

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL  
NOTES OF A MEETING OF LEISURE TASK AND FINISH SCRUTINY PANEL  
HELD ON MONDAY, 31 JULY 2006  
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, HIGH STREET, EPPING  
AT 7.00 - 9.20 PM**

<b>Members Present:</b>	Mrs H Harding (Chairman), M Colling, Mrs A Grigg (Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder), Mrs J Lea, J Markham, S Murray, Mrs P K Rush, Mrs P Smith and J M Whitehouse
<b>Other members present:</b>	Mrs D Collins, Mrs A Cooper, Mrs A Haigh, Mrs M Sartin, C Whitbread and Mrs J H Whitehouse
<b>Apologies for Absence:</b>	Mrs P Brooks
<b>Officers Present</b>	J Chandler (Sports Development Officer), D Macnab (Head of Leisure Services), Mrs L MacNeill (Assistant Head of Leisure Services) and A Hendry (Democratic Services Officer)
<b>Also in attendance:</b>	(none)

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**8. SUBSITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)**

None reported.

**9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Pursuant to the Council's Code of Member Conduct, Councillor S Murray declared a general personal but non-prejudicial interest by virtue of being the Council's representative on the Roding valley Meadows Local Nature Reserve Management Board and the nature reserve having a partnership with Roding Valley High School.

Pursuant to the Council's Code of Member Conduct, Councillor Mrs Grigg declared a general personal but non-prejudicial interest by virtue of being the Council's representative on the Roding valley Meadows Local Nature Reserve Management Board.

**10. NOTES FROM LAST MEETING - 13 JULY 2006**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 July was agreed as a correct record, subject to the addition of Councillor Mrs J Lea's apologies for absence.

**11. TERMS OF REFERENCE / WORK PROGRAMME**

The Panel noted the Terms of Reference and Work Programme. The Head of Leisure Services, in answer to a question, confirmed that the agreed timetable was still viable.

**12. FUTURE MEETINGS AND PLANNED VISITS**

**VISIT TO RODING VALLEY MEADOWS LOCAL NATURE RESERVE**

**TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> AUGUST – 7P.M.**

This visit, which will be conducted by Essex Wildlife Trust, will enable Members of the Panel to view the Reserve and discuss the numerous practical issues in terms of Conservation and management. Members are asked to rendezvous at the Reserve's Car Park, adjacent to the David Lloyd Centre, off Roding Lane, Chigwell, at 7p.m. Appropriate walking shoes should be worn. It is anticipated that the visit will take approximately 1½ hours.

**VISIT TO DONNY SOUTH EVENT, NORTH WEALD AIRFIELD**

**SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> AUGUST – 1.45P.M.**

This visit is designed to give Members an insight into the key considerations in hosting Major Outdoor Events at North Weald Airfield. The Donny South Event, is a "Custom Car" Event aimed principally at a young male audience. Aspects of the Event itself are of an adult nature and therefore unsuitable for young children. Tickets are pre-sold up to a year in advance, but the Event also attracts visitors, who pay on the day, from across the region.

Members are invited to report to the Airfield Gatehouse, in Merlin Way at 1.45p.m. where parking will be provided. Gerry Kehoe, the Council's Marketing and Events Manager, and Laura MacNeill, Assistant Head of Leisure Services, will welcome Members and provide an initial Briefing, prior to visiting the main Show Area.

Members will be given an escorted Tour of the Event where issues in relation to hosting events at the Airfield with its diversity of uses, often with conflicting demands can be explored. An opportunity will also be provided to meet Representatives of the Event Organisers towards the end of the visit, to hear from a Hirer's perspective. It is anticipated that the visit will conclude by 3.30p.m.

A full Briefing Pack and Itinerary will be despatched to Members in the week before the Event. Please could you confirm attendance with Gerry Kehoe on **Tel: 01992 534231**

**VISIT TO COPPED HALL CHARITY FUN RUN**

**SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER - TIME TO BE CONFIRMED**

Building on the success of their initial Event last year, the Rotary Club of Epping are organising another Charity Fun Run on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2006. Leisure Services have a history of co-operative working with the Rotary Club through support in the past to the Epping Carnival and Fireworks.

