Wiser? Creative Ageing in the UK 2010 – 2019 Dr Rebecca Gordon-Nesbitt Kings College London. [https://cdn.baringfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/KCBaringReport\\_A4\\_2019\\_ForWeb.pdf](https://cdn.baringfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/KCBaringReport_A4_2019_ForWeb.pdf)

**The Rayne Foundation** addresses entrenched social issues through the arts, health, wellbeing, and education. [www.raynefoundation.org.uk](http://www.raynefoundation.org.uk)