

New art festival that aims to put Felixstowe on the map

Art at the Beach will take place this September and feature over 40 artists as well as workshops and demonstrations. **Danielle Lett** reports.

This summer is the first in two years where we've had no restrictions – meaning, finally, there's a whole host of festivals, activities, and events to enjoy across Suffolk.

Amongst these, in Felixstowe, a new art festival will be taking place next month, bringing artists and the general public together to enjoy and appreciate all things creative.

Taking place on Saturday September 10, Art at the Beach is a free, family-friendly day out aiming to strengthen the local creative community, making art accessible and enjoyable for all.

And the mastermind behind this project? None other than local artist Victoria Petchey.

Victoria, who has lived here most of her life, understands the importance of supporting Suffolk's art scene. Since 2019, she has been working as a full-time artist, specialising in portraits and illustrations.

Explaining the inspiration behind this new festival, she says: "I know Felixstowe like the back of my hand, and I've always been interested in art for as long as I can remember. There's photos of me from years back, always drawing or doing something creative.

"And sadly, Art on the Prom isn't happening this year. The moment they announced that, I asked the landlords of Mannings Amusements if we could do our own art festival, and it went from there. I know the importance of Art on the Prom, and what it brings to both the artists and Felixstowe as a whole, so I wanted to fill that void.

"I pulled together all of my resources, and started reaching out to all of the artists I've met through running my own gallery. And prior to that, I was at 142 Hamilton Road, who helped me out a lot when I was first getting started.

"There's just so many artists

here, it's unbelievable. It feels like there's a couple of artists on every road. And we need that outlet, especially ever since Covid. We need somewhere to go and exhibit our work, in order to get that support locally.

"And it will be good for the local economy, and bring a big footfall down to the area which will help all of the other businesses in the area. I'm hoping it puts Felixstowe on the map. It'll be something exciting and something for people to look forward to."

So, what can visitors expect on the day?

"There will be over 40 artists exhibiting, and will be available to have chats with. There will also be a demo tent, with three different artists scheduled to go in there. There will be lots of chairs so people can take a seat and observe their techniques."

Artists taking part on the day include Lois Cordelia, Toby Mayhew, and Catalina Carvajal.

"People will recognise Lois' work, as she's been involved with the Art Trail in Ipswich. And Catalina's style is very unique – she's brought over her influences from her native South America and combines them with Suffolk subject matters. Visually, it's striking."

"We've also got an activity tent, run by five of the ladies from After Hours Collective. It's all free and family-friendly, so everyone can get involved.

"It's very important to me to show that art is for everyone. That's the purpose of the event. There's no right or wrong way to do it, do what you feel as we celebrate different styles of art. It's good for the soul and good for the town."

Art at The Beach will take place at Felixstowe's Beach Street on Saturday, September 10 between 10am and 4pm.

To find out more, visit thegallerybox.art



Victoria Petchey is hosting an art festival at Beach Street, Felixstowe, this September



Ipswich artist Lois Cordelia

Picture: SARAH LUCY BROWN



Picture: CHARLOTTE BOND



Artist Toby Mayhew painting in his garden

Picture: TOBY MAYHEW



Lois Cordelia working on a painting

Picture: SARAH LUCY BROWN



Artist Catalina Carvajal with some of her mural artwork

Picture: GILLIAN EVANS

I need a new home...

Bow, male Staffordshire bull terrier cross, one year and 10 months old, brindle and white

Bouncy Bow came to us due to being a bit too strong for his previous owners to handle. Since being in our care we have been working on his loose lead walking, calm, polite greeting, muzzle training and vet handling, which he is responding well too. He is looking for owners who are happy and physically able to handle him, as he can still be very strong at times. He also needs owners who are willing to continue his positive, reward based training.

Bow can become frustrated around other dogs when out on walks so a muzzle is required to be worn by him when outside the home. He has been responding very well to the training being provided to him by our staff to help keep him calm and focused on his handler in situations where he may encounter other dogs. This training will be explained demonstrated clearly to potential adopters to continue in



Bow Picture: RSPCA SUFFOLK CENTRAL

the home.

Bow is a super intelligent boy who loves to learn new things for tasty rewards, zooming around the field, playing with his toys and having cuddles on the sofa.

At just one-and-a-half years old, he is such a young, energetic dog with so much love to give to a family of his own.

If you think you can offer Bow a home or any other pet in our care, then please get in contact with our reception team by emailing info@rspca-suffolkcentral.org.uk or by calling 0300 999 7321 between 9am-4pm and we will be happy to help.

ask the vet

Nina Downing, PDSA veterinary nurse



I've seen some horror stories about dogs getting really ill from blue-green algae while out on walks. What is it, and how can I protect my own pooch?

Blue-green algae is a bacteria most commonly found in warm weather in still or stagnant water such as ponds, streams and lakes. Though uncommon, the bacteria produce toxins, which can sadly be fatal if swallowed, or result in long-term health problems. It can be hard to spot (and not all forms are toxic), but may appear as a green or blueish scum on the water's surface, or clump up and foam at the shoreline. Be extra vigilant when walking your dog near any water – keep them on a shorter lead for safety. If you spot blue-green algae when out on a walk and can't see any signage to warn dog owners, you can report it to the Environment Agency on 0800 807060.

My cat keeps shaking her head and tipping it to one side. Is this a sign of an ear infection?

Your first port of call should be a visit your vet, as it sounds like there may be something upsetting your cat. They'll be able to closely examine her ears and find out what's wrong. Your puss could be suffering from an ear infection, which can be extremely uncomfortable and, if left untreated, could make your cat very poorly. Alternatively,

ear mites or even something like a grass seed stuck in the ear canal can also cause this type of reaction. Head tilting in particular could indicate your puss has developed a more severe problem that's affecting her middle or inner ear. You can find out more about ear infections in cats by visiting www.pdsa.org.uk/catearinfections

My budgie gets very restless in her cage, but I'm worried she'll hurt herself if I let her fly around in the house. How can I make it safe for her?

Budgies are very social and need to live with at least one other budgie, which may be a reason for her restlessness. Try adding a mirror to her cage for a sense of company until you can find her a suitable companion. Budgies also need space to fly freely for exercise and to stay healthy. Create a secure environment by restricting her to one room, closing all windows and doors, and removing any other pets from the space so she can fly around safely. You'll need to make sure there are no hazards — make sure you remove room fans and close blinds properly, for example, to stop her from becoming entangled. Once it's safe to do so, let your feathered friend out of her cage and keep an eye on her while she enjoys stretching her wings!

Nina Downing is a veterinary nurse at the PDSA, answering questions on pet-related concerns

pdsa
PET SURANCE