Leisure Services involvement this year is to provide technical advice, to lend some limited site equipment to enhance the Event, and some staff resource to help with the practical management. It was felt that this Community Event would provide Members with an opportunity to view some of the equipment Leisure Services previously has used to assist Community Events. In addition it will also give an opportunity to hear

from the Organisers of such Events as to the type of support and role they would possibly like, from the Council in the future. A full Briefing Pack and Itinerary will be forwarded to Members in advance of the day. Again, confirmation of Numbers would be appreciated.

### **TASK AND FINISH PANEL MEETING**

**CIVIC OFFICES TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006 – 7P.M.**

The Panel will have had the opportunity to visit the Roding Valley Meadows Local Nature Reserve to see the site at first hand. It is proposed that the Essex Wildlife Trust are invited to this meeting to formally present the case for an extension/renewal of their Management Agreement. The Trust will be asked to detail what added value and expertise they can bring to the management of the Reserve.

It is also proposed that the Council's Countrycare Service and Grange Farm Trust are also invited to separately present the option of bringing the Reserve back into direct Council control.

It may be useful to invite the Management and Liaison Committees, as well as the Grange Farm Trust to be present and share their views.

In addition, as previously agreed, if there were any local people who feel strongly about future management options, they could also be invited to attend. The EFDC's Public Relations section is to be asked to publicise this to ensure that the public are aware of the meeting.

### **TASK AND FINISH PANEL MEETING**

**THURSDAY – 28<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER – CIVIC OFFICES 7P.M.**

The Head teacher at King Harold School, Mr Feehan has indicated that he and the school Bursar would like to undertake the initial consultation with the Panel on the future management of the Sports Centre, post the Dual Use Agreement Termination in September 2007. This meeting would also offer the Leisure Management Contractor SLM, the opportunity to talk informally with the Panel as to what opportunities an External Management Contractor may present. The panel should be aware that if SLM are minded to bid for the management of the Sport Centre then the Panel may be legally constrained in discussing the future plans for the Sports Centre with them.

In addition, post the visits to the Major and Community Events, a presentation on options for the Council's future role in managing and/or supporting Events, will be given.

## **13. PRESENTATION ON ARTS IN EPPING FOREST**

The Epping Forest Arts gave a presentation on the current state of the arts and art development in EFDC to the Panel. Debra Coates-Reynolds the Acting Arts Officer, Joanne Thompson the Dance Development Artist, and two Community Artists, Sofie

Layton and Sonja Zelic, presented the audio, visual presentation. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes. At the end of the presentation the Panel was supplied with a pack of facts and figures. Also in attendance were three visitors who are intimately involved with the arts in the district. They were: Linda Tona, Arts/Activities Co-Ordinator at Sherrell House; Chris Burns, Head of Ongar Music School and composer/musician; and Katherine Jackson, manager of IC Youth Dance Group at Ivy Chimneys School. They were available to talk privately to the members of the panel during the interval of the presentation.

Following the presentation the panel asked the following questions:

Councillor Murray asked how the Epping Forest Arts specifically engaged with the “culturally impoverished” children of the district. He was told that they worked with pupils from the Pupils Referral Unit and Youth Services and not just work with ‘A’ level students. However it was accepted that there is a need to readdress the work that the Arts Team do with young people. Next year Epping Arts will be starting a new project called ‘Homeline’, which they hope will involve a lot of young people and their parents.

Councillor Mrs Smith asked if the West Essex Dance Partnership was a new thing. She was told that it has been established for some time and works in conjunction with Epping Forest Arts, The Playhouse Theatre and Essexdance.

Councillor Haigh asked about the demographic changes occurring and now that more and more elderly people live on their own – how do Epping Forest Arts plan to reach them. The section was looking to develop this area of work, they had identified that a big issue was transport and were looking to work with Community Transport to progress this area of work.

