

ARTS VOLUNTEERING

Although 2020 has proved to be a challenging year for societies to plan and organise projects in their local communities, a limited number of projects have continued and taken place in Sussex Area.

The combined project between TAS Chichester, City of Chichester and Lavant Valley, and the Chichester Music Centre, West Sussex Music, has continued for a second year with modifications to the original project plan. Half of the funding for the project is now being used to support the Virtual Music Centre set up by West Sussex Music for students across the whole of West Sussex – www.westsussexmusic.co.uk

TAS Eastbourne supported the Eastbourne Towner Art Gallery's lockdown project which produced creative kitbags with art materials and activities – www.townereastbourne.org.uk

TAS East Sussex are supporting the Hove Plinth – www.hoveplinth.org.uk

None of us are under any illusion that things will be easy or indeed the same going forward, but with some energy and creativity we can still make things happen for our local communities and those in most need as the above projects illustrate. Arts Volunteering gives us the opportunity to engage with all age groups in our communities. Whilst many schools may not be open to us, there is the opportunity to spread the net wider and perhaps explore new partnerships under the new banner of Arts Volunteering. Young Arts projects continue to be an important element in Arts Volunteering, but during these uncertain times consider alternative routes to delivering projects to young people e.g. youth clubs, young offenders, young carers, special interest groups etc. Our communities need our support in these difficult times and our support does make a real difference.

Sussex Area has continued to support a student at West Dean College and this year's student Hollie Drinkwater's final report is [here](#). Hollie finished her course at home and had a makeshift workshop in her parent's garage.

Sussex Area will again be supporting a West Dean student for the next academic year 2020/21. The new student is Andrew Braund who is taking a Graduate Diploma for Conservation in Metalwork.

Please keep us informed of your projects and good luck with identifying needs and supporting your local communities.

Gill Baker