Councillor Jon Whitehouse asked about the costs involved and how were they prioritised. He was told that their aims and objectives in the BVPP set priorities. Some of the funding was match funded at Government and County level. The Gross Expenditure was just over £320,000 with a net expenditure of between £270,000 and £275,000.

The Arts team wanted to point out that they were not running with a full team currently and arts projects were labour intensive; whenever they start one project there is always another one on the go, and so it snowballs. Their projects, by necessity, have an intensive staff to client ratio.

Councillor Harding thanked the group for their interesting and informative presentation.

**14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The panel noted that they were next scheduled to:

- Visit the Roding Valley Meadows Local Nature Reserve on Tuesday 8 August 2006 at 7pm;
- Visit the Donny South Event at North Weald Airfield on Sunday 13 August at 1.45 pm.

- Have a meeting at the Civic Offices on 12 September 2006 about the Roding Valley Meadows Local Nature Reserve and to talk to relevant concerned parties;
- Visit the Copped Hall Charity Fun run on Sunday 17 September 2006; and
- Hold a meeting at the Civic Officer on 28 September 2006 with the Head teacher of King Harold School about the future management of the Waltham Abbey Sports Centre.

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# Epping Forest Arts

Task & Finish Review Presentation

Council Chamber

7.00pm Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2006



# Aim of Presentation

- To provide an insight to Epping Forest Arts
- To provide an overview of the role that Epping Forest Arts plays within the delivery of the Council's Community Plan
- To highlight the contribution that the arts make to peoples lives
- To present a summary of the programmes and projects delivered by the Councils Arts Team
- To examine the potential for development and extension of arts opportunities available to people within the district



# What are the arts?

The “Arts” is a descriptive term used for a wide range of cultural activities; events and experiences including;

**Music : Literature : Visual Arts:  
New/Multi-Media**

**Dance: Crafts: Photography: Video**

**Drama: Film: Painting: Live Art**

**Festivals: Celebratory Events**



# Team Structure

Arts Officer (FT)

Assistant Arts Officer (FT)

Arts Assistant (FT)

Admin Assistant (PT)

Dance Development Artists x 2 (PT)

Community Development Artists x 2 (PT)



# The Council's Policy for the Arts

*'The Council supports the arts in recognition of the vital contribution that they make to the quality of life and to community identity; to the enhancement of the built and natural environment; to mental, physical and spiritual health; to the local economy.'*

- EFDC has provided an arts service since 1974 and its' commitment to provision of the arts for people of all abilities led to the establishment of EFA in 1988
- The Councils' objective is *'To enable all sections of the community to have access to a wide range of arts provision of high quality'*

# Contributions to 'Quality of Life'

The work of Epping Forest Arts enhances the quality of life for a very wide range of people living in the district, through inspiring; engaging; entertaining and challenging them as participants and spectators.....

The arts are known as an effective medium to;

- improve self-confidence
- provoke thought and open minds
- encourage "personal development"
- act as a focus to bring communities together
- provide 'fully inclusive' opportunities
- improve the local economy and cultural regeneration
- improve people's physical, mental and spiritual health
- improve the local environment and people's appreciation of the physical environment
- reduce fear of crime and create safer communities

# Uniqueness of the service

EFA is highly regarded for their innovative and ground breaking work throughout the county, region and nationally, and particularly for;

- *provision of activities and projects for people that would not normally be able to access the arts eg. Elderly people living in Sheltered accommodation and Residential Care Homes*
- *provision of specially developed projects for adults and children with special needs*
- *brokering relationships between artists, organisations, participants and audiences*
- *enabling arts activities and development through grant aid and bursaries, advice and training*

# Target Groups

The Arts Team work with a wide variety of individuals and groups in a range of community settings in accordance with the focus of the Community Plan and Community Strategy. The majority of projects and activities are targeted at people that are unable to access mainstream provision and particularly;

Children and young people

Senior Citizens

Local artists

Culturally diverse groups



# Partnerships

The development of close working partnerships with local, county, regional and national groups; organisations and individuals, is essential to the work EFA undertakes for a range of reasons including;

- *to ensure a balanced delivery of arts provision across the district*
- *to meet local need and interest and identify gaps in provision*
- *development of inclusive and focussed provision*
- *sharing of resources and expertise*
- *sharing best practise*
- *providing 'added value '*
- *to allow EFA to support and develop work by local organisations, artists and other Council departments*
- *to secure external funding to deliver key Council objectives*

# Projects & Programmes





# Early Years Project

- Aims of this work is to develop and deliver a high quality programme of art workshops for early years settings
- Projects and events have included:
  - Come Live With Me
  - Grannies Quilt
  - The Magic of Music



# Summer Artsmix

■ Aims of this work is to develop and deliver a high quality programme of art workshops for children and families.

Projects and events have included:

- Lift Off
- Arty Antics
- Pandemonium



# Dance Development Programme

## *Aims and objectives of the Dance Development Programme*



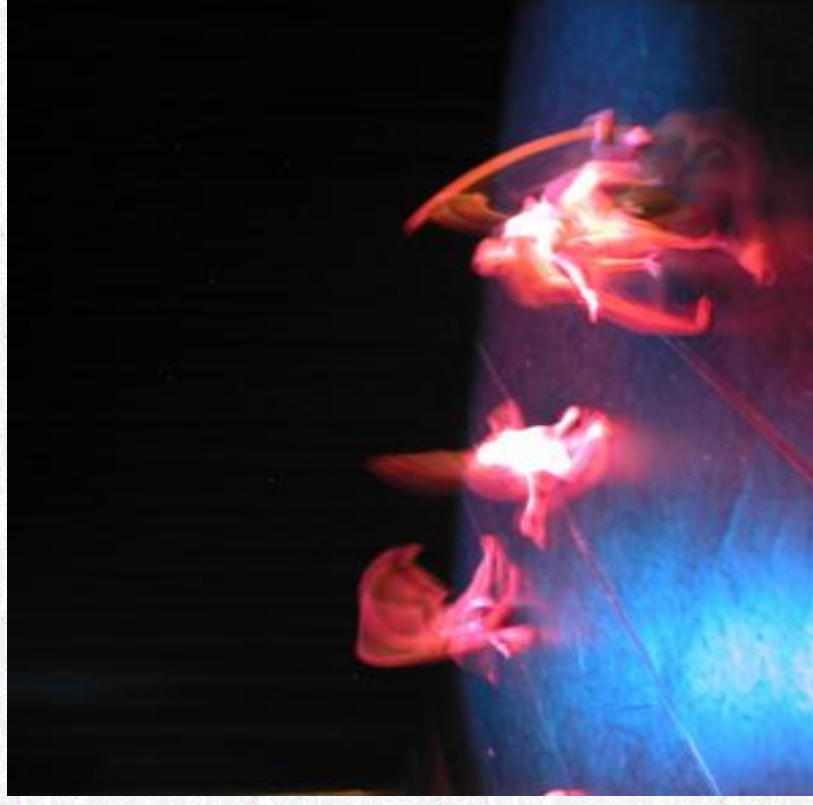
- to provide high quality dance experiences to the local community, that are accessible to people of all ages and abilities
- to establish long lasting relationships and collaborative partnerships with participants, educators, community groups, freelance dance artists, professional dance companies and venues
- to raise the profile of dance and awareness of its' physical, mental and social benefits
- to network locally, regionally and nationally with other dance professionals and agencies

# Examples of Dance Development Work

## Youth Dance

### Youth Dance On The Move Initiative;

- After school youth dance groups
- Independent after school dance groups
- Free dance taster workshops
- Youth dance projects & events
- “On The Brink” – annual intensive boys dance project
- “Re: Action & “FuZion” – annual one day dance events in secondary schools



# Examples of Dance Development Work

## Youth Dance



# Youth & Community Dance Platforms

## "eNgage"

A culmination and celebration of dance development work carried out with primary and secondary age children, local colleges and community dance groups showcased at Harlow Playhouse

## "motiv8"

A smaller youth dance and Community platform for local groups to perform their work at Epping Forest College Theatre or Debden Park High School



# Youth & Community Dance Platforms



# Dance Educational Residences and The West Essex Dance Partnership (WEDP)

The WEDP is an agreement between Epping Forest Arts, The Playhouse Theatre, Harlow and Essexdance, to promote and encourage audience development for professional dance performances.





# Dance Educational Residences and The West Essex Dance Partnership (WEDP)

Dance Educational Residencies provide the district with an opportunity to gain a direct insight into the work of professional dance companies. This includes an understanding of the;

- company history
- cultural background
- dance style and choreographic practice

Each residency offers;

- workshops and performance opportunities to primary and secondary schools
- INSET sessions for teachers to enable them to build upon their movement skills
- Plus workshops for local community groups if appropriate.

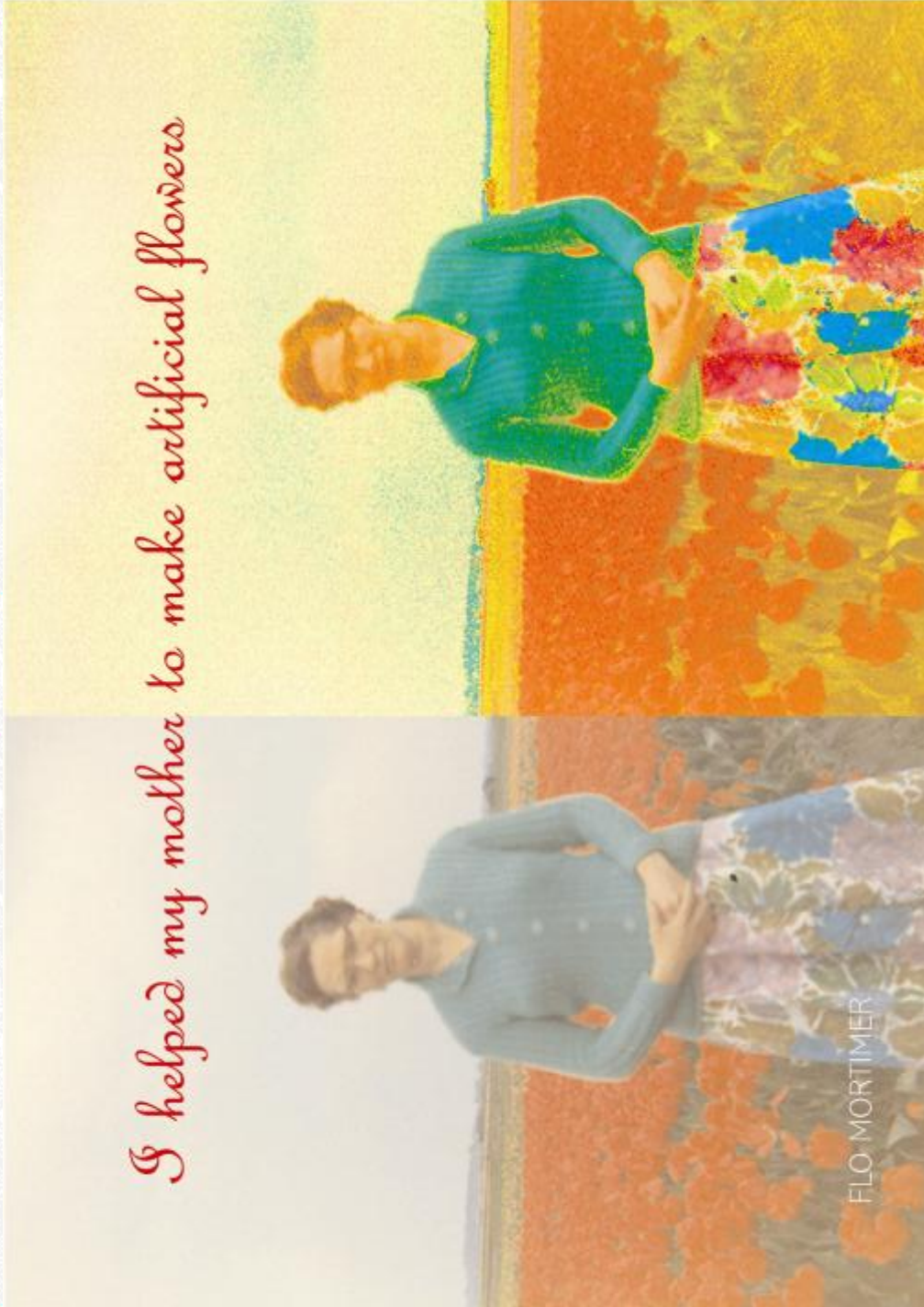




# A Sense of Place

- Aims to be a model of good working practice within the context of residential care, sheltered housing, day centres and arts activities for older people.
- Epping Forest Arts artists collaborate with other specialist artists and companies and have led workshops in dance, visual arts, film and music.
- The initiative runs in close consultation with centres and maintains links with individual older people so that workshops and activities are relevant to their issues and concerns.
- A programme of individual workshops has been developed following a two year intensive and provides a concrete foundation and connection with older people from which other more intensive projects may spring.
- Provision of intergenerational activity alleviating barriers to integration between different age groups.
- Encourages social inclusion through learning new skills, improving confidence and self worth.

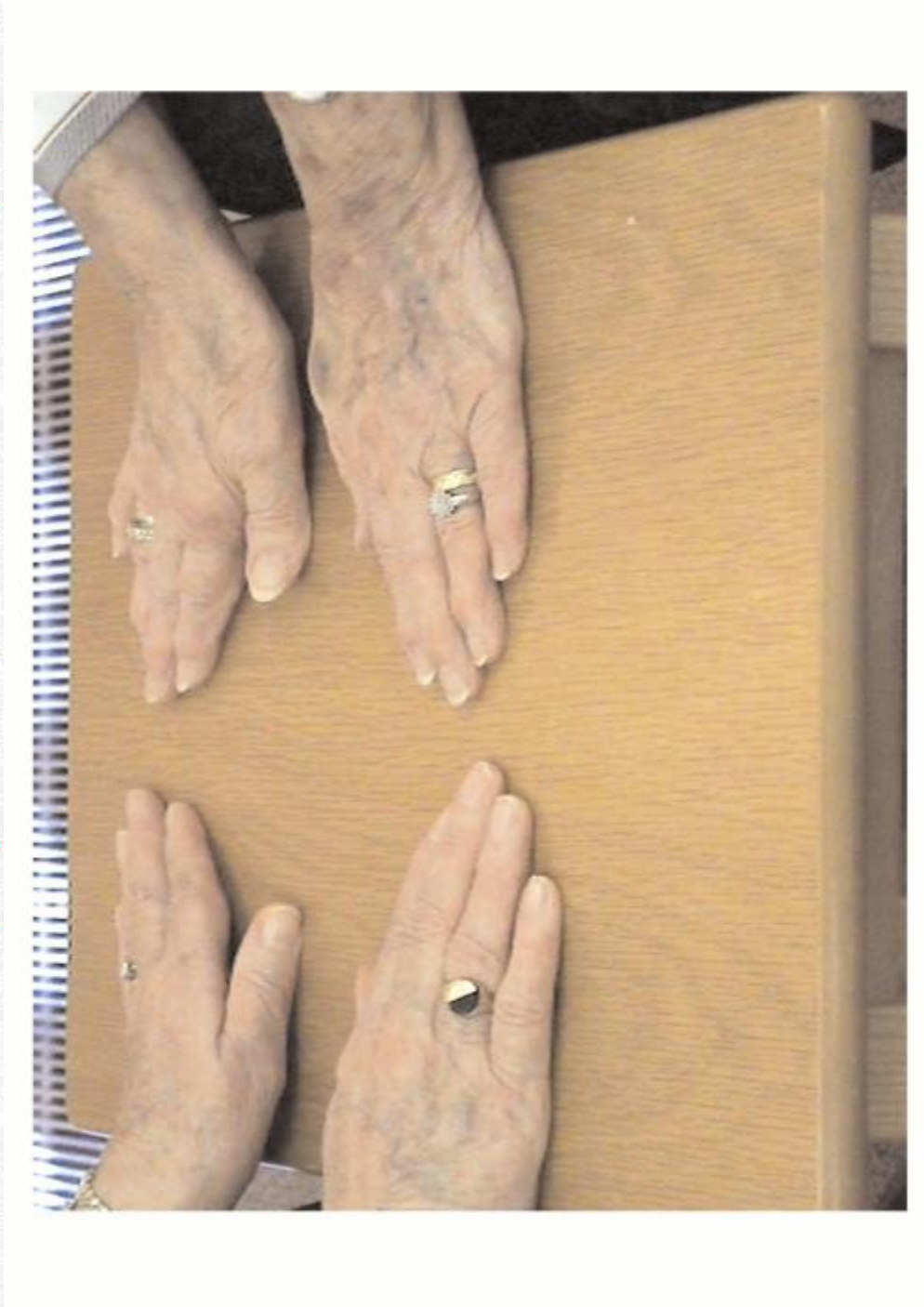
*I helped my mother to make artificial flowers*

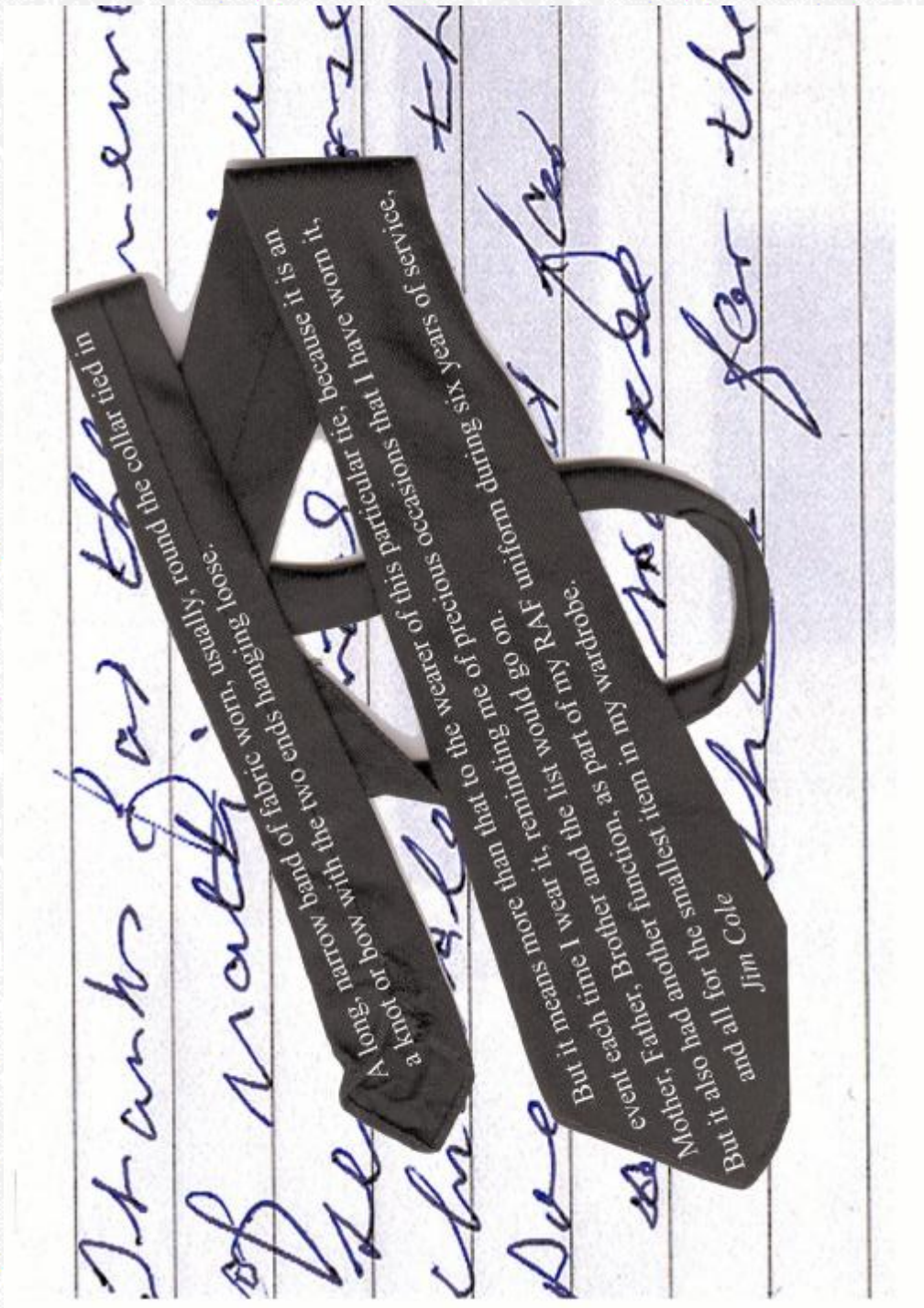


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# Arts and the Environment

Exploring the uniqueness of the Epping Forest  
District



# Arts and the Environment

Birdsong - November 2005

A night time lantern lit walk to celebrate the opening of Home Mead nature reserve, Debden

An example of partnership working including; Country Care, Schools Groups, Volunteers, Community Leisure, Musicians including the bursary winner, Mark Gotham.

Key aims: To raise local community awareness of resources available (on their doorstep), Using the environment for health and recreational purposes, Providing educational access and involvement to participants and audience.











# Arts and the Environment

## Charabanc - 2002

A site-specific performance at the Stubbles in Loughton and Matching Green disused airfield. This project was funded by The Arts Council.

Key aims: To access a wide range of community groups particularly those with specific access requirements including; Loughton Resource Centre, Sheltered Housing Group, Young Men's Group (Waltham Abbey Motoring Project) and A'level and Foundation Art Students from Epping College.















# Arts and the Environment

Common or Garden 2005 - 2006

An exploration of sheds and village greens.

Key aims:

- To develop work in the rural communities around the District.
- To develop partnerships with local parish councils, schools and other organisations.
- To raise awareness of green spaces and common land.

This was the first project within 'Border Dialogues' – a three-year programme of work funded through The Arts Council.















# Arts Alert Initiative

- Aims to specifically focus on offering high quality intensive arts experiences for people with all nature of disabilities.
- Expertise and skills are immediately available on the Epping Forest Arts team and also involves working in partnership with other specialised freelance artists and companies.
- In depth consultation with schools and community groups enables tailored projects.
- This is a multi-art form initiative that provides wide extensive opportunities to gain new skills.
- The initiative leads to participation in other Epping Forest Arts commissions enabling positive integration with people of all levels of abilities and experiences.
- Through workshops, activities and performances, participants increase their confidence, develop their social skills and deepens individual learning.



# Arts Alert Initiative



# Arts Alert Initiative



# Summary...

- This presentation has provided you with an overview of the work that the Arts team undertake
- EFA has grown and evolved as local demand has increased for arts education and outreach work
- The community now benefits from an innovative artist led programme, that delivers **many** outputs and outcomes specified in the Council's Community and Best Value Performance Plans



# Future Developments

- Continue, nurture and extend partnerships within the community
- Continue to evaluate and develop the arts programme in line with Council delivery priorities
- Continue to raise profile of arts in the community though externally funded projects
- Maintain and develop our extensive outreach delivery. Establish studio/performance space

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